October 2015

Walter Franklin Prince Correspondence

Walter Franklin Prince 1863-1934

Calvin B. Braganza

Henry Ernest Dunnack 1867-1938
Maine State Library

Marion Cobb Fuller
Maine State Library

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PRINCE, Walter Franklin

Detroit, Maine, April 22, 1863—
Boston, Mass., August 7, 1934
August 9, 1929

Mr. Dunnack:

Dear Mr. Dunnack:

I forgot your request, and am writing to remind you of my promise to send for your collection copies of my works as soon as we are available. When I get back to the office, and the first time I think of it (when will that be?) I will have this done.

I expect that it took quite a diplomat to write me with promising to send photographs? I fancy me with photographs of the places connected with your history, Revolutionary era, etc., as though I were Napoleon or Caesar. But a promise is a promise, and the result is on your head. At least the first installment. On the backs of these photographs you will find what they are.

Sincerely yours,

Walter Franklin Prince

I am enclosing what you probably have already, a photograph of Arthur Ward's birthplace and early home, in Waterford, Maine. Taken by me in July, 1929.
August 19, 1929.

Mr. Walter Franklin Prince,
346 Beacon Street,
Boston, Massachusetts.

Dear Mr. Prince:

Your letter of August 9 together with the photographs gave me very great pleasure. I shall await with keen anticipation the arrival of the items you are to send me for the Maine Author Collection.

The response we are receiving from authors who were born in Maine is very encouraging. I am very sure the day will come when the people of Maine will be proud of this collection of books, written by men and women born in the state of Maine, and will be grateful to the authors for their generous gifts.

Very truly yours,

HD/f
Dr. Walter Franklin Prince,
346 Beacon Street,
Boston, Massachusetts.

My dear Dr. Prince:

Thank you for your generous and extremely interesting contribution to our Maine Author Collection. One of the charms of the completed collection will be the great variety of the books included in it, and the books which you have sent us add a distinctly new note to the collection as it is at present. Thank you, also, for the gracious and flattering inscriptions which you have added to the books.

I hope that it will not be long before our cherished collection may be housed in a room befitting its interest and value.

You have made us feel that you are genuinely interested in our project. We trust that this interest will continue, and that you will have us in mind when additional books by you are published.

Very truly yours
October 10, 1929

Dr. W. Franklin Prince,  
346 Beacon Street,  
Boston, Massachusetts;-

My dear Dr. Prince;-

Thank you for the two additional items which we received today for our Maine Author Collection. We are glad that you are interested in the Collection. It is one of our most cherished projects, and we are always delighted when Maine authors respond, as you have done, to our requests for contributions to it.

Very truly yours,

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY MCF
Mr. Tom E. Dunmack
State Librarian
State House, Augusta, Maine

Mr. Dunmack:

Last Sunday I spent an enjoyable hour or so at the home of Dr. Mary Forrest Tobart, Needham, Mass., looking over a diary conceived from the great-great-grandmother, Mrs. Bullard. The diary is in two manuscript volumes, together some three or four inches in thickness. Mrs. Bullard lived in Augusta, and I do not remember just when she began the diary - somewhere from 1760 to 1790 I think, and closed it, evidently, just before her death, in 1812. She was a midwife by profession, and had in that true nearly a thousand cases - seems to have had calls turning direction for miles around Augusta. There are also many entries, illustration, and description of the life of the times, household matters, the farm, country goings and comings, public events referred to, the meeting house and the sermons, etc., etc. It seems to have a valuable record, and I wondered if you seeing its existence, this summer, I hope to make many notes from it.

Best wishes, and sincerely yours,

Walter Franklin Prince
December 13 1929

Dr. Walter Franklin Prince,
The Boston Society for Psychic Research,
346 Beacon Street,
Boston, Massachusetts.

My dear Dr. Prince;-

Thank you very much for the valuable and interesting information in regard to Mrs. Ballard's "Diary." The "Diary" is mentioned in North's "History of Augusta," but I had no idea of its present location. Could Dr. Hobart be persuaded to let the library have the "Diary," do you think? I shall write her about it but perhaps your persuasive powers will have more effect than mine. When you see Dr. Hobart will you suggest that valuable manuscripts are safer in the Maine State Library, where there is a safe for the adequate protection of valuable documentary material, than in a home?

I greatly appreciate the interest which you have in the library, as shown by your correspondence and your generous contributions to our Maine Author Collection, and I trust that I shall continue to hear from you.

MCF
Mr. H. E. Dunnack  
State Library  
Augusta, Maine

Dear Mr. Dunnack:

Before receiving your letter I had obtained from Dr. Hobart her consent that the diary could be lent to the Maine State Library if for the purpose of copying it or collating extracts from it. It would not be lent for an indefinite period but for such a period as would be reasonably necessary. I think that she would have ventured to send it by express, if I had requested this, but I advised her to wait until I personally go to Maine in order that I may carry it safely in my own hands, unless I and book together are smashed in a railroad accident. It is too valuable a record to undergo any avoidable risk. I did suggest to Dr. Hobart that the best place in the world for the safe keeping and valuation of the diary would be the Maine State Library. She has unfortunately, I think already given her relative to understand that he will receive it, but I expect to impress upon her the greater value that it would have in the Maine State Library and sometime she may possibly so arrange, but I doubt it, and I think that a copy of it should in any case be obtained for fear it might become destroyed by fire.

If the plan I suggest is satisfactory to you, please let me know. Particularly, if you could arrange to have a copy made, either in full or in its most important parts — tho I should think you would want every word of it — during the summer months of next year, let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Walter Franklin Prince

[Signature]
December 23, 1929

Dr. Walter Franklin Prince,
346 Beacon Street,
Boston, Massachusetts.

My dear Dr. Prince:

Your letter of December 16th gave us very great pleasure. I quite agree with you that this valuable document should be copied without regard to where the original is to remain. Of course we wish it might be in the State Library. Then it would be at the disposal of anyone who wished to look at it, and yet would be in safe keeping. As soon as it reaches us we will have it copied so that at least it will be preserved for the future.

I shall look forward with keen anticipation to the time when you place the manuscript in our hands. It will be copied as soon as received, and returned to you or to Dr. Hobart as requested.

Very truly yours

(H. E. D.)

HD/S
March 19th, 1930.

Mr. H. E. Dunnack,
State Librarian,
Augusta, Maine.

Dear Mr. Dunnack:

In further fulfilment of my promise I send you a funny article which contains a reference to me. Of course I did not and do not undertake to send a copy of every scrap that mentions me, but this has a little spice in it, which I suppose you want along with the other components of your biographical compounds.

Sincerely yours,

Walter Franklin Prince
Mr. H. E. Dunnack  
State Librarian  
Augusta, Maine  

March 19th, 1930  

Dear Mr. Dunnack:

In further fulfilment of my promise I send you a funny article which contains a reference to me. Of course I did not and do not undertake to send a copy of every scrap that mentions me, but this has a little spice in it, which I suppose you want along with the other components of your biographical compounds.

Sincerely yours,

Walter Franklin Prince, Ph. D.
CHAMBER OPENS EYES TO 'OCCULT'

Plans for World Congress
In Boston This Year Are
On Ragged Edge

PSYCHIC MAGNATE
STILL CHEERFUL

By M. J. ROSENAU, JR.

In the name of "Pro Bono Publico," the convention appears on various lists and prospectuses of Tercentenary events. It is called to organize "all believers in the cause of occultism, mysticism, psychism, metaphysics, theosophy, etc., into a gigantic body for protection against mushroom ones, impostors, quacks and swindlers that read and advise the public in a way that brings diaplete upon the Conscious Ones."

POWER BEHIND THRONE

The name of the secretary of the "World's Occult Congress Convention" as it appears on his personal letterhead. Yesterday it was discovered that the power behind the throne, the director, founder and secretary of the Astro-Psychic Research Society of Boston, which sponsors the convention, is Prof. Calvin B. Braganza, Ph. D., D. M., Sci. D.

In his combination headquarters, office, home and spiritual sanctuary at 65 Westland avenue, Prof. Braganza modestly admitted that he is the author of the invitations, as president of the National and International Association of Occult, Psychic, New Thought and Metaphysicians and Mystic Stars; as president and dean of the Universal Occult College of Washington, D. C.

Self-styled "The celebrated and famous psychologist, astrologer, numerologist, biographer, crystal seer, psychic and Prince of Mystics." Prof. Braganza presented his credentials for inspection. The "credentials" he showed were a flood of literature touting the advantages of the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, North shore hotels, a Boston-New York steamship line, letters from newspapers soliciting advertising and personal letters from officials thanking him for unsolicited advice.

Tentative plans for the convention include: Prof. Braganza stated, a series of lectures, meetings, demonstrations, prize competitions, outings, banquets, public and private meetings, many of which will be open to the general public. But, he lamented, the World's Occult Congress Convention has not fared too well.

ONLY MEAGER RESPONSE

"There have only been a meager response to the 6000 invitations I sent out," he admitted. "For the simple reason they are afraid to face the music. Many are fly-by-night seers and seers, but we now rely upon the International New Thought Alliance of Washington, D. C., with members everywhere, and the metaphysical clubs and a few reliable readers.

"From Boston I believe there will be about 1500 reputable scientists. From the outside, I don't expect more than 1000, but I have many acceptances from believers in the occult from London, France, Europe, Africa, India and Australia. From almost every state in the union."

But the professor declined to show any of the letters indicating acceptance of his invitations. Instead, he trotted out an endless chain of occult magazines and daily newspapers, displaying his advertisements therein. Of one letter, he was very proud. It is inscribed from the United States Senate, dated June 22, 1920, as follows:

"Permit me to thank you for your most interesting letter of June 20. "I have met some weird things in my life, but I never saw anything more weird than this." Dr. Prince exclaimed after perusing the literature and examining the claims of the professor. "Why, this is ridiculous in the face of it. He expects 6000 spiritualists, does he? Well, he may get 25 cranks to his convention."

The many degrees and diplomas which Prof. Braganza displayed, Dr. Prince explained, are the sort anyone may purchase for $10 from diploma mills. The "cum laudes," he said, come extra.

"In the very shadow of the nation's capitol," he declared, "there are as many as 15 such colleges established. They call themselves universities, anything, and sell diplomas without examination. They even sell degrees as doctor of divinity or doctor of law. It is the shame of the country."

In June, 1928, mystics in five continents began receiving invitations to attend the convention of the world's occult congress. To date, a total of 6000 circulars and invitations have penetrated the four corners of the earth to inform "delegates, practicing speculators, etc., that the Astro-Psychic Research Society of Boston is sponsoring the occult convention to convene in Boston in the month of June, and later from Aug. 23 to Sept. 6, inclusive."
March 29, 1930.

Walter Franklin Prince, Ph.D.,
The Boston Society for Psychic Research,
346 Beacon Street,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Prince:

It was certainly very nice of you to send us the article dealing with "Professor Calvin B. Braganza". Just how these fellows succeed in fooling so many people is beyond any ordinary person's comprehension. The public, however, enjoys it, and I expect that no great harm is done.

I was present at the Republican State Convention yesterday in Bangor. Had a fine chat with your brother. We patted each other on the back, he a little more enthusiastically of course, over the fact that you just received such great honors. Anyway our congratulations were genuine because we were both mightily pleased.

Very truly yours,
Dear Mr. Dunnack:

It sounds like mythology— that about my brother showing enthusiasm because of
my election to the presidency of the (London) S.P.R., and slapping you on the back; it
probably isn't quite that, but has a touch of that blarney of which I found you a mas­
ter when I met you in Augusta.

I would like to see my brother outwardly enthusiastic, enough to slap anyone on
the back, just once. He hasn't written me a word of congratulation, and I did not
expect he would. Not that I doubt his feeling or brotherliness— not at all. But I think
that he, and those of the Prince tribe generally, have inherited considerable to the
Puritan feeling, which they do not formulate distinctly to their own consciousneses,
that one should refrain from peppering the pride of any relative by such
vain things as compliments.

Thank you for your note, and success to you in your work of building up the
State library and fostering the interest of Maine citizens in it.

Sincerely yours,

Walter Franklin Prince
October 22, 1932

Dr. Walter Franklin Prince,
346 Beacon Street,
Boston, Massachusetts.

My dear Dr. Prince;-

Thank you for the interesting collection of psychical research literature which you have so thoughtfully sent for the Maine Author Collection. We are greatly appreciative of the interest which you have shown, and continue to show, in the collection and we are very glad indeed to have so complete a collection of your writings on file here. Thank you for the books, and thank you also for taking the trouble to autograph and inscribe them for us.

Very truly yours,
(Signed M.C.F.)

Received;-
The Enchanted Boundary
Finger Print Demonstrations
Book Reviews and Other Matters
The Sinclair Experiments
Pseudo-Prophecies and Pseudo-Sciences
Presidential Address - London July 14, 1930
Two old cases reviewed
Human Experiences.
Residence of John Prince, (Grandfather of Walter F. Prince) from 1820-1830
Livermore, Maine.
Photographed July 1929.

Residence of Walter Franklin Prince and daughter, beginning spring of 1929.
Colonial House, erected about 1650.
Hingham, Massachusetts.
WALTER FRANKLIN PRINCE

Walter Franklin Prince, psychical researcher; born in Detroit, Maine, April 22, 1863; son of Walter Marshall and Emira (Pray); graduate of Maine Wesleyan Seminary, 1881; married Lelia M. Colman of Newport, Maine April 9, 1885 (died 1925); foster daughter, Theodosia B. Pastor of the Methodist Episcopal churches; latterly, assistant in St. Ann's Church, Brooklyn, New York, 1904; rector of All Saints Church, Pittsburg, 1907, St. John's Church, San Bernardino, California, 1912; appointed director of the department of psychotherapeutics in St. Mark's Church, New York, 1916. Investigator for the American Society for psychical research 1917-20; principal research officer of the same, 1920-25; executive research officer Boston Society for psychical research, since March 1925. Editor and secretary of advisory scientific council of the American Society for Psychical Research, 1921-23. Field secretary of the Connecticut Temperance Union, 1899; assistant secretary of the Connecticut Law and Order League, 1899; superintendent of Brooklyn Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, 1903. Member of The Sons of the American Revolution, Phi Beta Kappa; corresponding member of the Society of Psychical Research, London; delegate to first International Congress of Psychical Research, Copenhagen, 1921 and to third International Congress, Paris, 1927; appointed by the Second Congress International chairman of Committee to arrange a standardized glossary of terms; chairman Standing American Committee. Author: The Doris Case of Multiple Personality (2 vols.), 1925; The Psychic in the House, 1925; The Case of Patience Worth, 1927; also monographs on "The Blue Laws" and "The First Criminal Code of Virginia", published by the American Historical Association; many bulletins and articles on psychical research, abnormal psychology and history. Home office 346 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts.
High British Honor
For Dr. Walter Prince
Boston Man Made President of Society for Physical Research
By W. A. MacDonald

From London today comes announcement that Dr. Walter Frank Prince of Boston has been elected president of the Society for Psychical Research, the British organization whose only previous American president was William James. Dr. Prince is research officer of the Boston Society for Psychic Research, a position he has held since the founding of that society in 1925 when he came here from New York where he had done similar work for the American Society for Psychical Research.

The British election is, of course, tremendous honor. It marks Dr. Prince the head of the body which was begun by a group of university men, its first president being called the most incorrigibly skeptical man in England, but who saw the necessity of such a society. The voyages that Dr. Prince will be obliged to make to make a year in England will not be a new adventure to him. It has been his practice for many years to go where research called him. He went to Germany, then to England; thus he went to Kansas in the case of Dr. Elizabeth Kantrell, to St. Louis in the Patience Worth investigation, to the Ozark Mountains, to numerous other places.

At investigation, calculation and writing he works incessantly. Born in 1863, he shows more signs in immense erasure of energy than of aging. His greatest work thus far is "The Doris Case of Multiple Personality," an enormously complicated study which is priced at only 1400 pence. He looks like something between a professor and actor; he was educated a clergyman. Of medium height and solid build, he moves and speaks with quiet dignity and sometimes with a touch of drama. His voice is most unusual.

Has Uncovered Many False Claims
He talked sitting in his office, the office of the society, at 346 Beacon street. There was no light in the room except that which came from the lamp on his writing table. In the full glare of that light were his papers, the calculations on which he had been working. Behind them stood a long row of upper files. Above, in shadow, were rows of books and framed photographs.

The man himself sat there, white-haired, spectacled, eyes so direct they seemed to reflect his mind. Those eyes are given credit for preternatural sharpness of observation, and Dr. Prince has personally made some more pernicious claims to superhuman powers than any other man investigating in his field. He pointed out that a scientific society like the one of which he is research officer and the one in

England to which he has been elected has no responsibility as a society for the publications of its members. That is stated on the cover of the bi-monthly of the British society in the words, "The responsibility for both the facts and the reasoning in papers published in the Proceedings rests entirely with the authors."

The subject matter of the work in which Dr. Prince is engaged is obscure and obscure. Much of the matter so far as he could catch it, as it were, on the fly. Certain cases only are susceptible of investigation. When the English society started its work last year, it published a list of its members and established its standing as an accredited fact. No scientific man of that time would risk his reputation by acknowledging it to be so. None now would dare deny it. Dr. Prince laughed as he said it. He has a sense of humor that needs to be watched by the most serious-minded. He laughed and threw the ashes from a cigar over his shoulder in an aimless attempt to hit the waste basket. Most of the ashes went on the floor and the edge of the coal box, but Dr. Prince said, "You remember what Mark Twain said about his cigars. He said they cost three dollars a barrel. I paid you one of those, you couldn't smoke it."

He was asked if he could say any hand how many cases he had investigated since coming to Boston five years ago. They may not have been so many, he said, as intensive. For a number of months he has been making a census of 10,000 picked persons in America who are as to their experiences and observations. These persons were selected in accordance with their apparent enmity giving preference to men of science, not to their wealth.

Men include scientists under thirty-eight headings, to a total of 2595; 762 physicians and surgeons; also monographs on the Blue Laws, and the first Criminal Code and was afterward in Protestant Episcopal churches.

He was superintendent of the Brooklyn Medical and was afterward in Protestant Episcopal churches.

Society for Psychical Research in New York. Then he has been other things, such as field secretary of the Connecticut Temperance Union in 1880, and assistant secretary of the American Law and Order League in the same year.

Used to Detective Work
He has been trained in historical criticism, is a detecting expert, and is accustomed to detective work. He was superintendent of the Brooklyn Society for the Protection of Children in 1885. He is a member of the American Bar Association. He is a correspondent member of the Society for Physical Research, London, and was appointed by the Second International Congress chairman of the committee to arrange a standardized glossary of terms. He is chairman of Standing American Psychical Research Society, and is author of "The Doris Case of Multiple Personality;"

He is the author of "The Psychic in the House," "The Case of Patience Worth," and others; also monographs on the Blue Laws, and the first Criminal Code of Virginia.

As Dr. Prince talks he becomes more rapid and emphatic. His square figure is telepathy; that is the thing as passage of thought from mind to mind although subjects who are mentally in such psychic relation that they can produce satisfactory demonstrations are very rare. Certain persons who are popularly termed mediums very rarely are able to produce any possible access to normal information. With a profes

sional medium Dr. Prince has never been able to get satisfactory results under conditions under which scientifically to do the work. His work is done with private mediums or with the rare professional, although he is always more than one who lives in New York which, he is engaged. He told some stories about studies in psychometry and his experiences with large groups of people who live in a city some hours distant from New York which she solden visits.
and then only briefly on business. The first correspondence with her was in relation to certain drawings of hers, automatically produced, the details of which it was claimed showed a knowledge of facts with which the writer of the letter was not normally conversant. She brought a number of the drawings to the rooms of the society in New York. She did not know why like it is that of Dr. Morton Prince, the celebrated Beauchamp case, in which Sally was a mischievous character. When the child Doris Plisch, who was three years old, her drunken father threw her down so violently that she suffered from some mental shock. Very soon afterward there began to appear evidences of dissociation and double personality, although these did not form under the direct observation of Dr. Prince until many years afterward, when he was persuaded to examine her phenomena, and finally to adopt her in the family for the purpose of saving her from the brutalities of her father after the death of her mother. The death of the mother caused another shock to the girl. There were five personalities (1) called Margaret, who resulted from the first dissociating shock experienced by Doris, (2) Sick Doris, the product of the second dissociating shock experienced by Real Doris at the age of seventeen, (3) Sleeping Margaret, who was the especial riddle of the case, and who practically never talked except when the eyes were closed, but professed never to sleep, (4) Sleepwalking Doris, who was a somnambulistic personality which was created at the age of eighteen in consequence of a fall and injury to the head and back, (5) Real Doris, who had no direct knowledge of the thoughts or acts of any of the secondary personalities.

His Greatest Enthusiasm

No one who listens to Dr. Prince when he speaks of this case can doubt that it is his greatest enthusiasm. As he spoke of it to his visitor he leaned forward toward the light, his voice showing the feeling that the observant eyes concealed. His face, rather heavy, is high in the forehead, his nose is solid, his mouth has a slightly pursed lower lip, and his chin is square and indented. His white hair, thin at the forehead, is tufted over his ears and thick at the back. There is tremendous force in the man, the sign of the energy that keeps him at work unconscionable hours a day. He and others are authorities for the statement that he begins every investigation with an open mind. When he came to Boston it was with the hope that the Boston society would investigate all classes of phenomena, mental and physical, occurring in its special field. He believes in studying every new case as if it were the first without interference of pre-possessions to disturb the balance of judgment. He believes in a mingling of caution and openness. He knows that the conviction reached by a research officer on a particular interesting case will not be pleasing to all members of a society. His business is to apply all his powers and his expertise derived from practice to the problem and to form an honest conclusion with the reasons therefore. It is his work to separate the spurious from the genuine and to educate inquirers in the art of distinguishing one from the other. He is prepared to hear it said that he is sceptical and at the same time from other quarters that he has the will to believe. There are several classes of alleged supernatural fact which he is strongly inclined to think are spurious, but his mind is not closed. He once said that he had never played a trick on a medium or violated a promise to one. He is opposed to methods which, though they might expose fraud, would smash or prevent any genuine phenomena.

Now he becomes president of the British society, which lists among its former presidents such men as the Earl of Balfour, Sir William Crookes, Sir Oliver Lodge, Professor Charles Richet, Professor Henri Bergson, Professor Gilbert Murray, Comille Flammarion. He succeeds Sir Lawrence Jones Bart.

—Boston Evening Transcript
Books received from Dr. Walter Franklin Prince.

September 23, 1929.


INSCRIPTION:
To the Library of my native State, in response to the zeal and persuasive charm of its librarian, Walter Franklin Prince September 20, 1929.

Leonard and Spule. (Allison) Boston Society for Psychic Research. 1929. (Edited by Dr. Prince.)

INSCRIPTION:
To the Library of my native State, from Walter Franklin Prince. Co-author and editor of this volume. Sept. 20, 1929.

Noted witnesses for psychic occurrences Boston Society for Psychic Research 1928.

INSCRIPTION:
Presented to the Maine State Library becoming notable through the far-seeing efforts of its Librarian, H. E. Dunnack.

The Psychic in the House Boston Society for Psychic Research. 1926

INSCRIPTION:
Presented to the Maine State Library at request of the Librarian, Mr. H. E. Dunnack, by Walter Franklin Prince. Boston Sept. 20, 1929.

Ten Bulletins of the Boston Society for Psychic Research, written or edited by Dr. Prince, autographed and dated.

October 10, 1929.
ex-'87—Walter Franklin Prince, Ph.D., a member for one year of the class of 1887, passed away on August 7, 1934 in Boston, Mass. Born in Detroit, Maine, April 22, 1863, Dr. Prince graduated from Drew Theological Seminary in 1892; Yale University A.B., 1896; graduate student Yale, 1896-99; B.D., Drew Theological Seminary 1897; Ph.D., Yale University, 1899.

Dr. Prince preached for a number of years in Methodist Episcopal churches in Maine and Connecticut and in Protestant Episcopal churches in Brooklyn, N.Y., Pittsburgh, Pa., and San Bernardino, Calif. His church social work led to a study of abnormal psychology and psychic research.

He first became known to the general public through his investigation of the "Ghost of Antigonish", Nova Scotia. He became one of the world's most noted investigators...
Detoxit, Maine, has reason to be proud of Walter Franklin Prince, its most widely known native. He was born there, April 29, 1863, of mixed ancestry, Welsh, Scotch, French and Irish.

His first American ancestor, Thomas Prince, was from Gloucester, England, who came to this country in 1607. In 1645 he was one of the proprietors of Wrentham, Mass. By 1647 he was a citizen of Gloucester. There, he once owned “Fisherman’s Field,” now a public park containing a bronze tablet commemorating the landing of the first European vessel ever to reach New England. Later, Thomas was one of the founders of New Gloucester, Maine.

Walter Prince, a direct descendant, though born on a farm, was far from being a typical farm-boy. Quite different from the common kind; he delighted in being “different.” In fact he took lots of pains to be.

Kent’s Hill Student

“Walt,” as his early intimates always called him, enrolled at Kent’s Hill Seminary in ’81. There he soon showed signs of considerable ability in several directions. At first he specialized in music, for which he displayed considerable talent. He soon found this was not sufficient for a life work, though he taught piano and organ for several years.

Though a student in a Methodist school, Walter chose to pose as an agnostic, if not a skeptic—probably to prove he was “different.” It is a far cry from Tom Paine to John Wesley, yet he turned Methodist after leaving “the Hill,” even becoming a standard bearer of the faith. About the same time he married Lelia Coleman, a Newport schoolteacher. The Princes never had any children.

The Reverend Walter’s first “charge” was at Vanceboro. There he had to cover a twenty-five-mile circuit.” Afterward he preached at Danforth and at Lincoln for various periods. Then his health failed.

Recovering in a measure, the Dominie took a course at Drew Theological School, graduating in ’92 with the degree of B. D., receiving the Doctorate in ’98. After leaving Drew, he was called to the church at Montville, N. J., one without a meetinghouse of its own. Three successive pastors had tried to get one built, and had failed. Walt tried—and succeeded. At that time he might have been appointed dean of a College and Theological School in Nanking, China, but he declined because of indifferent health.

AT HEIGHT OF CAREER—Walter Franklin Prince in his office at the headquarters of Boston Society for Psychic Research. He was one of the outstanding members of the society at the time this picture was taken.
In spite of this handicap, the "Elnder" applied for entrance at Yale; at least he wanted to be well fitted for the next world. He knew not a line of English, but he was admitted on trial, without examination, one of the lowest sections in a class of seven hundred. Walter would not stay there though. By mid-year he was in the second division, a four-year course with "Elld" in two years, ranking among the highest ten, and all his work was judged at Pleasant Valley, Ct, to pay his bills, where his pastoral duties took two days out of each week. He certainly earned his Ph.B., and the Ph.D. received in due time.

Even then Walter was not satisfied. He took three years' post-graduate work, was given special honors in history and philosophy, and did regular pastoral work at Bloomfield at the same time.

**Born Detective**

While at the seminary Dr. Prince proved he was a born detective. His researches resulted in correcting at least two errors that had been appearing in the histories for about two hundred years. He also established the legality of thirty rather important incidents that other historians believed to be apocryphal.

Next Dr. Prince became Field Secretary for the Christian Temperance Union for three months. Then the Governor appointed him a private detective and assistant secretary of the Law and Order League, with full powers in the absence of his superior. He never investigated unless called; then conviction was almost certain. In three weeks he once secured 70 verdicts, and made 13 seizures inside an hour. Everybody began to plead guilty. Many a guilty soul, but not a finger was ever laid on Dr. Prince.

Walter was then appointed superintendent of the Divinity School Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Business doubled, and a new annex had to be bought. Corrupt politics terminated this service at the end of a year.

Then Dr. Prince changed his faith; he became an Episcopalian and rector of St. Au's, Brooklyn Heights. This position, he filled for five years, during which time the largest class in the Long Island diocese.

In 1897, the Reverend Doctor became the rector of St. Mark's, Pittsburgh, Pa., where he remained five years. There he began the work on which he connected himself. From the very beginning many who have read his experiences say that he is destined for a place in literature.

**Public Prominence**

What first brought Dr. Prince most prominence was his handling of the offer of the Scientific American, some years ago, of $2,500 for the most unusual and extraordinary phenomena, before a committee of its own choosing, sufficient to convince them it was of supernatural origin. Beside Dr. Prince, it consisted of Prof. Wm. MacDougal of Harvard, Houdin, the magician, Prof. D. F. Comstock, formerly of the Institute of Technology, and Dr. Hereward Carrington, a well-known investigator and an amateur con-juror. J. M. Bird, acting as the sponsor, acted as secretary of the Committee, but was not a member of it.
Few mediums appeared to compete; they fought shy of the distinguished investigators. Such as did made an unsatisfactory showing. Finally "Margery the Medium," of Boston, presented herself. She had already gained a large following and considerable reputation; consequently she received prolonged investigation. Then four of the committee, led by Dr. Prince, reported nothing abnormal had been observed. Dr. Carrington was of the opinion most of the phenomena seen might have been produced by fraud, possibly were, but a few were apparently beyond normal. Of course the sponsors of the affair declined to fork over the cash.

Sec. Bird, almost without experience in such things, swallowed "Margery" whole, so to speak. He "went into the air." The "Medium's" husband was also redhot. They took the affair to the Society, and they had influence enough to get "Margery" accepted as genuine—which came near splitting the Society wide open. Margery's "medium" business got a black eye; Dr. Prince promptly resigned, and Mr. Bird took his place.

A few years later, "Margery" was caught red-handed in fraud. Dr. Prince, the only member of the earlier committee to endorse her, was one of that which denounced her. The proof was beyond question: even "Margery's" husband was squelched and reduced to silence.

Named Delegate

Before the Scientific American fiasco, the A.S.P.R. had sent Walter to the First International Congress of Research at London, as delegate. There he was appointed Chairman of the committee nationally to standardize the terms used in psychical research. Later he was sent to the second Congress, at Paris. On each of these occasions he read a lengthy paper.

After Walter resigned from the A.S.P.R., the Boston Society for Psychical Research named Prof. McDougall as its first President, and Dr. Prince as Research Officer. Not long after, the new Society sent Walter to Europe to investigate several noted mediums.

His investigation was scarcely a success. The Doctor had exposed so many fakes that most of those he was anxious to see "took to the woods" at his coming. He did get sittings with Frau Maria Silbert at Graz, Austria; Mrs. Baylis of London; and Jan Gunik of Warsaw, Poland. He had arranged for seances with Willy Schneider of Brauna, Austria—but when he got there Willy had fled. He did sit with Willy's brother, Rudi, almost as famous. Most of these mediums had been widely endorsed, often by noted authors, scientists and divines. Without exception, Walter saw enough to convince him fraud was probably used.

After 18 years of investigation, Dr. Prince declared he was convinced but one form of mental phenomenon was a fact—telepathy. Concerning others, he "had no opinion." A few of the simpler physical phenomena might also be genuine. Some years later he went farther; he had become satisfied 18 forms of occult occurrences were sometimes supernormal.

Walter's investigating career was crowned by his election to the presidency of the English Society for Psychical Research, a position attained by only one other American, Prof. William James of Harvard. Dr. Prince's researches ended only a few years ago. His last home was at Hingham, Mass., a house built about 1650. It had furnished it largely with antiques, pick-up in various places. Britta Fischer, the girl of the "Doris case" and his adoptive daughter, now Theodosia Prince, had cared for him, from the time Mrs. Prince passed away until the last; it is she who dwells in the Hingham home today.

Hingham, Mass. Residence—Where Prince spent the latter years of his life. This house was built about 1650.