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The Gospel of Christ is the world's only social hope and the sole promise of world-peace. It is a crusade to which I urge you, a crusade not having for its object the redemption of a single city, however holy, but the freeing of the whole world from the devastating scourge of war.

—Marshall Haig.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.
AT HOME AND ABROAD



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A DANGEROUS "ISM"

S. L. MORRIS.

Spiritism and the Fallen Angels. By James M. Gray, D. D., Revell & Co. in the Dead Communicate with the Living? ..By I. M. Halderman, D. D., Revell & Co.

THE most dangerous thing in the world is counterfeit. The more perfect the resemblance the more dangerous is the counterfeit bill. Gnosticism and Evolution are not so dangerous as Christian Science, Mormonism and Spiritualism. The latter are the Devil's counterfeits of God's. In Jannes and Jambres—Egyptian magicians—successfully “withstood Moses,” because they imitated his miracles—“did so with their enchantments.” In like manner Christian Scientists have imitated the miracles of Christ—“did so with their enchantments.” Spiritualists have imitated the “revelation” of “Holy men of old”—“did so with their enchantments.”

The fearful facilities of the world war, causing agonizing mothers to cry it for some message from their dead ones, and the great names of Sir Oliver Lodge and A. Conan Doyle, as its sponsors, have given a new impulse to spiritism—a revival of the necromancy so bitterly condemned in the Bible as the arts of those “that peep and that mutter.”

The brief, concise treatises of Dr. Gray of the Moody Bible School and Mr. Halderman of New York, are most timely as antidotes for this modern delusion of Satan, inducing multitudes to “believe a lie.” Dr. Gray follows closely the line of treatment suggested

forty years ago by Pember of England in “Earth's Earliest Ages,” but in briefer and more popular form.

Every treatment of the phenomena of Spiritualism must undertake to account for these “manifestations,” “Seances,” etc.

1. The first explanation charges fraud, pure and simple—only this and nothing more. Friends and foes alike admit fraud as overwhelmingly predominant; but it is an inadequate answer. It does not account for some facts—which cannot be explained on the ground of fraud—attested by such investigators as compose “The Society of Physical Research.” These unbiased men confess themselves as baffled.

2. Others as in the case of Hudson in his “Law of the Psychic Phenomena” assign these performances to natural causes. They suggest mental telepathy by means of the sub-conscious mind; or the existence of some subtle law, not yet fully understood, involving the power of mind over matter. Electricity in the hands of a few Scientists before its function and powers were known to the public, could have puzzled the world and defied explanation. Science is on the eve of the discovery of a great psychic law which will account for all the arts of modern necromancers. This is, however, only an unproved hypothesis, which as yet lacks confirmation.

3. The only satisfactory explanation is that of Pember, Dr. Gray and other devout students of God's Word. They unhesitatingly and with good reason attribute these phenomena to evil

spirits—the demons so frequently mentioned in the Bible. These under the leadership of Satan are seeking through Spiritualism to counterfeit the “revelations” of God in order to delude presumptuous intruders into the forbidden realm of the spirit world. To punish such as defy God and seek illicit intercourse with spirits, so repeatedly and emphatically forbidden in Scripture God gives them up to “strong delusions that they should believe a lie.”

What assurance is there that the spirits who answer are the parties they purport to be? What is to prevent fraud on the part of Satan’s minions? Are the moral characters of Satan and his crew such as to guarantee that they would not resort to “ways that are dark and tricks that are vain”? Jesus said of Satan, “He is a liar and the father of it.” Are his disciples better than the “father of lies”? Even in this life we cannot be sure who is at the other end of the telephone line, if strangers call us up or answer our call. How can any living being know who is at the end of the telephone which purports to reach into the spirit world?

Spiritualism has been utterly discredited repeatedly. Humorists like Mark Twain have suggested that the silly twaddle, attributed to Abraham Lincoln and other great men, cannot come from the source claimed, unless these great minds have degenerated into imbecility and their possessors into fools. During the Boxer War twenty-five years ago at the time our American and European Consuls in Pekin, China were absolutely cut off from the world, great daily papers like the New York Herald challenged all the Spiritualistic Mediums of earth to get into communication with the spirits and give us information as to our isolated friends in Pekin. Not one responded. These great Dailies nagged them and guyed them till they laughed them out of court. The

world’s memory is short. It has seemingly forgotten this ignominious defeat of these charlatans—on twenty-five years ago.

The most shameless outrage is characteristic of all false faiths. They invariably appeal to the Bible to establish their case and then inconsistent attempt by villiany—worthy of the kiss of a Judas Iscariot—to betray and disapprove the Bible. The deceiver is a shameless liar, and his “disciples” are not above their Master.”

Spiritism is further discredited by its undisputed sordid character. One who recently investigated its claims repudiated it in utter disgust on the very ground, that so far from being anything spiritual it was sordid. Parties resorting to it were chiefly concerned about advice as to the best investment of money or to recover lost articles—with no concern for the interests of their Soul. Mediums were in collusion with speculators, selling their dupes worthless bonds—playing the devil’s own game.

Jesus repudiated and silenced the testimony of the spirits who cried, “I know thee who thou art, the Holy one of God,” etc. Testimony from such source would tend to discredit his mission. Paul likewise silenced the testimony of the “damsel possessed with a spirit of divination.” It would have compromised his ministry. The devil can still “transform himself into an angel of light,” and when his ensnarlments make the spirits bear testimony to immorality, they seek to compromise the Bible by teaching an immortalism in which there is no Hell. The “comfort” furnished by Spiritualists is a deadly opiate for guilty consciences—the devil’s own trick.

If any of God’s people are puzzled over Spiritism, or if they have friends in danger of this modern delusion, let them secure Dr. Gribbes’ book and investigate the source of these “table rappings” and “planchette” performances. The living liars

better beware of dalliance with "spirits," which is so emphatically forbidden in the Word of God, unless they are prepared to surrender the revelation, given through "Holy men of God who spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost," for revelations furnished by "the devil and his angels." The very fact that God has repeatedly forbidden any attempt to communicate with the dead suggests the possibility of such intercourse with

spirits and the deadly danger attending necromancy of every form.

"And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto the wizards that mutter: should not ye seek unto their God? On behalf of the living, should they seek unto the dead? To the law and to the prophets! If they speak not according to this word, surely there is no hope for them." (Revised Version.)

WHAT DR. SPEER SAW IN JAPAN AND CHINA

ROBERT E. Speer has been giving the Missionary Review of the World the benefit of impressions received during his recent visit to the far east. Through the courtesy of the Editor of the Review we are permitted to make extracts from two of his letters which came out in the December and January numbers.

The things which seem to have made the strongest impression upon his mind were, first, as to Japan:—the currents of new thought running so strongly through the whole population of the island empire. Japan is unquestionably deeply stirred with all sorts of popular movements, particularly in the direction of economic and social changes. Bolshevism has taken strong hold upon the working classes, and the struggle between labor and capital threatens to become more and more acute. Other influences of a social and political character, such as woman's suffrage, female education, the opening of all doors of employment to women-movements which carry with them a profound influence upon family life, are making progress in Japan toward the same status as has been reached in the western world.

The one stable and hopeful influence, however, is that constantly enlarging Christian community, which in less than half a century has grown from one to twelve hundred church

organizations, and its membership from a mere handful to 130,000 of the Protestant churches. This is Japan's hope for the future, as the hope of the world.

Dr. Speer found China even more shaken and torn by storms of political and social unrest than Japan. A discouraging fact which seemed to press him most was the prevalent graft and corruption from the top to the bottom of the present government of China. He doesn't hesitate to say that the last ten years of the Republic has given greater opportunities to graft and political thievery than was known under the corrupt imperial administration which the Republic succeeded.

As to the political situation so far as the central government at Peking is concerned, all is "corruption and despair." But there is a movement going on throughout China which, in the good providence of God, holds about the regeneration of the country politically; and that is the formation of provincial or state governments, each of the larger provinces, with little or no connection with the present national government. There are men in all these provinces who "are bent upon setting up in each province a separate and independent provincial government, with its own constitution and civil officials duly elected by the