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THE FALSE "GIFT OF TONGUES"

One member of the band who went forth into foreign lands equipped only with the "gift of tongues" has returned to admit the gift was not of God. A year or more ago the movement so named was rife in parts of this country and several accounts of "manifestations" were presented in this paper. Now The Evangelical Messenger (Cleveland) gives the story of Mabel Collins, "a pretty girl of eighteen years," who, having succeeded in returning home after wanderings in India and South America, "looks like a woman of fifty." The story in her own words is this:

"We were driven out of New York. We were members of the Holy Ghost sect and we had the gift of tongues and went out to teach the rest of the world the real Christ. We decided to sail to London. We escaped a great shipwreck, but they would not receive us there. Then six of us got the call to go to India. We went from London and reached Calcutta in July. Mr. McElroy, who led us, thought we could do great things in India.

"Besides me, there were three girls from New York and two from Philadelphia. We nearly starved in Calcutta and went to the north. We reached Benares a month later. There two of our girls disappeared. They were very pretty and there were some Indians we met who liked them very much. We were destitute, and the girls--well, they just vanished. We didn't complain to the authorities, because we knew pretty well where they had gone. They are now in harems and I can't blame them much. We did not have the real gift, and life was far more terrible than I can tell you.

"Again we went north to Lucknow. Another girl, Mabel Charles, of New York, was taken from us one night after we had camped for the night. There were some wild hillmen who rode down and stopped at our camp. Next

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morning all were gone. There were only three of us left, Mr. McElroy and Lillie Thomas and I, and we went back to Calcutta. From there we sailed to Buenos Aires to join the others. We had even harder times in Argentina than in India. Then my parents succeeded in getting me home. Our gift of tongues was not from God. It was from some devil."--Literary Digest, --Entire article taken from Pacific Union Recorder, Feb. 11, 1909, pp.1, 2.