



adelma von vay



Emily Kislingbury

CONTINENTAL MEDIUMS

Related by Adelma von Vay
The Spiritualist, May 7 1875, p. 227

Prispevki k odkrivanju zgodovine ezoteričnih tradicij - v izvirniku

SIR, — The following is an extract from a letter from the Baroness von Vay, which she requests that you will kindly publish in your next number.

“Now I must tell you bad news. Warned by my guides, we made the sad discovery that Mrs. Pucher cheated us. You will remember the accounts of manifestations in the cabinet which were published a short time back. In the beginning, when the full form and the arms appeared, she would not, *could* not, deceive us; but later, when we had full confidence in her, she became possessed by bad spirits, and began to cheat. My guides told me one evening, that she was imitating the spirit light, simply by means of a white handkerchief. We immediately tried it; the room was half dark, and lo, there was the same effect, but *no arms* and *no figure*, only the light beckoning and nodding. We invited the woman to our house, telling her nothing. First, we put her into a closed bag; nothing occurred; we then tried without a bag, and this light came. My cousin, Count G. Wurmbrand grasped the light, and held Mrs. Pucher’s handkerchief in his hand. It is very sad that the first medium for physical phenomena was so misled by bad spirits. When she began to cheat, the good spirits left her, and bad ones possessed her. These bad spirits cannot produce the physical phenomena; they can do nothing, so they instigate their mediums to practice deception.

“There is a committee consisting of the first gentlemen and professors in Vienna, who would like to see good physical phenomena. We wish very much that Mr. Williams could come to us; we are in strong need of such *seances* as his.”

I cannot refrain from remarking that this incident, in conjunction with others which have occurred lately, appears to me to open up the very serious question of the responsibility of mediums, exposed as they are to seemingly irresistible influences, both from the spiritual and the material side. They are the sport of the sitters, as well as the spirits, and are besides susceptible to atmospheric and hygienic conditions. Even the best guides appear not always to have power to shield their mediums from evil influences.

What is the power of prayer under such circumstances? Does it always avail?

EMILY KISLINGBURY.