

DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Monday, . . . September 7, 1893.

SPIRITUALISM IN THE UNITED STATES.

To sum up the results of my experience—I have known many mediums, professional and private—witnessed a great variety of manifestations, attended lectures and seances, and received a number of publications in its interest. I do not pretend to say how the phenomena are produced, but I have seen nothing to induce me to account for them on a spiritual theory. In the course of my investigations I have applied tests without any satisfactory result; and wherever I have witnessed the phenomena, I have rather been filled with wonder at the readiness with which believers have allowed themselves to be persuaded.

As I have already remarked, spiritualism enjoys much greater facilities for spreading in America than among ourselves. It might have been thought that the advantages would be neutralized by the power of education. The Americans are justly proud of their exertions in this direction, and I never knew a native American who had not some degree of education. But it appears to me that American popular education rather tends to the furtherance of such movements as that under discussion; that it is the great cause of those peculiarities in American character and institutions which seem directly to encourage spiritualism and kindred theories. The young people of America are infinitely more precocious than is the case with us in England. And an unhealthy stimulus to them is given by a tendency to grasp at visionary or impossible objects.

Then, religious thought and government being thoroughly untrammelled by legal or political fetters in America, secular education appears almost in opposition to the received and revered impressions so powerful among ourselves. The result is a removal of old landmarks and a hankering after new fields of thought. Education thus appears more in the light of a power urging to the search and attainment of something novel than to profit by the experience of the past. The effect also on the minds of the young of the want of a healthy home influence is undoubtedly injurious. We see that the Americans are not so domestic in their tastes and habits as we think desirable in England. Thus there is created a tendency to seek for some excitement out of the ordinary quiet course of life. The precocity just alluded to, causes the youth of America to consider themselves men long before they have arrived at years of discretion. Independence of thought and action being unnaturally strained, the impulse of the mind must nearly always be in an unhealthy direction.

The influence of political questions also permeates every condition of American society. Every male American of 21 years of age conceives himself to be immediately concerned in the government of the country. Of every male child it may be said, "He may be President of the United States." Thus early in life is excited a taste for publicity of position, for which abundant opportunities are constantly afforded. The Americans all pride themselves on their ability to speak in public, and it is not of much importance in what direction the privilege is exercised. Apart from these considerations affecting specially the American people, and speaking generally, I incline to the opinion that the heavy shadow thing called modern education is calculated to operate as much in favor of a belief in spiritualism as against it. The great discoveries of the age in many departments of science, the control and adaptation to useful purposes of some of Nature's powers hitherto so little known, the uprooting of fallacies which long appeared to be truth—these facts have impressed on our minds a practical mode of dealing with all before us, a tendency to find a plain rational cause for everything at first sight wonderful, and to accept nothing without sufficient evidence of its truth, and proof especially of its practical usefulness. —Fraser's Magazine.

THE PRESS.

There are printed in the United States five thousand and sixty-two regular publications—daily, tri-weekly, semi-weekly, semi-monthly, monthly, bi-monthly and quarterly—with a combined circulation of over seventy-five millions a week.

Nearly all country publications own two presses—some of them three; while the papers in large cities and job offices generally own from two to fifty presses. These offices will average four presses each, which will amount to about sixteen thousand and adding, say eleven thousand for newspapers, we have twenty-seven thousand printing presses in the United States.

We may further calculate, by the average of twelve offices, that there are printed daily over twenty-two millions of cards, circulars, hand-bills, etc.

To print these cards, circulars, bills, and newspapers, as far as can be figured, keeps constantly in use over thirty million pounds of type; over three million pounds of leads and slugs; over three hundred thousand galleys; one hundred thousand composing sticks; four hundred thousand cases; seven hundred thousand feet of rules; twenty thousand imposing stones; used each day three hundred thousand pounds of ink, and one million three hundred thousand pounds of blank paper and card-board.

To supply this want of paper, ink, type, mills and foundries have been established over the country.—Index.

THE UNITED STATES NAVY.—Over five hundred men of war, it is estimated, were in commission during the rebellion. At the present time, however, it is stated that the United States navy is diminished to the number of eighty vessels, including screw sloops, paddle-wheels, frigates, gunboats, store-ships.

Of these, five of the most effective are in the navy yards, and mount 83 guns; seven are with Admiral Farragut, numbering also 83 guns; twelve, of 113 guns, form the Asiatic squadron, under Rear-Admiral Rowan; seven, of 57 guns, with Rear-Admiral Dahlgren, on the South Pacific Station; Rear-Admiral Craven commands eleven with 124 guns, on the North Pacific Station; Rear-Admiral Davis has seven with 75 guns on the South Atlantic Station; eight, with 73 guns, are with Rear-Admiral Hoff, on the North Atlantic Station; while Vice-Admiral Porter has thirteen, with 155 guns, in the Naval Academy Squadron; and seven, with 73 guns, are on the lakes and home stations.

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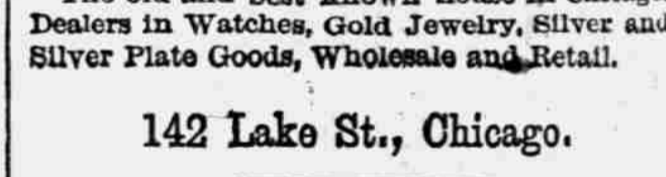
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