

SPIRITIST'S PUBLIC CONFESSION

TELLS OF TRICKING SCIENTIST

Vienna.—A bombshell has been thrown into the camp of European spiritism by the public confession of the medium, Ladislav Laszlo, that all of his so-called materializations and other alleged spiritualistic manifestations were achieved through trickery.

Laszlo, whose fame as a medium spread all over Europe, although he is only twenty-three years old, made his greatest bid for success by his demonstrations before Dr. Schrenck-Notzing, the famous professor of Psychology from Munich.

Some years ago Laszlo appeared in Budapest spiritist circles as a "speaking medium." He regaled his hearers with alleged communications from the spirit world and amused them with conjurers' tricks which were accepted as supernatural manifestations.

"I attempted," he says, "to form parts of the body in accordance with the illustrations and photos in Professor Schrenck-Notzing's books out of strips of gauze and cotton-wool mixed in goose-drippings. In order to divert attention from the fraud, I also used the following trick: Knowing the phosphorescent qualities of insulating-linen, I pinned a piece of this material to the bottom of my chair. Before the materialization called forth by this means phosphorescent manifestations, thus bewitching my spectators in the darkness of the room. I took particular care to hide the previously prepared parts of the body, which had been compressed into an elastic paste somewhere where they would not be found on examination."

When Laszlo began these manifestations, his fame spread rapidly. "When Professor Schrenck-Notzing came to Budapest," Laszlo declares in his confession, "the control became more severe. I did not run the risk involved in performing a materialization at the first performance, I contented myself with addressing the distinguished guest in the name of the ghost, saying: 'I salute you, brother, for having put yourself in the service of the truth. For opening the way thus, you will receive heavenly rewards instead of earthly laurels.' The professor was satisfied."

"When he took a seat near by in order to watch me closely, I smuggled a ball of the prepared paste into his left pocket before the next performance and at the proper moment fetched it out. I became uneasy lest the professor might notice that the paste had left grease spots, but he was so delighted with the performance that he didn't pay any attention to it."



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Laszlo declares that in making his confession he is animated entirely by fear of the inevitable detection of the fraud he has been practicing. He says he believes it preferable to earn a small livelihood honestly rather than to profit further by these audacious deceptions.

Laszlo has asked the Budapest police for protection because, he says, there is reason to believe that the spiritists will try to revenge themselves for what they regard as his treason.

PRAGUE CATHEDRAL TO BE COMPLETED

St. Guy's, the Gothic Cathedral of Prague on the beautiful Hradcany, Castle Hill, which was begun in the middle of the fourteenth century but of which, owing to the Hussite wars and the subsequent turmoil, only the sanctuary was finished at the time, now nears completion. In 1859 a committee was formed which up to the present has succeeded in building the nave with the two front spires. The great central tower had been left unfinished. Now notice has been given that after Epiphany, 1924, the more solemn services will for several years be transferred from the Cathedral to the Basilica of St. George. In the meantime the great historic edifice will be gradually completed. Considerable portions of the work still remain to be done, including extensive repairs on the old part. Everything is to be ready by 1929, the millenary of the death of St. Wenceslaus, patron Saint of the nation, who in the tenth century built the first small church on that spot. Unhappily the resources of the committee are very limited; urgent appeals for funds are being made, which however do not yet meet with the desired results. Even this undertaking of national importance and honor is being hampered by wild attacks from the enemies of the Church.

It is noticeable that when the Y. M. C. A. held their third congress at Bratislava in Slovakia, December 8-10, 1923, the Government was officially represented and Mr. Benes, the Foreign Minister, sent an effusive message. On the other hand Catholic undertakings are taken notice of only when this is unavoidable in a State with a population more than eighty per cent. Catholic. A paper which is a semi-official Government organ made sufficiently plain why certain people view with special pleasure the concentration of Y. M. C. A. efforts on Slovakia. They are expected to aid in paralyzing the influence of the Catholic Church with the youth of Slovakia and thus to cripple the future generation of the Slovakian Popular party.—America.

EXPEDITION CONFIRMS CAPTIVITY IN EGYPT

Definite confirmation of the Biblical account of the captivity of the Israelites in Egypt has been unearthed by a University of Pennsylvania expedition to the Jordan, according to Dr. Clarence S. Fisher, head of the party, who has returned.

The verification is written on a stone monument of Rameses II., excavated by the expedition at Beisan, the Beth Shan of the Bible. Dr. Fisher regards this monument as "one of the most interesting ever unearthed by archaeologists."

"It was in a small inner room of a fortress buried beneath successive layers of other fortresses and towns that we discovered this monument and another of Seti," said Dr. Fisher. "The Rameses II. stone is being brought to the museum in Philadelphia."

THE TURNING OF THE TIDE

The return to religion is becoming more and more a fact in Europe. In Belgium it has been going on for some time, and Mussolini seems to be almost a lay leader of the movement in Italy. "You are right," he said to a Belgian professor, "to emphasize the preponderant role of Catholicism in life of nations. The strength of Italy, her joy and her marvelous chances for the future are due to Catholicism. I have frequently proclaimed it. I shall proclaim it whenever I have the opportunity. Catholicism, by its doctrines and its precepts of renunciation, penance, sacrifice, mortifications; Catholicism by its asceticism persuades men to combat themselves within

themselves and in combating themselves to develop their deeper energies; or, more exactly, Catholicism trains men to prepare and assure the triumph of their best energies, those that make heroes and saints. It is thanks to our Catholicism that we Italians have preserved the spiritual vigor, the spiritual nobility, the spiritual fecundity which takes the place of the material wealth which we lack and which, by the way, makes us fit to conquer it." A return to God is the only chance for a world ruined by men who tried to govern without God. The tide seems to have turned and there is hope for the world.—Extension Magazine.

OBITUARY

JOHN FRANK CAMPBELL

On Wednesday, Jan. 24th, 1924, the death occurred in Hamilton, of John Frank Campbell of 53 Howard St., Toronto. Deceased had been in ill health for some time and was on a vacation to his father's home when he died.

Mr. Campbell was born in Hamilton and was the eldest son of Mr. Peter Campbell of 218 McNab St. North. He had lived in Toronto for the past twenty years during which time he had resided at the home of Mr. Fred Beale.

Of a generous and affable disposition, Mr. Campbell had made many friends in both social and business circles. He was an accountant and, at the time of his death, was connected with The Standard Reliance Co., having held previous positions with The Canadian Birkbeck Co. and M. S. Brohm & Co.

Deceased was a devout Catholic and attended Our Lady of Lourdes Church. He had the happiness of a most peaceful death, receiving all the consolations of the Church. The spiritual and floral tributes of sympathy were numerous and beautiful, showing the high esteem in which he was held.

The funeral took place from the family residence to St. Mary's Cathedral, Hamilton. The Solemn Requiem Mass was sung by his cousin Rev. Father Vincent Dermody, assisted by Rev. Father Clancy, deacon, and Mr. Philip Campbell, brother of the deceased, sub-deacon. Interment was made in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Mr. Campbell is survived by his father and five brothers, James, Peter, Frank, and David of Hamilton and Philip of St. Augustine's Seminary; also four sisters, Mrs. J. Caffery, Mary, Rose and Ella, all of Hamilton. R. I. P.

VOTIVE CHAPEL TO BLESSED VIRGIN

Rome will have great international shrine. Following closely on the interest aroused by the appeal to all the Catholics of the world to help in building the great Shrine of the Sacred Heart which is to be erected in Rome as a votive temple for world peace comes the announcement that the Eternal City is also to have a great international shrine dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

According to a statement in the Osservatore Romano, the idea of erecting such a temple followed the realization that in Rome, where piety and the unbounded generosity of Christians have raised churches of unique grandeur and beauty, there has never been a church dedicated to the Heart of Mary, and that it is eminently fitting that in the city which is the center of Catholicity there should be raised a church which would be a fitting tribute to the Mother of God and of men, worthy of her greatness and of her loving kindness toward her children.

listen to those who advise that the plans be reduced to more modest proportions, saying that "it is a great imprudence to allow oneself to be conquered by the first difficulties; and in works having to do with divine worship, we must begin with great magnificence, leaving to posterity and above all to Divine Providence, the task of completing them."

The Congregation of the Sons of the Heart of Mary have been called upon by the Pope to carry on the campaign for the erection of the new church. This congregation, which was founded by the Venerable Anthony M. Claret, Archbishop, has three thousand members, and at the recent General Chapter the full support of the Congregation was pledged to carry out the wishes of the Holy Father.

His Holiness Pope Pius XI. has made a first donation of 100,000 lire toward the building fund, and this has been quickly followed by a second donation of 94,000 lire which had been presented to him by a pious friend of the Holy See. His Majesty Queen Victoria of Spain is also greatly interested in the building of the International Shrine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and has voluntarily assumed the active presidency of the Spanish national committee and has given orders for the organization of a board of directors to carry on the campaign in Spain.

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Of all deceits there is none more injurious, none more absurd, than that which young men often deceive themselves—that they shall be none the worse hereafter, for having been somewhat thoughtless and dissipated in youth.—Melville.

DIED

GIBBONS.—At North Temiscaming, on January 19, 1924, Mrs. Patrick Gibbons, formerly Miss Sarah McHugh of Quyon, Que. May her soul rest in peace.

BEST.—A well known former resident of Hamilton, Ontario, Mrs. Dunlay Best, died at her residence, 225 Waverley Ave., Port Huron, Michigan, on Friday, January 25th, 1924. Surviving are four daughters Mrs. Annie Davis, Mrs. Alice Laidlaw, Mrs. P. J. Hennessey and Miss Elizabeth Dunlay and one son Edward J. Dunlay. The funeral took place Monday morning, January 28th, at 8:30 at St. Mary's Cathedral, Hamilton, Ont. Interment took place at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

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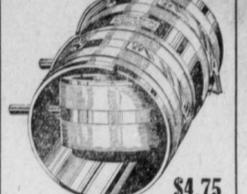
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