

Spirit Pictures.

 GENTLEMAN who is rather inclined to believe in spirit rappings, and whose chief delight is in attending a "seance," brought the following clipping into the gallery the other day and tried to convert the writer to spiritualism by citing it, and asserting that he had seen with his own eyes photographs of a friend taken in New York City showing unmistakable spirit faces clustered in a very loving manner around his head, said faces guaranteed by the spirit (?) photographer to be those of dead relatives who were evidently keeping a vigilant watch upon the doings of the subject taken.

SPIRIT PHOTOGRAPHY.

The following letter was recently sent to the editor of the *St. Louis Spectator*: "Of all the curious phenomena that have been developed the past few years, the most interesting, because the most mysterious, is the taking of portraits of the departed. To most people the theory seems sheer nonsense, while to others it is a positive fact, a demonstration to them beyond all cavil. Being a materialist, yet being ever willing to be convinced of the error of my belief, if such a thing can be done, I was induced to go to a photographer now in the city, who professes to be what is called a medium, and who also professes to take the portraits of the dead he has never seen. My first sitting produced my own portrait with a female face indistinctly outlined just over my head—but I did not recognize the features of the so-called spirit, and this was no test either way. I was accompanied the next time by a lady friend whose portrait was taken, and when the plate was developed there were seen three female faces clustered around above her head, but she did not recognize either of the faces. I went a third time, and the plate showed two faces above my own; withal the "spirits" had placed a rose in the lapel of my coat—that is, the plate showed I had a flower, which in reality I did not have

—but I did not recognize either of the faces, yet I have met people who profess to have recognized the faces that were taken on their plates. I purpose going again, but in the meantime I thought it might be interesting to some of our readers to know of the investigation, who perhaps might be able to report better results than I am up to date. I might here mention that the name of the photographer is —, and he lives on South Jefferson Avenue, where my photographs were taken." Name and number were given.

Having in younger days gotten into trouble by taking a spirit picture of a susceptible spinster showing a faint and ghostly figure wrapped in the traditional sheet and with outstretched arm pointing in a very tragical way at the thin form of the old lady, who, instead of appreciating my successful spirit raising, proceeded to develop a very noisy case of hysterics, necessitating the calling in of the family doctor, and having been called a villain by the aforesaid doctor and every member of the family, and looked upon with decided suspicion by the old lady for ever after, I thought I was, in a manner, capable of making a few remarks in a general way to this man upon the folly of believing all one hears or sees, especially in the "spirit" line. Having also heard of the New York man, who, by the way, reaped quite a harvest from those who were foolish enough to patronize him, I proceeded to show this deluded mortal how it was done. Getting out the camera and selecting a very slow plate (used for view work), a snap shot was taken of the office boy wrapped in a curtain. Our friend with the spiritualistic tendencies was then posed, and an exposure of about ten seconds given, using the same plate. Upon development, the faint figure of Bob (the ghost) was seen to one side, very spirit-like, if we except his Irish smile, which would not be suppressed. It is needless to say that the man who came to convert went away with his (dangerously) growing belief in spiritualism badly shaken, and will most likely drop in some day and report himself entirely cured. Geo.