



Truth wears no mask, bows at no human shrine, seeks neither place nor applause: she only asks a hearing.

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No. 14

LINCOLN IN THE SEANCE ROOM.

WASHINGTON, D. C., October 31, 1885.

Col. J. O. Bundy, Chicago, Ill.:

DEAR SIR:—I have been requested by your friend, Mr. C. O. Poole, to make a statement in writing regarding what I know of visits, etc., by President Lincoln, at my father's house for investigation of Spiritualism.

My father, the late Cranston Laurie, was a well known and leading Spiritualist for many years prior to his death, all of which time he resided in or near the city of Washington, and was a clerk in the United States post office, holding the especial office of statistician. My mother and sister were mediums. About the commencement of the year 1862, my father became personally acquainted with late President Abraham Lincoln, and my belief is that through my father's influence, the President became interested in Spiritualism. I have very often seen Mr. Lincoln at my father's house engaged in attending circles for spiritual phenomena, and generally Mrs. Lincoln was with him. The practice of attending circles by Mr. Lincoln at my father's house continued from early in 1862, to late in 1863, and during portions of the time such visits were very frequent. This was especially the case after the President's son Willie died. I remember well one evening when Nettie Colburn, a medium, was present, Mr. Lincoln seemed very deeply interested in the proceedings and asked a great many questions of the spirits.

I have on several occasions seen Mr. Lincoln at a circle at my father's house, so much

influenced, apparently by spiritual forces, that he became partially entranced, and I have heard him make remarks while in that condition, in which he spoke of his deceased son Willie, and said that he saw him. I have on several occasions seen Mr. Lincoln take notes of what was said by mediums. At one circle, I remember that a heavy table was being raised and caused to dance about the room by what purported to be spirits. Mr. Lincoln laughed heartily and said to my father, "Never mind, Cranston, if they break the table, I will give you a new one." On one occasion, I remember well of hearing my father ask Mr. Lincoln, if he believed the phenomena he had witnessed was caused by spirits, and Mr. Lincoln replied, that he did so believe. This was on a Sunday evening late in 1862. I fix the time by the fact that I was injured the same evening by a runaway horse. In 1862, I was fifteen years of age. My father moved from Washington to a place in the country outside the city late in 1863.

J. C. LAURIE.

Sworn to and subscribed }
before me this 1st day }
of November, 1885.

THEODORE MUNGER,
U. S. Commissioner.