



adelma von vay



Emily Kislingbury

A DREAM PICTURE

Related by Adelma von Vay

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Prispevki k odkrivanju zgodovine ezoteričnih tradicij - v izvirniku

Miss Kislingbury sends the following information: —

AN AUSTRIAN OFFICER GIVES WAR NEWS TO THE BARONESS VAY DURING THE SLEEP OF HIS BODY — A DREAM PICTURE

To the Editor of "The Spiritualist."

SIR, — One of the most remarkable instances known to me of the power of the spirit to quit the body during sleep is one recorded by the Baroness von Vay in her *Studies from the Spirit World*. Although it has been already quoted in the review of that work published in your journal, your readers will perhaps forgive my repeating it in connection with the facts now under consideration: —

During the Austro-German war in 1866, a cousin of the Baroness, called W—, who was in the campaign, professed continually to give accounts of himself through the hand of the medium while his body was asleep, which accounts always agreed with subsequent letters received from him by the Baroness. On the 1st July W—'s spirit wrote, "We have had a great battle. I am well, but so tired." On the 6th a letter came by post from W—, dated July 2nd, "We expect a decisive battle to-morrow. I have a feeling that I shall not escape, but do not fret about me; my trouble will soon be over." A day or two afterwards W—'s name appeared on the official list of those slain in the battle of Königgrätz, which took place on the 3rd July. On the 9th, however, W—'s spirit again wrote: "I assure you I am not dead. I came safely through the fearful battle of Königgrätz! do not doubt my words; I will write you a letter in the flesh shortly."

Three days later the Baroness received a letter from her cousin, dated July 11th: "God and the good spirits protected me in that frightful carnage; thousands fell; 460 privates in our battalion, and two officers."

The following is a personal experience of my own. Shortly before Christmas last year, a friend who had been some time abroad wrote to me to say he should be in London on a certain date, and I might expect to see him within few days of his arrival. Ten days elapsed, and my friend neither came nor wrote. I sent him two letters without effect. Then came the fearful railway accident at Shipton Bridge,

and I began to be tormented with fears for my friend's safety. My mind had been much troubled all day, and at night relief came to me in a dream, or vision. While asleep I saw myself in a room at work, and on raising my head perceived my friend standing in the doorway in his hat and overcoat. He did not speak, and the picture soon vanished; but I rose in the morning with a feeling that all was well, as was proved by a letter received in the evening of that day.

I call this a dream-picture, as distinct from an ordinary dream, in which action and conversation take place, and which is generally incongruous and confused, and leaves afterwards but a vague impression. The dream-picture is a tableau, clear and vivid, appears but for a moment, but remains indelibly impressed upon the mind. I have seen three such in my life—one symbolical, one possibly prophetic, and one, this last, apparently real. I can never forget them, whereas of dreams, ordinarily so called, I have not one distinct recollection. It seems to me more probable that these were scenes presented to the mind by some direct spiritual agency, rather than the action of a distant mind, or of one which had left a sleeping body. Certainly the two first cases to which I have alluded come under this head; the third cannot be tested, because it was impossible for me to know at what hour in the night I saw my friend, though it is most probable that he was also asleep at the time. He did not, however, suspect my anxiety, having written to me of his change of plan at an address which I had left during the week. It would be consoling to me to know that, though not a seeing medium in my waking state, it may yet be possible to receive mental impressions in so vivid manner, if one could only rely upon their truthfulness. But here's the rub!

EMILY KISLINGBURY