EMBRACING A SPIRIT FORM.

Mrs. Hull, the Medium, in the Ghost's Clothes, and a Flannel Dummy in Mrs. Hull's.

"You may quote me as saying that I saw the pretended materializing medium, Mrs. Hull, exposed as a fraud on Sunday night last," said the theatrical manager, J. H. McVicker, yesterday, when a SUN reporter asked his version of an occurrence that has created a good deal of remark among believers in spiritualism.

"The way it occurred was this," continued Mr. McVicker. "A company gathered at a private house by invitation to see some marvellous materializing phenomena to be produced by Mrs. Hull, who has been for some time astonishing many visitors at the house of Mr. Hatch in Astoria. The only gentlemen visitors present were Mr. J. B. Sammis, Secretary of the Rubber Cushion Axle Company; Dr. Collins, and myself. There were eleven ladies. Most of the party were spiritualists and believers in materializing manifestations. I was invited by Mr. Sammis, and, so far as I know, there was no intention to attempt any exposure. Mrs. Hull was accompanied by her husband, a very gentlemanly person. I am free to say that I had not much faith in Mrs. Hull's ability to produce materialized spirits.

"The séance was held at the house of a lady who was not suspected of any collusion. The spectators sat in a front parlor, and a curtain was stretched across a doorway leading to a small back room in which was a lounge. It was pretended that Mrs. Hull would lie on this lounge while the materialized spirits appeared outside the curtain. When the so-called spirit forms appeared in the doorway they pulled aside the curtains and fixed them carefully back, so that the spectators could see a form on the lounge. The light in our room was rather bright, but in the back room, where the lounge was, the light was rather dim.

"This made me suspicious from the first. I was satisfied not only that the form on the sofa was not that of Mrs. Hull, but I also distinctly recognized Mrs. Hull's features in the so-called "spirit forms." But I did not wish to make a scene, so I said and did nothing. The alleged spirits beckoned the various members of the party to approach, and asked whether they recognized any relatives. If the spectator nodded, "Is it mother?" or "Is it aunty?" the spirit always said "Yes." One young girl said she recognized the spirit of her mother. She was permitted to give the spirit form an affectionate embrace. I was myself called up, but could not recognize the spirit. All the materialized forms were those of females. A lady presented said she recognized one of the materialized forms as that of Mrs. Hull with a set of false teeth taken out. Some of us noted a suspicious resemblance of the same pieces of illusion worked with crotonne that partly concealed the face. Others noted that the gloves and other attachments of the different spirits were similar.

"Finally one of the spirits beckoned to Dr. Collins who was sitting in the most distant part of the room. What followed the appearance of Dr. Collins is related by Mr. Sammis as follows:

"The medium made no objection our sitting quite near and approaching the spirit. Dr. Collins advanced closely as others had done. When he got near enough to see he became satisfied that the "spirit" was Mrs. Hull. He reached out his arm to embrace the spirit, and as soon as he got a firm hold of her waist, he whirled her out into the middle of the room amid the astonished spectators. Mrs. Hull screamed, and her husband, who had been sitting beside the curtains, apparently taking no part in the performance, suddenly sprang forward and grappled with Dr. Collins, seeking to release Mrs. Hull. But the Doctor is a strong young fellow and held on until the lights were turned up.

"'You don't understand the laws governing these things,' shouted Mr. Hull, as he peppered the Doctor.

"'We understand that this is a fraud,' replied the Doctor, holding Mrs. Hull tight in one arm while he defended himself as well as he could with the other. The struggle was brief, and Mrs. Hull soon got free and fled for her quarters behind the curtains. But I intercepted her, and called upon some of the ladies to go and see what was on the lounge. They did so, and found that, instead of Mrs. Hull, there was a neat dummy made of the blankets supplied to her to prevent her from catching cold while she was in her alleged trance. There also they found a large part of the spirits, including the illusion veil, the crotonne, and other familiar attachments. The exposure was perfect, and from beginning to end Mrs. Hull had nothing to say. She was pale, nervous, and frightened. Mr. Hull was agitated and excited, and vigorously insisted that the company did not "know the laws governing this thing." Mrs. Hull is about 48 years old, of medium height and slight build, and has dark eyes and a pale face. She has become noted for her materializations, her mild manly séances at Astoria. Some of her exhibitions were given before Henry Ward Beecher. She is apparently in ill health, and after the exposure was the picture of desolation and despair."

Gov. Sprague Arrested for Contempt of Court.

PROVIDENCE, March 21.—Ex-Gov. William Sprague was arrested in this city this afternoon on a writ of attachment issued by Judge Sinnes for contempt of court. It seems that the Quidnick Company shut down their mill in Quidnick last week because of a difference of opinion between the Treasurer, B. G. Chace, and the other officers of the corporation regarding the payment of the salaries of the employés. It was thought the mill would be started up again on Monday, and on that day Gov. Sprague, as President of the company, went to Quidnick. Every thing was quiet and orderly. When he got there he found the mill idle, and Claudius B. Farnsworth, the quasi receiver appointed by the Court, in possession of the property. Farnsworth knew that the machinery was stopped last week and went to the mill to take an inventory of the personal property of the company. Gov. Sprague threatened to throw him into the river driving the horses to his wagon, the threats of personal violence, after which the engine was started and the operatives resumed their work. Farnsworth reported to the Court, and Gov. Sprague was arrested for having obstructed an officer of the court. Judge Sinnes was called away to attend to urgent business, and after keeping the Governor at the court house until dark the Court released him on his own personal recognizance until 10 A. M. to-morrow, when the alleged contempt will be vindicated.

Suing Cashier Boothby's Bondsmen.

AUGUSTA, Me., March 21.—The jury in the case of the First National Bank of this city against Samuel E. Spring, one of the sureties upon the bonds of Israel Boothby, late cashier of the bank, returned their verdict this morning. It was proved that their special bond was not for the use and benefit of the bank, and were the seals of the defendants, and that they had been broken, that there was no negligence on the part of the bank or its officers in not discovering the cashier's defalcation. On the question whether the name of a signer not sealed on the third bond was genuine or not they were unable to agree, and asked for a verdict of "Guilty" upon whether the bank officers were negligent in not discovering the defalcation, and on this point the jury found in favor of the bank, but as they disagreed upon the question of the forgery of one of the names, it will necessitate a new trial.

A Mexican Reciprocity Treaty Urged.

WASHINGTON, March 21.—The Senate continued the debate on the Tariff Commission bill to-day. Mr. Morgan of Alabama argued in favor of an immediate revision by Congress, and favored a reciprocity treaty. With Mexico he said, building railroads into Mexico the great bulk of the trade between the two countries are making, and intimate commercial relations would bring prosperity to both. We great costs in the way of transportation in reaching the Mexican market now our high tariff. Only by cheapening our goods through the medium of a reduction of protective duties could we compete with the European markets. If the Mexican was approached with the offer of fair reciprocal trade she would abandon her exorbitant tariff, and open her docks to our manufactures.

Ninety-nine Years in the Penitentiary.

TAYLORSVILLE, N. C., March 21.—Ephraim Davis, convicted of being an accessory before the fact to the murder of Miss Caroline Thompson in her father's residence in Alexander County, on June 10, last, was sentenced under a recent new state improvement in the criminal code, to ninety-nine years' imprisonment in Raleigh Penitentiary. Of the other three men, with Harrison Dellinger, Hilliard Lynch, and John A. Moore, on trial for the murder of the Thompsons while Mr. Thompson was working in a field, Dellinger and Lynch were convicted of murder in the second degree, and sentenced to the penitentiary for ninety-nine years. Moore was acquitted. Evidence that Miss Thompson would expose their plot to burn Lynch's barn aforesaid and murdered her father in his sleep, if he should refuse to do so, was admitted. Appeals in behalf of the prisoners are on trial, and will necessitate a new trial.

A Free Fight at a Wrestling Match.

LEADVILLE, Col., March 21.—Last night a free fight occurred among the crowd assembled at the Opera House to see a wrestling match between Detroit and Leadville men. The former were the best man and decided to be the referee before the match, and claimed the stakes on the ground that the Leadville men had broken the rules of the ring, and had taken advantage of the referee's absence to throw the other man, who had caught a Leadville man.

Whittaker's Sentence Annulled.

WASHINGTON, March 21.—At the Cabinet meeting to-day the court martial case of Cadet J. C. Whittaker was taken up and disposed of by approval of the action of the court martial in the case, and the sentence of dismissal from the service of cadet Whittaker was annulled, and he was restored to his place in the Military Academy, the sentence having been deemed by the judge advocate unusual.

Court Calendars This Day.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS.—No. 23, 24, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69,