

## SEANCE WITH PROF. A. R. WALLACE.

THE most remarkable seance in many respects for independent writing with Mr. Evans, was one given in presence of that eminent scientist, Professor Alfred Russell Wallace, F. G. S., of England, his brother, Mr. John Wallace, of Stockton, California, Dr. David Wooster, one of San Francisco's leading physicians and a member of the Academy of Sciences, and the writer—four persons in all besides the psychic, Mr. Evans.

We arranged for this seance with Professor Wallace, to come off at nine o'clock in the morning of the day mentioned, at the residence of Mr. Evans. It was fully half past nine when we reached his residence, where we were pleasantly received by Mr. Evans, and conducted to the seance-room, which was a small front room directly over the hallway. The morning sunlight was streaming in at the window, and the room was as light as noonday.

Mr. Evans took a seat at a table with his back to the window. Professor Wallace and his brother sat at the opposite side of the table, Dr. Wooster sat behind the Professor, and the writer, behind and a little to the right of Mr. John Wallace, the object being to give the brothers the fullest possible benefit of the seance.

A pair of medium size folding school slates, brought by John Wallace, who had never witnessed any experiments in psychography before, was placed upon the table, together with two pairs of other slates, and, a few minutes later, a single slate, with cross lines thereon to indicate that the colored writing usually produced in this experiment is written over the cross, was placed upon the table. The slates were all thoroughly cleaned and examined by the brothers, and were, from first to last, directly under their hands and sight.

Without giving the experiments in the order in which they were produced, or even reproducing the numerous messages written (as they were mostly of a private or unimportant character), we will speak more especially of the *manner* of their production.

As we have frequently described in this volume, the messages through this psychic are always given under what may be regarded as absolute test conditions. All being done in the light and above board, with the slates in the hands of the investigator, there is not the slightest suggestion or possibility of deception. And such was the case in this instance.

The influences worked readily, and in a few minutes several messages were written in the ordinary way, to the delight of Professor Wallace, who expressed his admiration of the prompt and perfectly fair manner in which they were produced.

The Professor then inquired of Mr. Evans if writing could be produced upon paper placed between the slates, when he was requested by the spirit control to tear off six sheets from a common writing pad of white paper at hand and place them between a pair of slates, which he did. In a few minutes we were assured by the psychic that the forces were at work upon the paper, and soon it was found that upon each of five of the slips of paper was a finely executed crayon sketch of a prominent Spiritualist passed to spirit life, representing them as they appeared in earth-life, viz., D. D. Home, Dr. Benjamin Rush, Dr. Robert Hare, Jonathan Pierpont, Mrs. S. F. Breed, and upon one slip an unknown spirit picture not as well done as the others.

It is a significant fact that these five sketches named were improved copies of pictures taken upon the slates upon former occasions by the spirit artist, Stanley St. Clair, through Mr. Evans' powers, and who also drew upon a slate, at this seance, the picture of Father Pierpont, which we reproduce in this

connection. (The artist produced this picture at our reporters' seance in Los Angeles, and it was retained by one of the reporters present.) And yet it was seen that the crayon sketch of the latter was not an exact copy of the slate picture produced at this seance. If it is of the former picture we have no means of knowing. They were all, with the exception of the spirit picture referred to above, pronounced by Professor Wallace to be artistic and meritorious sketches.

Perhaps the most remarkable test given at this seance was the writing in five colors, by Mr. Evans' control, produced on the under side of the slate with the cross, the writing appearing *over* the white lines. The colors used by the spirit in this experiment are remarkably brilliant. In fact it is the best sample of colored writing we have yet seen through this psychic. The message reads as follows:

DEAR FRIENDS:—I am pleased to meet you all here, and to you, Professor Wallace, I must express my deep admiration for the noble stand you have taken in bravely advocating that which you believe to be true, namely, the truth of spirit return. Alas! too many are bound down to accept that which they do not believe in, merely because it is not fashionable to doubt it. I mean orthodoxy. But the time is fast approaching when all will only be too glad to embrace a belief in Spiritualism. I must leave you now with the glad thought that I will one day welcome you all to the spirit side of life.

Spirit guide,

JOHN GRAY.

Another most remarkable experiment was given as follows: Mr. Evans placed a sheet of white paper over a slate lying upon the table, upon which slate it was seen there was no writing. He raised the slate level, touching his forehead with the edge, when in less than half a minute there was found upon the upper surface a finely written and beautiful message of one hundred and forty-seven words, signed "Elizabeth Wallace," the name of a sister of Professor Wallace. This message must have been almost instantaneously stamped upon the slate, and yet the writing is, to all appearances, the result of the attrition of a slate pencil over the surface of the slate.

The last, and, to the scientist, perhaps the most satisfactory experiment of the seance, was the production of writing on the two inner surfaces of the folding slates brought by Mr. John Wallace. Upon one surface was a message by Spirit John Gray, and upon the other a message signed "T. V. Wallace," the name of the father of Professor Wallace. This writing was absolutely conclusive of the existence of an independent occult intelligent power capable of performing such wonders.

We will add, in conclusion, that a slate placed upon the floor contained four short messages to the author—one from John Gray, the others from three spirit friends, and in a *fac simile* of their familiar chirography. The number of slates written over, including the one with the picture, was eight, containing in all thirteen written messages, which, with the slate picture and six crayon sketches, we consider the most remarkable result ever obtained at a single seance with any slate-writing psychic. The duration of the seance was less than one hour.

The above appears to me to be a correct account of one of the most remarkable and convincing seances I have ever attended. I have never, on any occasion, witnessed phenomena of so wonderful a character appear with such rapidity and in a manner so entirely free from suspicion.

ALFRED R. WALLACE.

I agree with the above remarks of my brother.

JOHN WALLACE.

I entirely agree with Professor Wallace in his estimate of the phenomena and the perfect freedom from any suspicion of fraud in their production.

D. WOOSTER.

We will add to this chapter some very interesting experiments of our own with Mr. Evans. We may say that such perfect harmony of conditions has been established between us that the intelligences manifest themselves with a readiness and power that is ever a source of surprise, even to us who have witnessed so many exhibitions of spirit power.

On one evening with Mr. Evans, the writer and his wife

Good! How fine my boy  
I am with you in spirit  
of Elizabeth Wallace

I am pleased to meet you  
here and hear of you to your  
grand mother. R. Wallace



To Alfred Russel Wallace dear friend at the request of this medium quite short  
I am glad I have drawn this picture of spirit formation for your letter I am glad as  
written for your spirit I will add another look in your mind of spirit form  
use here to demonstrate through this medium Fred Evans many new and satisfactory tests  
that will appeal to some of doubts of spirit phenomena. With best wishes for your happiness and success  
I remain your spirit artist. Study of plain good life.

FIGURE 100. A. F. N. C.

[Taken independently, between closed slates, through the mediumship of Fred Evans, at a private seance given to Professor Alfred R. Wallace, May 27, 1887.]

each took a couple of slates which we knew were perfectly clean. We tied them together in pairs, writing our names on the outside of each slate.

We then left the light and entered the dark cabinet with Mr. Evans, taking the slates with us and never for a moment allowing them to leave our hands. In the cabinet Mr. Evans sat in front of us, with his right hand resting upon the left hand of one of us, and his left upon the right hand of the other.

The light was extinguished, when immediately loud raps upon the floor, the chairs and the slates, announced the presence of the invisibles. Soon a small, luminous cloud formed near the side of the psychic, which took the shape of a beautiful human hand, which floated down, first over one of the pair of slates, and then over the other, and seemed to be writing upon the upper surface of the slates. Detaching one hand from the slates we were holding, we were permitted to take this luminous hand in our own. We found it cold and firm—very like the hand of a living person just out of the cold.

Another interesting phase of this seance was the materialization and illumination of a slate which was held before us with the name of the guide, John Gray, written thereon in large, luminous letters. A small piece of pencil was also illuminated and caused to write rapidly over the surface of a slate. The scratching of the pencil was loud and distinct, and its rapid movement over the slate was witnessed by all with deep interest.

It should be remembered that throughout these experiments, the slates prepared by us were held in our own hands, and that the psychic's hands never left ours except to enable us for a moment to take the spirit hand before him. He was not entranced, and enjoyed the seance quite as much as did we.

Upon entering the light we found no writing upon the outer surfaces of the slates, except that of the names we had placed there; but on the inner surface of one of the slates was

a message from John Gray, in common slate pencil writing, and on one of the inner surfaces of the other pair of slates were thirty-three shades of colors, put on as with a fine brush, in lines three-fourths of an inch in length; and then, stretching lengthwise across the slate, was a belt an inch and a half in width made by an interblending of all these shades. Some of these shades are exquisitely delicate and beautiful, and the coloring matter lies in small ridges upon the slate. Below the colors was written in pencil: "Mr. Owen—Dear Friend—We have given you this to show you how easily we can produce all colors when necessary.—JOHN GRAY."

