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NEW ORLEANS, MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 19, 1853.

THE DAILY BEE.

Monday Morning, Dec. 19, 1853.

THE NORTHERN MAIL came through yesterday with the latest dates.

SPIRITUAL MANIFESTATIONS.

Through the courtesy of B. M. NORMAN, bookseller, we have been enabled to read Judge Edmonds's work on Spiritualism—or rather we should say the joint production of Judge EDMONDS and Dr. DEXTER, for it seems that we owe the communications from the world of spirits were chiefly addressed to the Judge, the Doctor acted as the medium, transcribing them as they were received. This book is one of the most extraordinary we have ever seen. It is a bulky volume of some six hundred pages, closely printed, except the introduction, with a metaphysical system purporting to emanate from the spirits of EMANUEL SWEDENBORG and FRANCIS BACON. To the wholly uninitiated it seems to him who has neither read any thing treating of Spiritual Manifestations, nor witnessed the operations of a "Circle," it is no easy matter to describe intelligibly the character and design of this publication. We shall never pretend to make the attempt.

The introduction is a narrative of the various events witnessed by Judge EDMONDS and Dr. DEXTER, by which they were finally changed from sneering sceptics to firm, earnest and school believers in spiritual intercourse with the spirit-world. This part of the volume is quite interesting, as it abounds in facts and incidents, which, whether they are deemed so, are, or hallucinations of a deranged mind, serve to perfection the elements of the marvellous and strange. Succeeding this introduction is the body of the work which embraces the whole revelations made through Dr. DEXTER, which it appears, is a writing medium—receiving communications touch as entire doctrine, a system of religious faith—of which the leading points would seem to be that the Creator is the general laws; that he has placed man on this earth as a temporary habitation, where he is to prepare himself for a future state of immortality; that the objects of the ALMIGHTY are all wise and beneficent, and his love for his creatures infinite; that our eternal happiness is within our own reach, and can be surely attained by the practice of the great laws of love—of love to our neighbor, love of God, love of virtue and purity, and hatred only of vice and crime; that the responsibility of the acts committed in the flesh will be in the direct ratio of our knowledge and capacity, thus realizing the scripture maxim that from him to whom much is given, much will be expected—that progression in the great law of the universe—Man must progress before he can hope for a more exalted and happier condition hereafter—if he fail here to obey the law his position after death will be made to suffer, his felicity impaired, and his progress in the sphere of mortal life so much retarded, after continued probation, he shall atone to himself from the stains of earthly sin and become fitted for the abode of angelic purity. In the usual sense of the term there is no such place as Hell—the punishment of the wicked being their exclusion from the spheres of bright and the serene and happy, and remorse by which they will be haunted, until sincere and earnest repentance shall elevate them beyond pain and misery. The whole human race are constantly progressing—either during life, or in transition, so that while its bring sorrow, conflict and sinfulness, the greatest sinner that ever lived will at some period, it may be cycles hence, be released from the thrall of impulses and passions, and be translated to a state where dwell the bright and happy spirits of the sinless. The doctrine of Christ—that death is a mere decay of the vital organism—that the spirit lives absolutely after we shall—off this mortal coil—assumes a condition and organization adapted to its nature and affinities. In dying, we live again, and while the periodic tenement of clay returns into dust, the immortal spirit which it enshrined, begins a new and eternal existence.

We have not had patience to read the entire work, but we have read enough to see that it is a book of no six hundred pages, and yet it is filled, except the introduction, with a metaphysical system purporting to emanate from the spirits of EMANUEL SWEDENBORG and FRANCIS BACON. To the wholly uninitiated it seems to him who has neither read any thing treating of Spiritual Manifestations, nor witnessed the operations of a "Circle," it is no easy matter to describe intelligibly the character and design of this publication. We shall never pretend to make the attempt.

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[COMMUNICATED]

CHARLES DAYKENS'S ADDRESS.

Mr. Editor:—I have just read from the journal of this address. At its close, the writer says, 'the believers every sentiment contained in it is strictly true, and can be judicially proved and invites the public to point out to him any error into which he may have fallen and he will cheerfully submit to retraction."

As the personal, not the political friend of Mr. Dunbar, I accept the invitation, disclaiming entirely any participation in the question of whether the address is just or unjust, correct or incorrect in its denunciation against the Democratic Convention or its Leaders for its nomination or support of Mr. Dunbar, that being a matter entirely foreign to the issue which I shall make with the author of the address: nor as a Whig would it suit my taste were I otherwise permitted to do so. Neither is this the time or place to discuss the question of whether Mr. Dunbar or himself received the highest number of legal votes polled at the late election—the author of the address having voluntarily avoided the submission of that question to the only tribunal competent to examine and decide this issue—I shall therefore only pretend to discuss that which he has himself withdrawn from proper investigation. But I cannot refrain from expressing my surprise and regret, that the author of this address, notwithstanding the lofty aimes and aspirations which he proposes to himself in his retirement and which he hopes to attain without sacrificing the character of the American gentleman," permitted himself to speak in the most disparaging terms of the talents, capacity and qualities of Mr Dunbar—and that too, when the qualifications of his successful competitor for congressional honors, could have no possible bearing on the question of Fraud or no Fraud, in the election held some weeks or months after his nomination. Mr. Dunbar was his rival—and unless upon a matter strictly essential to the point at issue, that fact alone, should have sealed his lips. The author of the address has, however, thought otherwise, yet, as it concerns of his position, he expresses *the hope* that the sketch he draws of his rival's obscurity and incapacity whether as Lawyer, Legislator or Judge, "will not be attributed to any malignity of disposition on his part."

Whether he merits the realization of *that hope*, should depend entirely upon the fidelity of his picture; and this, I will undertake to show is faulty and inaccurate as regards Mr. Dunbar in every essential particular.

At the *threshold* of his address, he tells, "*when our Judge Dunbar* [and what was the *merits that recommended him to the choice or even to the notice of the Convention*" &c., and then answers his own question thus.

"When it was announced that Mr. Dunbar was the nominee of the Convention, a fair individuals I remembered to have had come to New Orleans a few twenty years ago, and had pledged so obscurely at the bar that he had found it to his interest to remove to the Parishes of Opelousas, as a smaller theatre where his aspirations would be less subject to critical competition. I was in the election district, from that remote section of the State, he was chosen, or twice, sent to the Legislature then sitting in New Orleans; but the report which he produced in his day of fitted to awake public attention, and it would require very active exertion to discover, within the breadth and length of the first Congressional District, one solitary individual who could say that to him the *Legislator* had ever remained so unknown as the *lawyer*. Such was the compass of the district I acquired by Mr. Dunbar, when, on the 8th of July 1852 he was appointed to fill a vacancy which had occurred on the Supreme Bench of the District by the death of Judge Preston of the Parish of Jefferson."

And further on (at page 5) the address continues:

"Mr. Dunbar was not elected to the Bench, but, under the appointment given him by Governor Walker, also vacated under the act of the Supreme Juters, from the first Monday of November, 1852, to 25th of April, 1853. His performance these functions in the interim, and during the rest of his term, more extensively known thereto, personally, or as a judge, than as a lawyer, or as a legislator. As he had the reputation of a sound lawyer, it was expected that, during the six months he acted as judge, he would have ample and some opportunity of displaying, in some important legal decision, the so far concealed treasures of a powerful mind. But, generally, he seemed satisfied with modestly regarding in the opinion of his colleagues, and the few cases in which, the Supreme Court, it was not his overruling for any profound or learned; nor any eloquence of diction."

Now, what are the facts? It is well known that some twenty years ago or more, Mr. Dunbar emigrated from Virginia to Louisiana, with the reputation of being a legal attainments—he applied himself after his arrival at New Orleans to the study of the civil law, and by the aid of his friends, was enabled to qualify himself in the Red River country,—where he soon rose to eminence and distinction in the practice of his profession throughout the greater part of that extensive region—he settled at Alexandria, at which place, then and for many years after, appeals, from the whole State, on appeal that was tried in New Orleans and Opelousas, were tried—its bar boasted its Rost, its Bullard—Thomas Winn—Brent—Boyce—Lewis—Campbell—Elmore—Hunter—the Prince Orleans—Amidst this galaxy, Mr. Dunbar enjoyed no second position. If the author of the address would consult the legal history of the times and the volumes of the decisions of the Supreme Court, his sense of justice, would revoil from his unmerited attack.

The address is equally unjust in its history of Mr Dunbar's legislative career—It is well known that in 1839 and 1840 Mr. Dunbar represented the parish of Rapides in the State Legislature—that he was chairman of the Judiciary Committee (with such lawyers as Lewis—Winfield—Campbell—Clapp) which is a rather onerous and the record will show that besides his full participation in the legislation of those stirring times, he introduced many very important bills. It is well remembered, that probably, the best constitutional argument made before the Legislature of 1840 emanated from his sagacity and wakeful mind—I allude particularly to his speech on the 16th of January, against governor Roman's veto of several internal improvement bills—and another on the 5th February, against the resolutions, calling upon Congress to repeal the Naturalization Laws. I might three out for their marked ability as sound constitutional arguments

It is not improbable that the author's "indistinct recollection of Mr Dunbar being once or twice sent to the Legislature," may arise from the fact that he was himself then sojourning in Europe—where, it is said, he retired for several years, after resigning the high distinction of representing the Sovereignty of his native State in the Senate of the United States—The author will be willing to admit, he could hardly sensational honors at Washington—the glowing eloquence of a Clay, the constitutional love of a Webster, the unpopular love of a Calhoun, in the Halls of the assembled wisdom of a Nation, could find no memory for the minor spirits who succeeded in their sphere in the old Crescent City in New Orleans, under the lead of "a plodding lawyer from the remote region of Red River." *In this rehearsal recollection*, the author is excusable, but he *errs* in substituting *his own opinions* of the public men and public events of that day, *as the public opinion of Louisiana*.

If I am in error as to the date of his sojourn in Europe, his want of a proper knowledge of the great facts is less excusable, as the hospitable house of the Dunbars has been for years in his custody as Secretary of State.

The result for the author's knowledge of Mr. Dunbar as a lawyer or legislator, and it remains to examine whether his knowledge of him as a Judge rests on any more solid foundation.

He has attempted to blast the fame that he owed his appointment to the benchmarkly to the fact, that it was proper to appoint gentlemen from the country to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Judge Preston. Inasmuch as the other three judges of the Supreme Court were considered as being appointed from the city. He forgets that Judge Preston of the city had been appointed by Gov. Walker, whilst Judges Eustis and Slidell were incumbents on the bench, and that Judge Preston was first of the appointment of a *man from the country*, existed only in the imagination of the author of the address—in truth, Mr. Dunbar received the recommendation of the New Orleans Bar, and was appointed by Gov. Walker, because he knew intimately his merits as a man and his ability as a lawyer.

In the above extract from the address, whilst charging Mr. Dunbar with incapacity, the author adds *sarcasm* for the first time that "*he had the reputation of possessing talent*"—Can I be mistaken in the fact that the address contradicts itself? what is reputation? I have always been taught to understand it to mean "*a favorable public opinion*," and yet, but a few pages previous the address denies this totally to Mr. Dunbar. But I will waive the just criticism and proceed further with the address.—It condemns Mr Dunbar's opinions as not "*remarkable for elegance of diction*!" Even were this granted for the sake, to the classic ears of his author, I am yet to learn that the possession of this accomplishment so gracefully to the cause of Romance, is a qualification essential to the efficacious discharge of the highest judicial functions.

Again, the author of the address, forgets that judge Dunbar sat on the bench from the first Monday of September, 1852, to the first Monday of November, in the "remote region" of Opelousas, Red River and Ouachita, and there delivered many opinions in addition to those at New Orleans. Mr. Dunbar's opinions of these decisions has not been given by the Reporter to the public, hence, generally, it cannot well decide whether the author's opinion of Mr. Dunbar as a judge, is entitled to any more weight, than his estimate of him as a lawyer or legislator.

If the public, on a point of such importance, is to assume the mere *ipse dixit* of the author of the address, it should be in possession of *somebody's evidence of his* career in the legal profession, to entitle it to a decision. If such evidence exists, it must be sought elsewhere, than in the published jurisprudence of the State, or it cannot be found. Neither in Law or Jurisprudence not yet given to the public.

And yet the author of the address has recently made the discovery, until now unknown to the bar or people of Louisiana, that Mr. Dunbar possesses no capacity for the proper discharge of the highest judicial functions.

The author of the address, not satisfied with impugning Mr. Dunbar's legal, legislative and judicial career, attempts, in no measured terms, to create an erroneous impression of prejudice in relation to his tastes, to being a sportsman, and *by taste* so, of the French language, was old Judge Dunbar's acquaintance with the French language well, and has for years been quietly quoted in open Court the best French legal authority in the original, (so every lawyer knows they are not translated.) His personal diction may be defective, a fault common to all who do not acquire a foreign language in their youth. It may be from this fact that Mr. Dunbar never expresses himself in a foreign tongue when his native English will answer the purpose. Thus the author of the address, mistaking Mr. Dunbar's good sense and simplicity, characterizes them as ignorance and want of taste.

I will now take leave of the subject. I trust I have fully performed the task of vindicating a friend, without having any intention to the author of the address, of his legitimate achievements I entertain a high respect, and I take this opportunity to add, that I sincerely wish him a lucrative damage in the unfinished and recomplete of those labors which he proposes, in his address, to undertake for the benefit of his future citizens and the credit of his native State.

A MEMBER OF THE EXTREME BAR.

Riverdene, Dec. 18.

[*Editor of THE BEE*.—Mr. Dunbar's friend, the author.—The Harpers Address which has been the subject of your remarks, was delivered, and published in the Harpers Weekly, and distributed in the parishes in small quantities, and in the Bee, and published in the Bee, and published in the Bee, and published