

## WHAT CONVERTED ME TO SPIRITUALISM

tory as those I have received from them while yet embodied.

I am not a Spiritualist because of the vast amount of fraud, deception, humbuggery and imposition practised under the cloak of Spiritualism, but I am a Spiritualist in spite and independent of and notwithstanding this lamentable fact.

What then, has converted me to Spiritualism? Why am I a Spiritualist? Have I ever been to the Spirit world? No, I have never been there. I have never been in the city of New York, yet the evidences I have received of the existence of that metropolis are so great and numerous that I feel that I am justified in asserting that I know that there is in these United States a great city called New York.

Now, I have never been to the Spirit world, but I have received certain evidences that to me are satisfactory and conclusive that there is such a world—a world or condition in which the spirits of my departed friends still exist and are able under certain conditions, or by the observance of certain laws as yet but little understood, to make their continued existence manifest to me.

As little as I know about Chicago and New York, I know immeasurably less about the spirit world, of which I have as yet obtained but the faintest glimpse, hardly worth noticing. But I have had communications from the spirit world, as I have had communications from Chicago and New York. At any rate I have had letters on slates signed by the names of departed friends who were utter strangers to the medium through whose aura or peculiar influence—call it magnetic, electric, psychic, or what you will—they came, and concerning matters

that no one knew anything about save those departed friends whose names were thus signed to these messages, and myself. In many instances the medium did not touch the slates, nor were they at any time out of my possession. In most instances I could feel the vibrations of and hear the noise peculiar to slate-writing while messages were being written, and while the medium was seated at a distance from me, which fact alone would preclude the possibility of their being written by his or her hands. Where is the Keller or Hermann or other celebrated magician who can by trickery duplicate this phenomenon? I have witnessed the performances of both these renowned magicians many times and am amazed at their wonderful tricks performed by the aid of many assistants invisible to the audience, but they have always failed to produce the intelligence from and the names of the spirits of the departed which constitutes the essential evidence of the truth of modern Spiritualism.

I am a Spiritualist, therefore, because neither the theories of the magicians Keller and Hermann, nor those of Thomson Jay Hudson, are satisfactory to me as explanations of the phenomena I have personally experienced, many of which I am not permitted to reduce to writing.

I am a Spiritualist because all of the learned, so-called scientific explanations of the acknowledged phenomena of Spiritualism upon any other hypothesis than that of Spiritualism have miserably failed to explain, in my opinion. For example, do they or any one of them explain the following personal experiences?

In the year 1878 I was physician