

WHAT CONVERTED ME TO SPIRITUALISM

corner of the room, a chair behind them on which the medium sat entranced. The curtains did not reach within three or four feet of the ceiling. There was no room behind but for the chair and its occupant. In the course of a few minutes the control of the medium announced to me in a loud, clear voice, that a lady desired to materialize for me. I responded with "I would be very glad indeed to witness the materialization." I was then directed to stand in about the centre of the circle, which was in the shape of a horse-shoe, the cabinet being situated at the opening. I must have stood from three to five feet away from and in front of the cabinet, which, apparently at least, did not seem to be concerned in the phenomenon about to be produced. I was directed to watch the floor at my feet. I did so. Presently I saw a light, cloudy something about as large as my fist, from which I did not take my eyes until it developed gradually, steadily, step by step, into a human form of a size as large if not taller than myself, which I recognized as the lady at whose transition in June I was present, and called her by name, taking her by her right hand at the same time. She was glad that I recognized her, talked lovingly of her family and reminded me of occurrences that took place in her room during the last few hours of her mortal existence, which no one present knew anything of but she and myself. Finally she called to her an old lady friend, who with herself had formerly been prominently connected with the First Baptist Church in Fort Wayne, who took hold of her left hand. She then called up to her my wife. Thus, three of us held quite a con-

versation and had a most momentous visit with her. In the course of a few minutes, however, she announced to us that she was getting weak and would have to go. While we three were standing in front of her, I having hold of her right and the lady referred to having hold of her left hand, this form began gradually to sink down, the lady and myself stooping slowly with it until it vanished entirely from before our eyes while we were in the stooping posture, and being unable to feel the sensation we naturally expected to feel by the severance in any manner of the grasp of our hands. Her hands, which for a time had felt so natural, perhaps not as warm as our own, seemed simply to vanish from our own without creating any impression or sensation. I know of no other word that will describe her disappearance before our eyes than that she "vanished" slowly away from us.

These are some of the evidences for the knowledge that is within me of a future existence and my stock is by no means exhausted. I could multiply them a hundred fold or more, but to no avail. A single one, if sufficiently attested, is as good as a thousand. Either those that I have here related are true, or I am a most colossal, diabolical liar, trifling with the most sacred affections of the human heart. If the reader decides upon the latter verdict he credits me with a genius for their creation and manufacture which I had no idea I possessed.

These and many similar phenomena are what converted me to Spiritualism, and I challenge all science, all theology and all philosophy to explain them upon any other than the Spiritual hypothesis.