

## THE LATEST GHOST STORY.

A MARVELOUS TALE THAT THEY TELL IN HAVANA, N. Y.

A large audience assembled yesterday afternoon in the Harvard Rooms to hear about the wonderful witch of Havana, a pretty village eighteen miles from Elmira, New York. Dr. J. B. Newbrough of 128 West Thirtieth-fourth street, who lately made a visit there, told the following ghost stories:

Mrs. Peter Compton, the wife of an invalid husband and mother of seven children, is descended from the old farmers of Havana, a well-known and not rich, yet respectable stock. A woman of sound, un-cultured intellect, she married a carpenter and builder, and on his permanent failure in health fourteen years ago, and their subsequent destitution of other resources, she supported him and their numerous children by washing the clothes and scrubbing the houses of her neighbors.

Two years ago Mrs. Compton, was developed into a full-blown spirit medium of the most wonder-working kind. Her own body changes into strange, other and sometimes beautiful bodies, according to whatever spirit takes possession of her. She may be fastened in a cabinet in any manner, the cords are loosened, not cut or untied, the nails are taken out, and a new being wanders forth, man, woman or child, ancient sage or modern savage, and the new person walks about, talks, can be felt, shaken hands with, patted on the shoulder, and meanwhile there is not on this earth to be found the body of Mrs. Peter Compton. The cabinet is empty—no Mrs. Peter Compton or her clothes.

Dr. Newbrough procured some shoemaker's thread, and the man who was waxing the ends for him said they would be of no use, for she was possessed of a devil. Dr. Newbrough used them, however. He also procured nails without heads and so fine that pins could not get hold of them, and with them closely nailed her gown all around the bottom to the floor.

Out of the cabinet walked a strange and fine lady, of different stature, complexion and manners from the plain, the homely washer-woman who, a few moments before was nailed to the floor in the alpaca gown. Dr. Newbrough rushed to the cabinet. It was empty; his nails were nowhere visible, and his waxed ends had also evaporated. The new lady's dress was a brown, summery texture, that looked as though it might have been made on a material loom. Dr. Newbrough said to the ghost: "Kind lady, I have a pair of remarkably sharp scissors in my pocket. Will you oblige me by allowing me to clip a souvenir from your robe?" The beautiful being smiled on him graciously, but answered: "Nothing to wear. My medium has but one gown. If you cut a piece out there will be a hole in it, and she will be entirely destitute." "But," persisted the doctor, "I will see that she has money to buy another gown." "Ah, my dear sir," sadly answered the beautiful spirit, "perhaps you would, but I do not know it; for Mr. Olcut was here, and Dr. Storer of Boston was here, and they both and many others said that they would do something to relieve the poverty of our medium, but they have not, and I cannot let you cut a piece out and make a hole in her only gown."

After the beautiful lady had stepped away, and after a six-foot tall ghost had come and gone, and no more ghosts would be evoked, Dr. Newbrough again inspected the cabinet. There sat the homely and motherly Mrs. Compton, with the waxed ends all rigidly fast, and her alpaca dress nailed to the floor again, the fine little nails being, with almost perfect exactness, driven into the holes they had previously occupied.

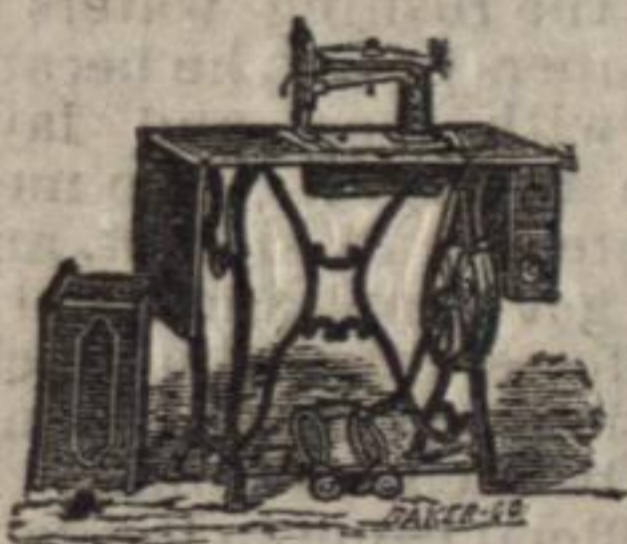
Mrs. Compton has lately been assisted by the Overseers of the Poor for the county, for these changes to which her body has been subject during two years have ruined her health, and, in addition to being unable to work, the reputation of being possessed by spirits has deprived her of her former employers. The people of the town say nothing against her, except that she is a sorceress. The little children had mended their clothes with yarn and with twine, or with whatever they could get. A mortgage on their house, added to other obligations, harassed them with

debts amounting to nearly \$300, and the prospect of the county poor-house for a more permanent home.

Dr. Newbrough announced that he raised \$120 for the poor family before he left Havana, and from the spiritist meeting yesterday morning, in Republican Hall, \$52. One of his hearers asked whether the persons in Havana who contributed the \$120 were infidels, spiritists or Christians. He answered that they were two infidels, one spiritist and himself. Three or four ladies passed among the audience and collected \$62. A pillar of the society suggested that this collection and all others should be entrusted not to the solicitor, but to the treasurer of the society, in a regular way. This suggestion was booed by the audience, who seemed to be familiar with Dr. Newbrough, and, on being put to a vote, was almost unanimously voted down. Money has been now raised to nearly the amount of Mrs. Compton's debts.—N. Y. Sun, April 26.

THE SPELLING SPELL. — The spelling mania must have a name, and a classical one, too. How will this do? It has the merit of conciseness at all events: *Cacoethes literas in syllabas colligendi*. It is terrible, this mania. You are stopped upon the street and invited to spell pedler, or pedlar, or peddler, or some other word. Your wife wakes you in the middle of the night to spell "sarcophagus;" your children hasten to the breakfast table to ask you to spell "corymb," and devote all your spare time to the dictionary; your oldest boy comes home late at night in a weeping mood, and explains it thus: "I went to see Mary (his sweetheart) this evening; she met me at the door with, 'Spell erysipelas, Tom?' I spelled it with two 'i's' and no 'y,' and she said, 'Sir, our engagement is at an end; I cannot love more a bad speller.' Her father, on being appealed to, says, 'Give Tom one more trial. Spell consanguineous, sir.' I spelled it with four 'n's' and two 'i's,' and he bade me leave the house and never hope to be his son-in-law."—Boston Traveller.

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SELAH CHAMBERLAIN.

Salt Lake City, January 18, 1875. w51

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TO THOSE CONCERNED IN THE ALLEGAN MINES, Little Cottonwood Mining District: Your assessments are as follows—Henrietta Green, \$1337; Louis C. Hn, \$1337; John Snyder, \$1337; Harris John, \$1337, all of which is requested to be paid immediately, otherwise your interest will be disposed of according to law, w4

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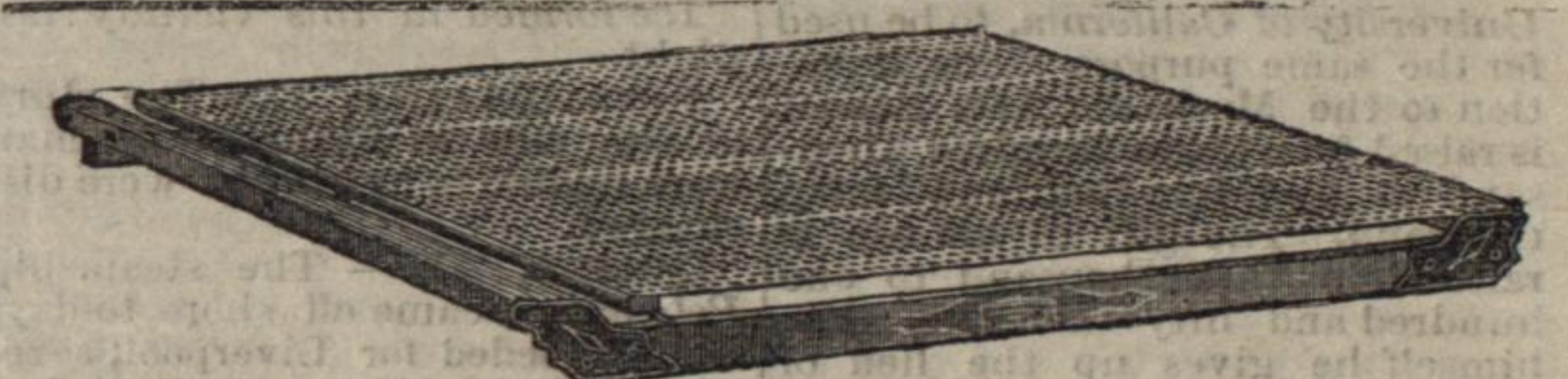
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