

January 13, 1870.

Correspondence.

Editor Deseret Evening News:—Be-
lieving the people here whom I have
heard speak upon the subject of spiri-
tualism, are in a great measure misin-
formed upon the subject, I write you. I
believe them honest in intention, and
lovers of truth, hence I will speak of
the subject as I see it after years of in-
vestigation. They think that spiritual-
ism consists, mainly, in physical mani-
festations, or the lowest phases of the phe-
nomena; and some of them speak of it
as coming directly from the devil and
of necessity evil.

I will therefore speak of the utility of
these physical manifestations to which
they so seriously object.

The advanced spiritualists have no
use for them; still they are of great value
to a certain class of minds, and the
only way in which they can be reached,
and convinced beyond a doubt of the
immortality of the soul, and by which
a desire may be awakened, to know
something of the life beyond the grave,
and how to prepare themselves for its
realities.

To illustrate:—Let us follow one of
these men in his investigations: He is
as honest and truth-loving as others,
but has that skeptical brain that causes
him to question, and doubt all things
that do not appeal to his physical senses.
He must see or hear something—have
some test from spirit life or he cannot
believe. He hears of a Medium for
physical manifestations; his curiosity is
excited, and added to a desire to test
the matter, to know whether it be true
that the soul lives after the body dies,
he visits a Medium, sits at the table
feeling confident he can discover the
truth or imposition. The raps com-
mence and the name of his mother,
long since passed from earth, is spelled
out by the use of the alphabet, also the
disease of which she died, the date of
death, the number of her family; and
other facts, tests and minutiae known to
no one present, but himself. The in-
vestigator is confounded, and convinced
of some power superior to what he can
discover.

He is anxious to enquire still further;
goes to a speaking Medium who is an
entire stranger, and converses with his
mother, through the Medium, receiving
additional proof of her immortality and
individuality. She appeals to his affec-
tional and moral nature; begs of him to
lead a pure and upright life, and tells
him she will be near, to assist him in
every effort to do good and noble acts.
The Medium, being also clairvoyant
gives to the seer an accurate description
of the face, complexion and figure of
his mother as accurately as he could
have described her himself. He leaves
the Medium a changed and better man,
convinced of immortality, and that his
mother's eye is upon him when he
takes the wine cup, or otherwise com-
mits wrong; and resolves from that
hour to live a different and better life.

The question is often asked; of what
use are these foolish table tapplings, rap-
pings and other physical manifesta-
tions? In reply, I ask, is not the above
illustration a sufficient answer? Do you
not readily perceive that this man who
doubted immortality, and cared none
for sensual pleasure, has received
through these manifestations much of
incalculable value to him, affecting not
only his whole life on earth, but through
the endless spirit spheres?

The fact that undeveloped spirits
sometimes return and communicate
seems to trouble the people much. Let
us reason upon the subject. The man
who is corrupt in his habits of life; who
spends his time in drinking and gam-
bling houses, and other dens of iniquity;
who loves falsehood and dishonesty;
and who is seeking only for the lowest
physical pleasures; and in this condition
goes to converse with spirits, will call
around him those in sympathy and
feelings with himself; and such as loved
to visit scenes of infamy while in the
earth; and who have not yet but-
tressed their former desires. The vis-
itor asks foolish and trifling questions,
of the spirit, and treats the subject with
the greatest levity. Perhaps his first
question is: "When am I going to get
married?" The second equally foolish,
"Will you tell me how I can make a for-
tune?" Well knowing if he had one,
he would use it for some vile purpose.
The fool is answered according to his
folly by the spirit who accompanied
him; being no demon, nor worse
than the man recently passed from the
earth. The communication partakes of
the nature, not only of the questioner,
and him who propounds it, but of the
spirit communicating. The Medium
through whom it came may be honest
and well disposed, being simply a ma-
chine through which to transmit
thoughts from spirit life, and not re-
sponsible for the utterances given. A
person should attend a spiritual seance,
with an earnest wish for truth and wis-
dom. He should treat the subject with
that consideration and dignity that it
demands, thus doing, he will have no
trouble with low and undeveloped spir-
its. If the magnetism of the soul is of
such a nature that pure and angelic
spirits cannot approach it, it is his own
fault, and his alone.

During an investigation of the subject
of twenty years, I have never been
troubled with low influences; and the
person who is thus annoyed, should
know that he has drawn his kindred
spirits around him. Like seeks its like
in spirit life, as well as on the earth;
and pure, noble souls will not be trou-
bled with bad influences. All classes of
spirits can, and do, at times return to
earth; still, the larger portion of the
communications come from those who
are more unfolded in soul, and far su-
perior to ourselves. If we live a spiri-
tual and prayerful life, it is our privi-
lege to hold hourly communion with
the higher orders of angelic beings,
who will infuse into our inmost souls,
their benign influence, awakening the
holiest emotions of love for all human-
ity and calling forth corresponding ef-
forts on our part to elevate ourselves and
others. The creed of the spiritualist is
a truth: His professions of faith, a
divine life: He is satisfied with a per-
fect religion, and nothing short: Hence,
to attain this, he believes in endless pro-
gression. Yours for truth,

OLIVE N. ROBINSON.

The foregoing letter from a lady who,
as she says, has investigated spiritualism
for twenty years, and is a believer in it.

sets forth her views, as far as she has ex-
pressed them, plainly and with clear-
ness. We do not question, for a mo-
ment, the honesty of many who believe
in spiritualism, so-called, satisfied they
are really sincere, the writer of the let-
ter among the number; but there are
various points in it that make it objec-
tionable to those who have received the
gospel in its fullness. Admitting the
position taken by those who believe
spiritualism to be correct, and that they
do receive the communications alleged,
those communications come from all
sorts of spirits to all sorts of people: from
spirits that are ignorant to people that
are ignorant, and from spirits that are
wicked to people that are wicked, as
well as from spirits pure and more in-
telligent than others, to people in ad-
vance of their fellows in knowledge; and
these communications, purporting to
come from so many different sources,
teach views and opinions of the most
conflicting character, harmonizing in
little but the future life of the spirit and
probably a few other points which are
correct, while conveying much that is
erroneous and calculated to mislead
and deceive. Joseph Smith is claimed
by many spiritualists to have been a
powerful medium; and the Latter-day
Saints are considered by most of them
as a people who are inspired. Our lady
correspondent, in private conver-
sation, speaks of the Prophet as a very
advanced medium.

Let it be granted that Joseph was a
medium, it follows that revelations
through him ought to be entitled to as
much weight as those through any
other medium, and, indeed, far greater
weight, for his revelations came from
Jesus Christ through the Holy Ghost;
and we know of no Spiritualists who
claim so high an authority as this for
their revelations. But Joseph was
more than a medium. He acted as a
Revelator by virtue of the Priesthood,
which gave him access unto God, the
fountain of knowledge. His au-
thority was infinitely higher than that
claimed by the most advanced
mediums among the Spiritualists,
and the results which have followed
his revelations have been as far in
advance of those which have followed
theirs as his priesthood and authority
are superior to theirs. It has been by
organization and priesthood that the
Church has been built up, and the great
works accomplished by the Saints
which have elicited the wonder of the
world. Though we may be an "inspired"
people, had there not been the unity of
organization and the governing influ-
ence of the Priesthood, the labors and
works that have been performed never
would have been accomplished.

The revelations given through Joseph
harmonize as a whole, and do not con-
flict in any particulars; they are also in
perfect agreement with the revelations
which came through the same priest-
hood in ancient times, and bear the
impress of God throughout. This can-
not be said of the teachings of spiritual-
ists. They deny some of the most vital
points. They deny priesthood, and
organization which is the result of its
exercise, which were taught by Jesus,
taught by Joseph, and are indissolubly
connected with the gospel. They also
deny the resurrection of the body, the
personality of the Holy Ghost, and the
personality of the Devil. Let all the
writings or the teachings of men
who have held the holy priesthood,
and have received their revelation
from God, the highest source of intelli-
gence, be examined, and these great
truths will be found clearly taught by
them all. Who deny them? Those
who have no priesthood themselves,
and whose revelations proceed from
spirits who claim none. Can it be won-
dered at, then, that their revelations are
full of discrepancies and conflict in the
most essential points? Indeed, it could
not be otherwise; for supposing that
they do receive their revelations from
the spirits of those who have taberna-
cled on the earth, which many dispute,
such spirits could only communicate
that which they know, and their knowl-
edge, at the best, is limited and defective.
How much superior, then, is communica-
tion with God, the source of light and
Truth, to that with spirits limited in
knowledge and capacity, no matter how
pure their desires and intentions may
be claimed to be! Revelations from
God are the privilege of those who re-
ceive the gospel, and those revelations
come from a Being who could not and
would not deceive. But revelations re-
ceived from any other source in the un-
seen world are unreliable and cannot
be trusted. Hence the prophet of old
said: "But when they shall bid thee seek
unto wizards that peep and mutter, and
unto them that have familiar spirits;
should not a people seek unto their
God for the living to hear from the
dead?"

PURISH THEM SEVERELY.—We are sorry
to have to record, so soon, attempts to do
mischief to the Utah Central; but two such,
we are credibly informed, have already
taken place. Yesterday, while the train
was between Farmington and Kayville a
passenger, a young man, was discovered
aboard without a ticket; the conductor
compelled him to alight, when, for revenge,
on the track, which threw a block of wood
containing several men. Spikes have also
been found driven into the ties near to the
rail, and one between the joints of the
rails.

Such diabolical mischief and meanness is
to be deplored, and the perpetrator of every
such instance of wickedness who may be
discovered, whether juvenile or adult,
ought to be severely and summarily pun-
ished.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

THE undersigned having been appointed, by
the Probate Court for Salt Lake County,
Administrator of the estate of Miss Annie Lock-
hart, deceased, notice is hereby given to all per-
sons having claims against said estate to
present the same immediately, and those
indebted will come forward and settle.

R. J. GOLDING,
Administrator.Office at the Court House.
Salt Lake City, Jan. 6, 1870.

Z. C. M. I.

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There are three hundred Florence
Sewing Machines in Utah Territory,
sold by former agents, and by Chicago
and St. Louis Agents.In answer to advertisement offering to
attend to any not giving satisfaction,
free of charge, three Machines have been
sent, needing slight repairs, JUST
ONE IN ONE HUNDRED, after four
years of service.MRS. JOSEPH BULL, in the 17th Ward, has
just purchased a Florence Sewing Machine. We
are permitted to refer to her, and esteem her recom-
mendation a mark of superiority, as Mrs. Bull
has had much experience in the use of various
Sewing Machines.MRS. SPIRING, Dressmaker, 14th Ward, says:
"I have used a Florence Family Sewing Ma-
chine for several years past, having it almost
constantly in use, and during that time, it has
never dropped a stitch, or been out of order a
minute."CAPT. HOOPER says: "I have a
and a Florence in my family. For general
family use they would purchase any other Machine."
MRS. PAXTON, living nine miles south on
the State Road, says: "I have a Wheeler & Wil-
son's Sewing Machine, but I like the Florence
better. When I go over to fix it, I feel like
she can do, and how easily it is done, I feel like
stowing my Wheeler & Wilson away in the gar-
age, so that none may know I have a Sewing
Machine."ALFRED BEST, after actual purchase, and
fair trial of our first-class Machine, and the
Florence, adopts the Florence as every way the
best for family use.MRS. WARREN HUSSEY, after many years
experience with various Sewing Machines, pro-
nounces the Florence ahead of all others in all
the requisites of a first class Sewing Machine.
Simplicity, reliability, quiet and rapid action.MR. SMITH, of W. F. & Co., purchased a Flo-
rence about two weeks ago. A few days after,
MRS. MOFF, purchased one, and now another
of W. F. & Co.'s name is about to be pur-
chasing. Thus proving the practical test of the
Florence Sewing Machine is its own best recom-
mendation.MRS. SHURTLEIFF, of Mill Creek, says: "I
am delighted with my Florence. I don't believe
anybody would purchase any other Machine if
they would once give the Florence a fair trial."COL. JACKSON, brought a Florence Sewing Ma-
chine from St. George, for repairs, but could find
no one in Salt Lake City able to fix it, so he took a new
FLORENCE home with him last week, as he
was determined to have a RELIABLE SEW-
ING MACHINE, before leaving it to his
hired miles home.MRS. STEVENSON and MRS. CRANDALL, of
St. George, purchased Florence Sewing Ma-
chines, last week, after carefully examining in-
to the merits and demerits of the various Sew-
ing machines on sale in this City.DAVID MILLER, WILLIAM MILLER, MRS.
SHURTLEIFF, and several others, at and near
Farmington, have within the last few weeks
purchased Florence Sewing Machines, after
satisfying themselves of their great superi-
ority.JEREMY, WILLIAM SLOAN, MRS.
STRABRIDGE, and W. D. BROWN, of Salt
Lake City, have recently purchased Florence
Machines.

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