

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1904.

HERE'S THE LATEST SPIRIT PROPOSALS.

Belgium Listens to the Idea That a Young Man There, by a Certain Sort of Suggestion, Has Cured Fatal Diseases, and Can Discount the Doctors.

Brussels, Jan. 14.—Some remarkable cases of spirit cures have been reported from Chevelpont, a small hamlet beyond Villers Ville, in South Brabant, Belgium, & determined to look into the matter and so set forth in quest of the reputed miracle worker.

It took me some little time to find the author of the miraculous cures with which the country and the English press were raving. An application to the cure of the village resulted in a reply that no such person was known in the neighborhood; the reverend gentleman, considering that all these practices were the work of the devil, did not desire to encourage visitors.

The author of the cures by spirit agency is a boy of 16, named Edward Pirsch, who has been aiding the sick to recovery in an astonishing fashion for three years. He is the elder of two sons of M. Charles Pirsch, a marble quarry owner, and able, intelligent man with a high character for straightforwardness and straightforwardness. His mother is also an intelligent woman, hard working, practical and alert.

A Healthy-looking Boy. The two Pirsch boys have received a good education. The younger is a lad of about 12. The elder is a short, thick set youth, strong and sturdy, and the exact opposite of anything one might look for in connection with the occult. He was educated at the College of Charleroi, where he did well, passing out fifth, having specially taken up commercial subjects as his intention is to follow up the business of his father and afterwards to travel, he exports to other countries. He is, therefore, anxious to learn only foreign languages and his schoolmasters guarantee that he studied neither medicine nor chemistry while at Charleroi.

I told him that I had heard of remarkable cases of sick persons having been cured by prescriptions given by him when under alleged spirit guidance, and he said simply: "It is quite true. All the villagers from far and near come to me for prescriptions." "How do you write them, when you know nothing of medicine?" I inquired.

"I am guided by a spirit named Dr. Siphrio," who by his hand writes out the prescriptions necessary. I am not asleep nor quite in a trance; my eyes are wide open, but I seem to lose sense of surroundings. My right arm is numb up to the elbow when possessed by the spirit."

"Tell me about Dr. Siphrio," I said. "He is the spirit of a Servian doctor, who has been dead a great number of years, but who, anxious to aid his fellow men, uses me as an instrument."

"Then he writes in Servian, or at least in Latin?" "No, he uses French." He explained to me that even French he had to be guided by, for he had to write prescriptions for all sorts of ailments, and he had to write the prescriptions. Sometimes when Dr. Siphrio is away on a spirit mission another doctor takes his place. He is a doctor of the neighborhood who did not long ago and who greatly disapproved of "Spiritualism" during his life, but who, one day, took possession of my arm to my great surprise one day, and said he knew now that there were many things he had not properly understood before, and that he was always willing to help me. He is not as good as Dr. Siphrio, however, and I do not often call on him to help me."

"As soon as he could leave me the boy ran off to play with a comrade, evidently being more boyish than otherwise. His mother told me impressively that he has communication with a great number of other spirits, fourteen of them often speaking to him consecutively. None of them predict the future, nor is the boy a clairvoyant. One of them, named Calon, says he died in Peru fifteen years ago

and was a great traveler. He gives in writing long lectures on spiritualism, while another, "Piro," evidently the joking spirit of the party, was a watchmaker of Montigny. It is seriously asserted that he often winds the clocks of the family and has occasionally mended them.

Returning to the subject of the spirit of Dr. Siphrio, the boy's mother continued: "It is not unusual for him to say (always in writing through the boy's agency): 'This is a case I will visit tonight and prescribe for tomorrow.' This is done and with wonderful results."

Crowds of Patients. Naturally the peasants crowd to the doctor whenever they are sick and those of better classes do not disdain when the resources of the family practitioner do not succeed, to send an envoy or to write and beg the aid of the extraordinary boy. The local doctors scoff and rage, but cannot explain the cures.

I was so interested that I asked whether I might attend a seance, which I did another night, wading through deep snow in company with two Belgian journalists. One of them was the editor of the Journal de Charleroi, not a believer in Spiritualism and inclined to doubt the spirit cures, though he owned he had heard of such marvelous effects of the herbal spirit treatment that he was fairly puzzled.

After listening to the details of the boy's wondrous cures, I took the boy into my room, and emerged with a paper on which was written "I will visit the patient tonight." A prescription followed, which—some herb being required that was not in the house—was to be forwarded. The editor lived some distance by train from Chevelpont, and returned home late with out telling any one of his errand. Receiving the medicine next morning he called on his old friend to recommend its use. Greatly to his amazement he was told she had had the first good night for weeks and that she was still sleeping like a child. She has continued to mend ever since, the ailment has cured, he said, and she is walking about. Such testimony from the editor of a paper like the Journal de Charleroi and a man who is not a Spiritualist, is very striking.

Seven-to-1 Jump from a Table. The seance was held in a kitchen divided in two by a partition about six feet high, one-half being used for a dispensary and the clerical work connected with the quarry. The door between was open and we were constantly in and out. The room was absolutely bare of anything except the chairs and a heavy kitchen table. The party consisted of about twelve, the Pirsch family, a Belgian journalist, myself, and some solid looking peasants with certainly nothing suggesting imagination about them. The boy sat at the head of the table with a blank copy book and pencil, and began writing under the influence of Calon, the guiding spirit, as soon as the room was darkened. The boy wrote without ceasing in absolute darkness for an hour and a half, the only break in the silence being the croaky voice of the grandmother in the chimney corner, who every time she heard the three pencil taps which was the spirit signal that the bottom of the page was reached, cried "turn, turn," like some voice of Fate.

The essay when finished (and glad we were when the drop of the pencil on the table gave the intimation that it was ended) proved to be a clever treatise on spiritualism, excellently worded, and admirably presented. It also touched on religion and politics, and would have been a praiseworthy production from a man.

Many other spirit messages came later on, but this and the table-turning which followed differed little from ordinary seances, except that there were no "prophecies" in the room to aid in any cheating. The table was the most lively I have ever seen. It endeavored to climb the wall and actually succeeded in leaping the seven-foot partition into the next room. The noise as it clattered about and banged top down on the stone floor with resounding smacks was deafening, and by the end of the evening the top of the table was well split.

A Spirit Prescription. The seance closed with a consultation of Dr. Siphrio by the various persons present on behalf of their friends, and letters were read from sick people anxious for remedies. The boy wrote the answers in the dark as before, each case being carefully diagnosed and prescriptions given. I obtained the following prescription for a friend who had damaged her knee by falling when crossing a railway line:—Grind and make into an ointment the following ingredients:—10 grammes of pure boric acid. 5 grammes pure arnica plant. 10 grammes ground elm bark. 5 grammes powdered charcoal. 10 grammes very strongly phlegmaticated water.

Rub well with this twice a day. Up to the present I have not been able to put the prescription in practice, but give it as a specimen of the spirit work. The Belgian journalists who already had received specimens of the boy's writings from his college, carefully examined all the papers written that evening—many being written backwards—and failed to find any similarity between any of the manuscripts, which varied with every spirit, and the boy's own.

The seance began at 9 in the evening and lasted till 3 o'clock in the morning. The only person of the party who did not look out was the medium himself, who was as fresh and bright as possible at the end. His mother says he is always well and very bright and gay. Seances are continually being held, to which any one is welcome providing arrangements are made beforehand. That is obligatory on account of the great number of applications. Four is the outside number of strangers at a time, but investigation is invited, and every day's post brings piles of letters from sick people asking that the spirit doctor may be consulted or their

THE CHIROGRAPHY OF THE 'SPIRIT OF CALON'

Le chirographie fait de faire a son de nous-mêmes parois.

PIRSCH'S WRITING WHEN DONE BY "DR. SIFRIO"



EDWARD PIRSCH THROUGH WHOM THE SPIRITS OF DEPARTED PHYSICIANS PRESCRIBE FOR THE SICK.



PIRSCH'S HOME AT CHEVELPONT

BUCTOUCHE GIRL FREED FROM LIFE TERM.

Minnie Mooney Receives Governor Bates' Pardon. The Young Woman Was Convicted of Child Murder, But Her Seventy-year-old Father Pleaded So Hard for Her Release That It Was Granted.

New Bedford, Jan. 23.—At 8 o'clock yesterday morning, Minnie Mooney, the second of the two murderesses who have been in for several years most distinguished occupants of the local jail, was released. For years two women, both convicted of killing their own children, had occupied the same little cell in the gloomy brick building in Ash street. Both were serving life terms, and until a few months ago neither had any hope of pardon.

Then influential people began to take an interest in the welfare of Martha Williams, of Attleboro, who was a little the elder of the two. Governor Bates was appealed to, and finally, on the 17th of last September, the prison door swung back and Martha Williams went forth a free woman.

Sickened from Lonliness. Minnie Mooney was left alone. She had no influential friends. No one seemed to take any interest in her case. She missed her companion and sickened under her loneliness. Then from rugged New Brunswick came forth her champion in the form of her giant father.

Mr. Mooney is nearly seventy years old. For forty-nine years he has been constable of his district, although he neither reads nor writes. Long grey whiskers sweep his chin, but his huge form is as straight as a pine and his eyes gleam with the strength of youth.

The Mooneys are poor people, however, and never, until the strong-willed girl left her native village of Buctouche, had any other interest in her case. She missed her father, when the aged constable heard that one girl had been pardoned for her crime, and that her girl not his, he resolved to dare all, and set forth for Massachusetts.

Receives Pardon. With little money, capable of bringing no strong influence to bear, the strong old man had labored hard and ceaselessly until he at last stood in the presence of Massachusetts' governor and heard the words: "Here is your daughter's pardon," as a bulky document was handed to him.

The girl was not told of the pardon until this morning, although she had been told a day or two ago that the chances for her release were very bright. Accompanied by her father, the girl drove to the station and took the 9.30 train for Worcester. By the governor's permission they will stop two days at Fisherville to visit a brother of the girl and then straight home to Buctouche (N. B.).

The girl's mother will not know of the pardon until her daughter herself brings the news. Mother and daughter have not met since Minnie Mooney, a girl of twenty, left her home nine years ago to seek her fortune "in the streets."

THE DOGFISH PEST MUST BE REMOVED

Halifax County Council Calls Upon Dominion Government to Take Action. Halifax, Jan. 23.—The county council January meeting was finished yesterday. An important matter was brought up during the session. It was the dogfish nuisance, and Councillor Ryan spoke at length on the subject. He referred to the fact that the fishermen on our shores are hampered in their pursuits by the pests, and stated that they are becoming so numerous that something must be done to rid the waters of them.

He submitted a resolution and urged the council to take some action so as to impress upon the government the importance of doing something to overcome the nuisance. The council unanimously favored some immediate steps being taken. After the discussion and with a preamble reciting that the fishermen of the county had suffered severely through the ravages of the dogfish pest, and that even in small districts the loss in the past two years amounted to not less than \$100, the following resolution was adopted:—"Resolved, that the dominion government be asked to take immediate steps to put an end to or mitigate the ravages of this pest which, if suffered to continue, threatens the destruction of our fisheries."

It was decided to send copies of the resolution to the dominion members of the province, and at the same time desired that lands should be reserved "as a reward and provision for such officers and soldiers as might be disbanded in America upon a peace." This led the governor to desire from making further grants of the cleared lands to ordinary settlers. He did not, however, anticipate much benefit to the province in consequence of the attempt to people it with disbanded British soldiers, and he wrote to the Lords of Trade:

"According to my ideas of the military, which I offer with all possible deference and submission, they are the least qualified, from their occupation as soldiers, of any men living to establish new countries, where they must encounter

LUNENBURG SCHOONER ASHORE AND A TOTAL LOSS

New York, Jan. 23.—The small two-masted schooner Alexa, of Lunenburg (N.S.), Captain Corcum, bound with a cargo of sugar from Manzanilla for New York, went ashore early this morning off the point of Rockaway Beach and became a total wreck. She lies high and dry at low water. It is believed that the vessel was abandoned by her crew.

Was Unable to do any Work for Four or Five Months. Was Weak and Miserable. Thought She Would Die. Doctor Could Do No Good.

difficulties with which they are altogether unacquainted; and I am the rather convinced of it, as every soldier that has come into this province since the establishment of Halifax, has either quitted it or become a drabmaker."

Soon after the treaty of Paris, a proclamation of George III. (dated at the Court of St. James, Oct. 7, 1763) signified the royal sense and approbation of the conduct of the officers and soldiers of the army, and directed the governors of the several provinces to grant, without fee or reward, to disbanded officers and soldiers who had served in North America during the late war and were actually residing there, lands in the following proportions:—To every field officer, 5,000 acres. To every captain, 2,000 acres. To every subaltern or staff officer, 2,000 acres. To every non-commissioned officer, 200 acres. To every private man, 50 acres.

Like grants of land were to be made to retired officers of the navy who had served on board a ship of war at the reduction of Louisbourg and Quebec. Petitions and memorials of retired officers of the army and navy who were desirous of obtaining lands in Nova Scotia as a reward for their services, now flowed in upon the provincial and imperial authorities. The desire to obtain land on the River St. John became so general that government officials, merchants and professional men joined in the general scramble. The result was not only detrimental to the best interests of the country, but in many cases disastrous to the speculators themselves. The ideas of some of the memorialists were by no means small. For example, in 1762, Sir Allan McLean applied for 500,000 acres on the River St. John to enable him to plant a colony; and in the same year Captains Alexander Hay, John Sinclair, Hugh Debbieg, Alex. Baillie, Robert G. Bruce and J. F. W. Deschamps.

RICHARD MURRAY INDICTED

No Bill Found Against the Other Two Under Arrest—Judge Orders Trial to Be Held at Quebec Instead of New Carlisle. New Carlisle, P. Q., Jan. 22.—(Special.)—The grand jury today found no bill against Archibald Gerrard and Michael Murray for the murder of Richard Mann, but a true bill was brought in against Richard Murray.

On application of their counsel, Archibald Gerrard and Michael Murray were immediately released from custody. The court then considered the application for a change venue or place of trial, and the judge decided it should be granted for the reason that he believed the jury brought in a compromise verdict. The trial will be held in Quebec on April 11 and the prisoner will remain here till April 6.

That it has been deemed necessary to change the scene of the trial is deeply felt by the people of this county. What this change means to twenty-three witnesses who will have to go to Quebec from Campbellton and vicinity in April can be better imagined than described.

The Cause of Cancer Explained

Our booklet, "Cancer—its Cause and Cure," written by a physician who has made a special study of the disease, will be sent to you absolutely free, in stamps. Dept. 6, St. John's, Bowmanville, Ont.

Jack—"You've heard about the escaping criminal who stepped on a slot machine and got a wig?" Mack—"Yes, that's odd." Jack—"Well, even the slot-machines couldn't get his cent."—Yale Record.

Whip—"Do you believe there's good luck in finding a horseshoe?" Snamte—"Yes, when you find it on the winning horse."

Farmers' Sons Wanted. Good knowledge of farm to work on opportunity for advancement. Apply to Mr. J. H. B. and reliable branch office. Address: 100 King Street West, Toronto, Ont. or at once giving full particulars. THE VETERINARIAN, SCHENCK ASSOC., London, Ont.

ADVENT OF ENGLISH ON RIVER ST. JOHN.

Lands of Exiled Acadians Repeopled by New Englanders, Many of Them Disbanded Soldiers—Application for 200,000 Acres—Coming of the Simonds, Peabodys, Perleys, Hazens and Wests—St. John Harbor Surveyed.

W. O. RAYMOND, LL. D. CHAPTER XV. THE FIRST ENGLISH SETTLERS.

The erection of Fort Frederick, in the autumn of 1758, gave the English a permanent foothold on the River St. John, which possibly was rendered a little more secure by the destruction of the Acadian settlements at Grimross and St. Anne, and the subsequent removal by Colonel Arbutnot of a large number of the French inhabitants.

Shortly after the Acadian expulsion, the Lords of Trade and Plantations urged Governor Lawrence to re-people the lands vacated by the French with settlers from New England. The idea was quite in accord with the governor's own mind, but he was obliged to defer it for a season. In the existing state of affairs he could not spare the troops necessary to defend new settlements, and nothing was practicable until Monckton's occupation of the St. John river Lawrence issued very shortly after Monckton's occupation of the St. John river Lawrence issued the first of his celebrated proclamations, offering favorable terms to any industrious settlers from New England, who would remove to Nova Scotia and cultivate the lands vacated by the French, or other ungranted lands. The proclamation stated that proposals on behalf of intending settlers would be received by Thomas Hancock at Boston, and by Messrs. De Lansey and Watts at New York, and by them transmitted to the Governor of Nova Scotia.

This proclamation had the effect of directing attention to the River St. John. Young and adventurous spirits soon came to the fore anxious to be the pioneers of civilization in the wilds of Nova Scotia. But first they wished to know: What terms of encouragement would be offered? How much land each person would get? What quit-rents and taxes would be required? What constitution of government prevailed, and what freedom in religion?

In answer to their inquiries a second proclamation was issued, in which it was declared that townships were to consist of 100,000 acres (about 12 mile square) and were to include the best lands, and rivers in their vicinity. The government was described as similar to that of the neighboring colonies, the legislature consisting of a governor, council and assembly and every township, so soon as it should consist of fifty families, would be entitled to send two representatives to the assembly. The courts of justice were similar to those of Massachusetts, Connecticut and the other northern colonies, and full liberty of conscience was secured to persons of all persuasions, "papists" excepted, by the royal instructions and a late act of the Assembly. As yet no taxes had been imposed or fees exacted on grants. Forts garrisoned with troops were established in the neighborhood of the lands it was proposed to settle.

The Lords of Trade approved of Governor Lawrence's proceedings in settling the province, and at the same time desired that lands should be reserved "as a reward and provision for such officers and soldiers as might be disbanded in America upon a peace." This led the governor to desire from making further grants of the cleared lands to ordinary settlers. He did not, however, anticipate much benefit to the province in consequence of the attempt to people it with disbanded British soldiers, and he wrote to the Lords of Trade:

"According to my ideas of the military, which I offer with all possible deference and submission, they are the least qualified, from their occupation as soldiers, of any men living to establish new countries, where they must encounter



difficulties with which they are altogether unacquainted; and I am the rather convinced of it, as every soldier that has come into this province since the establishment of Halifax, has either quitted it or become a drabmaker."

(Continued on page 6.)

Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills. Strengthen Complete Cure in the Case of MRS. CAROLINE H. MILBURN, Ontario. She says: "It affords me great pleasure to speak about what our Heart and Nerve Pills have done for me. About a year ago I was taken ill with heart trouble and got so bad that I was unable to do any work for four or five months. I got so weak and miserable that my friends thought I was going to die. The doctor attended me for some time but I continued to grow worse. At last I decided to try Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills, and after taking two boxes they made me well and strong again. I cannot praise them too highly to those suffering from nervous weakness and heart troubles."