

the East; it has never been caged—the possessor of it will be freed from the presence of evil spirits.”

At another *séance*, held at her own house, with Mrs. Marshall as medium, the same lady obtained a quantity of fresh flowers, and fern leaves, with a bunch of large blue grapes, and a peach, which was put into her son's hand.

The foregoing statements are made to me by the lady herself. I am not permitted to publish her name, but I may say she occupies a high social position—she is a very intelligent person, and I have no reason whatever to doubt the facts, nor can I reasonably suppose in the face of all the accumulating amount of evidence, that these apparent miracles are after all but mere deceptions. I am therefore constrained to accept them as veritable spiritual phenomena, with a meaning and teaching which will doubtless be made plain to us hereafter.

Mr. Alfred Wallace informs me that he was present at a *séance* at Miss Nicholl's, in company with Mr. and Mrs. C. Pearson, Mrs. Berry, Mrs. Reeves, Major S. Geffcock, Mrs. Geffcock, and Mr. J. H. Gledstones, when there came two showers of fresh flowers; among the first, was a fine water lily, which was given to him, though he did not particularly want it; when the second shower had come, the water lily had disappeared; a message then came, “The lily was for Julia.” A lady at the table said her name was Julia, and curious enough, she had been to Covent Garden market that morning for a water lily, and could not find one. Later in the evening the missing lily was placed in her hand; afterwards each person found a small bunch of flowers had been placed before them, with a single strawberry upon each of the bunches.

Mr. Wallace also informs me that on several occasions, lately, he and a friend have had some very extraordinary manifestations at Mrs. Marshall's.

In a room, made perfectly dark for the purpose, they held long connected conversations with two spirits, one speaking in a loud whisper, and the other in a strong masculine voice; at times both voices, I am told by another person who was present, were heard speaking at the same time. These spirits gave the name of Katie and John King, and said they were the same spirits that accompanied the Davenports, and as one of the gentlemen who was present had often heard the voices in the presence of the Davenports, it is worthy of remark that he affirms, as I am told, that the tone and character of the voices heard at Mrs. Marshall's were the same as with the Davenports. If this be true, it is very important, and tends to destroy a theory I have formed, that as the voice necessarily obtains its power from the medium, it would present characteristics of that particular medium's tone

and manner of speaking. But nothing can be more dissimilar than the ordinary speaking voices of the Davenports and Mrs. Marshall's. Another puzzling fact is stated by Mr. Wallace, he says that Mrs. Marshall having to attend a party, in another room, he and his friend were left alone with Mr. Marshall, and they obtained the same results as if the acknowledged medium, Mrs. Marshall, had been present, "the spirit kept up the conversation with them just as freely as it had done before."

Mr. Wallace says, "We conversed with the spirits on a variety of topics—upon mediums, the progress of Spiritualism, the life in the spheres, and many other subjects, on all of which pertinent, witty, and very intelligent answers were given with great fluency and ease," and he adds that "many even who are Spiritualists will, I know, hardly credit these things as a reality, but to us who witnessed them repeatedly, the whole series of these manifestations stand out as the most authentic, as well as the most marvellous, we have ever witnessed."

From these last remarks I differ. As a man of more than ordinary intelligence, connected too with the scientific body of this country, I hail Mr. Wallace's conversion with great satisfaction, but it is of such recent date, that he is probably not aware of many facts equally marvellous, and as well authenticated, which I and others have witnessed and recorded years ago. It has been frequently predicted by spirit messages, that we should ere long see the spirits in human form and talk with them!\* My friend Mr. L——, of New York, who is at this moment in London, has repeatedly felt and seen the spirit forms of his wife and Dr. Franklin, clothed, and has gone so far as to cut a piece off the silk dress of his wife, and has felt its strength and texture; but (with one exception in a faint whisper) he has not heard them speak. With the fact, however, of the bodily tangible presence of the spirit, which Mr. L—— and others with him have witnessed, and with the recent experiences which so many of us have had of the ability of the spirit to speak audibly with, as Mr. Wallace says, "fluency and ease," there seems no reason to doubt that we shall have the prediction realized, and that some of us will not only see the spirits in visible form, but that we shall be able at the same time to speak with and be instructed by them. And what then? We shall only return to a knowledge of the primitive faith in spirit communion, which teachers in modern times have driven from our churches. Being protected, however, by our better com-

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\* In one of the numerous letters *written by the spirit* of Estelle to her husband, she says,—“I shall yet stand by your bedside, and while you are permitted to see me as naturally as when in life, I will talk to you, and with you.”—Vide *Spiritual Magazine*, Vol. iii, p. 197.