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DETROIT AND CLEVELAND

Fakes Which John Scott has Run Across in Canada.

Another Interesting Article From the Christian Guardian.

And now I come to my experiences. Toronto, They have not been many, but they have been convincing. Everyone who was in Toronto about Everyone who was in Toronto about eighteen months ago, and will remember the raid made by the police on the fortune-tellers. At that time the medium operating there was a Mr. Colby, the accredited pastor of the spiritualists of Toronto, Mr. Colby was arrected with the others but was was arrested with the others, but was acquitted, the only evidence that the police had against him being the clair-voyant readings which he had given in public meetings, Had the police possessed the knowledge of conjuring, and had they visited Mr. Colby at his hotel, where he gave -private seances, they could easily have obtained evidence of much interest to all concern. dence of much interest to all concerned, and quite convincing.

COLBY'S LITTLE TRICK.

I called on Mr. Colby at his room in the Grand Union Hotel, on Monday morning, after hearing his first lec-ture on the preceding night, and found-him operating a cheap trick, known to every amateur conjurer, and which can be purchased for twenty-five cents

at any conjuror's supply house.

His manner of procedure was this:
He asked me to be seated at a small He asked me to be seated at a small table, and handed me some slips of paper, and a thick blue pencil. I was to write on each the name/of a spirit friend with a question addressed to that friend, then fold up the paper, ad-folding it many times, until it was very small in size. He showed me how to fold the papers, and then left

I wrote five names and questoins, all genuine, but instead of using the pen-il he had given me, I used my own, an ordinary black, I noticed that Mr. Colby wore glasses, and appeared somewhat defective in sight, which, to my mind, accounted for his desire that

I should use the thick blue pencil.

After folding the papers, I called him in. He took his seat at the opposite side of the table, and, taking one of the papers, held it to his fore-head. He remained for some time in what I supposed was a receptive at-titude, then shook his head disappointedly, said he could get nothing, laid down that paper, lifted another, which he also placed against his forehead. After a few minutes of the receptive attitude, he raised his left hand to his forehead, and transferred the paper to forehead, and transferred the paper to the fingers of that hand, letting his right hand, which he had hitherto used, fall on his knee. An innocent enough action. The poor man's arm was tired; but to me it meant a good deal more. Here is his little trick, which you may play on your friends

second sight

When he enetered the room at my call he had slipped betweeen the first and middle fingers of his right hand a blank slip folded similarly to those on the table. If, by any chance, the papers on the table were not folded as he had directed, under cover of the table, and much talk, he would fold another to resemble, as closely as poshed. operator keeps the back of his hand toward the victim, he, with the same hand lifted from the table, one of the slips, which he placed to his forehead. Professing not to be able to read it apparently laid it down, remarking, cheerfully, that he would try another. But, instead of laying down my slip, he loid down his own blank. Then he he laid down his own blank. Then he lifted another from the table, thus having two of my slips in his hand. after a little he raised his left hand, and passed the slip from his right to and passed the ship from his hight to the left, letting his right hand fall on his knee, and, of course, carrying with it one of the two slips. This, under cover of the table he opened and tried

cover of the table he opened and tried to read. He talked incessantly, to cover the rustling of the paper. In this way he went through all my papers, but with very littles success. He got two names and a word here and there, but nothing satisfactory. I was much amused, at Colby's attempts to read my papers. The writing was faint, and Mr. Colby's sight was not good. But he was ingenious, and, under pretense of listening to a spirit which was talking to him, he leaned down, inclining his ear, and got as near to the paper as he dared. as near to the paper as he dared.

COAXING THE SPIRIT. Here is a sample of the onesided conversation which he carried on with that spirit. It reminded me of listen-ing to a person talking over the telephone; you get only one side of

"Yes; I hear you—speak more plain-ly, please—oh! that won't do—are you a friend of this young man?—some-thing important to tell him—well, speak loader."

speak loader."
At last Mr. Colby gave it up in despair, evidently regretting the two dollars he had not earned. He said the conditions were not good, and asked me to come again. The conditions were not good, I know. That writing was too faint.

was too faint.

Those who visited Mr. Colby will bear testimony that I have described his method accurately.

But he succeeded better with others.
One young man, a believer, told me of a variation from the above, which he considered as an absolutely perfect test.

He was directed to put the slips into a hat. Mr. Colby after reading two and returning them to the hat, with others, which he professed to be unable to read, picked up one, and handed it to the young man, remarking, that it would be a better test. Mr. Colby then read it, and the young man on opening it found it to be correct.

rect, The slip was one of those which he

ple friends, and will bear a lot of tell-ing. Give me your ears of eyes, and I will unravel the mystery. This will also explain the wonderful platform tests, which Mr. Colby and other mediums who have here been given. This is the method of 'Dr.' Wheeler, at present operating in Toronto, under the auspices of the Toronto Spiritualists. It would be strange if, in these days of trade unions, such a flourishing

trade of mediumship did not combine for its own benefit. There is such a union though it is kept secret, and at headquarters are filed reports from the members. These reports consist of all possible information that can be gathered by the mediums, as to the private and personal affairs of the different spiritualist congregations. As the visits of these mediums sometimes extend over several weeks, they have ample opportunity for gaining infor-mation; so, when a medium is engaged for a certain place, he is supplied with all the information on file about that congregation, including the up-to date report of the retiring medium. Then, if he is half-sharp, and most of them are wholly so, he can pick up a great deal of fresh matter in a short

not connected with any congregation,, have never received any of those won-derful tests I have heard so much

There are some private persons who make a business of selling this infor-mation; buying and selling it from and to mediums and often employing agents in the larger cities. What are known as "plungers" are some-times employed, but not often, as this method is considered dangerous. A "plunger" is a person in the pay of the medium, who places himself among the audience, and acknowledges any wonderful reading that the medium may give him. But the criminal who wishes to be safe will have no confederates.

Perhaps the most transparent trick I ever came across is that being prac-ticed by "Dr." Wheeler, at the present time in Toronto, at 94 Shuter street.
"Dr." Wheeler was brought here by the Spiritual Association, and is, for the time being, their "pastor." Strange, is it not, how many of these mediums are doctors and reverends Judging by his English the university which conferred on "Dr." Wheeler his degree, must be a curiosity in its way. I called on "Dr." Wheeler and had a private seance with him,

A TRUMPET SEANCE, and I am bound to say that his trick is the most childish in my experience; and if, as he says, he has made many converts with it, and has never been detected till I took him in hand, my opinion of the intelligence of humanity nust go lower still.

I must explain to the uninitisted that in this seance, which is given in the light, a large trumpet is used. This trumpet, which is made of aluminum, is about four and a half feet long, and tapers from about an inch at one end, to about half a foot at the other. It is open at both ends, and the victim is told to place his ear when he enetered the room at my and go to "Dr." Wheeler

another, to resemble, as closely as possible. Provided, then, with this blank, which cannot be seen so long as the operator keeps the back of his hand toward the victim, he, with the same bad conditions; or he may, as in my

for you.
"Dr." Wheeler's actual words in my case were, "My guidest tell me that your friends cannot come; the conditions are not suitable."

You can have your choice of a sim-You can have your choice of a simple reading or a trumpet seance. I chose the latter. And here I may say that "Dr." Wheeler did not appear to be at all willing to make an appointment with me at first, until I told him that I had been connected with the "cause" for many years, and showed him by my conversation that I was perfectly familiar with the subject. Then he thawed, and took my name, probably expecting to find it on his list. I gave him my right name, but those who heard "Dr." Wheeler lecture on Sunday night, June 3rd, will remember that he spoke June 3rd, will remember that he spoke very strongly about people coming to him and giving him wrong names. Somebody must have bamboozled him badly, and got him all mixed for he

was very angry.
Well! about that trumpet seance.
"Dr." Wheeler placed the trumpet
on a small table in the middle of the on a small table in the middle of the room, directing me to place my ear to the small end. He then took his seat at the other end, about five feet distant, and not directly opposite. I tried to keep my eye on his throat, but he was so placed that it was difficult, and when he saw me watching him, he changed his seat, and half-turned his back.

I soon heard a whispering in the

I soon heard a whispering in the trumpet, but I could not distinguish the words then nor at any time during the seance. The whispering certainly appeared to be in the trumpet, and "Dr." Wheeler was six feet away from it. But I happened to know a little about

PROPERTIES OF SOUND, and I had lately read about some in and I had lately read about some interesting experiments, made with specially constructed trumpets, for the
collection and projection of sound.
So I slipped my thumb over the orifice of the trumpet, and raised my
ear a little. The whispering continued, but now it appeared to come from
the vicinity of "Dr." Wheeler, and was
much less distingt. I listened through much less distinct. I listened through the trumpet and without, alternately, always with the same result, and was soon perfectly satisfied that the whispering was produced by the fleshly organs of "Dr." Wheeler. You must not suppose that "Dr."

The slip was one of those which he had returned to the hat under pretence of not being able to read them. He had, however, read it under the table, and after unfolding it, had marked it with his nail so that he could find it when wanted.

MEDIUM'S BUREAU OF INFORMATION.

"But," some of those who called on Mr. Colby will say, "he told us things which he, a stranger, could not possibly know; personal matters of which he could have no knowledge, having never met us before."

Ah! that is another story, my sim-

the unhappy mother, weak and nervous, striving in vain to hush the cries of her



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Mrs. James W. Blacker, of 629 Cather-ine Street, Syracuse, N. Y., writes: "Your medicines have done wonders for me. For years my health was very poor; I had four miscarriages, but since taking Dr. Pierce's Fa-vorite Prescription and "Golden Medical Dis-covery," I-have much better health, and now I have a fine healthy baby."

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"Dr." Wheeler gave a short frumpet seance on the Saturday night preced-ing his first Sunday lecture. At the latter meeting the chairman, who had been present, described it as eminently satisfactory, and "well worth a doliy satisfactory, and "well worth a dol-lar." This seame took place in a dou-ble parlor. The trumpet lay on a ta-ble placed in the doorway, half in one room and half in the other, while the medium sat in one room alone, and the guests in the other. Gould any-thing be more satisfactory—for the thing be more satisfactory-for the medium?

This is by no means all I can tell about "Dr." Wheeler, for I gained his about "Dr." Wheeler, for I gained his confidence by showing him that I was entirely behind the scenes, so that he spoke unguardedly. This matter, however, I do not intend to make public unless provoked to do so. What I have given is entirely the result of my own observation and reasoning, and I recommend the persons who are filling the pockets of such men as are filling the pockets of such men as this with their hard-earned money, to exercise these two faculties more in future and, above all, learn a little

CONJURERS' SUPPLY HOUSES. In regard to conjuring, .I may say that any one who cares to send to the onjuring supply houses for their catalogues, will find in all these catalogues a part devoted to the require-ments of mediums. There is also a paper, of which I have several copies, he title cut of which announces tha it is published in the interests of "con-

it is published in the interests of "con-jurors, jugglers, and spiritualist med-iums." This paper is called "Mahat-ma," and may be obtained from Bur-lingame & Co., Chicago. Some time ago I saw in The Clip-per, a theatrical and sporting paper, the announcement that a certain at-traction, in the shape of a man who enters a vat of boiling water, wich-out injury to himself, and which had been appearing in the dime museums, been appearing in the dime museums, had been engaged for the season to appear at Lily Dale, the great campmeeting of American spiritualists, as

meeting of American spiritualists, as a spiritual phenomenon.

In another number of the same paper I saw that spair of clairvoyants, who travel the museums and vaudeville houses, had been entertained to a banquet by the Theosophical Society of an American town, in which they had performed.

No doubt the sage theosophists thought them wonderful psychies, but I have seen them perform, and am perfectly well acquainted with their method, which is only a very clever trick. Indeed, they do not profess it to be anything else.

trick. Indeed, they do not process to to be anything else.

I am prepared to hear the old gag troited out—as "Dr." Wheeler troited if out on Sunday night when speaking about the people who gave him wrong names—that if a person goes to a medium expecting fraud, he will get fraud. These dear mediums, say the apologists, are so sensitive that they

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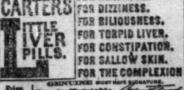
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are easily influenced by a strong will, and may be forced to do wrong against their own inclination.

Possibly, my friends, but my will did not force Mr. Colby or "Dr." Wheeler to play the tricks they did on me, because I did not know the tricks till after they were performed. I suspect they had played them before, and did not improvise them for my benefit

It.

I cannot close without saying a word about Dr. Austin, at present connected with the Toronto Spiritualists as a leader and speaker. This gentleman was lately a minister of the Methodist Church, and about a year was deposed from the ministry of Methodist Church, and about a year ago was deposed from the ministry of that church for his spiritualistic beliefs. Dr. Austin I believe to be a thoroughly honest man, who is being duped and deluded, but his honesty cannot be called in question. At all events, he is a most refreshing contrast to the usual type of spiritualistic orator, and, as far as I know, has never professed to be a medium. May he soon realize that in leaving the Christian church for spiritualism, he has dropped the substance and

he has dropped the substance and grasped at a shadow.

Note—Dr. Austin's reply to the above will appear in the course of a day or

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