

WINNEMORE.

The Appeal to Governor Geary in His Behalf.

His Strange Religious Belief.

He is a Firm Believer in Spiritualism and Mental Alchemy—He Leaves His Own Body and Wanders About the Earth—He Sees Millions of Spirits in Uniform, Like an Army—His Spiritualistic Relations with Mrs. Magilton.

Mrs., Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc.

The public mind was pained as well as astonished, when the interview of the Sheriff's officers with George W. Winnemore, now under sentence of death for the murder of Mrs. Dorcas Magilton, revealed the fact that he had refused to receive a minister of the Gospel in his cell, and was determined to persist in that course until his fate was sealed upon the scaffold. Being anxious that a man in his peculiar and unfortunate situation should not be misunderstood or misrepresented, we recently communicated with him, through Damon V. Kilgore, Esq., one of his counsel, and found that he was quite willing to grant an interview for the purpose of making known his views upon this subject. Yesterday afternoon, therefore, in company with Mr. Kilgore, we waited upon the prisoner in his cell.

An Interview with the Prisoner.

We found the unfortunate man quite cheerful, and willing to answer every question that we desired to put to him. He was attired plainly and coarsely, but was by no means slovenly or unclean in his appearance. He wore a loose cotton shirt, the sleeves of which were turned up to his elbows; and his pantaloons were of a greyish material, such as is furnished by the prison authorities. These two garments constituted the whole of his outfit, his feet and neck being bare. His health, we understood from his counsel, had not been very good for some time past; and to this cause, in part, was owing the sickly pallor which marked his countenance. The cell in which he is confined is one of the corridors of the third floor of the County Prison; and in view of a recent statement by a contemporary, that this floor was entirely unoccupied, we were somewhat surprised to find not only that Winnemore's quarters were in the untenanted portion of the building, but that every cell on the floor was full, several of them even containing three or four prisoners each. The room was very meagrely furnished. On the floor, to the left of the door as we entered, was a simple pallet, on which the prisoner slept. Opposite this stood a small, rickety table; and these two articles, with a single chair, constituted the only furniture in the apartment. On the stand lay a package of foolscap paper, on which the prisoner was engaged in writing with a pencil. A single volume, the title of which we did not notice, was the only reading matter in the place.

The interview lasted about an hour, during the whole of which Winnemore conversed with entire freedom and with much ease, although he now and then hesitated while hunting up a word to express his meaning clearly. His language was far from being grammatical at all times, in apology for which he stated to us that he had enjoyed but little opportunity for acquiring an education. His attendance at school had been limited to a single year, and that knowledge he possessed he said he had picked up in the world as he went along. Winnemore is now engaged in preparing a sketch of his past life for Mr. Kilgore. He has no hope or expectation of living beyond the present month, and for this reason he will doubtless tell the whole truth, as far as he has knowledge of it. We were permitted to glance over this curious literary production, and in answer to a couple of our own questions, extracts were read from it. The greater portion of the concluding paragraph of the conversation detailed below is from this source.

Question.—We have come down to learn from you something in reference to your religious belief. It has been stated quite publicly that you do not wish the services of any clergyman, and that fact has prejudiced the minds of a great many against you. Answer.—I was aware of that when I refused a clergyman. I knew it would be so; I was confident of it. I did not wish to misrepresent myself before the public by asking a clergyman, when I knew that he could not do me any good.

Q. But the people do not understand that. A. Not all. My reason for not wishing a clergyman is not that I have any objection to his presence would have a strong tendency to disturb my mind, for I feel confident that I know as much of the spirit-world as they do. I have been there often while living upon this earth. They could tell me that there was such a world, but I know there is, because I have been there. It would not make me doubt the existence of such a world, if everybody should deny it, for I would not doubt what my eyes have seen and what my heart believes. I have no enmity, whatever, against any member of the profession; I have no hard feelings against any one.

Q. In case you should allow a clergyman an opportunity to converse with you on religious matters, could he shake your belief? A. No, sir. He could not make me doubt in the belief that I have seen such a world, and that I would create a disturbance in my mind, but it would not make me unhappy. The subject of the conversation I would be continually dwelling upon, and if he had not talked to me my mind would have remained in another channel.

At this point several questions were put to the prisoner concerning his belief in a God, which elicited the response that he believed in "the God of the Bible, an all-wise Power, an all-seeing Spirit." He assured us that he was far from being an atheist. His views on this point were further discussed, and at last he summed up his meaning by saying that "he believed that the spirits of all men are parts of the Deity, that God is in the heart of all of them, and that there God is our divinity in every human being."

Q. Do you believe that God will reward every good action and punish every wrong and wicked action? A. I do. I believe in a future state of rewards and punishments for the deeds done by us in this body. I believe that we will be punished as long as we have guilt.

Q. Do you believe that our spirits in the future world will be purged from their guilt by punishment, and that our punishment will not be eternal? A. I believe it will not be eternal. It will be in our power to purify ourselves. As long as a human being in the future state has a disposition to sin, so long will he be punished. As long as he clings to his sin, his punishment will continue. As long as he remains with himself to purify himself, he will be free from further punishment.

Q. Do you believe that it will be through the mediation of our Saviour? A. I believe that every man will suffer for his own sins, whether he has knowledge of Jesus or not. A man reports that in this world, he will not be punished in the next. I do not mean to say that a man who repents of his sins in this world will not suffer by being deprived of happiness which he might have had had he not sinned.

Q. You mean, then, that if he will renounce his sin and free himself from it, he will be free from further punishment? A. Yes, if he will renounce his sin and free himself from it, he will be free from further punishment.

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Q. Do you believe, then, that there was such a being as our Saviour? A. I do. I believe that He was a human being, the same as all of us, and that He was highly inspired. I also believe that He suffered and died, as is recorded in the Bible; but I do not believe that because He suffered and died we can go on sinning, and appropriate the merits of His sufferings and death to wipe away our sins. I believe, on the other hand, that we must bear the consequences of all our sins, notwithstanding His sufferings and death.

Q. You believe, then, that our Saviour suffered for His goodness? A. I do. His life was a rebuke to all about Him, because He was so pure.

Q. Do you believe in prayer? A. I do. Q. Do you pray much? A. A great deal. I am almost constantly in prayer.

Q. Are you a Spiritualist? A. Yes, I am. Q. Are you what is called a medium? A. I am, and have been ever since my childhood.

Q. Did you ever see spirits? A. I have seen them ever since I was a child, but could not understand anything about them until late years. I have also heard spirit voices. I have heard an audible spirit-voice while you have been talking to me today.

Q. Have you ever seen any particular spirits whom you knew in life? A. Yes; I have seen my father and mother, and an uncle who had been dead a long while, and other spirits which were strangers to me.

Q. Have you ever been entranced by spirits so thoroughly that you were entirely unconscious? A. Many times.

Q. Did you know, after coming to your normal condition, what you had said and done while in that state? A. I did not know a word that was said or done, and I did not even know that I had been under their control. Sometimes the trances came upon me gradually, and sometimes in a moment. I was willing to go under their influence, but their termination would not be subject to my will, because I was unconscious.

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Q. Do you believe in the power to mesmerize one by the aid of the hand? A. Yes, in regard to Mrs. Magilton; how long had you known her? A. I became acquainted with her in September, 1865, after my return home from the war. I was invited to go to her house by a couple of friends. We went to have a circle. Mrs. Magilton invited me to come again.

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Q. Did you ever see any of the spirits which controlled Mrs. Magilton? A. I saw them, although there were millions of them. One evening they came into the room where we were and commenced to talk, as though it was filled with them. I never saw the like of it before. She called them Arabs and Chinese, but they did not look like them, nor like any kind of men that I have ever seen. They were dressed in uniform like an army. They had a large white band, about four inches wide, tied around their heads to keep their hair back. They wore white shirts and blue breeches. They had long, thin, pointed ears, and their feet were three feet long, which were curled like checkered. They carried long spears in their hands. Mrs. Magilton claimed that she was under the influence of these spirits, and when she did so I saw them.

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Q. Did she ever put you to sleep, or into an unconscious state? A. She put me to sleep many times. There is one way of mesmerizing, and another way of putting a person to sleep. When this man was put to sleep, it was the spirits working through her. She controlled me by the spirits that controlled her. I don't think it, I know it.

Q. Did you ever see any of the spirits which controlled Mrs. Magilton? A. I saw them, although there were millions of them. One evening they came into the room where we were and commenced to talk, as though it was filled with them. I never saw the like of it before. She called them Arabs and Chinese, but they did not look like them, nor like any kind of men that I have ever seen. They were dressed in uniform like an army. They had a large white band, about four inches wide, tied around their heads to keep their hair back. They wore white shirts and blue breeches. They had long, thin, pointed ears, and their feet were three feet long, which were curled like checkered. They carried long spears in their hands. Mrs. Magilton claimed that she was under the influence of these spirits, and when she did so I saw them.

Q. What effect did the pictures she painted have upon you? A. I cannot express the feelings I had. First they made me shudder, and cold chills ran all through me. I felt as though I could get up and tear the pictures to pieces. She had painted about a hundred of them, and I was under the control of these spirits. The pictures represented different diseases, and the plants which cured them. As soon as I looked at them I felt very strange and wild. At times I would see a picture of a man, and sometimes I would leave other houses and see them. There were times when I could go into a house where they were and not feel their influence until I looked at them. At other times, they were thought of them would make me feel that I could not get up and see them in the house without seeing them. If any person tried to hold me, I wanted to fight, and felt as though I could knock them down. I was conscious at the time, but could not control my feelings.

Q. Did you know, after coming to your normal condition, what you had said and done while in that state? A. I did not know a word that was said or done, and I did not even know that I had been under their control. Sometimes the trances came upon me gradually, and sometimes in a moment. I was willing to go under their influence, but their termination would not be subject to my will, because I was unconscious.

Q. Can you now remember that you have ever seen your body apart from your spirit while you have been in this condition? A. I have been sitting quietly when I have gone into this state, and distinctly remember seeing my body sitting in the chair. I have seen it go out of my body, and I can relate one incident. I started out to Camp Cadwalader one day to see some friends who were in camp there. I had been impressed to stop at the house of a test medium, who lived on Vine street, but did not wish to go to the camp, instead of which I went to the house of a certain friend, and there, after seeing a couple of my soldier friends, sat down in the sergeant's room, with my head resting on my arm. I then saw certain leave my body, come up to this city, pass certain houses where we were acquainted, enter the house of a test medium, rest there before him a moment, and then return to the camp, where I saw my body in the position I left it, and entered into it. While in this state I never feared that I might not get back into my body again. I could reason about what I could do. My mind traveled with me in that state, and I have talked to my body while I was outside of it. At these times I am under the control of a superior spirit, and am conscious of all that is going on about me; but when a spirit takes possession of my body, I am unconscious.

Q. Is it your spirit that travels, or is it your imagination? A. There is no imagination about it. I have had too many good tests. I once started for Fort Riley, in Kansas, going from there to London, and so on, and so on, in fifteen minutes. I described a family of children, and the color of a certain house in the latter place. At another time I went to Boston, and this was proven. A gentleman who had heard of my powers came to me and told me that something was transpiring in a certain house in a certain city, but did not tell me whether it was in the United States, or not. I told him I would look into it, and soon I felt that my spirit was leaving my body. I fled to Boston, where I came up to a frame house, and there I saw the man who had told me for the house stood on the pavement.

Q. When your spirit is wandering, will your impressions be as strong, or stronger than they are when you are dreaming? A. Dreaming, to me, is mere imagination, and dies away. I have never had the nightmare in my life.

Q. Have you not feared that this power of leaving your body would some time produce a derangement of your mind? A. I have no fear of that at all. I believe that a person's mind can be deranged by drinking, and also that insanity is often hereditary.

Q. Suppose we were to tell you that we had visited heaven, and had conversed with the disembodied spirits there, and from there went through all the universe, would you believe that they were deranged, or not? A. If I had any doubt, I would follow you; I would have gone the same road; I know I could. The attraction that drew you from your body could draw me from mine.

Q. Do you believe in sin? A. I do, and think it is the result of a man's own volition, sometimes induced by a superior spirit. I think this world is full of good and evil spirits, and many a man is punished by the latter.

AUCTION SALES.

McClelland & Co. Auctioneers, No. 224 Market Street. SALE OF 1700 CARBON BOOTS, SHOES, RUBBERS, ETC. On Monday Morning, August 12, commencing at 10 o'clock, we will sell, by catalogue, for cash, 1700 cases men's, boys' and youths' boots, shoes, brogans, balmaines, etc. Also, general assortment of women's, misses' and children's wear, to which the special attention of the trade is called. 18 25

John B. Myers & Co. Auctioneers, No. 224 Market Street. AT PRIVATE SALE. 25 cases fine palm leaf, round handles. 75

Large Opening Sale of British, French, German, and Domestic Dry Goods. We will hold a large sale of foreign and domestic dry goods, by catalogue, on four months' credit, on Thursday Morning, August 8, at 11 o'clock, embracing about 750 packages and lots of staple and fancy articles. 18 25

First Large Positive Sale of Carpets, Linings, Etc. On Friday Morning, August 9, at 11 o'clock, will be sold, by catalogue, on four months' credit, about 300 pieces of Ingrain, Velvet, etc., together with 5000 packages of carpets, embracing a choice assortment of superior goods which may be examined early on the morning of sale. 18 25

Large Peremptory Sale of Boots, Shoes, Brogans, Travelling Bags, Etc. On Tuesday Morning, August 13, at 11 o'clock, will be sold, by catalogue, on four months' credit, about 2000 packages boots