

Dealing with Elementals

By G. W. MASTERS

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"Business is mighty slow, Professor Nahum," said Madame Ida, the medium, to the latest satellite whom she had picked up in the course of her journeys up and down the length and breadth of the land.

"It might be better," admitted the professor, gloomily.

Madame Ida, driven out of Iowa, and at her wife's end, had considered herself fortunate in securing the services of the starving young man who had agreed to work for her on the basis of a division of the receipts instead of on salary. They had had quite a successful tour in Ohio, stopping for a day and a night at the little country villages, where the gullible are just as numerous as they ever were in spite of education.

"Queer business, ain't it, professor?" soliloquized Madame Ida. "But Lord, all business is a graft. It's respectable, and it don't do no harm and does do a lot of good, that's what I say. At least, it makes some folks think they're seeing the spirits of their beloved dead, and even if they ain't sure that it's true it helps. That's what I say—it helps. Never had no folks of your own, did you, professor?"

"Not since I was a boy," answered the professor gloomily.

"Well, listen now," said Madame Ida. "There's a rich old guy in this place that's crazy on spirits. I got a line on him and I've sent him an advertisement of tonight's meeting. He



"It's Faith That Counts, You Know."

ought to be good for fifty if we can work him right. Had a son who run away and was wild, or something of the sort, and he's got the idea that he's in the summerland and thinks he didn't treat him square. Work the game for all it's worth tonight, professor."

"Sure," answered the professor. "Karpen is his name—Henry Karpen, and he's got a mint of money. We might manage to stay over a few days, and perhaps give him private settings. Shrewd old fellow he is, too, they say. In the law. But Lord, that's the kind that we catch the easiest. So work him, professor."

"I will," muttered the professor, rising and going into the cabinet, which was set with the accessories for the seance.

Madame Ida had advertised extensively, not through the newspapers, which was apt to bring down the attentions of the police, but by means of handbills, and by letters addressed to persons whom she had learned, through underground channels, to be spiritually inclined. As a result there was a fairly full house at a dollar apiece, among the audience being old Mr. Karpen. Watching him narrowly out of the corner of her eye, Madame Ida decided that the old lawyer could be "worked" as easily as the rest.

She had instructed the professor not to permit the spirits to approach the old man that night, this being the method adopted to pique and stimulate the curiosity. So while the professor, attired in flowing robes, capered about the assemblage in the dim light for the benefit of most of the audience, eliciting exclamations of awe by his shrewd "fishing" processes, Mr. Karpen saw no spirit of his son.

At last the spectators fled away, but the old man lingered. Presently he was alone with the woman, the medium being presumably entranced within the cabinet.

"Now, Madame Ida," he said, "I came here to see the spirit of my son, and I generally get what I want in this world."

"Ah, Mr. Sharp—no, the spirit tells me your name is Carp?—thank you, Karpen—you see, it is difficult to get the spirits invariably at the first attempt. Spirits are like human beings. They are just as suspicious as we folks are. They, too, want to be sure that the parties who call on them are the real parties. The astral influence—"

"Would fifty dollars bring up my son's spirit for me?" asked the old man eagerly.

Madame Ida's mouth watered. Fifty dollars! That was just the sum she had longed for. Even a medium is human, and she had seen a spring well—but why prolong the story? Madame Ida thought that the spirits might be induced to bring up his son

—not, of course, for the money, but because of his faith.

"It's faith that counts, you know," she said. "Do you want the sitting at once, Mr. Karpen?"

She pounced the fifty dollars and went into the cabinet.

"Professor," the old fool's stayed to see his son," she said. "Don't be scared to go out to him. I've got the fifty, and he won't try any rough-house business, I guess."

Old Mr. Karpen, seated alone in front of the cabinet, saw a luminous cloud upon the floor, which slowly changed into the form of a spirit. It was a tremulous spirit, for the professor was more ill at ease than he had been in many a day.

"Here is your son, Mr. Karpen," said the medium softly. "Don't touch him. He isn't fully materialized yet, and if you were to lay hands on him the astral influence might project an elemental in his place and snatch him away."

"Father!" whispered the tremulous wraith. "You wanted to see me, father. O how glad I am! You didn't treat me very well when I was in the world of fleshly phenomena—"

"I know I didn't, Percy," answered old Mr. Karpen.

"How is Edith?" inquired the ghost.

"Oh, tolerable," answered the old man. "At least, she was the last time I heard of her. How did you die, Percy?"

"I am not dead," said Percy with a sob. "I have passed over into the summerland, the result of a blow on the head, delivered—"

"In a saloon, Percy? How often have I warned you—"

"No, father, it was a quarrel in a freight car. I was working my way home to you, to implore your forgiveness, when the brakeman found me and struck me on the forehead. I was stunned by the blow and pitched forward over a bridge on to a jagged rock in the river bed a thousand feet below. When I recovered consciousness I was in summerland. Father, have you cared for Edith?"

"Why, no, Percy," answered the old man. "I told you not to get married until you found a job. I didn't feel called upon to support Edith. But I understand she has a steady job at a dollar a day as a seamstress—"

"Then listen, father!" cried the ghost passionately. "I swear to you that unless you take Edith into your home and cherish her I will haunt you for the remainder of your days. I will never give you peace. If you love me, cherish my poor wife—"

"I don't know about that, Percy," answered the old man thoughtfully. "I understand that she can take pretty good care of the child—"

"What!" shouted Percy, and for the first time a dreadful suspicion began to show itself in Madame Ida's manner. "Have I a child?"

"A pretty little two-year-old, Percy," said the old man wistfully. "As sweet a little tottler as ever I saw."

"And you have let my wife and child starve on a dollar a day, you infernal scoundrel!" shouted the ghost, throwing off its trappings and striding up to the father. "Father, it is I, Percy, in flesh and blood. I am not a ghost."

The old man rose stiffly out of his chair.

"That's just like you, Percy," he said reproachfully. "You never were strong for veracity. First you tell me you are a spirit and then you say you aren't. Which am I to believe?"

"He is a spirit," cried Madame Ida. "The elementals have got him and built up a framework of flesh and blood about him. I warned you, Mr. Karpen. Your son is in summerland—"

"I tell you I am a human being, you old impostor," shouted Percy, clutching his father by the arm. "Father, surely you know me: Look at me!"

"It does look like you, Percy," admitted his father. "But you know the elementals are clever fellows. How do I know you aren't in summerland and that the elementals are just fooling me?"

"Of course they're fooling you," shouted Madame Ida angrily. "You aren't the first man that has been fooled by an elemental. Why, Queen Victoria once said to me—"

"I'm afraid you are an elemental, Percy," said his father, shaking his head. "And I'm sorry, because if it was really you I'd ask you to forget the past and come home with me, where your wife and baby have been living two years past, and—say, Percy, you infernal chump, if you're ready to quit this foolishness and come home there's a job waiting for you and the calf ready for the butcher."

"You bet your life!" yelled Percy, flinging his arms about his father.

And Madame Ida, looking alternately at the door and at her fifty dollars, realized that she would have to find a new professor before the next seance.

Choate on Lord Aberdeen.
A characteristic remark of Mr. Choate was made about Lord Aberdeen at a dinner in New York, where the then governor-general of Canada was the principal guest, appearing in kilts, in honor of his Scotch entertainers. Aberdeen had made a neat speech, and the applause had hardly ceased when Choate was introduced, and proceeded to say some complimentary things of the last speaker and to declare that if he had known next to Madame Ida, looking alternately at the door and at her fifty dollars, realized that she would have to find a new professor before the next seance.

Money.
"Money makes the mare go," or perhaps it's vice versa, as a well-known gambler and race-horse owner once remarked. We presume money is desirable or else such a gigantic number of people would not be so busily engaged in the attempt to make some or make more. But the irony or justice of great wealth is that when we have everything that money can buy we awake to the realization that money cannot buy everything.

AFRO-AMERICAN CULLINGS

Loyalty to the United States and Stars and Stripes, with expressions for the future welfare of ten millions of Negro people was proclaimed by the National Negro Press association at its last session at Nashville, Tenn., when the representatives from 125 publications, through their organizations, issued an address to the American people.

The facts concerning the address were given out by the corresponding secretary, Henry A. Boyd, who states that this address was prepared by a committee consisting of C. V. Roman, chairman, Nashville, Tenn.; W. E. King of Dallas, Tex.; Joseph L. Jones of Cincinnati, Ohio; Emmett J. Scott of Tuskegee Institute, Ala.; and T. G. Stewart of Wilberforce, Ohio. This document, which made up the report of the committee, says, in part:

"The National Negro Press association in convention assembled takes this opportunity to consider the condition of the country, especially in so far as it concerns the Negro."

"The student of history is alive to the fact that for the past fifty years the Afro-American element has been by law made a part of the citizenry of the republic. The National Negro Press association believes that there are many evidences everywhere covering every walk of life to show that the Christian white element is doing much to advance the civilization and progress of the Negro people."

"In the fields of journalism we are gratified to bear witness to the growing liberality of a large element of the white press, not confined to any section of the country."

"In the field of religious effort there has been no time when white Christians showed a higher respect for the great doctrine of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man than now."

"In the field of education we make haste to bear testimony to the great and growing philanthropy which is laying itself upon the educational altar of the race. There is unmistakable evidence that white America is coming to the unalterable opinion that the strength of the nation is not in its armies and navies and embattled cities, but rather in the virtue and intelligence of the people."

"We call specially upon those who are charged with the interpretation and enforcement of the law to attend its benefits without bias to us, to the end that the struggling millions of the colored race may continue to hope for that governmental encouragement which should be the heritage of the humblest American citizen."

"The strong need the restrictions of the law and the weak need its protection. When the former lose respect for the law and despite its restrictions, or the latter lose faith in its fairness and doubt the justice of its execution, then popular government is in danger. Fitness and not race is the only safe test for citizenship if our country is to become in reality the land of the free and the home of the brave. As we can best serve the nation by faithful service to our own cultural unity, so the national welfare will be best promoted by the general acceptance of the good old democratic doctrine of equal and exact justice to all and special privilege to none."

"We appreciate the growing liberality of the American press and wish to assure it that we will not disappoint it if it will only 'play us up,' emphasizing our virtues and letting our vices go into the general cauldron of crime without special label."

"Applaud us when we run, console us when we fall, cheer us when we recover."

The organization has membership in every state in the Union and in many foreign countries. Melvin J. Chism of Okmulgee, Okla., is president. His administration is supported by two executive committees from each state where the newspapers justify it. They are to hold their next executive committee meeting in Boston, but the regular session is to be held in some centrally located place, like St. Louis, Mo., Louisville, Ky., Nashville, Tenn., or Cincinnati, Ohio. This matter will be decided at the coming Boston meeting.

A throng of colored men and women, which packed Bethel A. M. E. church at Baltimore to its doors, was stirred to conduct an active campaign for recognition in the state to improve their health conditions and properly care for their sick and infirm by several prominent speakers.

It was the opening session of the first public health conference of the Maryland Colored Health association under the auspices of the medical and chirological faculty of Maryland. Resolutions were adopted by unanimous vote to petition the next legislature for adequate provision in the state for the isolation of all classes of colored people suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

Among the speakers were Dr. William H. Welch, one of the leading medical men of the country, and Dr. Booker T. Washington, one of the greatest Negro educators in the country. The meeting was scheduled to begin at eight o'clock and 6:30 o'clock there was a crowd outside the church. Within ten minutes after the doors were thrown open, shortly after seven o'clock, the edifice was filled. So dense was the throng outside at eight o'clock that it was necessary to lock the doors. It was estimated that several thousand persons were turned away from the doors.

A direct appeal was made by all of the speakers to be cleanly and to guard against disease as well as to continue to make strides for advancement. Doctor Washington congratulated the Negroes of Baltimore for their educational facilities. "What you get from the city in the way of education is in the right proportion," he said, "as the total population of the colored man is 15 per cent and the money spent on the education of the Negro is 15 per cent of the total appropriation for schools."

St. Louis business men forgot their work for two hours at the City club when Maj. R. R. Moton, Negro commandant of Hampton institute, near Old Point Comfort, addressed them, following a score of songs by the Hampton quartet. Major Moton is a real Negro and is proud of it. He believes the Negro should be trained to work with his hands and told of the work Hampton institute is doing along that line. He said the problem might well be expressed as a question of how the two races may live together as brothers in Christ and yet not become brothers in law.

A good deal of the "dope" is misleading. If you really want your secret kept tell it to a woman.

A favorable report from the committee on increased accommodations of the Baltimore school board for an elementary school for colored pupils in the Fourteenth ward, which comprises all that territory between Pennsylvania avenue and the Fallway and North and Lafayette avenues, is expected shortly. The committee has had the question of such a school under advisement for several months due to the activity of City Councilman A. C. Binawanger.

There is a Negro population in the ward of approximately 10,000, and of this there are between 1,200 and 1,500 Negro children of school age. The present accommodations are not only inferior from that section but are inadequate in every way. The nearest school is an annex to the building at Fremont and Pennsylvania avenues, and this school has long been overcrowded.

The need of either a colored high school or an elementary school for colored children has long been agitated and as the high school is practically assured City Councilman Binawanger has endeavored to also have

A Springfield (Mo.) man took out homestead papers the other day on an 89-acre tract of land 100 miles from that city. Before applying at the land office for the paper he walked the entire distance and back in order to visit the property. When he got back he had just money enough to pay for the land and cover the necessary fees.

A tale from the Pacific relates that a steamer whose rudder unexpectedly broke was steered for several days by packing boxes hung over the sides.

Aeroplanes Safer Than Trenches.
It is an aeroplane the safest place for a soldier in war?

The English newspapers recently reported that an officer of the Royal Flying corps had applied to be allowed to rejoin his regiment in his former capacity. When inquiry was made as to his reasons he replied that he could not bear to see his brother officers running all the risks of the trenches while he himself was in safety flying in the air above them. Similar remarks by other British military

airmen, all of whom seem to regard their work as much less hazardous than that of the fighting man on the ground, have lent interest to reports of the surprisingly small number of casualties suffered by fliers since the war began.—Popular Mechanics.

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Housekeepers who get butter by the jar or tub will find that a little charcoal placed in a paper bag and then put into the tub or jar will keep the butter sweet.

Available for Wear With Various Frocks



A separate coat, which becomes a suit-coat when worn with its own particular skirt, but is available for wear with various frocks, will commend itself to every woman, especially to her who contemplates a journey. Many of these coats have been designed this season, and they have been enthusiastically welcomed. They are shown in tans, grays, black and white mixtures, and in checks. In these neutral colors they go well with frocks or skirts in any color.

One of the newest and smartest of coats of this kind is shown in the picture. It is cut with almost straight lines at the front and back and trimmed in braid and buttons with a crisp military precision. At each side, a little below the waist line, there is an insert of fan plaits, giving the desired flare, and the double turnover collar, set on at the back, is another concession to demands of the vogue.

The skirt to match is plain, fitted about the hips and with a very conservative flare from hip line to bottom edge. It is a little longer than ankle length, but short enough to be a correct tailored model.

In nearly all coats of this kind the fit is vague, the waist line either raised above or dropped below the normal, and only a suggestion, at most. In many of them lines are perfectly straight or show a gradual flare from the shoulders down.

New Towels.
Some of the newest Turkish towels have an initial quite four or five inches long, worked in French knots at the left of the towel, above the border, instead of in the center, as is usually done. For a man's use towels worked with these large letters are very good looking.

Among the newest designs for small guest towels is one of a fine damask of a very small pattern without a woven border. The latter is hemstitched on and consists of an inch-wide hem of colored linen, pink or blue.

The initial may be embroidered in white on the hem or worked on the towel itself in a color to correspond with the hem.

Separate Coats.
Separate coats are receiving a great deal of attention; motor coats continue to be full length or seven-eighths. Some of the newer coats are of uneven length.

Headwear for All-Weather Motoring



Now that the return of spring lures everyone to the out-of-doors, devotees of motoring are happily busy getting together their "motor togs." Coats and headwear for rain-or-shine driving must be considered from every point of view, and let no one think that becomingness is not as important in motor apparel as in any other.

But this is a hint hardly needed for the buyer of headwear. Women are accustomed to placing becomingness as the paramount essential when choosing any kind of millinery. In the choice of motor hats there is so great a range this spring that one can afford to be exacting and to look until the very best model is found.

Two motor bonnets are pictured here that may be depended upon for good service. They are made of silk. One of them boasts a brim and is quite like a hat in shape. It is developed in pongee with brim-rever turning up at the back over the folded-over crown. A silk cord and fan of fringed braid supply the decoration and these are supplied in any color demanded.

The bonnet at the left of the picture is made in changeable taffeta piped with a dark color in the same silk.

Veils Are Cobwebs.
Thin meshes. Hexagonal design. They look like hair nets. Sometimes they have designs. These are in all-over effect, wide apart.

"Floater" have a wide border on the bottom.

Handsome Floral Effects.
Batteruses and daisies form a pretty cluster for a lawn frock. A novelty is a small pink rose mounted on white

ostrich, the ostrich cut round. A small cluster of pink roses has leaves of white ostrich edged with tiny rhinestones. Long clusters are sometimes arranged across the shoulder or across the corsage, while in other cases they are arranged on the skirt.

Contrasting Linings.
Contrasting linings are a feature of many of the new street suits in covert and other light wooled fabrics. Blue, green, black and white, brown and cream are all effectively used.

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Acting Director of Sunday School Course, The Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, Ill.)

LESSON FOR APRIL 25
DAVID AND GOLIATH.

LESSON TEXT—1 Samuel 17:3-51.
GOLDEN TEXT—If God be for us, who is against us?—Rom. 8:31 R. V.

For forty days (v. 16) Goliath defied Saul's army, encamped near Bethle-hem. Three of the sons of Jesse were in Saul's army and to them David is sent with food (vv. 17, 18, 19). These brothers scornfully reproached David when he expressed a willingness to fight Goliath, accusing him of pride and reminding him that he was but a shepherd (vv. 26-29). David's words are carried to Saul and he is introduced to the king.

1. **Boastful Pride**, vv. 38-44. Fear and dismay were aroused at the very sight of this proud Philistine (vv. 11, 24, 32), yet such fear was foreign to David, for his eyes were not upon man but upon God (v. 37). He related to Saul his exploits not as boasting but as giving him assurance that God was able to deliver him out of the hand of this Philistine. Saul, who had once been a man of like simple faith, is now as much in fear as any of his army. David was perhaps about twenty years of age and verse 51 calls him a "stripling," hence it was that Saul's armor would not fit him (cf. 10:23). Humanly speaking, it was an impossible thing David offered to accomplish single-handed. Even Saul (v. 32) sought to dissuade David, but David was not trusting in man nor depending upon the armor of the king (v. 29; Ps. 27:1-3; Isa. 12:2; Rom. 8:31). David took his familiar staff and sling (see 1 Thess. 5:21) and sallied forth, "strong in the Lord, not in himself; armed not with steel but with faith." Crossing "the valley" (v. 40 marg.) he prepared his sling, with which every Israelite was skilled (see 1 Sam. 13:17-23). On came the giant, a man about nine feet tall (v. 4), "a stalking mountain, overlaid with brass and iron," preceded by his protector (v. 41). Why such a soldier after his period of triumph should desire this added safety is not quite clear. It suggests, however, the sinner's timidity which reveals his essential weakness in that he trusts himself, takes no chances, and is even suspicious of his own supporters. What a contrast! This armored giant and this ruddy-faced, unarmed youth, carrying only the staff, wherewith he was wont to fight wild beasts, and his sling! When God calls a man he uses that weapon with which the man is most familiar, and when the church or the Christian soldier seeks to fight in the armor of another, or by using the weapons of the world, it is foredoomed to failure (Ex. 4:2; Judges 3:31). As though this youthful shepherd were seeking some beast of the hills, Goliath exclaims, "Am I a dog?" (v. 43), and offers to make carrion of David (v. 44). Such derision and boasting is the usual attitude of the enemies of God. It was designed to strike fear into David's heart on one hand, and to bolster the courage of the Philistine on the other.

2. **Conquering Humility**, vv. 45-51. David acknowledged Goliath's superior armament, yet armed with the name of the God of the army of Israel which Goliath had insulted, his confidence overtops that of the Philistine and he hurls back his proud boast. Furthermore, the victory was to be an immediate one, "this day" (Zech. 4:6; James 4:7). With calm assurance he informs Goliath of the outcome of their conflict, but takes no credit to himself. David had naught but naked faith and the sense of a just cause to strengthen his arm. He would do to Goliath and the Philistines the things that Goliath had boasted he would do to David (vv. 44 and 46) "that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel;" see also v. 47. David's seemingly insufficient preparation is now revealed to be abundant, for he had four stones more than he needed (v. 40). It is thus that God chooses the weak things to confound the mighty (1 Cor. 1:27). Goliath's one unprotected spot was his sufficient weakness. In warfare it would be protected by his shield, but his pride and boastfulness exposed him to David's unerring shot. There is always an open, vulnerable place in the infidel's armor, and the man who trusts God will surely be guided to make accurate aim and to deliver a mortal blow at that point. The enemies we most fear fall the easiest and the hardest (Judges 20:16). Verse 50 is parenthetical, but from 51 it would seem that Goliath may have been only stunned and that David, to make complete his victory, cut off Goliath's head with his own sword. Israel received a great lesson that day and the Philistines, a type of the world, received one also (v. 47 R. V.). God will give the fruits of victory into the hands of those who trust and obey him.

3. **Summary**. We have before us three lessons. First the lesson of individual responsibility. A sinful king had paralyzed the effectiveness of the army of Israel. David, "a man after God's own heart," refused Saul's armor, crying out "I cannot go in these." Saul, bound by tradition, must use conventional weapons. Every great advance in the history of the church has been led by some man who struck out boldly, insensible alike to the conventionalism of his friends and the gibes of the enemy. God would have every man work according to himself, not copying, not imitating, but with his own equipment. Second, all the giants of sin have not yet been overthrown. We still have the giants of Intemperance, Unchastity, Graft, Selfishness, Ambition and the Inequalities of our civic and social life. These can only be overcome in the strength of our God.

Bunyan mentions three giants, Pride, Grim and Pagan; to these we may add, Anger, Untruthfulness, Selfishness and Sullenness.