



adelma von vay



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## **MATERIALISATIONS IN AUSTRIA**

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Prispevki k odkrivanju zgodovine ezoteričnih tradicij - v izvorniku

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We have just been having at our house at Gonobitz, some very promising beginnings in the way of materialisations, a brief report of which may not be without interest to the readers of *The Spiritualist*. Mrs. Pucher, the medium through whom the manifestations occurred, was for many years a resident in this place, whence, a short time since, on the death of her husband she removed to Grätz.

A year ago she began sitting with me regularly, for development. We continued our sittings for six months, by which time the raps came promptly and constantly at every sitting, responding intelligently and satisfactorily to our queries, and giving the name of "Constant" as the attendant spirit of Mrs. Pucher, by whose invisible agency they were produced. On the occasion of a brief return of Mrs. Pucher to Gonobitz, a week or two since, ray guides wrote that "under proper conditions materialisations would now take place in her presence." We accordingly arranged for the experiment.

The space between the two doors of a double partition was made to do temporary duty as a cabinet. The medium took her seat in the narrow interval, the inner door being tightly closed, while the outer one was left open a few inches. The lamp was then removed from the room and so placed that only a faint light was permitted to enter. Very soon luminous moving patches began to appear at and beyond the edge of the door left ajar. These came and went several times, taking more distinctly at each reappearance the shadowy outline of hands, which seemed as if beckoning to us. Meantime the medium was quite unconscious of what was taking place, having fallen into a trance sleep almost immediately on being left in her rather close quarters. At last after the spectral hands had been distinctly and repeatedly seen by all present, suddenly Mrs. Pucher pushed open the door and came out quite bewildered, saying that she had been thrust from her chair; and with this unceremonious exit the first experiment closed. Gratified by the result, we continued the trial during the remainder of Mrs. Pucher's stay, which allowed us four more sittings.

The second evening a hand appeared farther beyond the opening; and the outline of an arm was quite distinctly added. The effect was repeated a number of times, each appearance continuing about the

fourth of a minute, the movements seeming as if directed by an unseen intelligence. The medium was again quite unconscious during the manifestations.

The third evening quite a large luminous patch appeared for several seconds towards the top of the opening, but did not seem to assume any recognisable shape. Afterwards a darker tall form stood for a few seconds in the opening, but did not come out.

The next evening, after the moving lights and hands had been again repeatedly visible, suddenly a hand and arm came forth, quite luminous, and then another hand a little behind the first, and in a moment or two more a form, materialised from the knees upwards, stood out beyond the opening so distinct, that, before I said anything, a lady near me grasped my hand exclaiming, "Ein Neger." The light from the luminous hands seemed thrown upon the face to bring it more distinctly into view; and the turban and the Moorish costume of the figure wore no less distinct and characteristic. The startling apparition continued, probably, fifteen or twenty seconds, and then was gone. Through a written communication the same evening, it reported itself as "Constanz," the medium's attendant spirit; and, in a subsequent communication, he told us that he had been a Moorish slave in the service of a Hungarian nobleman, had embraced Christianity, and had received at his baptism the name by which he now announced himself.

After the disappearance of the Moor, the dark form (apparently) of the preceding evening, reappeared, and soon broke the outline of a female figure in the attire of a nun, who, the spirits afterwards wrote, was a certain "Madelein," whose name had been spelled out by the raps an evening or two before, as a spirit present, for whom our prayers were asked. On coming out of the cabinet this evening the medium observed that we had had nothing this time. Each evening, after taking her place, she was noticed to cough a few times, and then to pass into complete unconsciousness, on rousing from which she always hurriedly pushed open the door and reentered the room. The last evening we had nothing but the moving lights again, one of which, near the close, took the form of a star and lingered with a soft, beautiful radiance, nearly half a minute.

All these manifestations were witnessed by Miss Louisa Mostin and Miss Mary Treffer of Grätz, and a gentleman from America, as well as by myself and my husband.

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