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"THE SPIRITUALIST" NEWSPAPER:
A Record of the Progress of the Science and Ethics of Spiritualism.

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VOLUME NINE. NUMBER FOURTEEN.

LONDON, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd, 1876.

MR. MUNTON'S SPEECH IN DEFENCE OF DR. SLADE.

THE excellent speech made by Mr. F. K. Munton, solicitor, in defence of Dr. Slade, at Bow-street Police-court last Saturday, is appended, and as the Slade case has had no parallel since the days of Galileo, the following utterances will live in history:—

MR. MUNTON, on rising to address the magistrate in defence of Dr. Slade, said that in presenting this part of the case it was extremely desirable that they should clearly understand what the specific accusation was. The summons charged that the defendant unlawfully used certain subtle craft, means, and devices, to deceive and impose on certain of her Majesty's subjects—to wit, E. Ray Lankester, T. J. Oldham, Henry Sidgwick, R. H. Hutton, Edmund Gurney, and W. B. Carpenter. The magistrate had been good enough to say at an earlier stage of the case that he was placed in a very difficult position as an advocate. But if he was so then, he was in a doubly difficult position now; because, while the statements of Professor Lankester and Dr. Donkin were alone within the scope of his observations under this particular summons, evidence of another character had gone forth to the world, which he had no opportunity of correcting. Although he did not complain of the discharge of his client on the summons for conspiracy, he could not help saying that he much regretted that he had no opportunity of severely commenting on the evidence of Mr. Maskelyne and Mr. Algernon Clarke. He hoped, however, he might be excused for making one remark as to Mr. Maskelyne, who volunteered the statement that the table must have been altered since it was last used, whereas the evidence of the man who made the table distinctly proved that both Slade and Simmons were innocent of any such thing: he (Mr. Munton) therefore indignantly repudiated so unwarrantable an assertion on the part of Mr. Maskelyne. If the complainant's solicitor had succeeded in establishing the case he had put forward in his opening speech, he should have some difficulty in asking the magistrate to say that Dr. Slade was wholly innocent; but such case was by no means established. Mr. Lewis started by stating deliberately that the defendant had advertised to the world that he could communicate with departed spirits. Now, although the magistrate had said that he was not affected by what was stated in an opening speech unless it were proved in evidence; and he, with his large experience, could do that, the public could not. The statement in question had gone forth to the world, and he was bound, therefore, to say that it was absolutely untrue. Never, by advertisement or otherwise, had Dr. Slade "invited persons, assuring them he could communicate with departed spirits," as had been asserted; and it would be seen, from the evidence of Professor Lankester himself, that there was not the slightest pretence for importing that assertion into the case. The prosecutor admitted in the witness-box that "he went to see certain phenomena of which he had been informed, and he wished to ascertain the cause." Two or three other important matters had been incorrectly conveyed to the mind of the Court which materially affected Mr. Slade. Substantially, the charge was that of slate writing, and it was stated that this writing was produced either by the liberated fingers of the hand by which the slate was being held, or in another way, which Mr. Lewis attempted to explain by an experiment of his own, of which it might be said that it was chiefly remarkable because it did not succeed. (Laughter.) Neither Professor Lankester nor Dr. Donkin agreed with or endorsed the statement of their solicitor. Indeed, the former witness, in cross-examination, distinctly admitted that Mr. Lewis's

experiments did not deal with what he witnessed at Bedford-place. Another important statement made by Mr. Lewis, was that his clients positively saw the writing being done, whereas the evidence clearly established the fact that they did not see the writing being done. No doubt, if two gentlemen had come and said they saw the writing being done, it would have been useless to call 200 to say they were present on other occasions, and did not see it; but it transpired that the writing was never seen from the beginning to the end. It might be conjectured, it might be strongly suspicious, but it did not go beyond conjecture, and that, he contended, made all the difference in the charge against the defendant. At the assizes, where the learned magistrate formerly practised at the bar, the reputation of counsel was much enhanced if he could get the judge to believe that whenever he made a statement in opening a case, he would be more or less able to prove what he said. When a solicitor of the reputation of Mr. Lewis made a statement, and the gentlemen of the press sent it forth from one end of the kingdom to the other, it was accepted by many of the public as equivalent to evidence, and it was extremely difficult to get rid of an impression of that kind. When the magistrate came to look at the actual testimony, he (Mr. Munton) believed he would be of opinion that no case was ever opened with so many assertions of fact which had in the result so miserably failed as regards proof. In dealing with the evidence of Professor Lankester, he was beset with considerable difficulty. The professor was undoubtedly a gentleman of distinguished position, but the course which he had taken in that case was entirely unjustifiable. He did not mean to say that either he or Dr. Donkin had stated what they did not believe, but the Court must compare the statements made by them on different occasions, and see how far they agreed. He (Mr. Munton) took on himself the responsibility of having brought the table into court. Much had been made of his suggestion that it was unnecessary to impound it, the extremely simple character of the article making it somewhat difficult to find a substitute at a moment's notice; but during the month it had been in court, accessible to Mr. Lewis and the witnesses, nothing whatever had been done to prove that it was a trick table, unless it were by showing that it had one bracket instead of two. It would be shown that in the interval Dr. Slade had borrowed a domestic table, and although open to some objection for want of the simplicity characterising the table made for the purpose, successful sittings had been held as heretofore. Now in the matter of slate writing it was to be remembered that whatever might be the cause of its production, such writing was always found where there was some shade.

Mr. Flowers—A little darkness.

Mr. Munton said he had not used the word darkness because he was afraid that if he had done so he would have elicited a laugh. His worship would see (Mr. Munton went on to say) from the evidence of the prosecutor that the process was nearly invariable as to the movement of the slate. It was taken by Slade, placed underneath the table, and subsequently against the flap. He submitted that it was perfectly obvious, therefore, why a table should be ordered to be made in the way the table in question was made. If a table were used with a frame all the way round it the persons who went to witness these manifestations would at once draw attention to the fact that a table of that description—that was, a table having the framework all round—was much more convenient for having the slate pressed against it. Besides, during the manifestations the table was frequently struck heavily; it was tilted up previous to its being examined by visitors; and altogether it met with rough usage, and for that reason it was desirable it should be un-

usually strong. He contended that the fact of there being only one bar to support the flap of the table was evidence of its extreme simplicity. Another point had been raised by Professor Lankester, and that was that the table had no frame; but when pressed on this subject the prosecutor ultimately confined himself to the statement that there was no frame round the flap, which of course everybody knew. The fact was that Professor Lankester had had many preconceived ideas in connection with this case; he had an idea there was no frame there, and he had resolved if he could to make good his assertion to that effect. He (Mr. Munton) thought that he had a right to complain of the answer which Professor Lankester gave him when he asked him if he had any reason to suppose that (the table produced) was the table used. The reply was, "I have no reason to suppose that it is." This showed the manner in which the dispute was approached. As a fact, all the importance which was attached to the table not having any frame had melted into thin air. As regarded that unwarrantable imputation by Mr. Maskelyne, that it was a trick table, and had been altered since it was last used, the evidence of the maker of the table called by Mr. Lewis showed not only that the table had not been in any way altered since it left his establishment, but that in reality it had a framework round the legs one inch deeper than an ordinary Pembroke table. He charged Professor Lankester (no doubt he did it with the best intention) with having endeavoured in his evidence to reconcile the facts to his theory. In the description he originally wrote to the newspapers, he stated that the first short message—viz., "I am here to aid you, Allie," was written on the under surface of the slate—a statement he varied in his evidence.

Mr. Lewis complained that Mr. Munton was not fairly representing the evidence of Professor Lankester.

Mr. Flowers deprecated such interruptions, observing that he should compare the different statements.

Mr. Munton said he liked to be corrected, particularly when he was right. (Laughter.) He said he was dealing with what he extracted from Professor Lankester in cross-examination, which he would substantiate by reference to the shorthand writer's notes. Mr. Munton proceeded to read the letter which Professor Lankester wrote to the newspapers, which *inter alia* contained the following description of his *séance* :—

Slade's chief "manifestation" is of this kind—The witness and Slade being alone in an ordinary well-lit sitting room, Slade produces a common slate and a small piece of slate pencil, which are laid on the simple four-legged table, at one corner of which the witness and Slade are seated. Slade then shows the witness that there is no writing on either side of the slate. He then places the slate horizontally close against the table and below it, pressing the slate against the table, the little bit of slate pencil being supposed to be between the slate and the flat under surface of the table. The slate is so closely applied to the table that no hand or finger could possibly get between them in order to write. A noise as of writing is now heard proceeding from the slate, which is held by Slade or by the witness—the spirit is supposed to be at work. The slate is then removed, and a message is found written either on the under surface of the slate or on the surface which was facing the lower surface of the table. I watched Slade very closely during these proceedings, which were repeated several times during my interview last Monday, paying no attention to the raps, gentle kicks, and movements of the table, of which I will say nothing further than that they were all such as could be readily produced by the medium's legs and feet. I simulated considerable agitation and an ardent belief in the mysterious nature of what I saw and heard. At the same time I was utterly astounded to find the strongest reason to believe that, with the exception of the first message, which was written by Slade underneath the slate, with (I believe) one finger of the hand which was holding the slate, the rest of the messages, which were longer and better written, were coolly indited on the slate by Slade while it was resting on his knee, concealed from my view by the edge of the table, and that the slate was subsequently placed by him in the position where the spirit-writing was to take place with the message already written upon it. I was led to form this hypothesis by noting the delay which always occurred between my being shown the slate with both sides clean and the placing of the slate against the table or over my head for the purpose of receiving the spirit-writing, which was then heard proceeding with the usual sound of scratching on a slate. This delay did not occur when Slade wrote with the finger of the hand by which he held the slate.

That was what Professor Lankester wrote to the paper on the very day of his second interview with Slade. He stated in cross-examination that he made notes after he had been with Dr. Slade on the first occasion; that he continued the notes on the second occasion, and that after writing his letter he destroyed his notes. This was very much to be regretted, as

now the notes could not be produced and compared with the letter. Mr. Munton said that if there were any document connected with this case he should particularly like to have seen it was these identical notes. In their absence, however, it must be presumed that the letter was an accurate description of the notes. When Professor Lankester came into court, he did not endorse his solicitor's statement respecting the writing with the liberated fingers. He owned that he was in great doubt; but, with the same spirit which had actuated him throughout, he was for proving that all he had done and said was consistent; however, he was obliged to say in the witness-box, "I am not sure on which side it was written." The further cross-examination of the prosecutor with the view to demonstrating his imperfect observations, and the variable character of his evidence at length elicited the following astounding answer "I think the 'I believe' qualifies the whole statement as to the writing on the under side of the slate—I intended it so to do." It is incredible that Professor Lankester, with his high education, could seriously mean to contend that this is the grammatical construction of his language; indeed, any schoolboy would know it to be otherwise. On the whole he (Mr. Munton) argued that it was clear that Professor Lankester was in considerable doubt as to what really took place, and, therefore, his evidence on the point was not reliable. When Professor Lankester was being cross-examined as to not having said in his examination in chief that he heard the low sound of writing on the knee as to a particular message, Mr. Lewis with that kind assistance which distinguishes him when he wishes to help his own witness—(laughter)—got up and said that he had not taken his client through each message in detail and that it must be assumed that what had been said in one case equally applied to the others, a suggestion Professor Lankester fell into, but unfortunately on comparing that statement with his letter to the *Times* it turned out as a fact that he there only spoke of having heard this writing on three several occasions out of five messages thus farther showing (Mr. Munton said) the very imperfect observations made. He contended that the evidence of Professor Lankester was not reliable; the statement that he had only heard noises of writing on three occasions was an admission that on the two other occasions he did not hear the writing, and one could not avoid the conclusion that, taking the circumstances altogether, Professor Lankester must have been mistaken. Dr. Donkin's statements were treated in the same light of doubt by Mr. Munton, who urged the point that when Dr. Donkin was in the witness-box he admitted that the forcible way in which he had expressed himself in the newspaper was in consequence of his belief that it was necessary when writing to the public. (Laughter.) After noticing other discrepancies in Professor Lankester's evidence, Mr. Munton came to what he described as the final and important point in the charge against Slade—that was, the occasion when Mr. Lewis said Professor Lankester saw the writing. It was when he had Dr. Donkin with him. But it was necessary to consider what took place on the first and second interviews. Professor Lankester said he told Dr. Donkin what his theory as to the first message was, and Dr. Donkin endorsed the statement; but Dr. Donkin could not vouch that the theory was correct, though he resolved to write to the newspapers thereon. He carried it further still, because he said that the first message was not only written on the under surface, but that it was written in a peculiar way. Now, as to the final message, it was necessary that this gentleman should establish to the public, in order to make the statement complete, that Slade had stated at the time the scratching was heard that the slate was free from writing. Dr. Donkin said in his letter, "let especial notice be given to the fact that at this moment the slate was said to be free from writing," but when he was in the witness box it turned out that it was only some general expression. The evidence of both Dr. Donkin and Professor Lankester did not go to facts, but was merely inference and conjecture. Professor Lankester said that he snatched the slate before it had been in position a fraction of a second. He (Mr. Munton) was not prepared to say that the writing could not have been produced in the fraction of a second, but there was nothing to show that the writing was to occur at the identical moment when the slate

touched the table. What he meant to say was that Slade did not necessarily know when the writing actually occurred, but that it occurred between the moment when he commenced to move the slate and the time it was actually seized, and that that writing was produced by strange agencies. That Professor Lankester had shown a desire to jump to a conclusion was clear, but if it could be established that Dr. Slade or any other medium was an impostor he (Mr. Munton) would not stand there to shield him; but he desired that they should have more substantial evidence before convicting. When the examination was going on a discussion arose as to the interval of time, and Professor Lankester wished it to be understood that there was a very slight interval; but between the time the slate was put under the table and the time it was snatched by Professor Lankester, Dr. Slade said, "The spirits are a long time coming," and that statement alone was indicative of some time having elapsed. It was now necessary to consider some two or three other points in the evidence. He (Mr. Munton) attached great importance to anything that showed motive, and he thought that he would be able to establish the fact that Professor Lankester had grave motive in doing what he had done. Professor Lankester was a member of the British Association, and the question of the phenomena generally had been discussed at the meeting of that body, between the time of the first and second visit to Dr. Slade. It was evident that Professor Lankester strongly disapproved of what had taken place at the association, and he contended that, in the answers the Professor had given in evidence, he had not dealt fairly on the subject of that paper, having stated that he had not read the paper, when in fact he had read an abstract of it. Professor Lankester had been prejudiced when he went to Slade's, and had made up his mind, if he could, to settle in twenty minutes what his seniors had been trying to find out for twenty years. Nay, Professor Lankester had gone further, and had insulted men who were not entitled to be treated in such a way by saying that it was astonishing how people "apparently sane" could believe in anything of this kind. All this clearly proved prejudice on the part of Dr. Lankester.

Mr. Lewis said he wished Mr. Munton would remember that the principal prosecutor here was not "Dr." Lankester, but "Professor" Lankester. Mr. Munton's own client was the "doctor." (Laughter.)

Mr. Munton said that with so many doctors in the case one occasionally got into a little confusion. (Laughter.)

Mr. Lewis said he had been listening for three-quarters of an hour without hearing anything but abuse of Professor Lankester, and it was no wonder if one became a little impatient.

Mr. Flowers said he did not think it was more than any gentleman who came to that court must expect. He noticed Professor Lankester seemed to bear up pretty well. (Laughter.)

Mr. Munton said that he must be allowed to proceed in his own way, and that he would not be interrupted by Mr. Lewis. Now what did Professor Lankester do after his visits to Slade? He took out summonses in which he inserted the names of several gentlemen without their consent, without ascertaining whether in using their names he had or had not their approval. He had no right to include such names as he did without authority. It went through the country like wildfire that Dr. Carpenter's name, which was one of great weight, was in the summons, and the Professor's course in that respect showed that he was determined to succeed in his object. Everybody now knew that Dr. Carpenter had publicly repudiated any connection with these magisterial proceedings. His worship had once indicated that he thought there was a *prima facie* case against Slade; but he submitted that, in a charge of this sort, nothing short of distinct and positive evidence should satisfy his worship that the case had been made out. Why did not the prosecutor take the very simple course of procuring absolute testimony of the so-called imposture by looking under the table on one of the occasions when he alleged he heard the fraudulent writing? The theory of the defence was that the writing which occurred on all these occasions was not written by Slade; and that the defendant did not know how messages were written, except

to this extent, that from surrounding circumstances, and inquiry into the subject, Slade's belief was, in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, that they were written in the mode which he had explained. He (Mr. Munton) did not contend for a moment that the writing discovered by Professor Lankester was necessarily the work of a departed spirit; but there was unmistakable evidence to show that the phenomena were attributable to some cause other than imposture. What the force was, what the agencies at work; he would not attempt to say, and many of the witnesses whom, subject to the approval of the learned magistrate, he would produce, would testify their belief in the phenomena, whilst utterly rejecting the "Spiritualist theory." It was admitted by those who understood the subject, that the messages obtained were not trustworthy as to identity. He (Mr. Munton) was not a Spiritualist himself, but he had the highest respect for those who had seen their way to come to that solution of the inquiry. Large numbers of persons were agreed on the premisses, but differed in drawing conclusions. He should produce Mr. Simmons as a witness to show the *bona fides* of Dr. Slade, to show that he was not the man whom he had been represented to be by the prosecution, to explain how he came to be called "Dr.," to give evidence as to his career for years past, and to show that he was an entirely innocent agent in these manifestations. It had been strongly urged upon him (Mr. Munton), though he did not personally vouch it, that messages given at Dr. Slade's or elsewhere were very often affected by the state of mind of the sitter; that if persons went to detect, gave false names, or such like, it was very likely they would get false messages. That might appear an astounding proposition, but he could call gentlemen of the highest respectability, who had tested that matter. Although slate writing was the point principally dealt with in this case, it was only one of a hundred well-attested phenomena. Many of these things, too, occurred in private families, where fraud was almost impossible, and there was abundant testimony on the subject from those who had everything to lose, and nothing to gain in mixing themselves up with the controversy. Mr. Munton argued that his worship might as well shut his eyes to the noonday sun, as to ignore these facts, which ought to be honestly inquired into. From Galileo downwards the pioneers of any new movement which clashed with the orthodox prejudices of the day, had invariably been persecuted. What was scorned and sneered at to-day, might be accepted as truth to-morrow. It had been said by Mr. Lewis in his opening that *séances* of this kind might impose upon the young and weak-minded. But there was no pretence for making such a representation as that in this case. Why, the people who went to see Slade were the foremost men of the day, among others, Professor Lankester himself. (Laughter.) There were, no doubt, some credulous people who believed anything that was told them, irrespective of the source of information. On the other hand, there were incredulous persons who believed nothing beyond their own standard of intelligence; and there was a third class who never thought for themselves, but who accepted anything which they were taught, or which was the fashion of the hour. But the most dangerous class of all with regard to the question was that to which Professor Lankester belonged—men of ability, to whose opinions great importance was attached throughout the country, and who, having preconceived ideas, advanced them in a manner which tended to prevent proper and patient inquiry. He (Mr. Munton) was always reluctant to say anything in court or elsewhere about religious belief; but there were gentlemen who held what were called materialistic views—"scientific materialism, which rejected every conception of the supernatural." He did not say that this applied to the prosecutor, but he had a book in his pocket in which Professor Lankester's name appeared very prominently on the title-page, and he had quoted these words from that book. He did not contend that Professor Lankester would do anything that he believed to be wrong, but what he meant was that his mind led him in a particular direction, that he sought out evidence to support a theory, involuntarily dovetailing his facts, and that his preconceived ideas led him to seize the shadow, and leave the substance behind, as was the case in this particular inquiry. In the course of the proceedings he

(Mr. Munton) had been rebuked for attempting to designate Professor Lankester as a "skilled observer." He now apologised for using the expression, as he had come to the conclusion that that gentleman in this particular business had shown himself to be a very unskilled observer. (Laughter.) Referring to the objections frequently raised to "paid mediums," Mr. Munton said that unfortunately the persons gifted with those powers were not generally rich, and could not, therefore, afford to be philanthropists; besides which they were as much entitled to be paid for their services as either Mr. Lewis or himself.

Mr. Flowers—But yours are "material" services. (Laughter.)

Mr. Munton—Yes. But the clergy are paid, and their services can hardly be said to be "material." He urged that numbers of eminent persons in this country accepted the truth of the phenomena, and that it was a subject for honest investigation, and not to be crushed by an endeavour to strain the provisions of the Vagrant Act, which was passed with the view of protecting ignorant persons from "fortune tellers," and had no more real application to this new science than to anything which might be discovered fifty years hence. The fourth section of the Act was apparently that under which the summons was issued. Shortly set forth, it dealt with "every person pretending or professing to tell fortunes, or using any subtle craft, means, or devices by palmistry or otherwise to deceive or impose on any of Her Majesty's subjects." Now, there was no such thing as craft and device, except so far as they related to the words which went before, and these words must be taken *ejusdem generis* with the words "telling fortunes" and "palmistry." No one said that Slade pretended to tell fortunes, while it was admitted that it had nothing to do with palmistry.

Mr. Lewis begged to be understood as admitting nothing of the sort.

Mr. Munton—There was not a pretence that it had anything to do with palmistry.

Mr. Lewis—The whole evidence went to show that it was done by sleight of hand and palmistry.

Mr. Munton—What was meant by palmistry?

Mr. Lewis—Something done with the palm of the hand.

Mr. Munton said he would not suppose Mr. Lewis was serious; indeed, it could not be argued that because a man was unable to hold a slate under the table without taking the palm of his hand with him that that had anything to do with palmistry within the well-known meaning of that term. Another point was the intention to defraud by false pretences, but there was no evidence of false pretences. If Professor Lankester or Dr. Donkin had said, "I paid a pound to Simmons because I believed what Slade said," he (Mr. Munton) might have felt himself in a different position, but a false pretence in law must, to make it complete, be not only false as a fact, but be believed in and relied on by the person paying his money. All the witnesses said was, "We should not have paid our money, if we had known it was conjuring." What he submitted, then, was that there was no evidence whatever that any representations were made by Slade to those gentleman on the faith of which they had parted with their money. Consequently, apart from other circumstances, there was no false pretence within the meaning of the law, and that part of the case failed entirely. With regard to Dr. Slade, he was an utter stranger in this country; he came here on his way to Russia to fulfil an engagement there under distinguished scientific auspices, and he (Mr. Munton) thought it specially hard that Slade, a foreigner, should be selected for prosecution when there were Englishmen, with their friends around them who could have been equally well proceeded against if there were any question to raise. Whatever was the result at the trial, it could not fail to be most disastrous to Dr. Slade. Before sitting down he would mention the names of a few of the large number of persons who had certified to the genuineness of the phenomena—gentlemen of undoubted position; for example: Archbishop Whateley, Mr. A. R. Wallace (President of the Biological Section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science), Lord Lindsay, F.R.S., Mr. Gerald Massey, the Hon. Robert Dale Owen (formerly American Minister at the Court of Naples), Captain

R. F. Burton (the traveller), and Mr. Serjeant Cox. He did not pretend that these gentlemen were Spiritualists, but they had examined into the phenomena, and had no doubt as to their genuineness. The subject had been so much inquired into that there were some thirty newspapers in Europe and America devoting themselves entirely to it, amongst them *The Spiritualist*—a London journal that frequently contained very well-written articles of much interest, and which inexperienced inquirers would do well to peruse. Mr. Munton then concluded his "lengthy" speech, which had been listened to throughout with great attention, saying that he earnestly and confidently submitted to the magistrate that the charge against Dr. Slade had wholly failed, and that his client ought to go free. (Applause.)

EVIDENCE IN DEFENCE OF DR. SLADE.

THE TESTIMONY OF MR. SERJEANT COX.

LAST Saturday, at Bow-street police-court, after the delivery of Mr. Munton's speech in defence of Dr. Slade, the following colloquy took place:—

Mr. Munton was, he said, anxious to call Mr. Serjeant Cox, Mr. Wallace, and another witness, upon this part of the case.

Mr. Flowers: If you will limit yourself to these witnesses, I have no objection to them being called.

Mr. Munton: I intend to call four witnesses, who will not take more than five minutes each.

Mr. Lewis: Will you dispose of your case to-day?

Mr. Munton: I desire to call Mr. Serjeant Cox, and he is not here.

Mr. Flowers: Mr. Serjeant Cox will probably be the judge who will try the case if you appeal from my decision.—The Court then adjourned for half-an-hour.

Upon the Court re-assembling,

Mr. Munton (addressing Mr. Flowers) said: I have considered what should be done in relation to the evidence of Mr. Serjeant Cox. I should be sorry to cause an adjournment for that evidence. You have spoken, sir, of reading a letter by the learned serjeant on the subject. Might I ask whether that is the letter which he wrote as president of the Psychological Society of Great Britain?

Mr. Flowers: It is.

Mr. Munton: Then if your worship will allow me to read the letter in question for what it is worth, I shall not call Serjeant Cox.

Mr. Flowers: Very well; read the letter, if you please.

Mr. Munton proceeded to read as follows the letter in question, which appeared in *The Spiritualist* of August 11th:—

Having undertaken to examine without prejudice or prepossession, and to report faithfully, without favour, in a purely judicial spirit, any alleged psychological phenomena that might be submitted to me as President of the Psychological Society of Great Britain, I narrate without comment what I witnessed at a sitting with Dr. Slade this afternoon.

I sat alone with him, at three o'clock, in a room at 8, Upper Bedford-place, Russell-square, into which the sun shone brightly, at a table about five feet by four, having four legs, no ledge below, and no cloth upon it. Dr. Slade sat at one side of this table, sideways, so that his legs and feet were not under the table, but his whole body being fully in my view as he faced me. I sat at the side, the corner of the table between us. As I sat I could see half-way below the table, and by moving my head slightly, I could see the whole space below, which was wholly exposed in full daylight. An ordinary drawing-room chair was about six inches from the table on the opposite side, six feet from Dr. Slade. A heavy arm-chair was in the corner of the room, about the same distance from him and from the table. A slate of the ordinary school size and a piece of slate pencil were upon the table.

Instantly upon taking our seats very loud rapping came upon the floor. This was followed by a succession of furious blows upon the table, jarring my hands as they were laying upon it. These blows were repeated at any part of the table desired, by merely touching that spot with the finger, while the blows, as forcible as if given with a sledge hammer, were being made. Dr. Slade's hands were on the table upon my hands, and his whole body to his feet was fully before my eyes. I am certain that not a muscle moved. Then he took the slate, after I had carefully inspected it, to be assured that no writing was upon it, and placing there a piece of slate pencil, the size of a small grain of wheat, he pressed the slate tightly below but against the slab of the table. Presently I heard the sound as of writing on a slate. The slate was removed, and on it a zigzag line was drawn from end to end.

At this moment the chair that I had described as standing by the table was lifted up to a level with the table, held in that position for several seconds, and then dropped to the floor. While the chair was so suspended in the air I carefully noted Dr. Slade. It was far beyond his reach. But his hands were under my hands, and his feet were fully in view near my own on the side of the table opposite to that on which the chair had risen.

While I was taking note of his position at this moment, a hand rudely grasped my knee on the opposite side to where Dr. Slade was seated, and his hands were still in mine on the table.

Blows of a more gentle kind upon the table, attended with a remarkable quivering of it, announced, as he said, that his wife was present, and desired the slate. After the slate had been carefully cleaned, it was laid upon the top of the table, with a like piece of pencil under it. Upon the slate he placed his right hand, and I placed my left hand, and with my other hand I held his left hand as it lay upon the table. As my hand lay upon the slate, I could feel, and I did also distinctly hear, something writing upon it. The communication was evidently a long one; but, before I report the result, I desire to note here a remarkable phenomenon, to my mind the most suggestive that attended this experiment.

It is necessary clearly to understand the position of the parties, therefore I repeat it.

Dr. Slade and myself sat face to face. One hand of each of us was laid upon the slate. The side of the slate that was being written upon was pressed by us against the table. Our second hands were linked together and lay upon the table. While this position was preserved, the writing proceeded without pause. When Dr. Slade removed his hand from mine it ceased instantly, and

as instantly was renewed when his hand and mine met. This experiment was repeated several times, and never failed.

Here, then, was a chain or circle formed by my arms and body, and Dr. Slade's arms and body, the slate being between us, my hand at one end of it, his hand at the other end, and between our hands, and upon the slate that connected them, the writing was. When the chain was broken forthwith the writing ceased. When the chain was re-formed the writing was at once resumed. The effect was instantaneous. In this curious fact we must seek the clue to this psychological mystery.

Some rapid rappings, indicating that the writing was finished, the slate was lifted, and in a clear and perfectly distinct writing the following was read. It filled the whole side of the slate:—

"DEAR SERJ.,—You are now investigating a subject that is worthy of all the time you or any other man of mind can devote to its investigation. When man can believe in this truth, it will in most cases make him a better man. This is our object in coming to earth, to make man and woman better, wiser, and purer.—I am truly,
"A. W. SLADE."

While I was reading this a hand again grasped my knee furthest from Dr. Slade, whose hands were at that moment holding the slate that I might copy the writing. As I wrote, a hand, which I saw distinctly, came from under the table, seized my waistcoat, and pulled it violently.

Seeing this I took the pencil with which I was copying the words, and laid it at the edge of the table furthest from Dr. Slade, and far beyond his reach, the end of the pencil projecting about two inches over the ledge. I asked if the hand would take the pencil. Forthwith a hand came from under the table, seized the pencil, and threw it upon the floor. I again asked that it would pick up the pencil and bring it to me. In a minute it was brought and put upon the table by my side. I saw the hand that brought it as distinctly as I could see my own. It was a small hand, seemingly that of a woman.

Again the slate was cleaned and laid upon the table as before, my hand upon it. In a few seconds the following sentence was written. Considerable power was used in this writing, and I could distinctly feel the pressure of the pencil upon the slate, and its motion as every word was written:—

"I am Dr. John Forbes. I was the Queen's physician. God bless you.

"J. FORBES."

While I was reading this, the hand again came from under the table and seized the sleeve of my coat, and tried to pull my arm down, but I resisted, and it disappeared. Then it came up again, as if from my legs, and caught the eye-glass that was hanging from my neck, and opened it. During all these phenomena Dr. Slade's hands were before me on the table, and his feet full in my view upon the floor. The hand on each occasion came from the side of the table opposite to where Dr. Slade was sitting. He was seated on my left, and the hand came and seized me on my right leg, in a position impossible to him. The hand I saw was not half the size of Dr. Slade's hand. It touched my hand three times, and I could feel that it was warm, soft, and moist, and as solid and fleshy as my own.

Again the slate was cleaned and held under the table tight against the wood, one half of it projecting beyond the edge, so that I might be assured that it was tightly pressed against the wood; but the slate was seized, and with great force drawn away, and rapidly raised above me and placed upon my head. In this position the sound of writing upon it was distinctly heard by me. On removing it, I found written upon it the following words:—

"Man must not doubt any more, when we can come in this way.

"J. F., M.D."

Then the large arm-chair, rushed forward from the corner of the room in which it had been placed to the table.

Again the slate was placed under the table, and projecting from it. A hand twice seized and shook my leg, both of the hands of Dr. Slade being at the moment before me, and his whole person visible.

Thus ended this experiment. All that I have reported was *done*, that is certain. How it was done, and by what agency, is a problem for psychology to solve. For my own part I can say only that I was in the full possession of my senses; that I was wide awake; that it was in broad daylight; that Dr. Slade was under my observation the whole time, and could not have moved hand or foot without being detected by me.

That it was not a self-delusion is shown by this, that any person who chooses to go may see almost the same phenomena. I offer no opinion upon their causes, for I have formed none. If they be genuine, it is impossible to exaggerate their interest and importance. If they be an imposture, it is equally important that the trick should be exposed in the only way in which trickery can be explained, by doing the same thing, and showing how it is done.

August 8th, 1876.

Mr. Munton: Now, having read that letter, if Mr. Lewis does not ask for Serjeant Cox to attend here for cross-examination, I will not trouble the court with any observations upon it.

Mr. Lewis made no response.

EVIDENCE OF MR. A. R. WALLACE, PRESIDENT OF THE BIOLOGICAL SECTION OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

Alfred Russel Wallace was accordingly called, and examined by Mr. Munton: I am an author. I have written works on natural history. I have written a work entitled, *The Miracles of Modern Spiritualism*. I have been investigating this subject for eleven years. I have had many sittings with paid mediums, but probably ten times as many sittings in private families. These sittings satisfied me of the genuineness of the phenomena, and that they proceeded from some unknown force. I know the defendant Slade. I have had three *séances* with him. On the 9th of August I sat down with him in the back room. I took up the slate, examined it, and thoroughly cleaned it myself with a wet sponge. We then both rubbed it until it was dry. A small crumb of slate pencil was then placed upon it. It was then placed under the side of the table, and held close to the woodwork. A sound of writing was heard, and in a few seconds the slate was produced with writing upon it. The slate was close to the woodwork of the table, and Slade held it by the thumb. The message was certainly on the upper side of the slate; that which faced the lower surface of the table. Slade moved the slate deliberately from under the table. There was no shuffling on his part. I cannot say the purport of the message. Two or three messages of this kind were produced while Slade held the slate. I then wished to hold it myself. He cleaned it with his hand, and I held it close under the table, as he had done, both his hands being on the table upon my other hand. The result was that I heard writing, as before, and taking out the slate, I read writing upon it. The next experiment was on the slate when it lay on the table with a bit of pencil under it. Writing was again heard, and a message appeared. No other experiment was made on that occasion. I paid another visit to Dr. Slade on October the 7th, since the commencement of this inquiry. On that occasion, after several trials, when nothing occurred, he held the slate under the table again, when we heard a faint sound of writing, and on bringing the slate

out we found upon it the words "Can't now." I examined the slate, and could distinctly see the dust of the slate pencil. I went to Slade again on Oct. 14, after the table had been impounded here, and found a common mahogany Pembroke table with two brackets. Dr. Slade pushed back the bracket between us, saying it was in the way. On that occasion I took a small book slate. Pieces of pencil were put between the slates, and Dr. Slade held it under the corner of the table. He was in a state of considerable agitation, passing the slate from the table frequently. I do not think there was more than one or two seconds during which I did not see the slate. Dr. Slade apologised for touching my body with the slate, but said he could not help it. The slate was not out of my sight more than a second or two, and it was impossible Slade could have written upon it. The message which came was in four distinct lines, with the "i" dotted where it occurred, and the "t" crossed. The message was, "Is this proof? I hope so."

You have heard witnesses speak of convulsive movements on the part of Dr. Slade. In your experience have you found that to be exceedingly common?—So common as to be an almost universal characteristic of mediums.

From beginning to end of your sitting was there anything indicative of imposture?—I could see nothing whatever indicative of imposture.

Were there any raps or movements that attracted your attention?—I heard the raps and felt the touches which have been described, but the most remarkable thing was that the flat table, when my hands and those of Dr. Slade were clasped together, rose up, and almost instantaneously turned completely over on to the top of my head and slid down my back. (Laughter.)

Was it possible that this could have been produced by Slade's feet or legs?—I think not. It appeared to me to be absolutely impossible.

Cross-examined by Mr. Lewis: Did you understand from the defendant who wrote this message "Is this proof?"

Witness: I did not on that occasion. On the previous occasion he had had a message signed "Allie," and he then told me that "Allie" was the spirit of his wife.

On the occasion of the message, "Is this proof?" did Slade lead you to suppose it was spirit-writing?—On that occasion there was not a word spoken on the subject between us. The writing was there, and that was what I took particular notice of.

What did you understand by this message?—I understood it to be "is it proof" of a power not his own.

The slate had four divisions; a piece of pencil was placed between each?—Yes.

But no writing appeared except just under the lid?—No. He did not press this slate up against the lower portion of the table.

Did he explain to you that if he had pressed the slate up against the table, it would be impossible to write inside?—No, he did not.

Did that fact occur to you?—It did not occur to me that one would be more proof than the other.

Does it occur to you now that if he had pressed the slate against the under surface of the table that it would be impossible to write inside it?—Yes.

Mr. Flowers: Even by a spirit, you know?

Mr. Lewis: Oh, no. (Laughter.)

But the impossibility would be somewhat removed if the slate was not pressed up against the under surface of the table?—Yes. Before the message appeared he moved about a great deal. I believe that he could not help that; it is an old experience of mine.

Will you look at that slate (produced), which was handed in by Mr. Hutton, of the *Spectator*, and say whether you see any resemblance to the handwriting which you got?—(After inspection): Well, there is a general resemblance, I believe.

Does it appear to you to be writing done under difficulty?—No. It appears to me to be plain, quick writing, done without any difficulty whatever.

Before you went to make this inquiry did you insist upon seeing Slade's writing, to show you his style of handwriting?—No; certainly not.

Why didn't you ask for it?—Because I did not consider that it had any bearing upon the subject.

Why not?—Because the only evidence I would expect would be evidence that he could not have done it.

Would you not think that if the writing on the slate was like his writing that it would be some evidence?—Not if I had direct ocular evidence to the contrary.

Did Slade explain to you why the slate was put under the corner of the table?—That seems self-evident. If it were put under any other part it would have been further from me, and, of course, further from my observation.

Was the bracket near the corner of the table?—Yes; of the double table.

But I speak of the last time you went?—The bracket was shut up where the slate was held. When, on the previous occasion, I asked Slade why the slate was put under the table, he said he could not help it, that he had no power over the place at which it was held, and that the slate moved involuntarily. I believe that the motion of Slade's arm was to some extent involuntary.

Did he explain why it was necessary to use the table?—No.

Did you ask him?—No.

Could it not have been done on the sideboard or mantelpiece?—I did not ask him. It would have been a foolish question.

Did you ask him if the spirit could write on a locked slate?—No.

Did it not strike you as singular that writing could not be produced on a locked slate?—I don't know that it could not have been produced. I don't believe that Slade could not produce it. The only fact is that he did not produce it on that occasion.

DR. SLADE SENTENCED TO THREE MONTHS' HARD LABOUR ON THE ASSERTIONS OF MESSRS. LANKESTER AND DONKIN.

DR. HENRY SLADE, a gentleman with an unblemished public reputation of fifteen years' standing, was on Tuesday sentenced, at Bow-street, to three months' imprisonment, with hard labour, on the evidence of Professor Lankester, F.R.S., of 38, Belsize-park, London, and Mr. Donkin, M.B., of Westminster Hospital. It is one of a class of cases well known to lawyers, in which two witnesses depose to certain things, and with nobody there to check them the experience of absent persons is considered irrelevant. The following is the decision of Mr. Flowers:—

The questions in this case are two. Firstly—Do the facts alleged constitute an offence under the Vagrant Act? and, secondly—Did Slade do what he is alleged to have done? The offence defined by the Vagrancy Act is professing or pretending to tell fortunes, or using any subtle craft, means, or device, by palmistry or otherwise, to deceive or impose on any of Her Majesty's subjects. I think that in order to constitute this offence two things are necessary, viz., using some subtle craft, means, or device, like palmistry, and an attempt to deceive or impose on some person. Palmistry is defined in Richardson's dictionary thus:—"Divination by inspection of the hands, from the roguish tricks of the pretenders to this art. To palm is to trick, or play a trick, to impose, to pass or practise a trick, imposition, or delusion. More restrictedly, to palm is to hold and keep in the palm, to touch with the palm, to handle." The definitions given by Johnson and Webster are very similar. The trick imputed to Slade consists in falsely pretending to procure from spirits messages written by such spirits upon a slate, held under the table by Slade for the purpose, such messages having previously been written by himself. Such a trick seems to me to be "a subtle craft, means, or device" of the same kind as fortune-telling. In each instance the impostor pretends to practise a magical or, at least, an occult art. I am confirmed in this view by the language of another statute, to which reference has been made in the course of these proceedings, the 9th George II., c. 5. This Act repealed James I., c. 12, by which witchcraft was made felony, and prohibited prosecutions for the offence of "witchcraft, sorcery, enchantment, or conjuration," which apart from the statute of James was punishable by the Ecclesiastical Courts, and perhaps at common law. It then enacts that, for the more effectual preventing and punishing any pretences to such art or powers as are before mentioned, whereby ignorant persons are frequently deluded and defrauded, or if any person pretended to exercise or use any kind of witchcraft, sorcery, enchantment, or conjuration, or undertook to tell fortunes, or pretended from his or her skill or knowledge, in any occult or crafty science, to discover goods supposed to be lost or stolen, he shall upon conviction on an indictment be liable to a year's imprisonment, and be set in the pillory four times. The punishment of the pillory is abolished, but the rest of the section remains in force, and I refer to it only to illustrate the meaning of the Vagrant Act. It seems to me that Act forbids substantially the same thing, the practice of occult and crafty sciences, to use the words of the Act of George II.; or subtle, crafty means or devices, by palmistry or otherwise, to use the words of the Act of George IV. For these reasons I think that if by the trick I have described Slade tried to impose on Professor Lankester and Dr. Donkin, he committed an offence against the Vagrant Act. And this brings me to the second question. Did he do so or not?—a question which lies in a narrow compass. Though much time has been occupied in its discussion, I was unwilling to exclude evidence to which the parties attached importance, and I accordingly admitted a good deal which when given appeared to me at the time, and still appears to me, irrelevant. On the one hand I attach no importance to the evidence of Mr. Maskelyne given on the summons for conspiracy, because it proves, what no one can doubt, namely, that some things done by Slade might be done by a conjuror. On the other hand, I cannot attach importance to the evidence of the witnesses for the defence, because they only prove that on other occasions strange, if you please, very strange, things, happened in Slade's presence, and that they did not perceive that he caused them. I forbear, however, to speculate on these matters, and confine myself to what happened between Slade, Lankester, and Donkin. The whole case turns upon the evidence of the two last-named persons, which, in a few words, is to the effect that they saw Slade's hands move as if he was writing, and that, on snatching the slate from him immediately afterwards, and before it was placed in the position in which the spirits were to write, and without any sound as if of writing, they found words written upon it. If this be true, it involves the inference that Slade wrote the words himself, and that, therefore, he could not think the spirit of his wife had written them. I must decide according to the well-known course of nature, and if it be true that the two witnesses saw the motions that they describe, and found the writing on the slate immediately afterwards, it is impossible for me to doubt, whatever happened on other occasions, that Slade did on that occasion write those words on that slate, in order to cheat Professor Lankester and Dr. Donkin. It is true that Simmons said there was nothing to pay, as Lankester and Donkin were not satisfied; but the question is, whether subtle craft, means, or device was used to impose on these gentlemen, and it clearly was, as the money would have been paid if the trick had not been discovered. Upon the whole, I think that an offence against the Vagrancy Act has been proved, and, considering the grave mischiefs likely to result from such practices—mischiefs which those who remember the case of Home, also a professional medium, cannot consider unsubstantial—I feel I cannot mitigate the punishment the law imposes. I, therefore, sentence the defendant to three months' imprisonment,

with hard labour, in the House of Correction. (Mingled cheers and hisses.)

Mr. Munton: With all respect, sir, for your authority, as this case is one which involves questions of importance, I desire to give notice of an appeal.

Mr. Flowers: I am glad to hear it, for although I have honestly given my opinion, I would prefer that the question should not rest there.

Mr. Lewis: Then, sir, it will be necessary for you to fix the amount of the bail.

Mr. Flowers: I think it will answer every purpose to bind the defendant in £200, and to require him to find two sureties in £100 each.

Mr. Lewis: But do you think, sir, that that will be sufficient?

Mr. Flowers: I shall do nothing harsh or unfair, Mr. Lewis. I have given my decision according to my view of the case; but I do not intend to let the defendant go to prison in the meantime if he can find reasonable bail. In fact, I think that until the defendant can perfect his bail, the same bail as hitherto—himself in £100 and two sureties in £50—will quite suffice.

Mr. Enmore Jones: I am ready to give the larger bail at once, and I have no doubt that if Dr. Wyld is here he will be ready to do the same. (Applause from the public.)

Dr. Wyld: I am ready to do the same.

Mr. Lewis: Of course I consent to these gentlemen being taken as bail, and have only to ask that the slates and table produced in the course of this inquiry be retained for the appeal.

Mr. Munton: I can certainly have no objection to that, seeing that we produced the table.

The bail was then taken, and the defendant was released pending the appeal.

In the future it would be well for the friends of the defendant to give special attention to what Messrs. Lankester, Maskelyne, and Donkin swore about the table, as compared with the table itself, and the evidence of its makers.

GREEK TEXT OBTAINED THROUGH DR. SLADE.

BY THE HON. ROBERT DALE OWEN, FORMERLY AMERICAN MINISTER AT THE COURT OF NAPLES.

At half-past seven on Monday evening, February 9th, 1874, I called at Dr. Slade's rooms, 413, Fourth-avenue, New York, found him disengaged, and had a sitting which I shall remember while I live.

It was held in his back parlour; no one but myself present; doors closed and locked; sufficient gaslight from a chandelier suspended above the table to make every object in the room distinctly visible. We sat at a table without cover, five feet by two and a half, Slade at one end, and I on one side, near him: Slade's hands on the table *through-out the sitting*.

An interval of some ten or fifteen minutes, during which nothing occurred; Slade nervous, restless, and seemingly disappointed. Then he laid a small slate on the table before me, and, after a time, went to a writing-desk, brought thence half a quire of paper, selected a sheet, and handed it to me with a request that I would examine it. I did so, carefully, under the gaslight, and can positively affirm that not a word or letter was visible upon it. Thereupon he added, "They wish you to lay it on the slate, and to lay the slate on your knee."

Then, after another pause: "Have you a lead pencil?"

"Yes."

"Please throw it under the table."

I did so.

A few minutes afterwards I felt the grasp, as of a hand, on one of my knees, arresting my attention, for the touch was unmistakably distinct. Presently there appeared, stealing over my knees, and creeping slowly up the slate, a hand, holding my pencil. This hand resembled, point for point, that of a white marble female statue, alike in size, in colour, and in form: the fingers taper, and the whole most delicately moulded. *It was detached and shaded off at the wrist.* It commenced writing about the middle of the note sheet, and continued to write under my eyes for two or three minutes, ending at the bottom of the page. Then it slipped gently back under the table, carrying the pencil with it.

Again an interval, perhaps of five minutes. Then appeared a second hand, somewhat smaller than the first, but in colour and symmetry closely resembling it. This hand moved to the top of the sheet of paper; wrote as the former had done, and for about the same period of time, then disappeared slowly in like manner. I saw it even more distinctly than the first, because it wrote outside of

the shadow of the projecting table top, and directly under the gas-light.

As we had no raps indicating the close of the sitting, we kept our places, talking over what had happened. After some time a hand similar to that which first wrote, showed itself coming out from below the end of the table furthest from Dr. Slade. It was detached, as the others had been, remained visible several minutes, then sank out of sight. This closed the sitting.

When I came to examine the writing of which I had thus witnessed the execution, I found the first written to be in English, a commonplace communication with the signature of Dr. Slade's deceased wife. The last written, but first on the note sheet, headed in English, "Law of Love. Matt. v. 43-45," was in Greek.

Now, my knowledge of Greek, imperfect when I left college, has, during more than half-a-century of disuse, so faded out that I can barely translate a word, here and here. I referred the manuscript to two of the best Greek scholars in Harvard University, and from them I ascertained that it was what it purported to be (a few aspirates and accents only omitted), the original of the three well-known verses, thus rendered in our revised version:—

"43. Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour and hate thine enemy.

"44. But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you.

"45. That ye may be the children of your father which is in Heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil, and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."

Truly the "Law of Love." That those of your readers who are familiar with Greek may judge the original MS. for themselves, I here submit a half-size photograph of what I obtained.

Law of Love Matt. v. 43-45.

*Μοῦσαι δε ἔρεθον ἄγαθούς· τὸν
πλεῖστον αὐτῶν καὶ ἀδελφοὺς τὸν ἐχθρόν
σου. Ἴνα ὅμως λέγω ὑμῖν ἀγαπᾶτε
τοὺς ἐχθρούς ὑμῶν ἐν ἀγαπίῳ· τοὺς
καταφρονούντας ὑμᾶς καὶ τὰς
κινήσεις τοὺς μισοῦντάς ὑμᾶς καὶ
προσεύχεσθε ὑπὲρ τῶν ἐπηρεαζόντων
ὑμᾶς, καὶ διὰ τὸν κόντα ὑμᾶς
ἡ ὀκνος γέννησθε υἱὸν τοῦ πατρὸς
ὑμῶν τοῦ ἐν οὐρανοῖς, ὅτι τοῦ ἡλίου
αὐτοῦ ἀνατέλλει ἐπὶ κακοῦ καὶ
καταγαρόντος, καὶ βοῶντος ἐπὶ
δικαίου καὶ ἀπίστου.*

*Dear Friend & Brother, R.D.C.,
we are pleased to see the
Eyes of man open, and ready
to receive the light that will
help develop goodness in their
hearts and souls -
then people can see the goal
of this great work, as many
ask what good can you find in
Spiritualism as soon as show
them the goal. If they would follow
our good teachings. A. Slade*

I close without comment, merely reminding your readers:—

That this sitting was held in the light.
That the sheet of note paper remained in my possession

from the time I first received and examined it till the close of the sitting; and has never been out of my possession since.

That, for the reality of the phenomena I had the evidence of two senses; that of feeling, and best and most convincing of all, the testimony of what the old poet calls the "faithful eyes."

New York, October 15th, 1876.

SPIRITUALISTS' DEFENCE FUND.

THE efficient fighting of the Slade case is, to a large extent, a question of funds. Spiritualists should, at this juncture, come forward unanimously, and subscribe all they can afford, that the Committee appointed to watch the case may be able to decide at once upon their future line of action. Let everybody—man, woman, and child—immediately remit, or guarantee what they can to Dr. George Wyld, 12, Great Cumberland-place, Hyde-park, London.

SPIRITUALISTS' DEFENCE SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

	£	s.	d.
Mr. Alexander Calder	10	10	0
Charles Blackburn	10	10	0
Mrs. Weldon	10	10	0
Mr. Martin Smith	10	10	0
Miss H.	10	0	0
Mr. J. N. T. Martheze	7	0	0
J. Enmore Jones	5	0	0
Dr. George Wyld	5	0	0
Miss Douglas	5	0	0
Mr. Hensleigh Wedgwood	5	0	0
T. E. Partridge	5	0	0
J. Bulteel	5	0	0
P. B. J.	5	0	0
G. C. Joad	5	0	0
Dr. J. Dixon	2	0	0
Mrs. Lowe	2	0	0
Dr. K. Cook	1	1	0
Captain James	1	1	0
G. K.	1	1	0
J. R. W.	1	1	0
Mrs. Maltby	1	1	0
Mr. Manners	1	0	0
W. P. Adshead	1	1	0
Mrs. S. Parker	1	0	0
Mr. J. C. Ward	1	1	0
J. Andre	1	0	0
Smaller sums	2	0	0

TESTIMONIAL TO ANDREW JACKSON DAVIS.

To the Editor of "The Spiritualist."

SIR,—It has been decided to close the A. J. Davis Testimonial list, and I have remitted £114 3s. to Mr. Green, having taken the expenses at my charge. Will you kindly announce this in next number. J. N. T. MARTHEZE.

20, Palmeira-square, Brighton, Oct. 31st, 1876.

DR. MONCK.—Dr. Monck, who possesses real medial powers, has been charged at Huddersfield with imposture under the Vagrancy Act, and conjuring apparatus has been found in his room. He is very little known to London Spiritualists. At present we have no information upon the subject except from newspaper reports, and in newspaper reports no Spiritualist places any trust. Rumour says that Dr. Monck was so incautious as to carry about with him apparatus which he used in his public lectures exposing conjurers.

SPIRITUALIST DISCUSSION MEETINGS.—Next Monday, the fortnightly discussion meetings will recommence at the rooms of the National Association of Spiritualists, 38, Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury, London. The arrangement of the meetings and the choice of subjects for discussion have this winter been placed in the hands of the Experimental Research Committee, which, under the able leadership of Mr. Desmond Fitz-Gerald, has been doing such good work in the establishment and perfecting of tests in relation to physical phenomena. It is on this subject that the discussions will open next Monday evening with a paper by Mr. Fitz-Gerald. The meetings are free to members of the Association, who are at liberty to invite any friends likely to take an interest in the subject.

MR. J. J. MORSE IN THE PROVINCES.—On Sunday last, October 29th, Mr. J. J. Morse delivered two inspirational addresses in the Temperance Hall, All Saints, Manchester, Mr. W. Oxley presiding at each service. The audiences were large on each occasion. On Sunday next, November 5th, Mr. Morse will fill his regular monthly engagement at Newcastle-on-Tyne, by delivering inspirational addresses in the Old Freemasons' Hall, Newgate-street. Afternoon at three, subject "For what is Life?" Evening at seven, subject, "The Coming God." Also in the same hall, on Monday evening, November 6th, at 7.30, subject, "Crime, its cause and cure from the standpoint of Spiritualism." Other engagements are as follows:—Liverpool, November 12th; Glasgow, November 19th; Halifax, November 26th; Oldham, December 10th; Manchester, December 17th; London, Sundays, December 24th and 31st. All letters to be addressed, for terms and dates, to Mr. J. J. Morse, Warwick Cottage, 518, Old Ford road, Bow, London, E.

EVIDENCE IN DEFENCE OF DR. SLADE.

Continued from page 161.

You have said that you do not pay much attention to the writing?—I attach no importance whatever to the message.

What do you mean by that?—I have seen many, and they possess a general similarity. I attach importance to the fact that there is writing, not to the subject matter of the writing. On the first occasion he told me the messages were written by spirits, and I understood they all were. I did not investigate Slade's history before I went there.

Mr. Flowers: You took your own slate, you say; did you take the pencil also?

Witness: I did not.

Mr. Hutton's slate was handed to the witness, and he was asked by Mr. Flowers whether he could read the writing upon it, but he was unable to do so, although he saw in the characters a similarity to the writing on his own slate.

Re-examined: You went there to investigate the phenomena of slate writing?—Yes.

Re-examined by Mr. Munton: I have generally found that there is no reliance to be placed on identity in the matter of the messages. I have heard it said that some shade is one of the recognised conditions for slate writing. I may add that during the whole time that the slate was being held by Slade his feet and knees were fully visible to me outside the table, as he was sitting sideways.

EVIDENCE OF DR. GEORGE WYLD.

George Wyld, M.D., 12, Great Cumberland-place, was next examined. He said he had resided in Great Cumberland-place for twenty-two years, and had believed in mesmerism for thirty-five years, and in Spiritualism for twenty-two years. He paid three visits to Dr. Slade between the 4th and the 12th of August, and had about twenty experiments, but, to save the time of the court, he would confine his observations to two experiments. These he called his *crucial* experiments. He wished to remark that, although a believer in Dr. Slade, he yet acted as if he were a sceptic, because he wished to obtain test experiments, in order to convince his brother, Mr. Wyld, Doctor of Philosophy, Edinburgh, who was a philosophical sceptic in these matters. Dr. Slade willingly submitted to Dr. Wyld's crucial tests. He proceeded to say:—The first experiment was thus performed—I held both Dr. Slade's feet with my feet; I held his right hand in my left hand, and his left hand lay before me on the table. I then took up the slate, minutely examined it, and found it a dry, dusty slate; there was no possibility of there being sympathetic writing on it. I examined it for a minute or two. I then placed a crumb of pencil on the slate, and placed the slate below the flap of the table, holding it tightly to the under surface, retaining meanwhile my hold of Dr. Slade's feet and right hand, while his left hand lay upon the table. Immediately I heard writing, which became louder and louder as I approached my ear to the slate. Three raps were given. I drew out the slate slowly and carefully, as if it had been a drawer, and there lay the little bit of pencil and this message—"Let this convince you." Again I took up the slate, cleaned it, and placed the crumb of pencil on the surface of the table; and now, holding both Dr. Slade's feet with my feet, and his right hand in my left hand, I covered the bit of pencil with the slate, and then seized Dr. Slade's remaining hand, and rested my elbow on the slate. Immediately writing was heard, then three raps. I then lifted the slate, and there found a message of a secret family nature, involving four family names. During the twenty experiments I never allowed the slate to be out of my sight, and during these two crucial experiments I did not allow Slade to touch the slate, it was in my own hands from first to last. These facts enable me to say, solemnly, that I am not more convinced of my own existence than I am that the writing appeared on my slate without the intervention of human hands. The convulsions spoken of as affecting Dr. Slade are well known to medical men under the name of chorea; they, more or less, affect all mediums when under influence. The hoarse clearing of the throat is, also, purely a nervous affection, called hysterical throat, very commonly affecting public speakers and others when agitated. All the writing I had in my twenty experiments was, beyond all doubt, the dry dusty writing of slate-pencil.

By Mr. Lewis: Did you ever, Dr. Wyld, see Mrs. Guppy come through the ceiling?—No, Mr. Lewis, I never did. (Laughter.)

The message convinced you?—My twenty-two years' experience convinced me.

Were you present when Professor Lankester seized the slate?—I was not; and I am glad I was not present, as I might, perhaps, have been tempted to use a little psychic force. (Laughter.)

EVIDENCE OF MR. GEORGE C. JOAD.

George Curling Joad examined: I am nothing at all; I am nobody. (Laughter.)

Are you a gentleman of independent means?—Yes.

Mr. Joad continued: I reside at Oakfield, Wimbledon-park. I have seen the defendant Slade on five different occasions. I wrote one letter to the *Times*. I have not had much experience in this matter. Three months ago I thought the whole thing humbug. I went on the first occasion before Professor Lankester. On the first occasion I did not apply any particular test. I went twice after that to test him. On reading Professor Lankester's letter I wrote to the defendant, and said that as I was not satisfied, I should like to see him again, and he appointed an interview. I accordingly went on the Monday morning, and took with me a double slate. I first examined a slate of Dr. Slade's, in order to see whether it was free from writing. I placed my initials at one corner. He then put the slate under the corner of the table, in such a way that my initials projected. The sound of writing occurred almost immediately, and the slate was raised without going out of my sight at

all, and I saw a short message, "We are here," or something of that sort. I then said I would like to try my book slate, and he placed between the two slates a crumb of pencil, and placed it under the table, without it having been out of my sight for an instant. It was then closed, and writing took place on one side of my slate. The slate was next turned over, and a piece of pencil placed on the side which was free from writing. Slade raised the slate, and placed it on my shoulder within my view, and I immediately heard the sound of writing close to my ear. The slate was brought down, and a message was found written on it, "We cannot do more now. Allie." I was pretty well convinced by this that the writing was genuine; but since this inquiry commenced I wished to try two slates of my own tied together with a string. Dr. Slade consented to this. I took two slates to him. He first said he would try a slate of his own to see how the power was. He was about to put mine under the corner of the table as usual, but it seemed to be pushed away, and he remarked that the power was very strong. He kept swaying it to and fro a good deal; ultimately it came very near the ground, and I heard a sound as of a mallet or a hammer striking, and the slate flew into pieces. Slade then said he would try again with a slate of his own. He placed a slate under the table, and asked whether writing would come with tied slates, and the reply was, "We will try." I said to him that I did not see how I could now tie my slates together, as one of them had been broken. (Laughter.) Slade then got a slate of his own which was at hand. It was of the same size as mine. I examined it, and found it clean. A piece of pencil was put on my slate. Slade's slate was next placed on the top of mine, and the two were tied together. He then took them up by one corner to place under the table, but they also appeared to be pushed away. I said, "Perhaps they want to write on the table." He replied, "We will try." He asked me to hold the opposite corner to himself, which I did, and we held the slates above the table, our fingers resting on the table. In two seconds the sound of writing was heard, and continued for at least five minutes. I said to Slade, "I want to open these myself." I then opened the slates, which had never been out of my sight, and on both the inner sides (his slate and mine) there appeared a long message containing 57 words. That was perfectly convincing to me as to the slate writing. A hand-bell was placed on the floor. I could see the whole of Dr. Slade's body. He asked for the bell to be rung, and it was rung twice. Then the bell rose up, passed over the table between him and me, and fell on the floor on the other side.

Cross-examined by Mr. Lewis: I examined the bell. I found nothing whatever. I did not ask him to account for the phenomenon. He did not say whether he broke the slate himself, or offer any explanation with reference to it. I did not ask him for any explanation. I did not want to ask him.

EVIDENCE OF MR. ALGERNON JOY, M. INST. C.E.

Algernon Joy, a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers, and formerly in the Royal Artillery: I have been interested in Spiritualism for over fifteen years. I had a *séance* with Slade at New York a year ago, which I described in a letter to the *Times*. I went, without any previous arrangement, with Colonel Olcott and Mr. Massey. They had a *séance* first, and after it was over, Slade took me at once into his *séance* room, without any previous communication with Simmons. There were two or three strong gas burners full on, immediately over the table we sat at, which was just like the one in court. Slade sat with his chair turned towards me and sideways to the table, and close up to and square against it, so that he could not possibly move his legs over to the other side, as the leg of the table was in the way, and close against his leg and the chair. Moreover, his legs were never out of my sight. I sat against the flap of the table, and close to the corner, so that I could see his whole body all the time, and I overlooked him as much as possible. It did not occur to me, as it did to some witnesses for the prosecution, to avoid looking into things. A chair, opposite me, and about two or three feet behind Slade's left shoulder, rose slowly six or eight inches in the air, and then toppled over away from Slade, and lay on the ground about three yards from him. I got up, examined the floor, which was carpeted, and the chair, and satisfied myself that there were no wires or hairs or machinery connected with it. Subsequently, the chair, which I could see from my seat as it lay on the floor, got up, and came back to its place at the table. Slade never once left his seat during the whole *séance*. I stood up at some distance from him, holding the slate up against him so that he could not see my hand nor the surface of the slate nearest me. I also made him turn his head on one side. There was no looking-glass in the room. I then wrote, "Is my father Henry here to-night?" My reason for wording the question so peculiarly was that after I had written "Is my father," Slade said, "You had better give the name of the spirit you wish to hear from." I then turned the slate over on to my hand, so that my hand covered the writing, and the blank surface was uppermost. Slade took hold of one corner, and we passed the slate under the table, when he instantly let go. I heard a sound as of slate writing, and on bringing the slate up found on the upper surface the words, "Your father, Henry, is not present." The slate had never left my hand, and Slade had never had an opportunity of seeing my question, or of writing on the slate, unless he did it by psychic force, whatever that may be, and had found out my question by clairvoyance or mind-reading, if there is such a thing. I can swear that Slade did not write it by any ordinary means, or by conjuring, or anything of the kind. I have had three sittings since Lankester's letter appeared in the *Times*. Once I went with Miss Kislingbury, who brought a new book-slate with her. It was never out of my sight for more than three seconds at a time, except when Miss Kislingbury sat upon it. We opened it, and saw that there was no writing on it. Immediately afterwards Slade took it and held it under the table for ten or twelve seconds, during the greater part of which I could see a good portion of the corner projecting beyond the table. It

was a front corner, and not a corner next to the hinged side, and I could see that the slate was closed all the time. He then brought it up and rested it partly on the edge of the table, when we heard the sound of writing begin, which continued for five minutes, during which he slid the slate forward till it rested completely on the table, and then turned his hand over and rested the tips of his five fingers on the top of it. On opening it we found the message which I produce. Mr. Joy handed the slate to the magistrate. The message was as follows:—"Dear Friend,—We all feel to bless you for the kindness shone my dear husband. I hope he will not get discouraged, for all will be well for him. He is in the right, and in coming years will prove it so. I shall be with him to encourage and to give him strength.—I am truly, A. W. SLADE."

Mr. Lewis (examining the message and handing it to the magistrate): You will observe that the spirit does not spell very well. "Shewn" is written "shone." (Laughter.)

Mr. Flowers: They spell in the other world as they spelled in this, and a spirit that spelled badly would go on spelling badly. (Laughter.)

Cross-examined by Mr. Lewis: While I was in New York I took an opportunity of seeing as much as I could of several of the leading Spiritualists there, and though there is no class of beings about whom more scandalous stories are told than mediums, I did not hear a whisper against Slade's fair fame. There is no class who say more evil about each other than mediums, but even among them, some ten or a dozen whom I heard express an opinion had not a word to say against him.

Did Slade say anything against any other medium?—No.

Did it not occur to you that three persons might discover what one would not?—Yes, but my experience in Spiritualism taught me that there were other reasons against the admission of more than two at a time. With some mediums the presence of mixed influences draws from and exhausts them.

Mr. Munton desired to put in as evidence a framed slate, which had written on its surface the Lord's Prayer in Greek, obtained at a *séance* at Dr. Slade's by a gentleman from Manchester.

Mr. Flowers: I do not think it necessary. Your evidence is already overwhelming, supposing that I take it into consideration.

EVIDENCE OF MR. GEOFFREY SIMMONS.

Geoffrey Simmons: I reside at 8, Upper Bedford-place, Russell-square. I arrived in England two or three months since. I am an American. Prior to the war between the Northern and Southern States I was a merchant there. From April, 1863, until the close of the war I was officially recognised as a sutler. I have known Slade personally since January, 1863. After the war broke out in 1863 Slade resided at Jackson. At the time Slade was practising as a clairvoyant physician. At that time, according to the law of the States, men of that class paid a tax to the revenue. It was an internal revenue tax.

Mr. Lewis: What was the name of it; a showman's tax? (Hisses and laughter.)

Mr. Munton having protested against this interruption, the examination proceeded.

Witness: It was a physician's tax. Dr. Slade has always, since I have known him, been a man in delicate health. He proposed to me at that time that I should go to Jackson, with a view to carrying on the commercial part of his practice. That was because he required some assistance. Besides, the state of his health compelled him. He had two places of business. They were 75 miles apart. In the course of his practice he visited both. I accepted his proposal, after taking time to consider it. The war having ceased, and I not being engaged in my business, I agreed to stop with him; and for some years I acted as his secretary and treasurer, and carried on the commercial part of the business.

I believe you, after a time, shared the proceeds?—Yes.

Do you recollect Dr. Slade marrying in 1868?—Yes.

Did he marry a lady publicly known as a lecturer on Spiritualism?—Yes.

And did that lady die about a year after her marriage?—Yes.

Do you know of your own knowledge that these manifestations occurred to Slade?—Yes.

After Mrs. Slade's death did Dr. Slade commence to give sittings something like those he has been giving in England?—He had been giving sittings before I saw him, and he continued to do so after her death. I have continued to carry out the commercial part of his engagements ever since, and have shared the proceeds with him.

Have you been concerned in the correspondence with Russia as to an engagement?—Yes.

And that he has entered into an engagement with a Russian society?—Yes.

And that he is passing *en route* to Russia?—Yes.

Cross-examined: Have you received the larger share of the sovereigns?

Witness: No. Equal.

Did he pretend to produce spirit masks?—No; never.

Did you ever have any masks seized?—No.

Did you ever have anything seized?—Only when Professor Lankester seized the slate. (Laughter.)

Mr. Munton then said that that was the case for the defence. Of course his worship would recognise the fact that he had restricted the evidence on behalf of Dr. Slade.

Mr. Flowers said he knew that was the case; and that it had been done at his own request. He should take a little time to consider his observations on the case, and with this view further proceedings in the matter were adjourned until Tuesday.

MISS LOTTIE FOWLER sails for New York from Liverpool to-morrow, by the Cunard steamer, *Abyssinia*. She will go through at once from New York to Chicago.

LETTERS ABOUT DR. SLADE.

AN AMERICAN LAWYER ON DR. SLADE'S MEDIUMSHIP.

THE following letter directed to Dr. Slade, "London," was sent to Bow-street Police-court last Tuesday, and put into his hands there:—

Oregon, Holt Co., Missouri, Oct. 10, 1876.

HENRY SLADE,—Sir,—The *exposé* in your case gives me great annoyance, although you do not know me. I will tell you why I am annoyed.

I went to see you one afternoon at your house in New York. My name was never given to you; I went from here almost direct, and was a perfect stranger in New York—never was there before; no one in your room but our two selves, and the sun shone into the window. As soon as I entered your room it seemed to me that invisible hands manipulated my person; my hands were seized by invisible hands. You did not offer to hold the little slate; I alone held it, you sitting off quite a distance. The slate, which I cleaned, was written upon both when I held it in my hand and when I held it under against the table top. My own name was written on the slate, and names of friends deceased twenty or twenty-five years were subscribed. I will swear you did not know the names, for no name was given to you by me—not even my own. You tried to hold an accordion, which was violently wrested from you, to your apparent alarm; I took hold of it and held it tightly in one hand, with the keys turned toward me. The force pulled violently and pushed, and the keys raised and fell to the tune of "Home, sweet home." I could not have started the tune had my life been the forfeit. I silently requested (mentally as it is called) that "Hail, Columbia," be played, and it was played. Also a dinner bell was rung in mid air, while whirled about by a power to me unseen. No experience can account for these things to me, but it puzzles me that you had to hold these articles, as you admit, while Lankester and Donkin were present. All the men and women in God Almighty's world cannot persuade me I am such a fool, idiot, weakling, as to have been deceived at your house. I know you did not touch any article on that occasion. Why then, when so much depended on it, did you have to touch and handle in London? When I read the cool explanations of such men as Lankester and Donkin, I ask myself—Is it possible I was deceived on that occasion? Now, I respectfully ask you if you think I am mistaken as to your *not* touching the articles on the occasion of my visit? Nothing can make me think so, not even your "say so." But, then, I will never say anything more about it.—I am, very respectfully, yours etc.,

CLARKE IRVINE, Attorney-at-Law, &c., &c.

Oregon, Holt Co., Missouri, Lock Box, No. 5.

A LETTER FROM MISS SLADE.

WE have received the following letter from Miss Slade, an American young lady, now in this hospitable country, but whose natural protector is threatened with three months' imprisonment, with hard labour, on the assertions of Messrs. Lankester and Donkin:—

To the Editor of "The Spiritualist."

SIR,—This is my first attempt at writing an article for publication, and I hope its want of eloquence will not exclude it from your columns. The attack upon Dr. Slade, my uncle, has caused me to write, in the first place, to say that Prof. Lankester, as a man of science, should have investigated this subject with more patience, instead of at once rushing to the supposition that it is all mere trickery, for supposition it is, and he has nothing to prove it otherwise. Older men of science have also been looking into the subject, and have come to their own conclusions; but I am sure all would unite in saying that it is a force which does not proceed from the medium, and would also say, most emphatically, that there is no possibility of trickery being resorted to in the production of these various manifestations.

If Prof. Lankester had had a little more experience in Spiritualism in general, and a little more knowledge about the construction of a common table, he would not have placed himself in so ridiculous a position before the public. It is to be hoped that, in coming years, he may be benefited by the conclusions of older and wiser men, and not be so ready to form an hypothesis on a subject of which he knows comparatively nothing.

But my main object in writing this letter is to thank the National Association of Spiritualists for their kindness in extending their helping hands to those who are strangers in this country, and for showing themselves to be truly "friends in need." Mediums, surrounded by such a spirit of kindness, cannot fail in doing right. It is my earnest hope that my uncle may be able to repay the Spiritualists for all their kindness towards him, and it will always be my aim to try to support him in anything that goes for the promotion of the cause. Why should I not support a cause that has been the means of bringing me face to face with my spirit mother? It is enough to make me believe in this Divine truth, and cause me to bless the day when I was so fortunate as to fall into the hands of my dear uncle, when it has been my good fortune to receive living truths from the shores of immortality. When I see this cause assailed, it makes me feel sorry for its enemies, as "they know not what they do."

The knowledge of Spiritualism has proved a blessing to thousands who were groaning in darkness and superstition. Spiritualism unfolds the light and splendour of the opening heavens. It leads its followers away from dark paths, and shows them the glories of the present and future. It bids them cease to mourn over the sins of the past, and tells them,—"Go, and sin no more." It gives them the blessed assurance that they are all children of one Father, and that all are cared for by Him. It points to every one the way of purity, and sings in thunder tones, "Do thy duty to thyself and to thy Maker." This is a truth which makes its appeal to the living soul, and cheers and gladdens the inner vision. Does jugglery teach us this? I say

not. My taste forbids me to enter into a wrangle with jugglers; it would seem like "casting pearls before swine."

I was pleased to read the article in the *Banner of Light* of Sept. 30, on page 1, from the able pen of Allan Putnam, and it is my advice to investigators to read that carefully before looking into the phenomena of Spiritualism.

Again thanking you in behalf of my uncle, for your kindness, and that of the committee,—I am, very truly yours,

AGNES SLADE.

MR. HENSLEIGH WEDGWOOD ON DR. SLADE'S MEDIUMSHIP.

WE have received the following letter from Mr. Wedgwood:—

SIR,—Having a strong belief in the genuineness of the slate-writing exhibited by Dr. Slade, I was desirous of obtaining a specimen from him, under conditions adequate to negative the different ways of accounting for the writing proposed by those who accuse him of fraud. I thought that this might be effected if I took my own folding-slate, and took care that it was never unclosed, or out of my sight, until the writing was found upon it. I accordingly made Slade understand that if the slate was taken underneath the table it must be opened before me, for me to satisfy myself that there was no writing upon it up to that moment. He saw clearly the importance of this precaution, and we sat down with his chair on the side facing the light. The slate consisted of a pair of hinged tablets, with slate on the inside only, so that when the tablets are shut you cannot touch the slate at all.

Dr. Slade, in the first place, held the shut slate under the table in one hand for preliminary inquiry. Presently we heard a crackling noise that I did not understand, and when the slate was brought up it was found to be all broken to pieces on the inside. We were thus reduced to make use of two of Dr. Slade's own slates, apparently new, having the grey look of unused slates. I breathed on them, and rubbed them well with my pocket handkerchief, and putting the rubbed faces together we tied them up fast with a bit of cord, with a fragment of slate pencil between them. Thus tied up the slate was laid flat on the table without having been taken under it at all or removed for a moment from under my eyes. I placed both my hands upon it, and Slade one of his. Presently we heard the writing begin; I leant down my ear to listen to it, and we both remarked that it did not sound like writing, but like a succession of short strokes. This went on for a long time, six or seven minutes, perhaps, till I wondered how there could be room for it all. At last the character of the sound entirely changed, and gave us the impression of rapid writing in a running hand. When this was done I took the slate into the other room, leaving Slade entranced behind, and untied the slate before Mr. Simmons, when I found that on one face was written, in a very good hand, the 26th verse of the first chapter of Genesis, in Greek, and on the other a short message of the usual character, in English. The Greek letters, being each written separately, were what had given the broken sound of the former part of the writing. If it be suggested that the slates were prepared beforehand with some invisible writing, which was brought out by the heat of my hand, I answer (independently of other grave objections) that the writing as it stands can be wiped out by the merest touch; how, then, could it have escaped obliteration in its supposed invisible state when the slates were well rubbed with my pocket-handkerchief?

H. WEDGWOOD.

31, Queen Anne-street, Cavendish-square, W.

SLATE-WRITING IN DR. SLADE'S PRESENCE.

A friend has sent us the following cutting from the *New York Times*:—

To the Editor of the *New York Times*.

Finding in a recent issue of the *Times* some editorial references to Dr. E. Ray Lankester's exposures of the frauds practised by Spiritual mediums, and having just risen from a hasty perusal of Dr. William A. Hammond's work on *Spiritualism, and Allied Causes of Nervous Derangement*, I am impelled to crave your indulgence in a brief communication. As some of our American writers on the subject have no standing whatever in science, I shall not assume that their so-called exposures, although making good outfits for itinerant lecturers, can be regarded as having any real value. One of your paragraphs raises an issue as to Dr. Slade's *séances*, which impels me to give the results of an experiment of my own that will not be found in the work published by the Appletons on the *Etiology of Certain Phenomena called Spiritual*, because it was instituted after the proofs had already been corrected. I called on the medium as a stranger, not even giving my name. I had never met Dr. Slade, and could not, therefore, have been identified by him, as I did not call at the suggestion of any friend of his, but in consequence of a conversation between two persons who were strangers to me that I accidentally overheard. The room was a back parlour, fairly well lighted. A long table, an ordinary folding slate, and a pencil were all the implements used. These I examined thoroughly. Having done so, the medium broke off a small section of the pencil, placed it between the two slates, and laid them on the table folded. He sat not less than four feet from the slate and pencil, and moved neither hand nor foot during the *séance*. I was near him, but half interposed between him at the point where the slate was placed. A peculiar grating sound notified me that the pencil was moving, but as I did not once take my eyes off him, and I was so seated as to command both the table and the medium in a single glance, I know by ocular observation that there was no physical relation between them. Under these circumstances a message was scribbled to me, bearing the signature of a man who had been dead for several years, and who during his whole life had scarcely ever travelled beyond the limits of his native county—a man who lived and died in obscurity in a small inland town in Connecticut, and who hated Spiritualism and all its belongings with an orthodox hatred. The signature was as undoubtedly his as my signature is undoubtedly my

own. Moreover, he had a peculiar, old-fashioned way of forming his capitals that would have rendered it impossible for me to produce a successful imitation, many times as I have seen it. Was I hallucinated? In all my life, although of very nervous temperament, I have never been the victim of a single optical illusion. Moreover, in the ordinary acceptation of the term, I am the least excitable of men; my eye has been trained for years to accurate observation with the microscope, and you well know that such training necessarily involves an accurate and thoroughly practical acquaintance with the laws of optics. It was, in other words, almost absolutely impossible for Dr. Slade to practice any deception; even a suspicious movement would have been carefully observed, as I was there for that purpose.

The fact is I was and still am thoroughly sceptical as to the phenomena of Spiritualism, except in cases where I have personally verified them. But that the *séances* of spiritual mediums occasionally involve sources of intelligence that cannot be explained by the ordinary laws of perception is a fact that it is folly to deny. . . . FRANCIS GERRY FAIRFIELD.

New York, Monday, October 9th, 1876.

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR OF "THE SPECTATOR."

The following letter by one of the two editors of *The Spectator* was recently published in *The Times*:—

SIR,—In your report of this case in to-day's paper you make me say that at the first two sittings I was convinced of the "supernatural" character of the manifestations. There is no such word used in any of your contemporaries' reports, and certainly I never used it, and should think it a great misnomer. These phenomena, if not strictly natural, are certainly nearer the infra-natural than the supernatural. What I said was that at those first two sittings I was convinced that the phenomena were not due to trickery, but to some unexplained source; that at the third and fourth sittings I became very suspicious of mere fraud; but that at the last sitting I was nearly reconverted to my previous state of mind, notwithstanding the appearance of Professor Lankester's letter in the interval, and my expectation that I should trace his explanation in what I saw. If these so-called Spiritualistic facts are, as so many scientific men have now judged (De Morgan, Crookes, Wallace, Barrett), no mere illusions, but true, they are most likely purely natural; but they are important, not for any light they give on great subjects, but as showing that mind can sometimes act on matter without any contact between any physical organisation and that matter. But I should as soon think of going to a Spiritualistic *séance* for anything really supernatural as of going to the Arctic regions for a mild climate.—I am, Sir, yours obediently,

RICHARD H. HUTTON.

Englefield-green, Staines, October 23.

SERIOUS DANGER AVERTED BY A SPIRIT MESSAGE.

To the Editor of "The Spiritualist."

SIR,—As some proof of Spiritualism to the sceptic who would be more or less staggered by the extraordinary case now raging against Dr. Slade, will you give me a small space in your valuable paper for trustworthy circulation?

For the past month I have been very ill from bronchitis, and unable to leave my bed, when one evening my daughter (Lady L.) came to say good-night, with her baby in her arms, and, just as she kissed me, I heard *distinctly* the spirit voice of my husband say, "Tell her to wait, and you get up and go down first; do, do." I, from past experience, knowing that there was some danger imminent to this his favourite child, begged her to sit down and wait, which she most reluctantly consented to, as she feared the exposure to me in going through the cold air. But I got up, and being very weak I took rather longer to dress, and when I did go down, the moment I entered the bed-room a fearful crash sounded. On looking up there I saw *more* than twelve feet of the ceiling had fallen right on the bed. Any one piece of the mortar might have killed both mother and child. Now, I wonder if Mr. Maskelyne can do this; or can he explain where the voice came from uttering the same language used by one loved too dearly to be ever mistaken? No one can say "imagination," for a severe bronchial cough leaves no room for *such* pastime, and one would require an Eastern imagination to fancy the ceiling coming down; so, will the Lankestons, and Donkins, and Maskelynes explain this, and give their explanation publicly through your paper? If they succeed with this, I will promise to give them dozens of such experiences, which might somewhat dematerialise their self-confidence, and lack of courtesy to those so far progressed in their knowledge of the importance of the use and abuse of life here.

CHARLOTTE ANDERSON.

Campbell House, Sandown, Isle of Wight, Oct. 30th, 1876.

MR. WILLIAM OXLEY is at Huddersfield, making inquiries into the charge against Dr. Monck, and the antecedents of that medium.

MRS. TAPPAN.—Married at her residence in Chicago, Illinois, October 12th, 1876, by C. M. Plumb, Minister of the New Gospel, Mrs. Cora L. V. Tappan, to Mr. William Richmond, of the same city.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SPIRITUALISTS.

THE SLADE CASE APPEAL.

LAST Wednesday night, at the usual monthly *soirée* of the National Association of Spiritualists, the rooms were overcrowded with a large and fashionable company. Dr. and Miss Slade and Mr. and Miss Simmons were among the ladies and gentlemen present, so also were Mr. Charles Carleton Massey and Mrs. Weldon (Miss Treherne.)

Mr. Alexander Calder, president of the National Association of Spiritualists, said: We meet here this evening with mixed feelings, for we labour under circumstances of disappointment as well as satisfaction. We had every reason to hope that Dr. Slade would have now been free from all restraint, but the powers are against us. The advocacy of Mr. Muntton, to whom great credit is due for his management of a most novel and difficult case, however forcible, proved insufficient to penetrate the narrow lines laid down in the Police Court. With all deference to the magistrate we must carry the case further. Our friend Dr. Slade, like a brave man in a righteous case, must draw on his stock of patience for the next three months, when his appeal may be heard. While we regret for him this condition of suspense, we take comfort in the thought that things are not worse than they might have been. The efforts made by our learned friend Mr. Massey (whose extreme kindness is above all praise) on behalf of Mr. Simmons, resulted in his rescue from the charge of conspiracy, and for this we have reason for much thankfulness and congratulation. Another reason for rejoicing is the vast publicity which our cause gains through these proceedings. Herein should be found a source of great satisfaction to the Spiritualist, and certain men of science should remember the extraordinary state of matters they have brought about since they, at the Glasgow meeting of the British Association, would suppress all observation of Spiritualism from their immediate view. This strife has arisen and been overruled by a higher power than man. Where thousands in America knew of Dr. Slade's medial gifts, the millions of Europe may now possess some knowledge of them. Many materialists will for the first time learn of the existence of a spirit world. They will reflect about that world, and deduce from their speculations that most invaluable of all knowledge, the reality of that Greatest of Spirits—God. Odious as Spiritualism appears to some, it has proved to many the seed of eternal life, which, once sown in the heart, leads to purification and holiness. In this conviction we take our stand, with firmness combined with humility. (Applause.)

Mr. W. H. Harrison said: Mr. Flowers, in the course of his decision against Dr. Slade, stated that "palmistry"—the word used in the Vagrancy Act—is defined in Richardson's dictionary as "Divination by inspection of the hands, from the roguish tricks of the pretenders to this art; to palm; to trick, or play a trick; to impose upon, or practise a trick, imposition, or delusion; more restrictedly, to palm is to hold or keep in the palm, to touch with the palm, to handle." Mr. Flowers added that "The definitions given by Johnson and Webster are very similar." Now, as I had always thought palmistry to mean "telling fortunes by the lines of the hand," I this morning referred to dictionaries not selected by me from others for a special purpose, but those in daily use by my printer, and there discovered that Johnson defines palmistry as "The cheat of fortune-telling by lines in the palm of the hand" (Oliver and Boyd's edition, 1834.) Webster defines it as "Art of telling fortunes by the hand" (Routledge, 1856.) Nuttall says, "The telling fortunes by the lines on the palm of the hand" (Warne's edition.) These philologists are known, but who ever heard of Richardson? Elsewhere I found Walker's 28th edition to give—"The cheat of foretelling fortunes by the lines of the palm." I have not abbreviated any of the definitions, and did not find any resembling Richardson's. Further, Mr. Jencken, the barrister, having informed me that this very question had already been decided by the Court of Queen's Bench, I this morning searched for the case in the British Museum library, and in *The Justice of the Peace*, vol. xxxiii., Nov. 20th, 1869, found that that court had quashed a justice's conviction under the Vagrancy Act for palmistry, in which the defendant had by trick passed coins into a paper. The appellant contended that palmistry was "the pretence of reading one's fortune from the lines of the hand." Lord Chief Justice Cockburn, J. Mellor, and J. Hannen concurred, and judgment was given for the appellant. I am no lawyer, but in this we seem to have also a settlement of the Slade case. The obsolete act of George II. quoted by Mr. Flowers is an offshoot of the old witchcraft Acts, which enactments, so far as I can ascertain, have never been connected with the Vagrancy Acts, nor is the verbiage of the two sentences he compares related; in fact, Mr. Flowers almost apologises for referring to the older law, which I can see no adequate reason for his importing into his statement, any more than the remarkable quotation from a solitary dictionary by Richardson. As to Dr. Slade, who for fifteen years has been before the public, and has made such hosts of influential friends, all Spiritualists feel not the slightest inclination to desert him on the assertions of Messrs. Lankester and Donkin; there was nobody present to check their statements except the table, and what they swore and wrote about that table ought to be subjected to the severest criticism, for the table itself is there to measure their accuracy. Then, again, the statement about the writing coming on the illuminated or under side of the slate, requires bringing into bold relief. Every Spiritualist knows that the writing requires partial darkness. Would Dr. Slade then dare, if tricking for once, to do such a thing before somebody whom he believed to be a Spiritualist? Again, is it not a physical impossibility and an absurdity to imagine that writing can be done with a fragment of pencil under the finger nail, quite apart from the further alleged fact, published in the *Times*, of its being produced on the wrong side of the slate. Altogether, in my opinion, every person of truth and honour who knows anything of psychology, as distinguished from the dead level of popular ignorance, should rally round the modern Galileo—the American gentleman now sojourning in this exceedingly hospitable nation.

Nothing more was said, and the business proceedings then closed.

THE SLADE PROSECUTION.

THE following is the close of the case for the prosecution, quoted from last Saturday's *Daily Telegraph*. We have not been able to quote the evidence for the defence from that journal, it was so imperfectly done; the *Standard* did it well considering the short time at command:—

ON Friday the two defendants, Henry or Dr. Slade, Spiritualist, of 8, Upper Bedford-place, and Geoffrey Simmons, again appeared in answer to a summons charging them in effect with having, on September 15th, conspired, and by subtle craft, and divers means and devices, obtained money from Professor E. Ray Lankester and Dr. Donkin, with intent to defraud them. The defendant Slade was also charged under the Vagrancy Act. As on previous occasions, the court was crowded by ladies and gentlemen interested in the case, amongst whom Professor Wallace, Dr. Carter Blake, Mrs. Blake, Mr. Enmore Jones, Mrs. Weldon, Dr. Wyld, Mr. Wedgwood, Mr. W. H. Harrison, Mr. H. G. Bohn, Mr. Williams, Rev. W. Newbould, Mrs. Desmond Fitzgerald, Mr. F. Joad, Mr. A. Joy, and other well-known Spiritualists, were present.

Mr. George Lewis appeared to prosecute. Mr. Muntton, solicitor, defended Slade; and Mr. Massey, barrister, was for the defendant Simmons.

Mrs. P. Lankester, called and examined by Mr. Lewis: Where do you reside?—At Bolsize-park.

You are the widow of the late Dr. Lankester, coroner for Middlesex, and the mother of Professor Lankester?—I am.

I believe you come here against your own inclination?—Yes; solely at my son's request, having great objection to the publicity of those proceedings.

Did you go to 8, Upper Bedford-place?—Yes; on September 15th, with a friend.

Were you shown into a front room?—I was, and there I saw the defendant Simmons. I conversed with my friend. He said, "Have you seen anything of this sort before?" I replied, "I have seen the planchette act, and I must say that a message signed 'Phoebe' rather staggered me." After that observation Slade appeared in the room, and spoke to Simmons. I did not listen to what they said. A few moments elapsed, and then Slade asked us to follow him into a back room. I sat at a table opposite to Slade, and my friend was on my left hand. He sat with his back to the window, and said, "We will see if there are any spirits here." He told us what he tells everybody, I suppose, that his wife was there.

But his wife was not there?—Well, somebody was said to be there when he spoke about a message.

You don't mean the body of his wife, but her spirit?—Her spirit, of course. He also said that two objectionable young men had been there previously, that one of them had taken away the slate very rudely, and that he should like to kick his head. (A laugh.)

Did you hear any spirit manifestations?—I heard raps coming from the centre of the table. Slade asked my friend if we would write the name of any one who was departed, and we declined to do so. He then put a slate under the table, and after some interval we heard the scratching of writing, and he pulled the slate out with one of its sides tolerably well covered with writing. The writing was signed "Allie." It was a message, saying, "I am glad to see you—we spirits are pleased to meet with true believers"—Slade thought that we were true believers—"we have our feelings in our present state as we had in the other world, and we do not like to be abused." (Laughter.)

Was any other message produced?—My friend said to Slade, "You don't object, I suppose, to use my own slate? I have brought a double one with me." Slade replied, "Well, it is sometimes difficult to do so, but we will try." My friend produced a double slate, which he had purchased on our way, and Slade placed it under the table. After some time I heard a little scratching, and then Slade withdrew the slate, and said "Read." I read the writing, "I am glad to meet you; I am ever with you, Phoebe." I was startled, and said with a shudder, "Oh, Phoebe!" Slade observed, "Do you know the name?" and I answered, "Well, it is my own." He said, "Have you friends in the spirit-land of that name?" and I replied, "Many." "I thought so," said he. Then I said, "Dr. Slade, I should like to know which Phoebe is meant—the surname, if you please." He said he would try, and again he placed the slate under the table. After a little time we heard more scratching, and on the slate being withdrawn there appeared the message, "We cannot write any more to-day—Allie." (Laughter.)

Did it occur to you that you had previously mentioned the word Phoebe?—No; I was astonished and startled at first, but afterwards I recollected that I had mentioned the name in the outer room whilst Simmons was there.

How much money was paid?—I gave Simmons a sovereign, and then he asked for another in payment for my friend, and it was paid him, making £2 in all.

Cross-examined by Mr. Muntton: Did you go there on the same day that your son went?—Yes; I had heard that he had been there on the Monday previous, and was told what had occurred. He told me on the 15th that he was going again to inquire about the spirits, and I went there with the same motive. He did not explain what kind of table was used; but he told me that he had been there with Dr. Donkin, and had pulled the slate away. He did not direct me what to do, but treated my visit as I did, merely one of curiosity. According to my son's theory Dr. Slade is an impostor, and I wished to ascertain the fact for myself.

Did you consider Slade an impostor?—I had not made up my mind what he was. I did not take my son's opinion, but wished to judge for myself. Certainly I had a strong conviction that he was an impostor, but I had not made up my mind on that point. I had a conviction that it was all impossible. If I had known that Slade was performing a conjuring trick I should very likely have gone to see him, the same as I go to see Mr. Maskelyne. I don't know particularly why I went. I suppose it was because I had promised to go. Certainly I should not have paid him a sovereign for what I saw. I might have gone into a penny show to see as much.

Do you recognise the table?—It looks very like it.

Were you sitting at the legs or the flaps?—At the flap, I believe.

You say that Slade told you that he should like to have kicked one of the young men on the head who had rudely taken away the slate. Do you think he said anything like that?—Do I think! Why I heard it. What do you mean? (Laughter.)

Did his words not strike you as being remarkable—that he should have liked to kick somebody on the head?—Well, I thought it was an American expression. (Laughter.) He was very indignant and upset, and he said that the young men had been there and had accused him of writing on the slate with a piece of pencil in his finger-nail. He said, "See my nails—they are much too short to hold a piece of pencil." I did not tell him of course who the young men were, as one was my son. (Laughter.) Slade further observed that he did not think there would be any demonstration that day.

Slade, you say, put the slate under the table?—Yes; and there it remained for a very short time—two or three seconds perhaps. The message must have been rapidly written; it was written in so short a time. It was a long message. A side of the slate was tolerably covered with writing. It might have been a minute. I cannot charge my memory exactly as to the time.

Was the slate placed against the table?—Yes, with a piece of pencil, and I heard the sound of writing.

Did you notice any manipulation with the slate?—I saw nothing but the thumb. When you speak of a double slate, do you mean one folding like a book?—Yes. My friend handed it to him. There was no writing on it. Slade put it on the table. Then he got up and walked to a little cabinet, and presently he came to us again, and commenced biting the end of a slate pencil. I observed, "Why, you

will break all your teeth, if you go biting the pencil like that." But he continued biting until he obtained a piece to please him. When he placed the slate beneath the table, he commenced working himself into contortions, and my friend was banged on the knee and chest—(laughter)—whilst Slade said, "Excuse me, I am not doing it; it is the spirits." (Laughter.) Again he twisted himself about, and then he pulled out the slate and handed it to me. Whilst we were leaning over the table he said he had a great pain in his side, and he wriggled and worked himself about in an extraordinary manner. (Laughter.) The slate was pushed against my friend when it was under the table, and Slade observed that it was not his fault. Sometimes he held the table apparently tight, whilst he worked his body in a peculiar manner.

You found writing on the inner part of the slate?—Yes.

Do you say that Slade opened the slate in any way?—I don't know what he did. I heard the scratching. He handed the slate to me, and I opened it and saw the writing.

Have you heard anything about thought-writing?—Yes, about clairvoyance.

Do you know that a name which is in the mind of any one of the sitters sometimes appears on the slate?—I have heard that some people believe it.

Did you see Slade write a single word?—No; I did not see him write, nor was there anything which induced me to say that he did.

Cross-examined by Mr. Massey: Was your friend a relative of yours?—No; merely an intimate friend.

Does he call you Mrs. Lankester?—Yes.

I assure you my object is not impertinence in asking you such a question. How many people were in the outer room when you entered?—Several men were talking to Simmons. They appeared like people who had been sitting and were dissatisfied.

Are you able to account for the Planchette message?—Well, what I observed at Slade's might enable me to understand what I had seen previously. I do not wish to go into the question of Spiritualism; I am here at a special request.

Were you induced to part with your money by any statement which Simmons made to you?—I did not part with my money: my friend paid. I was induced to visit Slade after I had read the article in the *World*, and the money was parted with as it would have been had we gone to any other show. (Laughter.) My friend volunteered to take me there.

Had you any representations from the defendants as to the spirits writing these things before you went?—When in the first room Slade spoke, and represented to me that whatever I saw in the next room would be done by spirits—understand that. (Laughter.)

Re-examined by Mr. Lewis: Did you in any way act in collusion with your son?—No; I went there quite independently of him. My appointment was made earlier than my son's first visit. In fact, he was at Oxford at the time. It was purely a coincidence that my son and I went on the Friday. I have been to see conjuring whenever I wished to amuse myself.

Mr. Flowers: Did Simmons speak to you about the writing?—He addressed us after the men had left the room. Then he introduced Slade, and they spoke together. Next Slade sat down near to us, and told us that they had had a terrible morning, that there had been a disturbance, and so on.

When you told your friend that the word "Phoebe" in the planchette act had startled you, were both the defendants present?—No, only Simmons.

Mr. William John Hinde (Child and Hinde, cabinet-makers, Euston-road) said that his firm were well known for certain articles they manufactured. The Slade table was made by them at a cost of £2 3s. 6d. It was made of ash, and according to the order taken by his foreman, Clark.

Mr. Massey said he would admit that Simmons ordered the table.

Examination continued: The table was of peculiar make, inasmuch as it had a stick bracket in the centre. Had never had one made like it before. Simmons was a stranger to the firm. They made automatic magic bolts, and Simmons might have thought they could make a spiritual table. (Laughter.)

By Mr. Munton: The one stick bracket was not used in a common table.

Cross-examined by Mr. Massey: With the exception of brackets, the table was not different to that made to any other order for a Pembroke table. If that bracket was pulled over, it was possible to make a fixture to it. (Mr. Hinde here showed the court the mode in which a slate might be fixed between the bracket and the leaf simply by depressing one side of the flap.)

By Mr. Lewis: Would not have made a table for himself with one bracket.

Edward Clark, foreman to Child and Hinde, examined by Mr. Lewis, said he had been in the firm for about eleven years. Remembered Simmons ordering a table on Monday, July 17, in the present year. He told witness he wanted a Pembroke table, but on being shown some said, "Not one of that class." He sat in front of the table, and said, "I want one to measure 3 ft. 8 in.;" the ordinary size was 3 ft. 3 in. He was particular that there should be no drawers. There were two finger brackets, but he ordered those to be dispensed with, and only one support in the centre. Witness suggested that this was not sufficient, and Simmons told him to mind his own business. Slade's name was not mentioned. He had never seen another one-stick bracket to a table since he had been in the firm.

By Mr. Massey: Was not aware that the description of table in court was common in America. Had no experience in trick tables. The table had not apparently been altered since it left the shop.

By Mr. Munton: The table frame was the usual frame, and was made by his firm. The statement made on a previous day that the table was without a frame was, of course, quite a mistake, as it was not possible to make a table without a frame.

By Mr. Lewis: The ordinary brackets of a Pembroke table would not revolve in the same way as the stick brackets. With side brackets and the amount of play in the leaf a slate could be placed under either of them.

Robert Joseph Catchpole, examined by Mr. Lewis, said he worked for Messrs. Child and Hinde, and made the table ordered by Simmons. It was an ordinary "Pembroke," made in the usual way, with the exception of a slight alteration made in consequence of the instructions of the foreman being temporarily altered by one of the firm, who thought that a single-stick bracket was a mistake.

Mr. Lewis: That is all the evidence I have to bring forward.

Mr. Flowers: The last evidence has altered the case a good deal. Until this morning I looked upon it that there was no evidence to support the case. There was no evidence previously to show that Simmons was anything more than an ordinary servant, but the fact of his ordering the table in a particular way of making alters the case.

Mr. Lewis stated that Professor Lankester had brought the matter forward at his own risk with a view of serving a public end. He had no private end to gain, and whatever the course might be that his worship decided upon, it would make very little pecuniary difference to Professor Lankester. Therefore it was immaterial to the Professor, and he did not wish any particular mode adopted in eliciting the truth. It had been shown that Simmons was present on the occasion referred to, and that he received the money. If his worship did not think there was sufficient evidence to connect Simmons with Slade, Mr. Lewis was sure he (Mr. Flowers) would deal with him as the case required.

Mr. Massey urged that there was no evidence upon which the Court could commit the defendant Simmons for trial on the charge of conspiracy. The points brought before the Court that morning did not, he felt convinced, supply one scintilla of evidence upon which the defendant could be convicted.

Mr. Flowers remarked that if there had been no further evidence he would not have troubled Mr. Massey, but the evidence of the morning altered the aspect of affairs. A table different to any other table in certain respects had been ordered.

Mr. Massey: The table differs only in one respect, viz., that it has a centre piece instead of a double bracket. Mr. Massey then went on to urge that there was

nothing extraordinary on the part of his client in ordering the table, because it was quite clear that it was ordered for Dr. Slade. He maintained that the case against his client had not been advanced in the least, because he was acting under the orders of Slade.

Mr. Flowers: There was one other point with regard to the signature of the name "Phoebe." Mr. Lankester has said that Slade was out of the room during part of the time, and that name might have been supplied by Simmons to Slade.

Mr. Massey remarked that in his opinion he was right in contending that there was no evidence whatever to convict the defendants, and that it was unnecessary to expend public money and time in the matter.

Mr. Lewis: The public money is not involved.

Mr. Flowers said if there was sufficient evidence in his own mind to support the case, it would be his duty to send the matter to a jury.

A desultory discussion followed, in which Mr. Massey contended that there were two distinct charges, and that even if they took the whole case there was no evidence.

Mr. Munton observed that the case against Slade, under the Vagrancy Act, had never been gone into.

Mr. Flowers said every word that had been given was under the Vagrancy Act. Mr. Munton replied that the defendant was never called upon to reply to the charge, and produced the shorthand writers' notes in support of his statement.

Mr. Lewis: Practically, it amounts to whether I am proceeding against one or both. I am proceeding upon the summons against both of them.

Mr. Flowers here remarked that he had considered the matter, as he had already made one false step, and did not wish to make another. He should like to make up his mind upon the subject of conspiracy. He had had a strong feeling that against Simmons there was not sufficient evidence to send him for trial, and, that being so, if nothing had been said that morning such a charge would have fallen to the ground.

After some further discussion, Mr. Flowers left the bench to consider the case, and the court was adjourned for luncheon.

On reassembling at twenty-five minutes past two,

Mr. Flowers said he had considered the matter as well as he could with regard to conspiracy, and he thought he could hardly call upon the defence to go into that. As far as the Vagrancy Act went he conceived there was a strong prima-facie case against the defendant Slade. Although there was something in respect of the table, it might be said that Simmons acted under the instructions of a master, and, therefore, he should dismiss the summons against him for conspiracy.

Mr. Massey asked what would be done with regard to costs.

Mr. Flowers thought he had better not say anything about that. With respect to Slade, he considered there was a prima-facie case against him under the Vagrancy Act, especially as far as the prosecution by Professor Lankester and Mr. Donkin was concerned. He did not see how it was relevant to show that at other times, and on other occasions, things happened in Slade's presence which, to those who had witnessed them, were capable of being explained by natural causes. The questions he had to decide were—Did Slade with his own hand write the words on the slate, and, if he did, did he thereby, under certain circumstances, use a subtle craft and device clandestinely to deceive and impose upon Professor Lankester and others? That was the simple issue he had to try.

Mr. Munton said that perhaps it would be convenient if the learned magistrate dealt with the law of the case. He understood that, notwithstanding what had occurred on the first occasion, when the defendants appeared on the charge of conspiracy, Slade was before him only on the specific summons under the Vagrancy Act.

Mr. Flowers intimated that what he proposed to do now was to have the evidence read over, in order that the depositions might be handed over, as was usual in an ordinary summary conviction. He would do all he could to assist the defence. (Applause.)

Mr. Munton said that he had taken the course he had been strongly advised to. If the magistrate took the course proposed he should ask no more, considering that it would be freed from all responsibility with regard to a criminal trial.

Mr. Flowers inquired if anything else suggested itself, as Simmons was no longer there.

Mr. Munton replied he might have to call him as a witness. All he wished was that the strict course of the law might be followed.

Mr. Flowers intimated that he would take the responsibility, and that if he was wrong so much the better would it be for the defence.

The depositions of the several witnesses were then read over, and occupied a considerable time.

Mr. Munton interrupted the reading of the depositions, objecting to that mode of taking evidence, and asked that the proper course might be taken.

Mr. Flowers: Your objections are too late.

Mr. Munton: Would you take, sir, the responsibility of deciding the present case upon the evidence given in another case?

Mr. Flowers: I will take the responsibility, and you shall take the exception.

Mr. Lewis said the witnesses had been sworn when their evidence was given.

Mr. Flowers: You had better not try to put me right.

Mr. Munton: I do not wish to do so, sir; I only ask that you will take notice of my objection.

Mr. Flowers remarked that Mr. Munton should have made his objections before. Mr. Munton said he had already done so. He did not understand which case his worship was trying.

Mr. Flowers: I am trying the case under the Vagrancy Act.

Mr. Munton thought if witnesses were selected from the other case it was necessary that they should give evidence in the proper way.

Mr. Flowers: I only wish to have that which is material, and there is, of course, much that is immaterial.

Mr. Lewis: On a previous occasion I have stated that summonses have been before the Court, and the evidence taken in the usual way. If your worship thought it just to commit defendants for conspiracy you would do so; if not you would take the other course.

Mr. Munton: I would rather have the explanation from the bench.

Mr. Flowers said he had taken the evidence in both cases, and had dismissed the first, and had now taken into consideration the second charge.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Munton knows he can make an appeal, if he has any objection.

Mr. Munton: Then, under the Vagrancy Act, the defendant pleads "Not guilty," and wishes to hear the evidence.

Mr. Flowers asked if Mr. Munton would like the case adjourned, in order that he might commence his address in the morning?

Mr. Munton was prepared to make his speech for the defence at once. He wished to know, however, upon what evidence he had to reply?

Mr. Flowers said that Mr. Lewis confined his case to the testimony of Professor Lankester, Dr. Donkin, and the witness Catchpole.

Mr. Munton observed that he could not, consistently with what he had stated previously, waive anything.

Mr. Flowers: Don't waive anything, but go on. (A laugh.)

At a quarter to four, the further hearing of the case was adjourned until Saturday.

MARRIAGE.—On Tuesday, October 24th, at the New Jerusalem Church, Camberwell, by the Rev. A. Austin, W. H. A. Peake, eldest son of J. Peake, Esq., Crown solicitor, Ireland, to Mary Ann Emma Sexton, daughter of Dr. Sexton.

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October 5th, 1876.

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