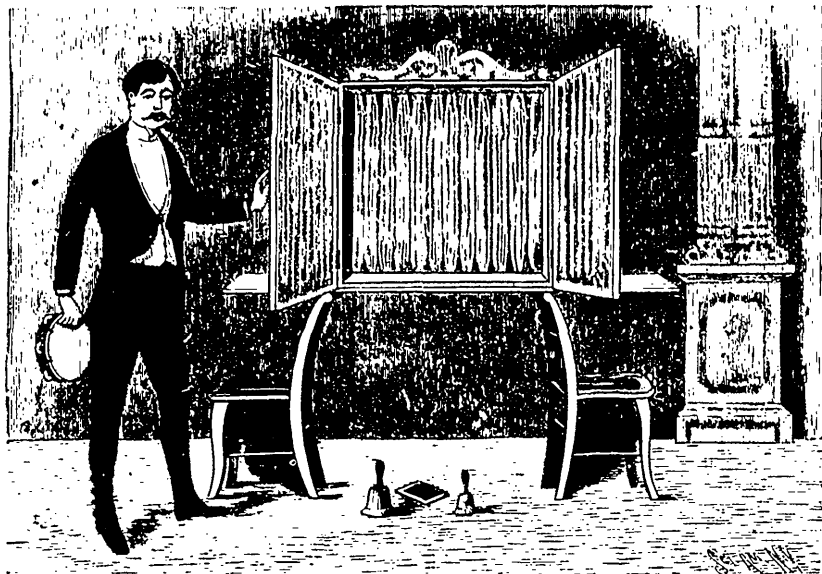


SPIRITUALISM EXPOSED.



THE CABINET OPEN FOR INSPECTION.

It is extraordinary the number of persons who are carried away by the delusions of spiritualism. People will gather in a dimly-lighted hall—for the spiritualist mediums for obvious reasons do not like the light—and become greatly mystified at the manner in which bells will ring, tambourines sound, and writing take place without hands. A clever exposure of the way in which these tricks can be accomplished is described in the *Scientific American* of November 7th, from which we have procured the accompanying illustrations, and quote the description :

“A sheet of plate-glass about sixteen by sixty inches in size is placed upon the backs of two chairs, and on it is erected a small, beautifully-finished cabinet, consisting of four pieces, of which the sides are hinged to the back, and which, with the front, are seen resting on a chair at the side of the stage. When erected the cabinet is forty-two inches high, thirty-six inches wide, and fourteen inches deep.

“Tambourines and bells are placed in the cabinet and the doors are closed, when the instruments instantly play and are thrown out at the top of the cabinet.

The cabinet is now opened and found to be empty. Any slate placed in the cabinet has a message written thereon. In fact, all manifestations usually exhibited in the large cabinets are produced, and yet this cabinet is apparently not large enough to contain a person. We say apparently not large enough ; for, in reality, the whole secret consists in a small person, or an intelligent child of ten or twelve years of age, being suspended by invisible wires behind the back of the cabinet, where there is a small shelf on which the concealed assistant is sitting Turkish fashion. This folded cabinet is hung on two fine wires which lead up to the flies and over rollers or pulleys to the counterweights. When proper wire is used on a brightly illuminated stage they are absolutely invisible.

“After showing the chairs and placing glass upon them, the performer picks up the folded part of the cabinet and places it on the glass, the counterweights overcoming the extra weight of the concealed assistant, opens out the sides, places the front containing the doors in position, fastening same by hooks to the sides.

“The inside of the cabinet and panels of doors are lined with puckered gold