

THIS MIGHTY HOUR

CHRIST ALL-SUFFICIENT

In the face of such a warning it is astounding that men should still hanker after the gaudy trinkets that Rome has to offer. Yet they love its ceremonial. They are lured by its lavish pomp and circumstance, its outward appearance of unity, its visible head.

Yet these things are all of the earth, earthy. Jesus, our great High Priest in heaven, is of more value in the warfare with sin than ten million human priests. We need no other mediator than Jesus to give us immediate access to God. Neither do we need any other sacrifice than His to make us welcome. "He was once offered" to take away sin, and needs not to be offered again, day After day, year after year, a thousand million times, at the will of an earthly priesthood. Indeed, we are told plainly that "He offered one sacrifice for sins for ever." [Hebrews 10:12] Through Him alone we may come boldly to the throne of grace and find abundant help in even, time of need. [Hebrews 4:14-16]

What we need in this great hour is not more priest craft, but more knowledge of Christ; not more incense, but more prevailing prayer; not more superstition, but more genuine faith; not more ceremony, but more heartfelt devotion to Him. And we may find all these simplicities of the gospel without aid of monk or nun, priest or pope. They await our seeking in the Word of the living God and in the daily practice of its divine teachings.

18. THE SPREAD OF SPIRITUALISM

BUBBLING up from the bottom of this melting pot is a dark, noxious substance, that appears to be permeating and coloring the entire contents. Already it has penetrated many of the larger bodies and seems to be acting as yet another solvent upon religious conventions and denominational barriers.

The revival of ancient spiritualism in our time is, indeed, one of the most amazing--and the most perilous--developments of this mighty hour. Christendom has become impregnated with its doctrines. Of recent years, and particularly since the war, there has grown up an enormous, world-wide interest in the subject. One of its leading exponents claims three million believers in Great Britain alone, and affirms that private seances are held in 10,000 English homes every week.

Religious leaders and members of Christian churches have been the most active in propagating its teachings under the title of "Christian Spiritualism." Clergy of various denominations have formed themselves into a "Psychic Evidence Guild" to encourage study of the cult, and among their plans is the establishment of a school for the training of mediums.

Men and women in every walk of life have been drawn to investigate the extraordinary claims of this new religion. Many of the world's celebrities have already accepted them. Scientists of repute and authors of international fame have become their ardent advocates. Discussion of psychic research has even been permitted at the annual meetings of the British Association.

This widespread interest is easily understood. Spiritualism's claim to bring the living in touch with the dead is sufficient of itself to command attention. That is something the bereaved have desired from the day death entered the human family. And when this claim is supported--as it is--by facts of a truly startling order, it is but natural that the sad and the curious should desire to know more concerning it. Those who have lost their loved ones, and yearn with a great longing for their companionship, are bound to ask whether Spiritualism can indeed help them to break through the barrier the tomb has erected. And all who are thrilled at the sight of magic and miracle are likewise drawn to witness for themselves the phenomena which Spiritualist mediums are able to produce.

MIRACLES OF THE SEANCE

These phenomena take various forms. Sometimes they consist merely of raps on the wall, or the clanking of chains. Small articles are flung about the seance chamber, while sometimes heavy furniture is moved, even being carried out of the window and back again, without human aid. Musical instruments are played by ghostly hands. Spirit photographs appear on exposed plates. Strange voices speak through the medium, at times purporting to come from departed relatives of persons present at the seance. Frequently they speak nothing but gibberish; but occasionally they refer to events and dates with uncanny accuracy. At

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times materialization takes place, a strange substance called astral matter oozing from the body of the medium and taking the form of some deceased person known to one or other of the onlookers.

Phenomena of this kind are sufficient to convince the majority of inquirers as to the genuineness of the teachings of those through whom they are performed. The evidence presented to their senses of sight and hearing seems overwhelming. Such exhibitions of supernatural power, they say, cannot but be of divine origin and must surely hold the explanation of the age-old problem as to the survival of life beyond the grave. Surely, too, they affirm, such eminent scientists as Sir Oliver Lodge, Sir James Barrett, Sir Alfred Wallace, and Sir William Crookes, could not all have been mistaken. Certainly a detective genius like Sir Arthur Conan Doyle could not have been duped.

TRICKERY

Nevertheless one of the most disconcerting facts which the inquirer into Spiritualism has to face sooner or later is the prevalence of the most unblushing fraud among mediums. In the famous case heard before the late Mr. Justice McCardie in 1932 between Mrs. Morris and the Daily Mail, witness after witness referred to the large number of fraudulent mediums and "their dexterity with regard to spirit photographs, sealed letter reading, and other matters."

On September 18, 1931, Mr. Charles A. Beare, who for three years practiced as a professional spirit medium, confessed in the Daily Express that during all this time he had deliberately deceived his audiences.

"I have deceived hundreds of people," he said. "I have been guilty of fraud and deception in spiritualistic practices by pretending that I was controlled by a spirit guide. I am frankly and wholeheartedly sorry that I have allowed myself to deceive people.

I believe that when they read my full and frank confession they will forgive me for the way I have deceived them, and I am convinced that Spiritualists could not do better than clear their own ranks of the fraud and deception which I know exist in the greater part of these practices."

HONEY COMBED BY FRAUD

Sir Ernest Bennett, M.P., a member of the council of the Psychical Research Society, writing in the Daily Mail of July 1, 1932, stated:

"It is, alas, a pitiful fact which often turns inquirers away in disgust, that all over Great Britain today certain mediums who have been detected in deliberate and shameless fraud are still championed and employed by Spiritualist leaders.

"To a large extent, indeed, the Spiritualist movement is honeycombed by fraud on the one hand and credulity on the other."

In the United States, deception of this sort has taken place on such a scale that Spiritualism has been brought into serious disrepute; and Houdini, the world-famous conjurer, once challenged Spiritualists to produce phenomena which he could not duplicate by his own sleight of hand.

Even Sir Arthur Conan Doyle admitted in an article written in 1917 that he himself had been hoodwinked on many occasions. "The same circle may assemble," he wrote, "with the same medium in the same room under the same physical conditions to meet with utter failure upon the Monday and complete success upon the Tuesday. Still more embarrassing is the fact that the same medium may upon one day deliver a message which proves to be absolutely true, and on the next day, or even in some cases at the same sitting, will deliver another which is a detailed fabrication."

However, despite the perpetration of so much deception in connection with Spiritualism there is little doubt that genuine supernatural phenomena occur. So exhaustive have been the tests applied by scientists of the highest repute to certain of the strange and eerie happenings of the seance chamber that the question has become not so much, Are they genuine, but, What power produces them?

Some seek an explanation in psychology or telepathy; but that is quite insufficient. Others affirm that the spirits of the dead are responsible and that, therefore, the seance provides a trysting-place where living and dead may meet again.

If this be true, then surely it is the most amazing discovery of this wonderful time. If, on the other hand, it is incorrect, then many thousands are being daily deceived by some mysterious power and for some nefarious purpose.

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OPPOSED TO THE GOSPEL

Those who feel drawn towards Spiritualism for any reason should reflect that its fundamental claim concerning intercourse with the dead, notwithstanding the very lofty, moral pronouncements made through some of its mediums, is contradictory to one of the basic teachings of Christianity. However eagerly Spiritualism may seek to appropriate the name “Christian” and take its place on an equality with other Christian bodies, this assertion of power to make contact with the dead stamps it as something utterly foreign to the gospel. That gospel, according to New Testament writers, calls for a resurrection of the dead at the Second Coming of Christ. So important is this doctrine in the eyes of the Apostle Paul that he declares. “If there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: and if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain; you are yet in your sins.” [1 Corinthians 15:13-17]

The gospel of Christ, indeed the whole plan of salvation, is based upon the promise of a literal, bodily resurrection of the dead at His appearing. Christ Himself affirmed it, and it was reiterated many times by His disciples. It follows therefore that, if this is indeed His plan, if He is waiting to give the righteous dead immortal bodies at His coming, they cannot in the interim be subject to disturbance at the whim or call of any medium. Nor is it reasonable to suppose that Christ would permit them to visit sances in order to move furniture, play musical instruments, or write foolish messages on slates.

ARE THE DEAD ALIVE?

But Spiritualism not only runs counter to the doctrine of the resurrection, it is also diametrically opposed to Biblical teaching concerning the state of the dead. In this, sad to say, it has been aided and abetted by many Christian churches, for by their teaching that the body has within it a separate and detachable “soul,” which at death speeds off to heaven, hell, or purgatory, they have prepared the way, for Spiritualism’s sweeping successes. For some reason they have overlooked the fact that there is no reference to an “immortal soul” in all the Scriptures, that it is there plainly, stated that God “only hath immortality” and that man will not receive this precious possession until the resurrection. [1 Timothy 6:16, 1 Corinthians 15:51-55]

There is indeed no such thing in existence as a “disembodied spirit.” The dead are not now “immortal souls” flitting about the universe taking post-graduate courses on distant spheres and visiting their old homesteads from time to time. Such ideas are entirely unscriptural and are in harmony with Satan’s first falsehood in the garden of Eden, when, contradicting God, he declared to Eve: “Thou shalt not surely die.” [Genesis 3:4]

The fact is that the dead are resting in unconscious sleep, awaiting the resurrection, some the resurrection of life, and some the resurrection of damnation. [John 5:28,29] Until that resurrection there is no life after death for anyone. Until then “the dead know not anything.” [Ecclesiastes 9:5,6]

COMPLETE UNCONSCIOUSNESS IN DEATH

This teaching appears consistently throughout the Bible. In the Book of Job we find this declaration: “Man lies and rises not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.” [Job 14:10-12]

In the Psalms occur many- similar statements: “In death there is no remembrance of Thee.” [Psalm 6:5] “His breath goes forth, he returns to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.” [Psalm 146:4] In Isaiah we are told: “They that go down into the pit cannot hope for Thy, truth.” [Isaiah 38:18]

And our Lord Himself, speaking of a dear friend who had passed away, said: “Lazarus sleeps. Lazarus is dead.” [John 11:11-14]

The Lord God who made man, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, so that he became “a living soul”; who sent His Son to die that all who believe Him might not perish, but have everlasting life.” Who is soon to send back His Son to raise the dead and bestow the boon of immortality upon His own-surely He can be trusted in His description of the state of those who have passed away. And He tells us they know nothing, they feel nothing, they do nothing. In silence, and completely unconscious of the passing of time, they sleep on “until the day break, and the shadows flee away.”

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Clearly, then, the phenomena of Spiritualism are not produced by the “spirits” of the dead. Some scientists have come to the same conclusion. Said Dr. William Brown, Wilde Reader in Philosophy, University of Oxford, speaking at the Leeds meeting of the British Association:

“The investigations carried out by the Society for Psychical Research during the past fifty years and the society’s results and provisional hypotheses can rightly claim a place in modern psychological science. Nevertheless, if due allowance is made for the possible working of such factors as conscious or subconscious fraud, telepathy between the living, and chance coincidence, the scientific evidence for personal survival of bodily death is not very strong.”

To what, then, can the phenomena be attributed? If the possibility of activity on the part of the dead is completely ruled out, what other cause can there be?

EXISTENCE OF INVISIBLE FORCES

Turning to the Bible again, we find it frequently asserting that certain intelligent but invisible forces exist in the universe. It refers to them as “angels” or “spirits,” pointing out that many have definitely evil intentions toward the human race. The Apostle Paul represents the Christian life as primarily a warfare against such unseen evil powers. To the Ephesians he wrote:

“We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against wicked spirits in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having overcome all, to stand.” [Ephesians 6:12,13] That there are “good angels” and “bad angels” in the universe is much more than a fairy story. It is a fact taught throughout the Scriptures. The Apostle John, in the twelfth chapter of Revelation, records his vision of a primeval rebellion when one-third of the created intelligences of heaven were cast out. Genesis opens with the battleground transferred to earth, our first parents ensnared by the arch-rebel himself, and driven from the precincts of the tree of life by the cherubim with the flaming sword.

Through all the Bible story we find incidents of contact between angels and men. Good angels on several occasions appear, in great emergencies, to succor the children of God, even ministering to our Lord Himself in Gethsemane. While on the other hand evil angels are depicted as working for the downfall and corruption of the race, as for example in the case of King Saul and in the many instances of demon possession mentioned in the Gospels and the Acts.

Instances of actual materialization are recorded, revealing that the angels, in certain circumstances, have the power to take on human form. Thus two angels appeared as men to Abraham before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, and the witch of Endor caused the materialization of “Samuel” in the presence of Saul. As to the nature of this power of spirit beings to appear in the guise of humanity, we have no knowledge, but the fact that its occurrence is described in records that are millenniums old is of inestimable value as indicating the true explanation of the specters that haunt the modern seance.

DIVINE WARNINGS

So-called communion with the dead, far from being a modern outgrowth of Christianity, as some would have us believe, is a very ancient practice, invariably carried on through witches and wizards, and definitely condemned by God as demonology. Terms have changed, witches have become “mediums,” and evil spirits the “spirits of the departed,” but modern “Spiritualism” is none the less the same old devilish business. So many titled people having become involved in it makes such language appear harsh and excessive; but when dealing with a deception of such magnitude and subtlety, one must needs call a spade a spade.

Prophets of God have employed the most denunciatory terms when referring to this cult, and to them no language has seemed too strong to use in expressing the utter abhorrence in which it is held by the Most High. Thus we find in the ancient law, quoting Dr. Moffatt’s translation:

“There must be none among you who practices divination or soothsaying, no augur, no sorcerer, no one who weaves spells, no medium or magician, no necromancer. Anyone given to these practices is abominable to the Eternal; indeed, it is on account of such practices that the Eternal dispossesses these nations before you. Before the Eternal your God you must be blameless; for while these nations which you are dispossessing listen to mediums and magicians, the Eternal your God has not allowed you to do that.” [Deuteronomy 18:10-14]

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Again, in Leviticus we read: “Never go to a medium or a wizard, never defile yourselves by consulting them: I am the Eternal your God.” [Leviticus 19:31]

In the days of Isaiah this warning was given to the people of Jerusalem: “When they tell you to consult mediums and ghosts that cheep and gibber in low murmurs, ask them if a nation should not rather consult its God. Say, ‘Why consult the dead on behalf of the living?’ Consult the message and the counsel of God!” [Isaiah 8:19,20]

There is certainly no mistaking God’s attitude on this subject. He could not have spoken more plainly or revealed His disapproval in stronger terms. All dealings with the dead, everything savoring of demonology, are anathema to Him. Out of His love for His people, with their well-being and safety in view, He has warned them to have nothing to do with such things. Such counsel can only be ignored at grave peril.

BIBLICAL EXPLANATION ADEQUATE

Some people, however, fascinated perhaps by some striking phenomena they have witnessed, or impressed by the eloquent moral teachings of some “control,” are inclined to discount the Biblical explanation of spirit manifestations and scorn the divine admonition concerning them. They are so convinced that the dead are responsible for them that they refuse to countenance any alternative view. They say that demon possession is impossible and unreasonable.

In this connection it is interesting to recall the New Testament story of Paul’s meeting with a damsel possessed with a spirit of divination, who, by the way, was also exploited by certain persons for commercial gain. The words which this girl used under the power of that spirit were pious words calculated to appeal to Christian men who might have heard them. “These men,” she said, speaking of Paul and Silas, “are the servants of the Most High God, which show unto us the way of salvation.” But the apostle would not accept this testimony from such a source. “Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.” [Acts 16:17,18]

The consistent teaching of the Scriptures on this matter indeed affords the only explanation which satisfactorily meets all the questions which such exhibitions of supernatural activity arouse.

First, it explains the phenomena. As beings on the angelic plane must be possessed of far greater knowledge of the laws of the universe than man, there is nothing to prevent them from performing feats far beyond human capacity. Materialization, also, may well be within the power of a demon. The Apostle Paul has told us that even Satan can transform himself into an angel of light. It is therefore not unreasonable to suggest that his followers may appear at seances as ministers of righteousness. [2 Corinthians 11:14,15] “Spirits of devils” are indeed the only adequate explanation of the amazing miracles of the seance chamber.

SCIENTISTS SUSPECT DEMONS

Secondly, it explains the messages. At practically every seance messages are received from “the other side.” Sometimes they are true, sometimes false, and very frequently they are made up of trivialities and nonsense. Speaking of the unreliable nature of the messages received, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote in “The New Revelation”:

“We have, unhappily, to deal with absolute cold-blooded lying on the part of wicked or mischievous intelligences. Everyone who has investigated the matter has, I suppose, met with examples of willful deception, which occasionally are mixed up with good and true communications. There is nothing more puzzling than the fact that one may get a long, connected description with every detail given, and then it may prove to be entirely a concoction.”

This admission by so eminent a student of the subject that “wicked and mischievous intelligences” may possibly be the authors of the messages is most important. But Sir Oliver Lodge has gone farther, saying in his book, “Raymond”:

“The only alternative in the best cases is to imagine a sort of super-normal mischievous so elaborately misleading that it would have to be stigmatized as vicious or even diabolical.”

It may be news to some that these two leading exponents of Spiritualism, who studied the question so thoroughly, and examined the messages with such minute care, were led to doubt whether or not they were being deceived by some diabolical power, but there are the facts; and they are in exact harmony with the divine assertion that this is indeed the case.

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Not only, however, does the Biblical explanation reveal the true cause of the cold blooded lying, but it also accounts for every other phase of the spirit messages, including those that refer to private and history and the location of long lost objects. Such information would indeed be beyond the power of “disembodied spirits” to obtain, but to a supernatural being with the intellect of a fallen angel—a myrmidon of the well-organized army of Satan—the gathering of such facts would be a simple undertaking.

SPIRITS ATTACK CHRIST

Thirdly, it explains the anti-Christian teachings of the spirits, Despite all the attempts of certain Spiritualists to prove to the world that their beliefs and teachings are in harmony with Christianity, it is very evident from the published reports ‘Of s6ances that the powers behind .Spiritualism are aiming at the overthrow of the very fundamentals of the Christian religion.

In “Spirit Teachings,” a book which consists of matter written by spirits, who used the hand of Mr. Stanton Moses, one-time editor of Light, as their medium, statements occur which reveal the true character of the power behind the s6ance. For instance, they say concerning Christ:

“It is sufficient to say that the incarnation of an exalted spirit for the purpose of regenerating mankind is not confined to a single instance. The special salvation that mankind derives from these special saviors is that of which at the time it stands in need. Christ came to die for and to save man in the same, though in a higher sense, that all regenerators of men have been their saviours.” Man is also taught to look to himself for salvation and righteousness:

“Neither have we made any mention of a boundless store of merit laid up for him by the death of the sinless Son of God. No such fable finds a place in our knowledge. We know of no store of merit save that which man lays up for himself by slow and laborious processes.” Regarding the Bible the spirits say:

“You have no desire to hide the plain fact that there is much in some parts of the Bible which does not amalgamate with our teaching, being, indeed, the admixture of human error which came through the mind of the chosen medium.”

“We mention this to avoid at once the necessity of replying to any texts from these books which may be quoted as an argument.”

SECOND ADVENT DENIED

Concerning the second advent of Christ, the spirits say:-

“What you are now witnessing are the signs and wonders that prelude the opening of a new dispensation, the advent of the Lord, not as man has fancied and as your teachers have vainly taught, in bodily presence to judge an arisen humanity, but in His new mission (the fullness of the old), through us His messengers and ministers, in the declaration of a new evangelist to your world.”

“Is this, then, the return of Christ? It is the spiritual return. There will be no such physical return as man dreamed of.”

In the Metropolitan Magazine (New York) for January, 1918, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was quoted as follows:

“One can see no justice in the vicarious sacrifice, nor in a God who could be placated by such means. Above all, many cannot understand such expressions as: ‘The redemption from sin,’ ‘Cleansed by the blood of the Lamb,’ and so forth. Never was there any evidence of a Fall. But if there were no Fall, then what became of the atonement, of the redemption, of original sin, of a large part of Christian mystical philosophy? Even if it were as reasonable in itself, as it is actually unreasonable, it would still be quite divorced from the facts. Again, too much seemed to be made of Christ’s death. It is no uncommon thing to die for an idea.”

Again, in another publication, the Spiritual Telegraph, No. 37, appeared the following:

“What is the meaning of the word Christ? It is not, as generally supposed, the Son of the Creator of all things. Any just and perfect being is Christ. The crucifixion of Christ is nothing more than the crucifixion of a spirit, which all have to contend with before becoming perfect and righteous. The miraculous conception of Christ is merely a fabulous tale.”

It will be noticed that these statements are all directed at the very hub and center of the Christian religion that Christ and His atoning death. It is the very teaching one would expect the arch-enemy of Christ to attempt to foist upon the world. One further quotation, however, will make it abundantly clear

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whence these blasphemous teachings have come. In the Banner of Light for November 4, 1865, the following question and answer, given at a seance, appeared:

“Question. Do you know of any such spirit as the person we call the devil?”

“Answer. We certainly do. And yet this same devil is our god, our father.”

For once, at any rate, the spirits told the truth.

DANGER OF DEMON POSSESSION

It explains the effects of Spiritualism. Evidence is abundant that the practice of Spiritualism leads to all manner of nervous disorders, and is a frequent cause of insanity.

Giving evidence before the late Mr. justice McCardie, in the famous trial to which allusion has been made, Mrs. Violet Tweedale, a Spiritualist of fifty years' experience, frankly admitted that “there are millions of evil spirits who would like to take control of one” and that “madhouses today are half full of people who have yielded themselves to their influence.” Replying to a question by, the judge, she said: “Possession is a very common thing.”

Mrs. Osborne Leonard, a well-known medium, in her autobiography published in 1931, records her personal experience with horrible and malevolent influences in the seance room. Sitting on one occasion with two girl friends she attempted to hold a materialization seance in the dark. A slight aperture in the blind enabled her to see what at first seemed a shadow, but what by degrees revealed itself as a thin, dark arm, covered with hair, which clutched at the throat of her companion, “Nellie,” and attempted to strangle her.

The electric light being thereupon switched on, Nellie was found “in a pitiable condition, and trembling from head to foot.” Having felt the hand upon her throat, she had “jumped up with a piercing shriek, knocked over the chair, pushed us both to one side and rushed blindly for the door.”

Whatever explanation may be offered as to the cause of this occurrence, certainly the possibility of such dreadful happenings taking place should be sufficient warning to those who are tempted to meddle with the occult.

Similarly another prominent medium, Mrs. Travers Smith, daughter of Professor Dowden, and niece of a former Bishop of Edinburgh, warns the readers of her book, “Voices from the Void,” that possession is a real and alarming possibility. She describes how at certain sittings held by her “some external entity of a most dangerous kind was present,” and adds that such a personal experience “illustrates one of the greatest dangers connected with psychic work.” Sir William Barrett, FRS, and the well-known American investigator, Mr. Hereward Carrington, give similar warnings.

CAUSE OF SUICIDE

Dr. C. Williams, in his book “Spiritualism and Insanity,” writes as follows:

“Another injurious result of these studies is that those who pursue them, through constantly straining the senses of sight and hearing so as to ‘see’ something at seances, ultimately get these senses morbidly developed and are, in consequence, particularly prone to visual and aural hallucinations. Now visual hallucinations are harmful enough and sometimes lead to a nervous or mental breakdown, but aural hallucinations are much more serious. It is in consequence indeed of hallucinations of this kind that a person is led to commit the most insane acts, e.g., to make some silly and disastrous speculation in business, or to take some foolish step in life: and worse still, it is generally owing to bearing some voice saying, ‘Go and drown yourself,’ or ‘Go and shoot yourself,’ that most of the numerous suicides among Spiritualists have been brought about.”

This is the devil's work, and to blame it upon the “disembodied spirits” of the departed is only further evidence of the diabolical nature of the deception.

Plausible as Spiritualism's theories may seem to some, respectable and even “Christian” as it may appear in public, it is obviously a last great effort on the part of the powers of darkness to gain control of the minds of men. Not only are its teachings contrary to the gospel of Christ, but its fruits are seen in disordered minds -and a stream of entrants to the world's asylums.

“To dabble at all in such matters,” says the editor of the Christian, “is to come within reach of demoniac forces, and it is no unfamiliar experience to find skepticism and curiosity about spiritual manifestations changed to hysterical ‘possession’ in those persons who have lightly attended seances ‘just

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to see.’ The things of which we speak are among the most serious problems of the day, and we would utter a solemn warning against confidences that are away from God and tend to the tragedy of demon possession.

HELP FOR THOSE IN PERIL

Perhaps you who read these words have already felt yourself drawn towards this strange movement. Perhaps some overwhelming sorrow has driven you, against your better judgment, to seek comfort at this forbidden shrine. Already you may have heard the whispering of mysterious voices from the unseen or felt the cold, clammy touch of some spirit hand. If so, as you value your life, your peace of mind, your mental balance, retrace your steps before it is too late. Take yourself in hand with a firm grip. Determine that you will be free from the web that is being woven about you. Seek God for deliverance. And if you feel that you have gone too far, that you cannot throw off the dark, evil presence that haunts you, still do not hesitate to pour out your heart’s need to Him. Speak the name of Jesus in confident faith, and peace will return. The mightiest demon from hell must flee before the power of His holy name.

Facing this supreme peril of these stirring times it is of vital importance that every child of God discover the secret of victory over the powers of darkness. With Satan and his hosts at work with “great power and lying wonders,” laboring feverishly knowing that they have “but a short time,” those who would be preserved from their snares and deceptions need as never before to don the heavenly armor. The apostle’s admonition was never more timely: “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” [Ephesians 6:11]

STARTLING PREDICTIONS

Among all the prophetic descriptions of the developments of this mighty hour, few are more terrible than those revealing the machinations of evil spirits that seek to obtain control of God-forsaken human souls. Says the Apostle Paul: “Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.” [1 Timothy 4:1]

When the seer of Patmos set forth in symbolic language the tragic world situation of the last days, he wrote: “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.” [Revelation 18:2]

Describing in further detail the final events of world history, he declared: “I saw the spirits of devils go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.” [Revelation 16:13,14]

“Spirits of devils” in all the world! What a picture of our time and of Spiritualism’s sweeping successes! Yea, and what an hour is this, when even such prophecies as this are meeting their fulfillment! Was there ever a time of such fearful solemnity since man was upon the earth? We face not only the wrath of man but the rage of demons. Who is sufficient for these things? Surely they should impel us to seek God as we have never sought Him before. Only He can preserve us from the perils that lurk in the darkness of the days ahead.

19. A REFUGE IN THE STORM

ONE stormy day, some time ago we stood in the Palace of the Nations at Geneva watching the white-crested waves of the lake as they rolled by unceasingly to dash themselves into spray upon the harbor breakwaters. A gale was blowing and clouds were scudding across the sky, now enveloping, now uncovering, the gray, rugged slopes of the distant Alps. Suddenly there was an exclamation of excitement. Someone was pointing towards the mountains beyond the southern shores of the lake.

We turned to look in the direction indicated. There, in the far distance, a majestic, snow-covered peak stood out serenely against a broken background of fleecy cumulus and pale-blue sky. Through some cloud-rift a ray of sunshine kissed its summit, suffusing it with silver radiance. Then the vision passed. Clouds swooped down again and gathered the glory into their bosom.

But we had seen Mont Blanc. And having seen it, we realized that, far above this international