

or medium. Communications from the spirit world have even been received by enquiring spiritualists from their deceased relatives rapped out to them, through the intervention of some piece of furniture acted on by media. Likewise written documents, some of them most lengthy, and some of them purporting to be from clever minds yet of most wretched composition,* have been received into the world by means of the pens of admiring Spiritualists; and oral communications have been delivered by speaking media, during a state of inspiration or trance, to groups of professors learned in Spiritualism. Verily the people of the nineteenth century are as credulous as those of the ninth!

Our present object is merely to introduce to our readers a few specimens of spiritual literature culled from the *Spiritual Telegraph*, the organ of the Spiritualists, a paper containing some of the most blasphemous articles that ever sprung from the pen of erring mortals.

Let us, however, charitably suppose that the proprietors of this paper in publishing such matter are sincere and not altogether actuated by mercenary motives.

We must permise that nearly all communications are of a religious character and oftentimes a poetic nature. The author of the following pieces is a young girl named Ada, of only fourteen years of age, the history of her development as a writing medium is described as follows by a correspondent of the *Telegraph*:—Ada until quite recently has been known only as a quiet and affectionate child—a docile, modest, and amiable school-girl, attractive only by the sweetness of her disposition, the simplicity of her character, and a sedate, retiring deportment—in complexion, a rather pale brunette, with an exuberance of dark hair,

rather large, deep set eyes of a peculiarly soft dreamy, and somewhat melancholy expression. She has not attained her growth, and retains all the *naïvete* of childhood.

About the middle of June last several gentlemen and ladies of Galveston formed a circle and met twice a week at the house of her mother—she and her husband being members—for improvement in spiritual knowledge and intercourse. Ada was always present, but not until after several sittings was it intimated or suspected that she *was or would be* a medium. The medium relied on was a gentleman (Mr. G.), who, being seized with illness soon after our organization, was unable to attend, and consequently the members met almost hopeless of success. After continuing around the table, however, for nearly two hours, faint and feeble raps were at length heard, which in the course of another half hour became very loud, frequent and distinct. The alphabet was called for, and some seven or eight of the most distinguished musicians who ever lived, announced their names, among whom were Mozart, Handel, Hayden, Paganini, Beethoven, Von Weber, etc.

They would not communicate or converse with any member of the circle but Ada; refused to answer any other; stated that their object was to aid in her development as a medium; directed that the circle should continue its sittings; and informed us that she was to become an extraordinary medium. All questions had to be put by and answered to her, with a few exceptions, and after a few sittings the *physical manifestations* became very astonishing.

About the first of July I was compelled to be absent from the city on business, and did not return until Saturday evening, the 15th inst. On entering my door my wife informed me that Ada had become developed as a *poetess*, and proceeded at once to exhibit pieces of her poetic composition, all written during my absence, upon reading which I was not only greatly astonished, but deeply affected.

I called at her residence the next morning, and after reading all the pieces she had then written—amounting to fifteen in number—I requested her to describe to me the mental

* This curious fact is thus explained by spiritualists:—The writing medium may himself be a well educated man and still his hand be impelled to write an ill constructed letter, he himself unconscious of the matter contained in the letter, or the signature that will be attached, which may prove to be Daniel Webster's or a Dancing Master's. Should it appear as Webster writing trash, they say that it is the Dancing Master, who was a bit of a wag during life, and cannot leave off his old tricks now that he is dead, but must personate a Webster, to have a lark with the medium; while, should the Dancing Master write a finished epistle, it is some sly Dan returning the compliment.—Ed.