

JOURNAL

OF THE

SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

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NEW MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

ALEXANDER, PROFESSOR, Rio Janeiro.

MEMBERS.

ATKINSON, MISS E. A., 44, Percy-gardens, Tynemouth.

DIXON, EDWARD TRAVERS, 5, Portman-street, Portman-square,
London, W.

GAUSSEN, MRS. L. D., Broughton Hall, Lechlade, Gloucestershire.

GURNEY, HENRY G., 3, Regent-street, London, W.

HAYES, FREDERICK WILLIAM, 12, Westcroft-square, Ravenscourt Park,
London, W.

VACHER, WILLIAM H., 54, Addison Mansions, Kensington, London, S.W.

ASSOCIATES.

ADAMS, REV. J. M. GOOLD, M.A., The Vicarage, Rosssdowney,
Londonderry.

BELLASIS, MAJOR G. M., Lucknow, India.

BERGEN, AXEL VON, Harewood Hill, Darlington.

BERGEN, DR. CARL VON, 32, Karlavägen, Stockholm.

BERRIKER, GEORGE T., Calvert, Maryland, U.S.A.

BULL, WILLIAM J., 21, Westcroft-square, Ravenscourt Park, London, W.

CZYNSKI, PROFESSOR C. L., Rue Batory 26, Cracow.

FRY, OLIVER A., M.A., 141, Portsdown-road, Maida Vale, London, W.

GURNEY, REV. F., Prestbury Vicarage, Cheltenham.

HIGGIN, F. C., Killiney Castle, Killiney, Co. Dublin.

JEFF, REV. H. GLADWYN, Firbeck Hall, Rotherham.

JONES, SIR LAWRENCE J., BART., Cranmer Hall, Fakenham, Norfolk.

PARKER, MISS E. A., The Elms, Gosforth, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

RALEIGH, WALTER A., M.A., 27, Ladbroke-road, London, W.

SMART, J. NAISH, Sydney House, Burnham.

STURGES, MRS. WILLIAM, 32, Charles-street, Berkeley-square, London, W.

MEETING OF COUNCIL.

At a Meeting of the Council held at the Society's Rooms, on September 28th, the following Members were present :—The President (in the chair), Professor W. F. Barrett, Dr. A. T. Myers, and Messrs. F. W. H. Myers, Frank Podmore, H. Arthur Smith, J. Herbert Stack, and H. Wedgwood.

Professor Alexander, of Rio Janeiro, was elected a Corresponding Member of the Society.

Two new Members and eight new Associates, whose names and addresses are given on the previous page, were elected.

Information was received with regret of the death of Mr. Alexander Tod and Mr. R. H. Pilcher, two Members of the Society.

Some presents to the Library were reported, for which a vote of thanks was passed to the donors.

A vote of thanks was also passed to Mrs. Mahlon Sands for a donation of three guineas to the funds of the Society.

Various matters of routine business were attended to.

The previous intention of holding a General Meeting in November was confirmed (Friday, the 16th, was subsequently fixed upon as the date), and it was agreed that the Council shall meet on the same day.

An interim Meeting of the Council was held on the 25th of October, at which London Members only were present, for the purpose of electing four new Members and eight new Associates, whose names and addresses are included in the list on the previous page.

A HAUNTED HOUSE.

BEING FURTHER NOTES ON CASE $\frac{G}{t}$ 314 (*Journal*, April, 1888).

Readers of the *Journal* will remember that an account was given in the April number of various apparitions and other occurrences which led the inhabitants of a certain house to regard it as haunted. The house in question was taken for the months of August and September by a member of the Society, in the hope that residence there for some weeks might lead to some light being thrown on the subject. He stayed there himself for the greater part of that time, and had friends at different times to stay with him. Nothing, however, tending either to confirm or to destroy the more important part of the previous evidence occurred. Still, a few points of interest were

noted, and these, together with some additional facts learnt from the witnesses previously cited, form the subject of the present paper.

The following brief account of the apparitions seen was given by the ladies of the house, Mrs. and Miss S., to Mr. Myers in May last, and will recall to the reader the previous narrative :—

“ There are certainly four separate ‘ ghosts,’ if not more.

1. The maid-servant, seen oftenest. Dress light mauve, quite plain in cut. Face pale, not often well seen ; full face when seen by Mrs. S. showed some cast or other defect in left eye. Expression ordinary. Hair sometimes down her back, sometimes done up. No cap ; parting of hair broad and white.

2. The lady, about 35, dressed in silk or other soft material ; red shawl or opera cloak, apparently thrown over one shoulder and twisted round neck. Face rather pleasing. Has been very well seen, especially by Mrs. S. (*Journal* for April, p. 249), when a large nightlight was burning quite near figure.

3. The man, seen frequently leaning half out of attic window, window being open, and observer in garden. Expression not disagreeable ; dark face and whiskers, coat high round neck. Often seen in garden, especially by Winnie Thorne, aged 12, sister of Emilie, who used to see him in the garden night after night, to her great alarm, and run downstairs in nightdress to tell Emilie. She (Winnie) thought someone had come to take the fruit. Oddly enough, Emilie never could see him at these times, though this (with a similar instance with Mrs. S. and Winnie) is the only case in which one of the ghosts was seen by one person, but invisible to others looking that way. Once Miss S. saw him in garden also, when Winnie had given the alarm, and a neighbour was summoned and garden searched, but no one was there. It would not be difficult for trespassers to get into garden ; but the form seen by Winnie Thorne in garden was plainly not a real man, or Emilie would have seen him too. Nor was there shadow or effect of light to explain it. If the man in white dress seen by Miss Humble (p. 249) was the same ghost, the expression as well as dress must have changed ; and so also if the evil face seen by Mrs. Serpell was this same man.

It is noteworthy that part of the house was once used as a racing stable ; and there may have been low characters about.

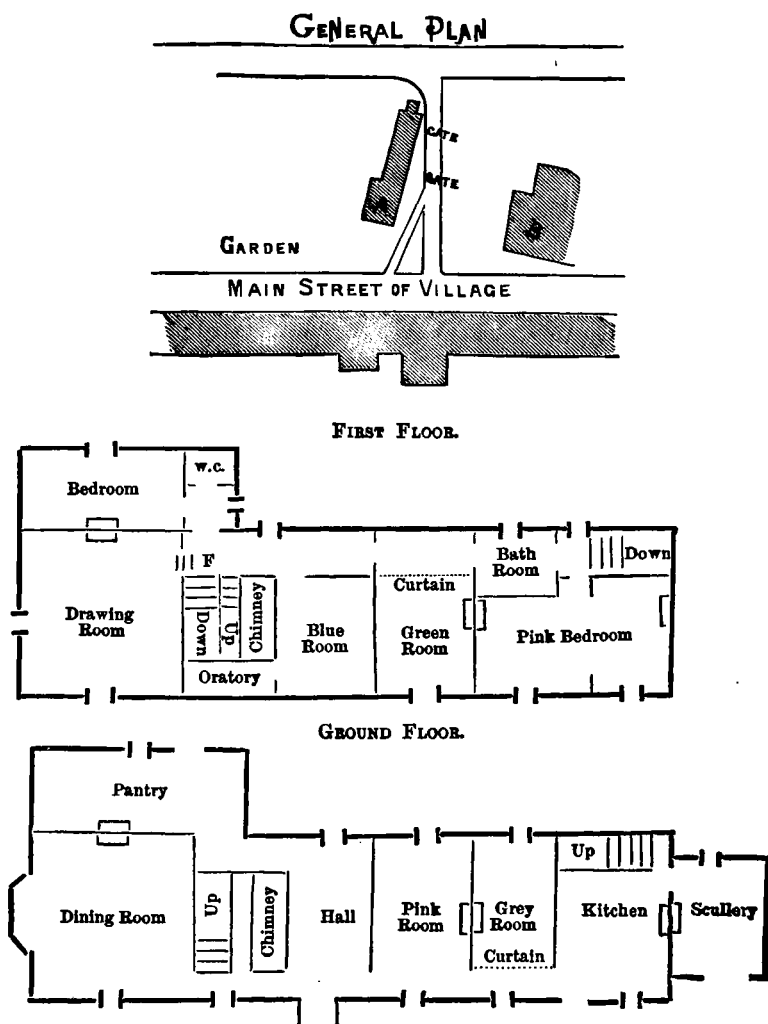
Figures have twice appeared on January 22nd, but we cannot connect that date with any known event.

4. A child-ghost must be added to the list, though it has not been seen. Mrs. S. heard the gleeful clap of hands and laugh of a child, say of four years old, so clearly just behind her that she turned sharply round, thinking for the moment that one of her Sunday-school class must be in the room ; but there was no one. The pattering sound as of a child’s bare feet was also marked.”

One or more of these various figures have been seen by eight persons, namely, Mrs. and Miss S., their servant Emilie Thorne (who remained in the house through August and September, and appeared to those of us who made her acquaintance to be a sensible and trustworthy

person); Mrs. Serpell, a former servant of Mrs. S.'s; Mrs. Trays and Winnie Thorne, sisters of Emilie; Miss Blencowe and Miss Humble, friends of Mrs. and Miss S. All the apparitions have occurred within a period of three years.

The following rough plans, which we owe to Colonel Taylor, will make the various accounts a little clearer:—



The house, which is marked A on the general plan, stands alone in its own garden. It was formerly a farmhouse, and when Mrs. S. first

took possession of it in 1884 did not include the part beyond the Green Room. This part was then a cottage, but was thrown into the house in 1885, when other alterations were also made. These alterations, apparently, made no difference to the "ghost." Before they were made the entrance was opposite the foot of the staircase, and the present hall was the kitchen, the large chimney of which now forms a useless block up the middle of the house. Mrs. and Miss S. think that "disturbances seem usually near this chimney, or in the rooms above the cellar, which is a very large one, paved with stone," under the dining room. The attic, mentioned above, is over the drawing-room and looks towards the main street of the village. The attic window is very clearly seen from the garden. The rooms are rather small and low, and the staircase, so often mentioned, is a short, steep flight. The figures have thus been seen very close.

The house appears to have had no previous reputation of being haunted, and the sound of footsteps in an empty room, about six months after Mrs. and Miss S. came into the house, was the first thing that struck them as peculiar. This was in January, 1885. The apparitions began later. It is difficult to make out the chronology, as the dates have not in all cases been recorded, but I think that the figure with red jacket and candle, which Miss S. took for her mother, was probably the first thing seen, and either Mrs. Serpell's evil-looking face, or the appearance of the maid-servant's figure at the top of the stairs (point marked F in first-floor plan) to Miss S., the second. By far the most interesting apparition was the next, when Miss Blencowe, *not having heard anything about the supposed ghost*, saw a similar figure, as of a maid-servant, in the same place, on October 1st, 1886. Miss Blencowe very kindly described her experience to Mr. Myers in May, and subsequently to Mr. Sidgwick and myself in September. She allowed us to question her as much as we liked, and gave her evidence well. She is thoroughly convinced that at the time of this experience she knew nothing about the haunting. Miss S., however (see p. 245), thinks that she had said something about "the ghost" just before Miss Blencowe saw the figure, though without any particulars whatever. This seems to have been the only one of the apparitions which was similar to what had previously been seen, and was perceived by a person who had heard no account of it;—except, possibly, the figure to be presently mentioned, seen by Miss E. S.; but of this we have no details.

When Miss Blencowe, in the following February, again saw the figure at the same spot, but from the opposite side, it was believed that a pet dog saw it, too. Mrs. and Miss S. say:—

"Our two existing dogs, and a dog now dead (all that we have had in

the house), have fully shared, as it would seem, in the sight of the ghosts. We do not keep a cat now. One of the dogs will not cross the Green Room at dusk; whines at the open door, and has to be carried through. Repeatedly the dogs have stared and shivered when we could see nothing. In the case described (p. 245, February 19th, 1887), when servant's ghost appeared during a party, the dog's shriek attracted everyone's attention. All looked at the dog and probably thus missed seeing the ghost, whom Miss Blencowe alone saw—she being then close to the open door outside which the ghost appeared."

It seems doubtful, however, whether the evidence is sufficient to support this explanation of the dog's behaviour. We learn from Emilie Thorne that he suffered from fits after this, if not before, and Mrs. S. treated him for a fit on this occasion; it does not seem necessary to suppose a supernormal origin for this fit.

It also seems doubtful whether the other persons present failed to see the appearance on this occasion, because they did not look in the right direction, or because it existed only for Miss Blencowe. We understood from her that she believed the latter, and thought that in following the dog Mrs. S. and her friend must have passed over the spot apparently occupied by the apparition. And certainly from the description of its position I should have judged this to be the case.

The following is an account of Miss Blencowe's experiences, written by Mr. Myers after his interview with her, and which entirely agrees with my recollection of what she said, except that I should have said near a gas lamp instead of "directly under":—

"Miss Blencowe, when she saw the girl (October 1st, 1886, and February 19th, 1887), observed nothing wrong with her eyes [as Mrs. S. did when she saw a similar figure in December, 1887]. Noticed very white parting, but does not think hair was thin; it came down low on forehead. Expression was simply that of a servant waiting for orders. On each occasion the girl stood within a few feet of her. The peculiar cold numbness which Miss B. felt was not due to fear; because (1) on the first occasion she simply supposed the girl to be another servant whom she had not seen, not being then intimate with the S.'s; and (2) on the second occasion the numbness distinctly preceded the sight of the figure; in fact, it was the odd feeling of numbness which made Miss B. look round. She 'went down' to Mrs. S. (p. 246) because Mrs. S. had followed the dog downstairs and was pouring water on him, supposing him to have had a fit. The figure on each occasion disappeared as though into a corner, the head being last seen. On each occasion it stood directly under a gas-lamp, in the same place."

The frequency of the apparitions seems to have culminated in December, 1887, in which month Emilie Thorne twice, and Mrs. S. once, saw a figure resembling the "servant-ghost," and in which month also Mrs. S. saw the figure in the red shawl.

The latest appearance recorded was a very singular form of hallucination. It occurred on June 13th, 1888, and was described as follows by Miss S. a few days afterwards:—

"I was coming up stairs about 10 o'clock at night. There was no gas lighted either up or down stairs, but the window blind in the passage was not down. I had no light in my hand but was carrying little Stumpy. He trembled when I picked him up and continued to tremble. When I was about four steps from the top I saw a shadowy substance. I can scarcely describe it. It was about four feet high, in shape like a large toadstool, the lower part was dark and the top was quite white. I walked on *through* it and went into my bedroom. After a few minutes I came out again and went slowly up and down the stairs two or three times (of course without a candle), to see if it were possible it was a shadow, or reflection of any kind, but there was nothing to be seen.—F.S."

The following additional information about sounds and other phenomena was supplied to Mr. Myers by Mrs. and Miss S., who signed the account written down by him from notes of their conversation.

To the witnesses cited in *Journal* three more may be added, viz. :—

1. Miss E. S. (a cousin), who complained much of the banging of doors in Pink Room, between Grey and Pink Room all night, as she slept in Grey [*? Green*] Room. Begged that doors might be more carefully shut. Mrs. S. shut them carefully (had done so previous night also), but Miss E. S. still heard them bang. These doors (I tried them and found them to shut with ordinary firmness.—F.W.H.M.) do actually open and close again, movement of handle being plainly observable. Miss E. S. was also frightened by noises once when Emilie Thorne was at church, with the rest of the household; remarked to Miss S. that she had heard noises, but then saw someone whom she supposed to be Emilie come back from church. Emilie was in church, so the figure seen was probably the servant-ghost. Nothing was said to Miss E. S. as she is to come again at Christmas and would have been alarmed.

2. Miss E. Maud Grepe [seen by F. W. H. M.] writes :

"I heard my name [Maud] called twice distinctly, and I answered Coming! and on going into the room where the voice came from I found no one had called. The voice sounded like that of Miss S.

"(Signed) E. MAUD GREPE."

3. The German cook, mentioned p. 248, repeatedly heard herself called. She could speak little English; and fancied that some one was playing tricks on her.

The hypothesis of tricks is practically out of the question. The phenomena have occurred under all conditions: *e.g.* (a) When we first came, with servant brought from Plymouth, before Emilie came to us; (b) when Emilie was out; (c) when no one at all was in the house (face seen from garden); (d) when Miss S. was alone in the house, &c.

The *piano-playing* has hardly been sufficiently noticed in *Journal*. Miss Humble heard it play chants (p. 249). Miss Auchmuty heard chants, and Emilie Thorne has heard it repeatedly when the drawing-room was empty—

and once at least when the piano was *shut down*. No barrel organs come near the house, and church is too far for organ to be taken for piano. The rooms are small, and the sound unmistakable.*

With this may perhaps be ranked the bell-ringing; but on some occasions at least when the bell is heard the bell actually *moves*. Once Mrs. and Miss S. heard two or three bells sounding together, and Emilie saw them shaking. For this phenomenon a plausible natural explanation might be suggested, as there are mice in the house.

Movements of objects certainly occur.

(a) Besides the case of re-lighted gas (p. 247) there was a remarkable case of re-made and re-lighted fire. We had had a party in the drawing-room (where a fire is seldom lighted), and the fire had burnt itself out—nothing remaining in grate when we went to bed, about 10, except a mere handful of ashes, with slight glow. At eight next morning Emilie told me that there was a bright fire in drawing-room. I went and looked; a large log was in the grate and burning brightly; I think coals also. There had been wood in the room.

(b) On one occasion, on going into the drawing-room in the morning, Miss S., who went in first, found a chair standing upon the sofa. Emilie had not been into the room.

(c) The alarm of Miss S.'s alarm clock has five or six times gone off at 4.30 a.m., not having been set to that hour. This may be due to some defect in the clock (though we can find none); but it is noteworthy that about 4.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. are the times when most disturbance occurs.

(d) The removal and replacement of small articles continues.

The book mentioned (p. 252), as having been found after its unexplained loss, has now been again removed.

Last Christmas Emilie brought up three florins (change on a bill) to Mrs. S.'s room, and placed them in a china cup on the dressing-table. An hour or so afterwards she re-entered the room, where Mrs. S. was still in bed, and Mrs. S. asked her for the coins. They were gone. A florin was taken from the Pink Room a few weeks since, no one having been in the room except the Vicar. These coins are always replaced sooner or later. Only florins are taken. As this might sound like a servant's practical joke, it is well to say emphatically that Emilie Thorne is no mere temporary servant, but a young woman of high character and perfect trustworthiness, whom we have known from her childhood, and who came to us from the South of England expressly to serve us. The manifestations are in no way specially connected with her presence, and she derives nothing but annoyance from them. Neither she nor any of us are timid; and we have no idea of leaving the house to the ghosts.

(Signed) F. S. M. S.

Mr. Myers himself writes as follows:—

May 21st, 1888. I have to-day seen Miss Blencowe and Mrs. and Miss Auchmuty, and have learnt a few fresh particulars, as follows:—

Miss Auchmuty again stayed in the house in April, 1888. Early in the morning of April 27th, 1888, she heard footsteps passing her room and some

* See remarks on this further on.

one brushing against handle of door outside. On inquiry the same morning she found that no one had been up at that hour.

Mrs. Auchmuty, on April 18th, 1888, was sitting in the drawing-room with a friend, when both of them heard some one walking with heavy boots on in the attic above. They took for granted that some one had been there looking for some object. No one had been there.

Miss B. corroborates the loss of the ring (p. 251). It was simply placed on the dressing-table, full in view, and left undisturbed. A few minutes later it was gone.

On Wednesday, April 25th, 1888, Miss Blencowe was awoke by feeling her bed shaken and pulled along the floor for several inches. It was then quickly shoved back. The room was light, but no one could be seen.

Mrs. S. (seen by me to-day) was kept awake when trying to sleep yesterday afternoon, May 20th, by persistent pacing up and down in passage outside her room. No one in the house was stirring.

May 22. I have to-day seen Mrs. and Miss Humble, at 12, Clarence-square, Cheltenham. Mrs. Humble confirms the statement (p. 249) that she heard footsteps in drawing-room when stair was barred by boxes and no one in that room.

Miss Humble states that the female figure which she saw had no red in its costume ; seemed in *deshabille*. It was seen near the place (in the Pink bedroom) where Mrs. S. saw the woman's figure. The *man* whom Miss Humble saw had a pallid face, dark eyes, no beard or moustache. [It seems doubtful whether this was the same male figure as that seen by Emilie Thorne, &c.] The piano was *shut* when Miss Humble walked into the room and found no one there, though piano had been playing.

F. W. H. M.

It was, of course, important to ascertain whether the witnesses in this case were at all subject to hallucinations of the senses. Mr. Gurney made inquiries on this point but the answers did not all reach him till after the issue of the April number. He put them together as follows :—

Miss Humble (writing on April 8th) says that she has on one other occasion seen a figure which appeared suddenly in a spot out of doors, which she believed she had ascertained to be vacant the instant before ; and this figure corresponded in aspect with an appearance which others professed to have encountered at or near the same spot. It cannot be regarded as certain that this was a subjective hallucination ; as, on the supposition that it had no reality of what we may call a "psychical" kind, we still cannot be sure that it was not a real living person.

Miss Blencowe writes on April 15th, 1888 :—"I have *never* before the time stated in my written account, encountered any similar phenomenon, lights or sounds, in any other locality than at Mrs. S.'s house ; in fact, until the first appearance of the girl in lavender, I never believed in ghosts, nor did I at the time know the house was haunted."

Mrs. Serpell writes on April 4th, that several years ago she twice saw the figure of a man at the end of a passage, without being able to account for the appearance ; but she adds, "I did not think much of it at the time, as I thought some one had been playing me a trick. I have never seen or

heard anything else of the kind [*i.e.*, of the same kind as the experiences in the present case] anywhere."

Miss S., who put the necessary question about hallucinations to others of the witnesses, writes, on March 28th :—"Emilie [Thorne] has never in her life heard or seen anything supernatural.* Miss Helen Auchmuty has never seen anything supernatural. Mary Trays never had seen or heard anything supernatural, and made fun of Emilie till she lived in our house."

Miss S. herself has had one hallucination of vision unconnected with the present case, representing a figure with a light. E.G.

To this Mr. Myers adds that he learnt from Mrs. S. that she had had no previous hallucinations.

Our own observations during a week spent in the house early in September perhaps suggest explanations of some of the mysterious noises.

In the first place I should describe the house as both a noisy and a rickety one, by which I mean that sounds and movements are easily transmitted from one part to another. For instance, a servant walking about in the attic is not only very audible indeed in the drawing-room below, but shakes the room considerably, making the door and windows rattle. Moreover, the presence of a parrot and other birds in the house should be taken account of in trying to explain noises.

Secondly, we think that the sound of a piano heard when no one was playing in the drawing-room may very probably have come from a piano in a neighbouring house. We heard such a piano, seemingly in the house marked B on the general plan, very distinctly indeed as we sat in the drawing-room, one morning, with the window open. It was equally distinct outside the room. When the music was loud we could even hear it quite well with our window shut. We were at home the greater part of every morning during our stay, but this was the only time we heard the piano, so that we may suppose that it is not often played under similar conditions.

Thirdly, my friend Miss F., who stayed there with me and occupied, during part of the time, the Green Room, was lying awake one night when she felt her bed jarred and heard something like a blow on it. Immediately afterwards she heard a metallic sound, proceeding, she thought, from the iron curtain rod, which divided off the end of the room to serve as a passage (see plan). This sound was louder than that made by tapping the rod with a door key and we could not imitate it by shaking the curtain rings. Miss F. imitated it at break-

* This word was, of course, not used by me in the question which I put; but the answer certainly is meant to convey the fact that the witnesses had not elsewhere, or on other occasions, seen things which it seemed impossible to account for in any ordinary way.—E.G.

fast by striking two spoons together. Miss S. seems to have had similar experiences while sleeping in this room, though more intense. (See *Journal* for April, pp. 243, 249.) In Miss F.'s case they occurred as our host came up to bed, as she knew by hearing him come upstairs and open and shut his door; and she heard the same sound, but fainter, on another occasion, at the moment that my husband descended the stairs.

We found considerable difficulty in reproducing the sound; but did ultimately succeed, by treading about over the upper steps of the stairs and the passage at the top, in making a faint sound of the same kind occur in the Green Room.

Miss F. also had another experience, similar to one described in the *Journal* (p. 242); and it should be mentioned, by the way, that though Miss F. had read the April number of the *Journal*, she had no conscious recollection of the nature of the experiences described. She was in the bath-room on the evening of her arrival, and, at the moment when I came up the back stairs and entered the Pink Room, thought she heard footsteps coming along the oilcloth that extends from door to door of the Green Room. She thought it was the maid and opened the door to see, but no one was there. She imitated the step for us. It was short and quick (like a child's) and sounded, she said, like that of a person with bare feet or slipshod. We did not succeed in reproducing this sound of pattering feet; but I think that this may have been because it is very difficult to reproduce the conditions for what, if connected with my coming upstairs at all, was probably a misinterpretation of some real sound. When Miss F. expected me to come up the back stairs she was naturally not in the same mental attitude in judging of the sounds I made as when she had to infer the facts entirely from the sounds. We found our experiments on sounds difficult too, because they were constantly spoiled by noises in the house and outside.

This completes the evidence at present obtained on the subject.

If we try to review it as a whole we must admit, I think, that it is difficult to draw from it any very definite conclusion. The evidence about sounds, and about movements of objects may, perhaps, be left out of consideration for the present; the first because there seems, as I have said elsewhere (*Proceedings*, Vol. III., p. 79), to be no sufficient reason for regarding unintelligent sounds as other than ordinary physical ones merely because they have not been explained; and the second because the phenomena as described scarcely seem sufficiently beyond the range of possible mal-observation and forgetfulness to warrant us in attaching great importance to them. It is difficult to make evidence of this kind convincing to those not actually concerned

in the occurrence, and, in fact, to be convincing it would almost need to be experimental. It would almost be necessary that the position of an object should be specially noted with a view to observing its subsequent disappearance. Some attempt has, I understand, been made to obtain evidence of this kind, but the objects have not so far disappeared.

Turning to the sights ;—after seeing the place I should be inclined to suggest that the figure seen by Mrs. Trays in the garden was a real woman waiting for some one ; and it seems possible that some of the other figures, namely the man seen in the garden by the little girl, and, perhaps, the man at the attic window, were illusions, that is, misinterpretations of real things seen. Further, I am inclined to think that the apparition to Miss S. of her mother, and possibly some other cases may have been dreams. But after making all allowance for such explanations there remains a considerable number of cases of genuine hallucinations of the senses, occurring with a frequency which is certainly very remarkable when we consider that the percipients were not seeing hallucinations elsewhere. And if we assume that the majority of them may have been produced by self-suggestion, resulting from the idea that the house was haunted—an hypothesis which their variety somewhat supports, I think—there still remains the central point of the whole story, namely, Miss Blencowe's seeing what was apparently the same figure as that previously seen by Miss S. and in the same place, though knowing nothing of it. If this were the only instance of such an occurrence we might attribute it to chance ; but it is, as readers of the *Proceedings* and *Journal* know, by no means an isolated case. As to the cause of the phenomenon, we know nothing. Was it thought-transference—mental suggestion—from Miss S. that caused Miss Blencowe to see what she did ?* Or was there some other mind, independent of both of them, or some physical cause, which produced it ? We cannot tell. We can only say that there is no *known* person living or dead with whom to connect the figure.

The Society will of course watch any further developments of the case with interest. But it is to be feared that it will be difficult to obtain any future evidence from persons who have not heard of the haunting, since the report of it seems now well known, at least in the immediate neighbourhood ; and when we were there it was a favourite amusement with the village boys to serenade the “ghost” as the shades of evening fell.

ELEANOR MILDRED SIDGWICK.

* It would seem probable from Miss S.'s account (p. 245) that she was thinking of the figure at the time.

CASES RECEIVED BY THE LITERARY COMMITTEE.

We have received the following cases from Mr. A. W. Dobbie (member of the S.P.R.), of Gawlerl-pace, Adelaide, and Rothesay Villa, College Park, South Australia.

Mr. Dobbie has studied and practised mesmerism for about 10 years, and has found himself to be a most successful operator. He has mesmerised, he tells us, at least 500 persons, mainly with a view to alleviating suffering, and some of his patients have developed considerable powers of a psychical kind, as the following cases will show.

Rothesay Villa,
College Park, South Australia.
July 4th, 1886.

M. 6

Striking case of clairvoyance, which occurred May 28th, 1886, in the presence of the Hon. Dr. Campbell, M.L.C., Hon. David Murray, M.L.C., and Chief Secretary of South Australia, Mr. Lyall, and Mr. Fleming, solicitor :—

The circumstances are briefly as follows, viz. : Dr. Campbell being present at one of my usual clairvoyant evenings, handed me a gold sleeve-link, at the same time telling me that he had lost the fellow one to it, but had no idea as to what had become of it ; he asked me to give the remaining one to one of my clairvoyantes and see if they could find the missing one. I should state that neither of the clairvoyantes had ever seen either of the rooms they referred to, nor did they know the names of the children, or anything in connection with this case, so that it is either a case of genuine clairvoyance, or else a most remarkable case of thought-reading.

I first handed the sleeve-link to the younger of the two sisters [Misses Eliza and Martha Dixon], who is not so lucid as her sister (I was giving the elder one a rest as she had been hard at work, clairvoyantly, for the past hour).

Miss Martha began by first accurately describing Dr. Campbell's features, then spoke of a little fair-haired boy who had a stud, or sleeve-link, in his hand, also of a lady calling him "Neil"; then said that this little boy had taken the link into a place like a nursery where there were some toys, especially a large toy elephant, and that he had dropped the link into this elephant through a hole which had been torn or knocked in the breast ; also that he had taken it out again, and gave two or three other interesting particulars, but as we were engaged in clairvoyantly investigating a most important matter, we were reluctantly compelled to postpone further investigation until two or three evenings afterwards.

On the next occasion (in the interval, however, the missing sleeve-link had been found, but left untouched), I again placed the link in her hand and the previous particulars were at once reproduced ; but as she seemed to be getting on very slowly, it occurred to Dr. Campbell to suggest placing his hand on that of the clairvoyante, so I placed him *en rapport* and allowed him to do so, he simply touching the back of her hand with the points of his

fingers. As she still seemed to have great difficulty (she is always much slower than her sister) in proceeding, it suddenly occurred to me that it would be an interesting experiment to place Miss Eliza Dixon *en rapport* with Miss Martha, so I simply joined their disengaged hands, and Miss Eliza immediately commenced as follows, viz. :—

"I'm in a house, upstairs, I was in a bathroom, then I went into another room nearly opposite, there is a large mirror just inside the door on the left hand, there is a double-sized dressing-table with drawers down each side of it, the sleeve-link is in the corner of the drawer nearest the door. When they found it they left it there. I know why they left it there, it was because they wanted to see if we would find it. I can see a nice easy chair there, it is an old one, I would like it when I am put to sleep, because it is nice and low. The bed has curtains, they are a sort of brownish net and have a fringe of darker brown. The wall paper is of a light blue colour. There is a cane lounge there and a pretty Japanese screen behind it, the screen folds up. There is a portrait of an old gentleman over the mantelpiece, he is dead, I knew him when he was alive, his name is the same as the gentleman who acts as Governor when the Governor is absent from the colony.* I will tell you his name directly—it is the Rev. Mr. Way. It was a little boy who put the sleeve-link in that drawer, he is very fair, his hair is almost white, he is a pretty little boy, he has blue eyes and about three years old.

"The link had been left on that table, the little boy was in the nursery and he went into the bedroom after the gentleman had left. I can see who the gentleman is, it is Dr. Campbell. Doesn't that little boy look a young Turk, the link is quite a handful for his little hand, he is running about with it very pleased; but he doesn't seem to know what to do with it. [A. Dr. Campbell was not present from this point.] Now I can hear someone calling up the stairs, a lady is calling two names, Colin is one and Neil is the other, the other boy is about five years old and is darker than the other. The eldest, Colin, is going downstairs now, he is gone into what looks like a dining-room, the lady says 'Where is Neil?' 'Upstairs, ma.' 'Go and tell him to come down at once.' The little fair-haired boy had put the link down; but when he heard his brother coming up, he picked it up again. Colin says—'Neil, you are to come down at once.' 'I won't,' says Neil. 'You're a goose,' replies Colin, and he turned and went down without Neil. What a young monkey! now he has gone into the nursery and put the link into a large toy elephant, he put it through a hole in front which is broken. He has gone downstairs now, I suppose he thinks it is safe there.

"Now that gentleman has come into the room again and he wants that link; he is looking all about for it, he thinks it might be knocked down: the lady is there now too, and they are both looking for it. The lady says—'Are you sure you put it there?' The gentleman says, 'Yes.'

"Now it seems like next day, the servant is turning the carpet up and looking all about for it; but can't find it.

"The gentleman is asking that young Turk if he has seen it, he knows

* Chief Justice Way is the gentleman who acts as Deputy for his Excellency when absent from the colony.—A. W. D.

that he is fond of pretty things. The little boy says, 'No.' He seems to think it is fine fun to serve his father like that.

"Now it seems to be another day and the little boy is in the nursery again, he has taken the link out of the elephant, now he has dropped it into that drawer, that is all I have to tell you about it, I told you the rest before."

July 15th, 1886.

Since writing the above 2½ pages I have handed them to Dr Campbell for perusal so that he might check the account and ratify it or otherwise, and after going carefully through it he has returned it to me, accompanied by a complete ratification in writing, which I herewith enclose.

A. W. DOBBIE.

Memo. by Dr. Campbell.

Adelaide, July 9th, 1886.

At the point A the séance was discontinued till the next sitting, when I was absent. The conversation reported as passing between the children is correct. The description of the room is accurate in every point. The portrait is that of the late Rev. James Way. The description of the children and their names are true. The fact that the link was discovered in the drawer, in the interval between one sitting and the final one, and that the link was left there, pending the discovery of it by the clairvoyante, is also correct, as this was my suggestion to Mrs. Campbell when she showed it to me in the corner of the drawer. In fact, every circumstance reported is absolutely correct. I know, further, that neither of the clairvoyantes have ever been inside of my door. My children are utterly unknown to them, either in appearance or by name. I may say also that they had no knowledge of my intention to place the link in their possession, or even of my presence at the séance, as they were both on each occasion in the mesmeric sleep when I arrived.—ALLAN CAMPBELL.

In a later letter, written December 16th, 1887, Dr. Campbell writes :—

"DEAR MR. DOBBIE,—Your London correspondent asks if I had any knowledge of the conversation that the clairvoyante stated had passed between the children. I had no knowledge whatever of this conversation, nor the circumstances attending it, until she repeated it. It was subsequently confirmed to me in part by Mrs. Campbell, such part as she herself is reported to have taken in the tableau.

"With respect to the large toy elephant, I certainly knew of its existence, but was not thinking of it at the time the clairvoyante was speaking. I did not know even by suspicion that the elephant was so mutilated as to have a large opening in its chest, and on coming home had to examine the toy to see whether the statement was correct. I need hardly say that it was absolutely correct.—I am, yours sincerely,

"ALLAN CAMPBELL."

In answer to inquiries as to whether Mr. Dobbie could send us a copy of notes taken at the time of this experiment, he wrote on October 17th, 1886 :—

"Although since April, 1882, I have carefully taken notes of nearly all my clairvoyant experiments (pencilling the words down the moment they are uttered), in the trinket [sleeve-link] case I considered that it would be so very improbable that my clairvoyante would be able to do anything with so little clue, that I did not think it worth while writing a single note, in fact, I should not have wasted time over the experiment but for fear of being thought disobliging. However, the result of that experiment has made me more careful to record almost everything I attempt in that way."

Mr. Dobbie tells us that "neither he nor his clairvoyantes had any opportunity, directly or indirectly, of knowing any of the particulars brought out by the clairvoyante." He afterwards saw the room described, and says "the description is simply perfect in every particular."

M. 7.

The next case is of a somewhat different type. Mr. Dobbie, writing on October 17th, 1886, says of it :—

"A few weeks ago a case occurred which I think I ought to send you, as it was tried as a test case. I am copying the notes, which I carefully took at the time the words were uttered, and shall send them to several of the company who were present, and ask them to ratify them if they are correct. I will then enclose it in this letter."

He calls it "an apparently genuine case of Psychometry, or could it be Thought-transference?"

This evening (September 27th, 1886) Mr. A. Adamson, J.P., of College Park, handed to me what I thought was a very small chip of marble of dull white colour, and requested me to place it in the hand of Mr. Williams, my clairvoyant (who had already been asleep for some time); at the same time he placed a sealed envelope on the table, which he informed the company (consisting of about 25 ladies and gentlemen) contained a brief account as to the history of the specimen, and that no person in the room had the remotest idea as to the nature of the specimen; but that the envelope could be opened after the clairvoyant had finished all he had to say about it. Mr. Adamson added that he wished this mode of procedure carried out as he desired to test the powers of the clairvoyant.

On placing the specimen (which was not larger than a grain of wheat) in the hand of the clairvoyant, he proceeded to make a few remarks of a geological nature, which had indirect reference to the subject, and then proceeded as follows :—

"Now, I've gone back to where and when it was in the ground. This is a very nice country, a foreign place; it is like a town; there seems to be a lot of things about this place; there seems to be people of different countries come here, all foreigners. There is a very large circle or area enclosed here, composed of this kind of stone, but not all so pure. The area has been dug out first. There are pillars about it; this has been a big place, a kind of show place, foreign; there are lots of ruins, a lot has been carried away. There are a lot of places like caves here where they put animals and anybody into. I wouldn't care to be one of them. The men and women are put in

there alive ; but they never come out again except to go into the middle of the area, and then they are done for. They didn't go in there because they liked it, it was for the amusement of others. Some of these people in these cage places look nearly mad with terror, others of them don't seem to care much. They are just waiting to be ordered out when the people come. The people are up all round here" (here the clairvoyant waved his hand in a circle above him, giving us the impression of extensive galleries where the onlookers sat). "The people in the cage places are hungry and thirsty. There is going to be a big show here now. There are other cages or cave-like places on the opposite side of the area with wild animals in them. Can't you hear them roaring ? They are being lashed up to make them wild, but they are wild enough without that. They do that to make more fun for the people. I would like to put those people there. I wonder how they would feel if they changed places with those in the caves. The poor people in the caves know now that it is nearly all over with them. The people are sitting high up all round. Now the doors of the cages are opened and the poor people are ordered out, and a great big fellow is following the poor starved-looking creatures, and lashing them towards the cages of the animals until they are in front of them. Now the animals are quiet and are backing to the backs of their dens. The men are going to try and fight the animals, but the poor women are very much cut up about it. Now that big fellow has gone out ; why doesn't the coward take his chance with the rest ? There are four men and four women ; the men are telling the women to keep behind them. They can't get back to their cages because the doors are shut, but they are backing away from the animals' cages.

"O ! now the people at the top have pulled up the doors of the animals' cages ; the people seem to like this, and can see the eyes of the animals in the dark cages. They don't feed the animals much. Oh, what a nasty howl. They put their mouths near the ground and give a kind of blood curdler. Don't those men look brave, but the poor women are nearly dead with fright. Now the four lions, they look just like great cats with their tails moving about. Now they are crouching down getting ready to spring ; the four men are standing side by side, and the four women behind. The men have no weapons and little clothes, simply a loose kind of blouse. They are fine-looking men ; they appear to be getting ready to spring also, but it's no use ; one of them sprang at the same instant as the lion, and nearly knocked his hand through the lion's throat, but the lion struck him a blow on the forehead with his paw and killed him. Now the lions have killed them all and are playing with the bodies."

As it was long past our usual time for closing our experiments we were reluctantly compelled to postpone further investigations on that occasion. Mr. Adamson now informed the company that the specimen in the hand of the clairvoyant was a small portion of a mass of conglomerated or petrified bones, said to be the bones of the Christian martyrs who were slaughtered by wild beasts, &c., at the Coliseum at Rome. He with his daughter visited the celebrated Church of San Paolo Fuori Le Mura in Rome, during his trip to the Continent several years ago, and an old priest being in charge of the place showed them round, and amongst many other very ancient and interest-

ing relics they were shown a large mass of conglomerated bones, which the priest informed him were the remains of some of the Christian martyrs. Mr. Adamson bribed the priest to break off a small portion, which he brought away with him, and the specimen in the hand of the clairvoyant was a small chip from it, so that the account given by the clairvoyant was wonderfully correct.

The following is a verbatim copy of the contents of the sealed envelope which Mr. Adamson placed on the table at the same instant as the clairvoyant began his description.

"Saint Paolo Fuori Le Mura, founded by Theodosius and Valentinian the 2nd, 388. Rebuilt several times—last time 1840 to 1875—points towards the Tiber. We visited this church on a Sunday. It is the newest and grandest of the Roman churches, preferred by many to St. Peter's—in the old cloisters behind, we saw many curios, among others a conglomerate of bones *from the catacombs*, said to be the remains of the Christian martyrs—an old priest who was present on being led towards this and shown a *lira* and a piece of brickbat, broke me off a piece of which this is a small portion.—A. A."

To Mr. A. W. Dobbie.

DEAR SIR,—In accordance with your request I have read this account of a séance held in your house, and can certify to the correctness of your report in all particulars.

I would, however, like the following two alterations made, which I have taken the liberty of underlining in your manuscript.

On page 1, "This kind of stone," &c., was an answer to a leading question which should not have been put.

And in my note in last page omit "from the catacombs," as I am not certain this statement was made to me.

Your clairvoyant was very much excited during the scene in the Coliseum, his nerves working strongly.

I may state that there were some doubts in my mind when I obtained the relic; these, however, are now removed. I also know that since the séance of which you write, another has been held with a portion of the same object, bringing out a still more graphic account, and agreeing thoroughly with the foregoing.—Yours respectfully,

ADAM ADAMSON.

College Park,
October 29th, 1886.

We, the undersigned, having been present on the above occasion, hereby certify that the account as given above is a correct record of what took place.

STANFORD CHAPMAN, of firm Virgoe, Son, and Chapman, of 8, Leadenhall-street, London; and Melbourne and Sydney, Australia.

W. J. M. WOOLLEY, of firm Doswell, Woolley and Co., Eagle Chambers, Pine-street, Adelaide.

W. H. HALL, Head Teacher Glen Osmond Public School, South Australia.

H. SPAFFORD, Currie-street Foundry, Adelaide, South Australia.

L. M. MANN.

Mr. Dobbie continues his letter :—

“ Since writing the above Mr. Adamson and several of the others have signed the account. (None of them hesitated in the least after they had read it, and I do not allow them to sign until they have read it.) You will notice that Mr. Adamson has made a reference to the note *re* the catacombs. He is quite right, the question referred to should not have been put, and even if the reply had been specially correct it would not have had the same amount of scientific value that the other part has, because all the rest was perfectly voluntary. I have always found it safer not to break the thread of their account by interjecting questions ; it is best to ask the questions after they have finished, and they readily clear up what had previously appeared foggy. I ought to remind you of what I told you in my former letter, that Mr. Adamson is a J.P., and is held in high repute in Adelaide on account of his remarkable sagacity. He was a thorough sceptic on the subject of clairvoyance until he saw my experiments, and as I allow him free access to all my séances, he has a good opportunity of forming an opinion.”

This second case seems to be more easily explained by Thought-transference than the first. For, if we suppose the clairvoyant to have got from Mr. Adamson's mind the ideas of Rome and Christian martyrs, there may have been material in his own mind for the development of these ideas into the scene in the Coliseum.

Mr. Dobbie does not have uniform success with his clairvoyants. “ The part which puzzles me most,” he remarks, “ is the fact that very often they are entirely wrong, even *when I am fully aware* of the nature or history of the specimen I place in their hands, also when the visitors know. If it is Thought-transference, why should they often go wrong when either I or others present know the nature of the specimen ?”

In answer to this we would suggest that nothing we yet know of Thought-transference would lead us to expect constant success with even the best subjects.

M. 666.

It will be interesting to compare with the foregoing a somewhat similar case where, however, there was no hypnotiser. The gentleman who sends it is an associate of the Society.

August 19th, 1888.

In order that you may better understand the narrative, I should explain that I have lived in England for the last 24 years. My wife is English, and at the time of my visit to America we had two children—a girl and a boy—and had lost one, a little girl who had died at the age of two months.

In the autumn of 1879, I visited the United States. Our object in going out to America was to inspect some iron and coal mines in the State of Tennessee,

but before going South we did some "sight-seeing," and on our way to the Falls of Niagara we stopped for a few days in Boston. I had heard and read a little about Spiritists and manifestations, but never seen anything of the kind, and as Boston is a sort of hotbed for mediums and "humbug" of every kind, I took the opportunity, while there, to see some of the mediums, one of whom was a Mrs. White, who called herself a trance medium. This Mrs. White was a young woman of prepossessing appearance and ladylike manners. She lived in a nice part of Boston (I cannot recollect the address), had a fine house, and was evidently one of the fashionable mediums, and much sought after, and I had some difficulty in getting an interview with her. I came to her as a perfect stranger, did not give her my name, nor any clue as to where I came from, and what took place was as follows:—

We sat down opposite each other, with a small table between us, and she took hold of both my hands. After a few minutes she went into a trance (or what she pretended to be a trance), and began a rambling speech about spirit-land and the future state; and after a somewhat long discourse, which appeared to me very nonsensical, she told me that I might ask her any questions I liked, and she would try to answer them. This was just what I wanted, and I was ready with my questions to test her.

First then, I asked: "Tell me if I am married or single." "Married," was the answer.

"Well then," I said, "tell me the name of my wife, and describe her to me." Without much hesitation she gave me both my wife's names—*Ada Maria*—and a most minute and wonderfully correct description of her appearance, age, manners, temperament, &c. She then told me the names of my children, and gave me a minute description of what they were like—all perfectly correct. "Elsie, the eldest one, she said, is a fair girl, rather like her father, and the little boy, Carl, has large brown eyes like his mother, He is a clever little boy, but not very strong, and you must be careful with him. You also call him Carley—at least his mother does—and little Hilma that went into spirit land, she was a fine baby"—and so on.

Everything she said about the children was wonderfully correct, but what astonished me most was this. After talking some time about my children she suddenly said, "*Who is Maud?*" It seems to me as if there was another little girl called Maud—and yet—no! I am not certain about it." She then put my hand to her forehead and kept repeating, "*Maud,*" "*Maud.*" Then she said, "Was there another little girl that died, or what is it? I cannot make it out."

Now the fact was this—my wife expected to be confined in December (this was in October), and we had agreed between ourselves that if it should be a girl we would call her Maud. This of course was a subject that had never been mentioned except between my wife and myself.

As it happened, little Maud was born on the 25th of December, and is now eight-and-a-half years old.

Before leaving my hotel that morning I got a letter from my wife, and after reading it I put it in my pocket. I asked Mrs. White, "Can you tell me when I shall have a letter from my wife?" The answer came straight: "You

received one before going out this morning, and you have it now in your pocket." "Well then," I said, "can you tell me what is in it?" But that she declined to do.

In order to test her further, I asked her to tell me what my friends were doing at home, at that moment. She said she could see them, and hear them talking, and she then gave me a very correct description of my friends here in ———, mentioning their names and what they were like, and various little family matters.

She said, Fanny (my sister-in-law) was just at that moment playing on the piano in the drawing-room, and that her mother (whom she described very correctly) came in to tell her something, &c., &c. This I was not able to test, as when my letter arrived some 10 days afterwards my friends did not recollect what they had been doing at that particular hour. She also mentioned several of my friends in Sweden by name, and gave me a correct description of them, said she could hear them talk in some foreign language, which she did not understand, &c.

I must, however, say that although, on the whole, she was very correct in her statements, and especially astonished me with the description she gave of my wife and children, she made several mistakes or what I should call "bad guesses." For example, she insisted upon it that I had an uncle called John, which I have not, (it is, however, the name of my wife's uncle). She said my father would very soon pass into the spirit land. He is still alive and well, although it is nearly nine years ago. She told me I was going out West on very important business, whereas I was going South. She introduced me to several cousins, and aunts, and friends, and relations whom I knew nothing about, and who are not in existence.

The above is the substance of my interview with Mrs. White. The whole thing is fresh in my memory, although it happened some years ago, and I have before me a letter which I wrote to my wife the same day, and in which I gave her a full account of this wonderful woman. I should be very glad to have your opinion on the subject. My own impression is that it was a very remarkable case of thought-reading.

In answer to inquiries our informant writes:—

August 21st, 1888.

That Mrs. White should have, by any possible means, possessed herself of the letter, read it and restored it to its place is quite out of question. 1st. I carried the letter in the inside breast pocket of my coat, in a letter case with an elastic band round it. 2nd. The interview took place at noon, in full daylight, and she was under my close observation the whole time. She never left the room. 3rd. Before we sat down, we stood conversing for two or three minutes, and she was not close enough to me even to touch my pocket, and when we sat down opposite each other with a small table between us (about two feet square), I held both her hands the whole time. 4th. If she had seen the letter and read it carefully through, it would not have given her the information she seemed to possess—not even my wife's name, as she did not sign her name.

M. 667.

The following case, given to us by General Barlow, well-known in the American Civil War, has a considerable analogy with the previous ones, but a new element is introduced in that the communication comes professedly from a departed spirit.

In the year 1884 I went to a medium in Roxbury, Boston, called Mrs. Philbrick. She said many things which I thought rubbish. I mentally summoned a lady once known to me, not mentioning her name, as I believe, and asked her, "Do you remember meeting anybody in a church"? not mentioning the church. She answered, "Yes." "Do you remember anything that happened?" "Yes." "What?" "Ella knows."

What had happened was that this lady's skirt had come down in the church porch, and my sister-in-law Ella was there and saw the accident. I was not there, and the incident in the porch of a country church could hardly have been known to any one else.

The woman had no notion who I was. It was my first visit.

The church was a little village church, far from Boston.

FRANCIS C. BARLOW, Major-General.

Brown's Hotel, Dover-street,
July 25th, 1888.

The following case of an unrecognised appearance has considerable claim to be regarded as telepathic:—

L. 818—A^d Pⁿ

From Mrs. Hunter, 6, Victoria-crescent, St. Heliers, Jersey.

July 31st, 1888.

A dear friend here, devoted to society and a leader in it, was taken suddenly ill. On January 10th, 1885, I had a good report of her, that she was much better. A young man, nearly related to us, was lying *very* dangerously ill in London at the same time. Well, that evening a white shadowy figure passed me, almost touching me, as if to embrace me. "That isn't Freddy!" I said. "Who can it be?" My poor friend had died a few hours before.

Mrs. Hewett, Mrs. Hunter's daughter, confirms this account in the following words:—

Jersey,

August 8th, 1888.

I remember distinctly my mother coming out of her room on the evening of January 10th, 1885, and saying, "Someone has been in my room and it is *not* Freddy;" Freddy being my stepson, then lying dangerously ill in London. I understood her to mean someone not of this world, as she was in the habit of seeing appearances, &c. Next day we learned that a dear friend of hers and mine had died about two hours before my mother said this.

We have received the decedent's name and have verified the date of death in a Jersey paper.

SUPPLEMENTARY LIBRARY CATALOGUE.

The following additions have been made since the last list:—

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