

envelope *in exactly the same manner*. What a strange coincidence! This shows that this is a stock trick of theirs and is performed for most subjects. *The mode of operation is exactly the same in each case*. This fact alone shows that it is a trick.

It will be noted that one letter was signed, "per E. D. G." The recipient does not know any one whom these initials would indicate. Had the mediums' notes of information been more complete, or had they accidentally hit upon other initials, this might have been cited as a most convincing test.

I will not take up further space with my explanations; but I simply assure my readers that if any of them will take their own canvas with them, and *never let it out of their hands or sight*, they will get no picture.

OMAHA, NEB.

DAVID P. ABBOTT.

"A PUZZLING CASE."

To the Editor of The Open Court:

I am glad that your correspondent, R. W. M., was satisfied with Mr. Abbott's reply to "A Puzzling Case." It was highly satisfactory to me also; for like the man of good judgment and good sense that he is he declined to give an opinion upon something which, personally, he knew nothing about. Undoubtedly he believes that could he have witnessed the same performance, he could have detected trickery in it. But if he could not it would by no means follow that no trickery was practiced. True, I could detect none, and I am far from being the novice in such investigations that R. W. M. seems to suppose. My experience began, like his, in 1851-2, at a time when Broadway, New York, was flooded with three-cornered signs, each bearing the legend of "Spiritual Manifestations, Admission 25 cents." After two or three visits I was able to rap the raps and tip the tables with the best of them—especially when the sitters' questions were put with the rising inflection until the right one was indicated by a downward inflection of the voice. As thus: Was it one year? (no), three years? (no), four years! (yes). But when the sitting was over I always claimed it to be a humbug and showed how it was done.

O. O. BURGESS.

A SPIRITUALIST'S VIEW.

To the Editor of The Open Court:

I have been reading with interest in your magazine Mr. Abbott's "Half Hours with Mediums." These papers are excellent and needed to put people on their guard against imposture and will no doubt be welcomed by all true spiritualists.

What Mr. Abbott has elsewhere said upon the subject of spiritualistic phenomena I do not know. But in these articles he discusses the subject only upon one plane, that of magic and jugglery. And to conclude from these expositions that the sound of no footfall on the other side of the border has ever reached us would be a great mistake.

The experiences that justify the paramount claim of spiritualism are widespread and multiform. Spirit manifestation is not wholly foreign to the Old Testament, and something very like it holds an important place in the New. Many a family to-day has its border-land secret to reveal confidentially. What my parishoners told me of these mysterious occurrences in