A REVIEW OF THE "SPIRITUAL MANIFESTATIONS"

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A Review of the "Spiritual Manifestations" by Charles Beecher

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READ BEFORE THE

CONGREGATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK AND BROOKLYN.

BY

CHARLES BEECHER,



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INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

The Congregational Association of New York and Brooklyn, in order to increase "the interest and usefulness of associational meetings," are wont to assign topics, having either a general or a professional interest, to selected members of the body, upon each of which a paper is prepared, and read at the ensuing semi-annual meeting. These papers serve to introduce an informal and fraternal discussion, in which all may participate. The original "minute" provides that these exercises be: (1.) "An answer to some question in theology; (2.) A review of some published work, or some existing controversy; (3.) An exegesis of some passage of Scripture."

In accordance with this usage, both the author and the subject of the following review were selected; and in its present form the review was read at the spring-meeting of the Association, April, 1853.

The author desires it to be distinctly understood that the Association is in no sense responsible, either for the sentiments or the publication of this review. At the same time, it is proper to say that the members of the Association, as individuals, both those who agreed with, and those who dissented from the conclusions of the author, thought it altogether proper that the paper should be published, as a contribution towards the sober investigation of a subject which has gained such indisputable notoriety.

No further explanations seem to be demanded by a work so unpretending as the following. It is so brief that its scope and character can be more easily ascertained by reading it, than by any outline description the author might affix to it in the shape of extended preface.

New York, April, 1858.

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