

Board of Works 5 May 95

AN HOUR IN SPIRIT-LAND

A "PROGRESS" REPRESENTATIVE WAS WAITED THITHER

Under the Subtle Spell of "Madame Berwick of the United States, Herb Doctor and Trance Medium,"—More Agreeable Secrets than that of the Romanoffs.

Madame Berwick of the United States is in this city. Madame Berwick does not confine her citizenship to the United States. She is broader even than any cosmopolite, since she dwells in spiritland as well as on the earth. Her friends in that misty realm entertain her with magic lantern shows and she retails to patrons accounts of what she sees at these shows at the rate of fifty cents a sitting. The scenes that are depicted flow before her vision and the faster the half dollars flow in the faster flows the show.

Stated in brief Madame Berwick is a trance medium and herb doctor. She has been in St. John for some weeks past, engaged in the laudable pursuit of painting golden futures for people of various sorts and conditions. On paper she possesses many wonderful gifts and the handbills tell the many things that she can do. She tells the past, present and future; she can disclose where things lost can be found and whether absent friends are living or dead; she can tell what business you are adapted to and whether your companions are true or false; she locates the disease of people who are suffering from any unknown complaint and her cures are infallible.

Filling the philanthropic role of public protector PROGRESS sought the boudoir of Madame Berwick to learn the nature of her revelations. When he was ushered into her presence he was surprised. From his reading of fiction he had expected to see an ethereal looking woman with a far off gaze and other evidences of being only a transient boarder on this mundane sphere. But instead of this spirituelle appearance the reality revealed a very natural woman of substantial avoirdupois and a very earthly appreciation of the advantages of getting fifty cents in advance. She was considerably past her prime and did not betray in her countenance intellectuality of a high order, though that is not to say that she does not possess that attribute.

She opened the interview by stating that she proposed to go into a trance and in that state she would disclose the future. It would pass before her like a panorama and she would relate what she saw while it was passing. If her hearer wanted to ask any questions they would have to be asked while the trance was on her, for when she came out she never knew what she had told.

Speaking thus, she folded her hands and closed her eyes. She did not assume any strange appearance and a woman in a trance proved to be a very ordinary sight. Soon she commenced to speak and told a tale that abounded in "glittering generalities," but did not show that her spiritual friends had given her any inside tips as to the past or present of the scribe. It was one of the stock prophecies of an ordinary fortune teller and gave the usual information about a golden future, a good business offer, money that was to be inherited, good friends, happy marriage and life. She certainly predicted fifty cents' worth of prosperity, but the absence of particular information was very noticeable, and when she was asked for details she had no reply. For instance when she was questioned as to what business her patron was going into she had to respond that it was not revealed to her.

Like all other spiritualists Madame Berwick has an especial spirit who informs her in regard to the lives of her patrons. She described to her interviewer who hers was. She was a lady who died about a year ago and was a great friend of the madame's.

The days when Madame Berwick was at the zenith of her power have passed. She has now been attending these spiritualistic panoramas for the benefit of humanity for seventeen years and there was a time when she could tell the name of any one who called on her and all about him. She cannot do that now, but her old power is returning. She was ill for a long period some time ago and lost her second sight entirely. But now it is coming back and she expects to have her gifts with the old time intensity.

Then she told of the faithful guardian spirits who were watching over her hearer and concluded with telling him his lucky number and a date on which he might make a wish that would come to pass within seven days.

At length her hands began to twitch, her eyes opened and she was out of the trance.

She explained that the lucky number which she tells in her trance frequently wins prizes in lotteries for those to whom they are told. She told of other ways in which her revelations were of financial advantage to recipients. Men frequently consulted her on business matters and allowed her orders thereby. The more

a person consulted her the better she was able to obtain from the spirits the desired information respecting them. She frequently reveals fortunes that have afterwards come and she has sometimes received large presents from those who have acquired fortunes according as she predicted.

She proposes to stay here about a week longer and will then go to Fredericton.

Women are her chief patrons, but a great many men consult her and in some places she has had more male callers than female.

As the interviewer took his departure he reflected what a great thing it would be if he were a trance medium and had some friendly spirits to hustle around after news while he stuck his feet upon the sanctum desk and smoked.

WORKING FOR THE SEMINARY.

Energetic Efforts Being Made to Improve the Institution.

The committee in charge of St. Martin's Seminary have been taking steps to greatly increase the efficiency of this institution and to remove its present indebtedness. They have also thoroughly renovated the building, refitting the furnaces and adding other repairs of an extensive character, to keep it fully abreast of the times and to afford every convenience for those who may attend its courses.

Recently they have engaged as preceptress Miss E. M. Fletcher, of Mt. Hermon, Mass., who has taught Greek for the last three years in the institution founded by D. J. L. Moody. Miss Fletcher is an M. A. in honors of Colby University and furnishes high testimonials from Drs. Pepper and Small and other prominent scholars of New England. She now has charge of the Latin, Greek and French classes at St. Martin's, and her coming has infused fresh enthusiasm in the work connected with her department.

Mr. S. J. Case, a B. A. of Acadia, conducts the classes in mathematics and science, and is highly popular with the students. He is also uniting in his efforts to interest the young men in their studies and to inspire them with a desire for attaining the highest and noblest ideals of life.

Instruction in English literature, Rhetoric and German, is given by Miss Lizzie P. Hughes, a former student of both St. Martin's and Acadia seminaries. Then, two, there is a type-writing and short-hand department, conducted by Miss Lizzie L. Bridges, who has, until recently, been following her specialty in Maine.

The Misses Vaughan, of St. Martin's, also have classes in music, painting and drawing, and maintain the high standard hitherto sustained by the school. Miss Annie Vaughan, having acquired the German method of teaching practised by Fraulein Meyer, is now prepared to give courses in this system, as also in those in common use in the most select English and American schools.

A preparatory department is added for such students as may not be sufficiently advanced to take the regular course.

The location of the seminary is among the finest in the Maritime Provinces. The air is wholesome and entirely free from malarial taint, while the scenery as viewed from the heights where the institution stands is indescribably beautiful.

The next term is announced to open Wednesday, January 9th. Rev. W. E. McIntyre, B. A., is the principal.

SOOTY ACT vs. THANKSGIVING.

The town of Sussex has always had a union thanksgiving service on the day set apart for it. Last year the service, was largely attended, and no doubt was productive of good. Five of the clergymen of the town joined hands, and held service in one church. A large congregation resulted. Since that time one of these gentlemen has removed from the town, but the new pastor and two others who took part last year will conduct the service. Why do not the others take part as on former occasions is the question asked by many persons. The reason is obvious. When one of the reverend gentlemen read resolutions after a union prayer meeting last year three of the five clergymen present left the church before they were read. These gentlemen knew what the resolutions contained, and had expressed themselves unfavorably to them. But nothing daunted the resolutions were read, and the gentleman who framed and read them was charged with criminal libel. The case excited a good deal of interest, but ended in the person who framed the resolutions being acquitted. Of course this was an occasion for rejoicing and a big meeting was held in the hall, and a purse containing one hundred dollars presented to the defendant to help him defray expenses connected with the case. For not thinking the same as their brethren three of the ministers will conduct the service this year, instead of five.

ANOTHER WEEK WILL FINISH IT.

Moving a printing office is slow work. PROGRESS counting room is not in its new quarters yet but expects to be here another issue. The old offices on Germain street are still in evidence.

AN OFFICER'S FACE OUT

BY AN ENRAGED DALHOUSIE UNDERGRADUATE.

The Causes Which Led to the Action—The Lieutenant Slapped the Collegian in the Face for Insulting that He Struck a Cripple—Happiness Now Restored.

HALIFAX, Nov. 15.—The students of Dalhousie college and the garrison have always been friends in sporting matters. They do their best to defeat each other at football, but there is none of that intensity of feeling which marks the struggle between Wanderers and collegians. There is reason for congratulation that the unpleasant incident which occurred at the close of the match last week between the Wanderers and Garrison football teams will not mar this friendly feeling, for the two men specially interested have acted like thorough gentlemen, and in mutual regrets and mutual explanations have agreed to forget that the disagreeable episode occurred.

The dramatic person in the affair were Lieutenant Smith, R. E., of the Garrison football team, C. P. Fullerton, and a crowd of students and soldiers. The scene was outside the ropes at the close of the match on the Crescent grounds. Lieutenant Smith, R. E., came to the grounds in a bad humor, and no wonder, for it is said he was just in receipt of news from England that he had failed in an examination for promotion. His ill humor increased when he found that the game had begun, for he intended to be one of the players, and now, owing to his lateness in arriving, he had to become a mere spectator outside the ropes. Mr. Smith nursed his feelings till near the close of the game, when he saw a boy teasing the officer's dog, and then to relieve his feelings he shook the little fellow by the shoulders and pitched his cap over the fence. Mr. Smith did not notice that the boy's arm was broken, and that it was in splints and slings. But Dr. Currie's coachmen did, and he remonstrated with the officer. It was doubtless an awful thing for a coachman to utter such a protest against an officer, and Lieutenant Smith promptly slapped his face. A threat that the officer would be made to answer in the police court for his conduct was all the coachman did as he rubbed the place where the officer had struck him. The fracas did not end there, however. The crowd began discussing the affair, and Smith's name was frequently used. It was but a work of seconds, not minutes, when Lieutenant Smith rushed to Mr. Fullerton, and demanded the reason why he was taking liberties with his name. Mr. Fullerton is quick-tempered and though he denied the offence charged against him he added, very sarcastically, "But perhaps you'd like to strike me as you did the cripple." That was the spark to the gunpowder and it seemed to raise Smith's hand and bring it square across Fullerton's cheek. The student was just as prompt. He held a cane, and with that he dealt Smith a blow which fractured the cheek bone and made a ghastly cut under the eye. The officer was knocked out. The soldiers immediately made hue and cry and Surgeon-Captain Barefoot shouted: "Police, police, arrest that man!" He tugged at Fullerton's coat as if to give him in charge. It looked as though a free fight would be started, for the cry was raised "Dalhousie, Dalhousie," and a score of students surrounded the collegian and faced the gathering soldiers and friends of the officer. Further blows fortunately were avoided, the officer was removed to his quarters and Fullerton was escorted to his lodgings. There were rumors of arrest but nothing of the kind was contemplated. An ardent Dalhousie who practices law in New Glasgow, hearing of the threatened police court proceedings, telegraphed to the college that if any fine were inflicted on Fullerton he would pay it.

There was to be a match between Dalhousie and the Garrison on Saturday and it was a serious matter to decide what should be done, for Mr. Fullerton is one of the best forwards of the college and it was considered that it would be unwise for him to play unless some satisfactory understanding were arrived at with the military. Happily there was no occasion for uneasiness, for though afflicted with hot tempers, both officer and student are gentlemen. A calm discussion among friends of each showed that the officer was entirely in the wrong, and his regret for what he had so hastily done was only equalled by that of Mr. Fullerton, that when struck, he had not dropped his stick and used his fists. Lieutenant Smith and Dr. Fullerton met, mutual explanations, regrets and apologies were unchanged; the telegram from New Glasgow was taken down from the conspicuous place where it had been posted on the college walls, and friendship all round was once more established.

If all misunderstandings and mistakes were quickly settled in the honorable, gentlemanly way in which the trouble was

disposed of, it might often prevent many unnecessary heartburnings and petty feuds.

A BIG SLANDER SUIT.

In Which Two Harvey Parties Will Figure Prominently.

York and Westmorland county people are considerably exercised over the fact that a suit has been entered in the county court at Fredericton in January next in which a prominent doctor of that county and a well known farmer and store keeper are concerned. Both parties belong to Harvey Station.

Dr. B. N. Keith, the physician in question, is a native of Butternut Ridge, Kings county, and has many relations in that locality. He married Miss Maud Gray, daughter of P. J. Gray, the well known railway contractor, who also figures prominently in the suit.

Thomas Robinson, the plaintiff, is keeper of the grange store at Harvey station. He has filled the offices of school trustee, magistrate, and other parish offices, and has offered for county councillor. No man in his part of the county has more friends than "Tom," as he is called.

But to the story, the cause of the suit.

Robinson has entered a suit for libel or delation of character and all the other counts that usually attach to such a complaint.

Shortly after Doctor Keith was married, about eight years since, he removed from Westmorland county, where he was then practising his profession, to Harvey station. He was well received by the people, and having a certain amount of skill got a good practice and did well. He built a substantial dwelling and to all appearance was a happy and well doing man. But he was not the former, at least. There were troubles at home, in the family.

For some reason he and Mrs. Keith did not agree. There were quarrels so the neighbors say, and as the years went on these grew greater and became very frequent. But during the last fourteen months they have been unusually prevalent. The neighbors have heard much of the bickerings, and the quarrels became so frequent that they ceased to cause much comment. All the people were apparently on the side of Mrs. Keith, and it is a difficult matter indeed to find anybody who will or does charge her with wrong doing. So it is alleged in the complaint.

The doctor, whether jealous of his wife or not, has connected her name with that of Robinson in a way not complimentary to either and as soon as this came to the knowledge of Robinson there was trouble. The story is told that Keith in Robinson's barn, charged the latter as above alleged, and Robinson had some difficulty in refraining from striking the doctor. Robinson says that he was not hasty in the matter, that he told Keith that he would not proceed against him unless he had to; that if the story became public he would at once appeal to the courts. He said the statement was infamous, that Mrs. Keith was not a woman of that kind, and that the doctor should go home and try to behave himself and do better. Robinson thought that was the end of it. He knew the doctor was an obstinate man and that he often lost control of his temper, and he thought it was but a "word spoken in anger" and would soon blow over.

In a few days the town became alive with the rumors and then Robinson saw that to protect himself he must take legal steps. And he did so.

Among the stories told is that a detective was hired to watch the doctor's residence and that he has testified to the fact that one night when lying behind a fence watching the house during the doctor's absence, he saw a man come up to the window and talk to someone inside. After a few minutes, the visitor exclaimed "we are caught," and ran away. The detective, it is said, declares that he did not try to catch the man, that it was not what he was sent there for. All he had to do was to see some one go to the window and he did so. It is also said that other parties were placed to watch the house and that buckwheat meal was spread on the stairs and platform so that if any intruder appeared his tracks would be plainly seen.

Mrs. Keith went home and the partying was not such as usually occurs between the general run of men and their wives. In fact she has gone home several times and it is evident has tried to fulfill the marriage vow of "till death do us part," as well as she was allowed.

If the doctor believes that his wife has been unfaithful he is the only one who does so.

There are about thirty witnesses to be examined and the stories they will tell will be racy in the extreme, but they are all of the opinion that the doctor has no reason to make such charges against his wife. Harvey station is divided on the matter, the majority however favoring the wife and completely exonerating Robinson from all blame. It is not probable that Mr. and Mrs. Keith will again live together. The two boys, the fruit of their marriage, (Continued on Fourth Page.)

SPIKE'S PATENT MUZZLE.

HOW HE TRIED TO APPLY IT TO "PROGRESS."

By Serving Writs on the Halifax News Dealers—Mr. Percy Lear Follows his Example—"Progress" Ready for the Fry—The Fun is but Begun—Plenty of Facts.

Nine or ten newsdealers in Halifax have been passing through an experience this week. All of them have been presented with little slips of paper called writs because it is alleged that they sold PROGRESS which contained an expose of the doings and troubles of an individual named Spike. More than that, one of Mr. Spike's latest portraits in some way or other came into PROGRESS' possession and, engraved in the best style by its engraving bureau, found a place in the article. PROGRESS is not aware whether Spike was dissatisfied with his looks or his actions. Both were pictured in PROGRESS "true to life" and yet the owner is not happy. Instead he has pounced upon a lot of business men whom he suspects did, in the ordinary course of their business, sell this fearless newspaper, PROGRESS. He does not imagine for one moment that these newsdealers have anything against him—in fact he knows all of them well enough to be convinced to the contrary, but he seeks through them to aim a blow at the newspaper that exposed him. Certainly he and his astute attorney, C. Hudson Smith, are unique in their methods and their very course will be the biggest and best advertisement PROGRESS ever received in Halifax.

In the meantime, gaining a hint of what was likely to happen, PROGRESS wrote to each of the newsdealers asking that the matter be referred to the publisher who was prepared to prove all the paper had stated and a good deal more.

It may be worth while to go back for a little and recall what PROGRESS did say. Careful readers will remember that a few weeks ago a paragraph appeared in these columns stating that a gentleman of this city who owned considerable real estate in Halifax was represented by a man who collected a mortgage and failed to account for it to him, who did not give a release of the mortgage and who was found out after a long time by direct application for a release. This was absolute truth and but small part of it was stated. PROGRESS has in its possession the name of the party who paid the mortgage and is prepared to prove every line that appeared in its columns. More than that all of the delayed remittances of Mr. Spike for rents collected will be interesting evidence in the event of the trial of these newsdealer suits. The facts that PROGRESS printed were common property. The Halifax newspapers knew much about them but were not in a position to have the same exact information that PROGRESS possessed. If they had had that information, they could not have done their duty as newspapers and withheld it. But still more; Spike is associated with Short's insurance agency and the latter made certain charges against the former. A minor difference had already been in the court but that was nothing compared with what was behind. Spike himself acknowledged his shortcomings. These are solid facts—the evidences of which will be easily procured. Nobody knows this so well as Spike but he seeks to intimidate the people whom he alleges handle PROGRESS and thus hamper its sale in Halifax. What a job he has!

What a contract he will have to muzzle a live and fearless newspaper!

Why if every newsdealer in Halifax thought it in his interest not to handle PROGRESS, the paper would still be sold. Only last week there were a hundred applications direct from the city of Halifax alone. The supply was exhausted long before the demand was filled. It will probably be a consolation to Spike to know that his actions have such an attraction for the people.

But this is not the first suit for libel that Spike has brought in the same connection. The Sun of this city printed a few plain facts about him before the article appeared in PROGRESS, and Mr. Spike's attorney, a Mr. Morrison, wrote and demanded the name of the Sun's correspondent. The reply he received was that the name of the Sun's correspondent was the property of the newspaper, that he was reliable and reputable, carefully inquiring into his facts. Mr. Spike's request was not complied with. Then Mr. Morrison asked for the name of the Sun's attorneys and the information was furnished him so promptly that it took his breath away. At any rate no suit has been begun. But the Sun does not circulate in Halifax through newsdealers, to any extent, and so Mr. Spike was deprived of the satisfaction of annoying them on its account.

PROGRESS would have been much better satisfied had Mr. Spike brought his libel suit direct. No doubt he was not thinking of satisfying this paper but yet if he so wishes PROGRESS will try the suit out

with him provided he will give a bond for costs and in return for that the publisher of this paper will satisfy him and his attorney that if he gets a verdict it will be paid. If Mr. Spike accepts this challenge let him drop the suit against the newsdealers who sell all papers and who are not supposed to guarantee the truth of every paragraph in them.

But perhaps the most amusing part of the whole business was the issue of another writ at the instance of Mr. Percy Lear, who has caught the prevailing epidemic and wants satisfaction from the newsdealers. Perhaps PROGRESS statements were not full enough to satisfy Mr. Lear or can it be that he is dissatisfied with the fact that the portrait of his attractive better half was printed while his was not. This is truly a simple complaint and one that PROGRESS will try and remedy. It seems that Mr. Lear has confined himself to one agent and him PROGRESS will have much pleasure in defending. In fact PROGRESS has instructed all of those newsdealers who have been favored in this special manner that the publisher will engage the best counsel he can obtain and defend these suits.

The fun is not one sided nor is it ended yet by any means.

TURNED THINGS INSIDE OUT.

The Minister of Militia Calls General Herbert Down.

One of the most interesting incidents of the visit of the minister of militia has not been circulated in the current gossip of the day and it is too good a morsel to keep away from the public palate. It throws a strong side light on the present position of General Herbert as a culmination of his constant broils with the military men of Canada. Ever since he took charge of military affairs in Canada he has been very much in evidence and usually in connection with some disagreeable business.

This province has experienced this fact. The disbanding of the Fredericton military band and the removal of their instruments created quite a furore and there was rejoicing when this arbitrary act was reversed by the minister of militia and the instruments were returned. It was thereby shown that General Herbert was a subordinate person after all.

But this is not the incident referred to. In another instance on his trip here he reversed an order of General Herbert and accompanied his action by rewards which showed that the general's position was rather insecure.

It appears that when General Herbert was here some months ago on a tour of inspection he ordered Major Armstrong to remove all the guns from the different forts and store them.

When the minister of militia came here recently and talked with Major Armstrong he countermanded this order, telling him to leave the guns where they were. He also directed the major in future to take his orders from him, as he did not think that General Herbert would be in the service much longer. It would appear that the autocratic general is shorn of his authority and that he is shortly to be de-capitalized entirely.

Mr. Patterson also told Major Armstrong that he wanted to see flags flying from all the different forts every fine day and, if they hadn't them, he promised to send them from headquarters.

THESE NAMES SOUND ALIKE.

If all the curious and annoying errors that appear in newspapers, were collected what a volume they could make! PROGRESS contains its share of them and last week when a good citizen, Mr. Barclay Robinson saw his name figure in a sketch in this paper one of these errors became very pronounced to him. Newspaper men will get astray, sometime without excuse, and perhaps there is no excuse that will sound reasonable to the gentleman thus annoyed, that countermanded the name of Mr. Barry Robertson with his own. There was nothing in the sketch to offend even so particular a citizen as Mr. Robinson, but as he had no part whatever in the passing incident that furnished the material for the sketch, no one can blame him for wishing the error had not occurred.

WORKING UP A BIG CIRCULATION.

The Daily Record reminded its readers a few days ago that its issue for that day was 4,000 copies, more than 3,000 of which it said were to regular subscribers and purchasers while the rest were specimen numbers. The Record's stride is wonderful in the favor of the people, and by means of a unique scheme succeeded in placing it every night in nearly 2000 homes by its carrier boys alone. This is a remarkable delivery list. The Record carrier boys are more than 20 in number and yet all the city has not been canvassed. When it is, the assurance that the Record will have a splendid circulation, larger than that of any daily paper in these maritime provinces can readily be believed.

"Progress" is for sale in Fairville at Daniel Brophy's grocery.