

Humorous Sketch

Getting it into the Spirit.

When spiritualism first made its appearance in the village of — old deacon Isaacs, a wealthy man, who had stood by the church for nearly three-score years, was exceedingly bitter against all believers in "the devil's work." As he called it, and denounced spiritualism in no very gentle language. Imagine the deacon's anger, then, when six months afterwards he found it had worked its way into his own family, and not only were his wife and daughters believers, but one of them was a medium, and possessed full power to converse with the spirits, of those who had departed to that bourne from which no traveler returns.

Deacon Isaacs was mad—dreadfully mad—but he had wit enough not to show it, and he bore the taunts of the ungodly with a meek spirit. He knew it would be useless to declare open war, for Mrs Isaacs alone had always proved more than a match for him, and he was sure to be defeated. He must circumvent the critic, as he expressed it, and to that end he set himself to work. He was a man of sound judgment, and his worldly experience of fifty years was not thrown away. From the day it first came to his knowledge that his wife and daughters were spiritualists he never spoke a word against nor did he ever allude to it, except in general terms, in his morning prayers; but any one could see it troubled him, for he was absent-minded, his eyes wandered restlessly, and his countenance looked care worn.

The deacon witnessed one or two sittings at his house, and was satisfied that if he possessed a little more knowledge he could get rid of the annoyance. So one morning he started for the city, determined to thoroughly investigate the subject before he returned. After visiting with one of the most popular mediums, and paying his money, he returned home satisfied that he could see through it.

There was a sitting at the deacon's house on the night he returned, and his daughter Mary—the medium—invited the deacon to take a seat at the table, which to her gratification, was accepted. The spirits were in a good tune, and so exceedingly communicative that the deacon was induced to ask a few questions which were readily answered, and his wife and daughters were in ecstasies at the thought that the father would yet be a believer, and urged the deacon on in his inquiries.

Has my wife always been true to her marriage vows? asked the deacon.

To this question there was no answer in return, until Mrs. Isaacs sat transfixed with holy horror that such a thought should enter her husband's mind. How many years have passed since she was untrue?

Answered by single rays. Then came slowly and solemnly, one, three, four and so on until they reached twenty.

How many who claim to be are my children?

Again the spirit rapped—once, two, Mrs. Isaacs looked dumbfounded.

"Mercy!" said Mary.

Which are they, asked the deacon, who did he pay no attention to his companions.

Mary—Sarah, raised the spirits—the names of two daughters, the oldest of whom was under twenty.

Mrs. Isaacs could stand it no longer.

"It's all I did! It's all I did!" she shrieked, rising from the table; they are your children, deacon Isaacs, and God knows it.

But the spirits affirm differently, said the deacon. If they lie I said his wife.

Then if you believe in them in everything else, why not in this?

But I don't believe in them at all, it is all foolery.

Nor I, shouted Mary.

Nor I, added Sarah.

Then, said the Deacon, while a smile illuminated his countenance, we will bid them good-bye, and leave those things which God has wisely hidden from us to be revealed in his time.

Mrs. Isaacs was so glad that none of the neighbors were present; but somehow the story got wind, and so fearful were the dances of N—P—that they might be caught in some trap which the deacon had set, that spiritualism was driven entirely from the village.

The following is an exact copy of an indorsement made by a member of Congress on a claim, last week: "Thereby certify that I am personally acquainted with the circumstances of this case and am satisfied that the services were rendered and my expenditure as stated within and am satisfied that the claim is just and right and I respectfully recommend the payment."

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