

A VISIT TO THE SPIRIT LAND.

Purity of life in mortal man can so nearly reach perfection as to permit him to hold actual communion with advanced spirits in their own sphere or spirit land. The following narrative, as told by the chief actor—a man of irreproachable morals and a strict observer of the duties of religion, which are taught by him both by example and precept—will convey a new sensation to the reader. The facts are so well attested that no doubt can be thrown on the statement. At least ten persons witnessed the descent from the upper air, and it has been well said, in connection, that the world has never seen or heard anything more strange or wonderful. The statement is given in the words of the narrator, suppressing names for the present, but which will be given at the proper time:

I was walking in a melancholy mood at the close of the day along the streets of the city, making one of the usual crowd of people to be found at that hour wending their way homeward after the work for the day is done, and my thoughts insensibly wandered into the labyrinth of spiritualism. I had read a number of books on that abstruse subject, wherein I found much that is grand mixed with the puerile and sensuous, like the Koran of Mahomet, and I had given up the reading as profitless and too hidden for my mind. At the same time I have never witnessed any manifestations (as they are called) of the spirits. Thinking on the matter as I walked along the street in a melancholy and rather abstracted mood, as I before said, I thought I heard the silvery laugh of some fair girl at my side.—Aroused from my abstraction by the laugh I looked around, but I was alone—no person nearer to me than across the street. Thinking it the effect of imagination, I dismissed from my mind all thought about it and continued my walk, still thinking on the subject of spiritualism. I reached the middle of the block, or square, on which I was strolling, when I became painfully aware of somebody being near me without my being able to perceive any person. That I was accompanied by a being I could have no doubt; I felt the presence, so to speak, in every fiber of my frame; it was a species of magnetism, a vivid impression, amounting to certainty, that near me was a being, human or spiritual, whose presence I could not deny any more than I can deny that I am talking to you this minute. However, I could not see any person near me, and I had a fair view of every surrounding object—houses, trees, vehicles, people at a distance, and all the attendants of an hour and a scene in a large city near nightfall. In spite of my usual calm philosophy, I felt my hair rise on my head—a horror was upon me of I knew not what.

I stopped and deliberately looked about me, to assure myself that I was not dreaming. Fear had nothing to do with the feeling; it was a horror—a sense of helplessness in the use of my sense of sight as to who or what this was that was present with me. When I stopped a quick revulsion came upon me—instead of horror a calm feeling of delight ensued over my spirit, and a holy fervor, as one feels when in communion with heaven. Feeling this calm steal over my soul, and the pleasurable emotions accompanying it, I raised my eyes heavenward, in adoration to the God of Creation, with an intensity of gaze in my ardor as if I could pierce the blue expanse and see the blessed mansions in the skies. Whilst I looked I plainly saw a collection of beings afar off in space, each one beaming in a radiant light that played like electricity around them. I could only see a dim outline of each being but I felt their eyes looking upon me. They seemed to be waiting the due arrangement by two of their number of a glistening apparatus held between them.—Whilst I looked I saw dropping gradually earthward, an attenuated thread-like chain apparently no thicker than a spider's web; but what surprised me most was to perceive that it did not sway back and forth in the air as a web is moved by the breeze, but hung perpendicularly from the point of its suspension. It soon reached the earth, the end resting near but not touching the ground. I felt impelled to approach and examine the chain. No sooner had I put my hand on it, than a gentle tremor ran through my frame and a feeling of exquisite sensibility stole over me. I was induced to lay my other hand upon it and ere I was aware of it, I found myself high up in the air approaching the assembly of beings. I felt no unusual excitement; on the contrary, my thoughts were placid and full of love for all things holy.—Arrived in the midst of the circle or collection of radiant beings my hands were released from the chain and I found myself in the center of the circle, being conscious of a force surrounding my body which kept me suspended in mid air.—Electric sparks played around me, apparently given off from my hair, the ends of my knuckles, etc., but it was unattended by any unpleasant effect. I felt exceedingly joyous in that radiant crowd, and could perceive their forms only a little more distinct than when on earth, but I

felt their presence. That they held converse with each other I could plainly perceive, but I heard no voices. Their conversation at first related apparently only to the machine which glistened so brightly, and several experiments were made with it, they directing certain rays from it upon me but very gradually.—After the lapse of some moments they ceased this and I felt an unusual glow—an ethereal fire pervaded my body—an elasticity unparalleled. I felt that, with the wings of a dove, I could fly away and be at rest. I found also that I was being drawn, in spirit, sensibly nearer the beings surrounding me, that they were trying to hold converse with me through the medium of soul in communion with soul; but my spirit surrounded by its earthly covering was unequal to the refined subtlety of the souls or beings around me. Attention was again given to the apparatus from whence rays or influences were directed towards me; with it increased my etherialization. I panted in ecstasy and fervor of delight, and I could more plainly see the beings surrounding me; could distinguish their forms; could see that a gauzy covering of fleecy fabric enveloped their shadowy forms and could see the sweet gaze of their eyes as they looked at me. I began to feel that I was en rapport with them; could almost understand what they evidently wished to communicate. All this time the rays or influences from the apparatus were being given or being directed towards me whilst I got more and more under its influence. In my soul I heard the following words: "Glory be to God in the heaven of heavens! at last our labors are about to succeed, and mortals can once again be brought in communication with Logos."*

At that instant I felt a pain as if an electric shock had darted through me and I swooned. I did not remain long in that condition, but when I came to my senses I found the machine had lost some of its brightness whilst a sad and troubled feeling seemed to play around the beings near me. The chain I was brought up upon was put in my hands and I found myself gradually lowered towards the earth. My feet soon touched the ground only a short distance from the spot from where I had commenced my ascent. The gas lights were burning on the streets and as I looked around I saw Mr. L.—, Mr. J. B. S.—, and Major R. H. B.—, who, on their way home were amazed to see a human being as it were dropping from the skies. They came rapidly up, and seeing me (they are my intimate friends,) they were more astonished and more bewildered when I gave them an account of my spiritual journey.

As this will, probably, be followed by other attempts to open communication with mortals by the spirits of the air, I hold myself ready for indications that may present themselves. I would not have told you of this if others than the gentlemen named had not seen the descent. Certain ladies sitting on their balconies, and a student of medicine, it seems were witnesses to it; they have spoken of the strange occurrence, and I feel that the curiosity excited by their remarks, and to relieve Mr. L., Major B., and Mr. S. from the silence I imposed upon them, warrants a statement of the facts for you to make any disposition you please of it." Truly it is said "truth is stranger than fiction"; and though the above narrative must make us pause, yet if it differs from the substance given to the gentlemen who are referred to in it, they are in the city and can deny or certify to its correctness. They are well known and stand high as a life of religion and virtue entitles them to do. The gentleman who is the actor in the strange spiritual scene is one universally honored and looked up to as a guide and a teacher. Three of his sons fell in the late war, and the two survivors fill posts of honor and trust at this time. I am this minute in these particulars to anticipate and beat back with weapons of truth the sneer of the skeptic and the laugh of the incredulous. SPIRITUALIST.

Logos, the humanized god, the Messiah. Some writers hold that the presence in the burning bush which Moses saw was the Messiah or Man God. Just one line is sometimes convenient. STATE OF LOUISIANA, PARISH OF West Baton Rouge, Fifth Judicial District. Aristide Miltenberger vs Stephen Pipes and widow Charles Pipes. No. 15402. By virtue of a writ of seizure and sale directed to the Sheriff of the parish of West Baton Rouge in the above entitled and numbered cause of date March 11th, 1867, from the Hon. the Fifth District Court of the city of New Orleans, State aforesaid, I have seized and will offer at public sale, to the last and highest bidder at the Court House of this parish of West Baton Rouge, on SATURDAY, the 6th day of July, 1867, at 11 o'clock a. m., the hereinafter described mortgaged property situated in this parish and belonging to the defendants, Stephen Pipes and widow Charles Pipes, to-wit:

1. A certain tract of land, or sugar plantation, immediately in the rear of the estate of P. P. Babin and of Messrs. Allen & Hamilton, about 11 miles above the Court House of this parish of West Baton Rouge, containing twenty arpents more or less front, with all the depth thereunto belonging, the side lines opening in the rear, bounded above by lands of J. T. & Wm. Nolan, Allen & Hamilton, in front by those of Allen & Hamilton and said estate of P. P. Babin, below by those of John A. Bird, James L. Lobdell and Abraham Lobdell, together with the buildings and improvements thereon, including all lands found within said boundaries, with the exception of a small lot containing two arpents, situated in the front part of said land with boundaries as now established, and belonging to Zenon Allain; two small tracts situated in the back part of said lands with the boundaries as now established, one belonging to Evariste Eager and the other to Louis Lavigne, and another tract, or lot, belonging to the School District whereon the public school house is now located.

2. Another tract of land also situated in the parish of West Baton Rouge, and on the south side of the B. R., G. T. & O. Railroad, about half a mile therefrom, acquired of J. C. Flynn, of East Feliciana, on the 10th April, 1854, and designated in the Receiver's receipt as the southwest quarter of section no. 14 in township 7 of range 11 east, containing about 160 acres.

POLICE JURY MEETING.

A regular session of the Police Jury was held at the Court House in West Baton Rouge on June 8, 1867. Present: Messrs. Pope, Chinn, Vaughn, R. Hebert, Hubert Hebert, D. A. Landry, Fergus Allain, and Judeon Doiron. Absent: J. B. Nurdin.

On motion of B. R. Chinn the following resolution which was adopted: Resolved, That in obedience to orders from Major Gen. Sheridan, commanding the 3rd Military District, continuing in office all persons holding office through the District, till their successors shall be qualified, that all officers whatsoever, of this parish subject to election or appointment by the Police Jury of this parish at the regular session, be and the same are hereby continued in office till their successors are qualified according to law.

The committee appointed to examine the Treasurer's books made the following report: To the President and members of the Police Jury of the parish of West Baton Rouge: The undersigned committee appointed by your honor to examine into and report upon the accounts of the parish treasurer, beg leave to make the following report: That we have carefully examined his account and vouchers and find them correct; that after paying the warrants and after deducting his own commission for disbursing, there appears to be a balance in his hands of thirty-two 59-100 dollars to the credit of the general fund; that there appears a balance of five hundred and sixty-seven 98-100 dollars in his hands to the credit of School Fund; that there appears a balance of one hundred and sixty dollars in his hands to the credit of the Poydras Fund, money paid to him during the current year.

On motion of Mr. D. A. Landry it was resolved: That the parish Treasurer be authorized to settle with the committee appointed on the 21st of March 1867, for the purpose of raising funds for levees and to receive and receipt for any balance that may be in their hands.