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Letter to Mrs. F.W. Masters, 1891-02-08

Joseph Peace Hazard

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Peacedale, R. I. Feby. 8th, 1891.

Mrs. F. W. Masters.

Your letter of 2d. Inst, came to hand last evening.

In regard to the subject of Spiritualism, and that of Spiritual Mediumship, and the frauds that are said to be committed on part of Spiritual Mediums, of which you speak in your letter, I ^{may} say I have habitually attended Spiritual seances at home, not only, but in every quarter of our Globe; but having arrived within a week of my 85th. year, I now rarely have opportunity of doing so. I presume, however, the character of the Spiritual Mediums of to day, remains to be ~~about~~ the same as I know it, from the days of Miss Kate Fox, to the year 1888.

In regard to the Truthfulness of Spiritual Mediums to day - that is questioned by many persons, I leave them to judge for themselves, of course.

I may say - however - I, have never felt any apprehension of fraud at any of ~~the~~ thousands of Spiritual seances I have attended, excepting in one case, I apprehended there may have been an attempt on part of a Medium to do so, though I had, during a long time, regarded as being not only an excellent Medium, but also, a highly upright and conscientious woman, in regard to her conduct, at "all times and seasons."

I think there is a passage in Holy Writ says, "That which ye seek,

that shall ye find."

I believe experienced Spiritualists are generally aware that, in case a person is present at a "Spiritual Seance", who believes the presiding "Medium" thereof, is a ~~man~~ pretender, the effect of the presence of this skeptic will be such, that the purpose of this will be not only be detrimental, but quite likely to entirely defeat the purpose of this Seance.

During a few years of the closing period of my attendance at spiritual seances, I held strictly private seances.

Most of these Seances were held in the second story of a brick house that was occupied by a man and wife.

During the evenings I devoted to the numerous private seances I held in this house, I allowed no living person to attend them, excepting the Medium and her two attendants, and myself; excepting upon one occasion, that I will mention herein.

During the hours of the ~~even~~ holding of these seances, I always locked the door of this "Seance room" and put the keys thereof in my pocket. I did this, not that I, in the slightest degree, even, apprehended any improper use of them would be made by any person, but for reason that I might be able to inform my friends, or others who might desire me to give an account of the incidents I witnessed, and

other experiences that occurred during my presence on these occasions.

Having ^{a few of} attending these seances, I happened to ask myself if Materialized Spirits of departed Spirits of human beings might not be pleased with sugar plums, having seen them eat other things, sometimes. I therefore provided myself with a pound of the nicest quality of Peppermint, Mint drops.

At the opening of the next following seance, I placed a saucer of these Mint drops upon a small table that was immediately at the side of "The Cabinet", from which Materialized Spirits of Metals emerge, on these occasions.

~~There adults~~ On this occasion the ~~the~~ Materialized Spirits of came out of The Cabinet as usual and without exception - each and all of them looked at the plate, but only one of them ate thereof, and he only a little bit - replacing the almost entire remainder thereof in the plate.

In a few moments, however - at least a dozen little children suddenly appeared all ^{of them} ~~of them~~ dressed in little white frocks, who ran about the floor on white frocks to whom I threw a handful of these Mint drops, that these little children ran about the floor picking them up and eating them, much as chickens do corn. I continued these "Peppermints", during each and all of the seances I held in these rooms, thereafter.

I will here remark, that many years ago, I frequently visited the summer residence of a late brother of mine, — the father of one of the above mentioned daughters of his, when Malenky's Spirit seated herself at my side during the above mentioned private seances.

On my arrival at my brother's house one of his daughters always seated herself at my side when circumstances would permit, and then remained in ~~the~~ nearly the same degree of silence that she maintained at the above mentioned private seances that I held, and have given an account of, herein.

Persons who are familiar with the Holy Scriptures of Christian Nations, or People, may observe that it largely consists of, and is therefore, a Record of spiritual Manifestations that occurred during ~~of~~ the period of the Old Testament of thousands of years ago, while the records of the New Testament are of a later period and some of the most important ones are records of circumstances that occurred at the time of their occurrence.

Having a friend whom I valued very highly, and who was one of the most sensible and good, and kind men — in my estimation — I ever knew, and yet continue to thus regard — and desiring him to attend one of these spiritual seances with me that I held in private, he at last — consented to do so, and I attended him to spiritual seance room above mentioned, where we remained about half an hour, and having

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remained then in silence, about half an hour, I closed the seance and abandoned all hope of his conversion, and therefore named this subject to him thenceforth.

Another friend of mine, who was one of the most pure and guileless of men, was also, not only an unbeliever in the idea of there being a future life, but felt entirely sure that such was the case.

At that time I frequently visited the city in which he lived and generally remained there several weeks, and sometimes, months.

On these occasions, I usually passed an evening at his house at least, once per week, and sometimes, more, and the question concerning the belief of a ^{sure to be} Future life ~~was~~ ^{was} one of the subjects of our conversation.

During an evening walk I was taking in a rural district, and about the hour of midnight, I saw a person who was walking toward me, and rapidly, I stopped walking. Almost immediately upon doing so, a person passed near by me and very rapidly, and at same time I heard a strong and clear voice distinctly say, "There is another Life."

Taking for granted this voice was that of the Malakula Spirit of ~~the~~ my skeptical friend, above mentioned I determined to write a letter on the following morning to a friend of mine in which my skeptical friend lived, ~~and~~ asking him if my skeptical friend, above mentioned,

was as well as usual.

On the following morning, ~~on taking my seat~~
having finished my usual late breakfast, I then
commenced reading the contents of the Mail that
I had ordered ~~to~~ in the morning. The first letter I
opened announced the death of my Skeptical friend
above mentioned. ~~As~~ Such was death of my late friend
to remove any doubt I may by having collected among the reality
of a former belief, I am exceedingly now in regard to all
the said matter, obliged him to remove it as I could
as he justly could.