

but I now bear another name. Will you please write my married name under this?" and shut both books as before.

A person came into the room for a minute, but I did not rise from the table, and after he was gone I looked in the book, and there was my name in full, Christian and surname, written in ink, under the other. The book had never been from under my arm, and was within another thick book. When both these names were written, my friend, Miss N., was sitting all the time opposite to me, and the inkstand and pens between us both.

All these wonderful things, with many others, took place in my house in London, in the first week of December, 1866, all of them in my own room, where no servant or any others of the family came during the day.

These phenomena appear to me rather of a different nature to anything we have heard of or seen at our *séances*. The medium is always supposed to touch or be very close to the articles of furniture moved. My experience seems to prove that after a *séance* where there has been strong medium power, there is sufficient magnetic influence left in the room to give the spirits power to act upon matter (whilst writing this a shower of raps). My friend's power does not seem nearly so strong when we sit with other persons who are anxious to see these wonderful phenomena. Some, though slight mediums themselves, seem to lessen the power rather than strengthen it. On leaving the room empty after a *séance*, there is no counteracting influence at work, and thus the spirits have more power for grand manifestations. We have never had anything so great happen when we were in the room as when we left it for a few minutes.

These wonderful facts I leave to others to investigate who are much more learned than myself. I only feel it is a grand reality.

FRANCES SIMS.

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POSTSCRIPT BY ALFRED R. WALLACE.

ON Friday morning, December 14th, my sister, Mrs. S., had a message, purporting to be from her deceased brother William, to this effect: "Go into the dark at Alfred's this evening, and I will shew that I am with you." On arriving in the evening with Miss N., my sister told me of this message. When our other friends, four in number, had arrived, we sat down as usual, but instead of having raps on the table as on previous occasions, the room and the table shook violently; and, finding we had no other manifestations, I mentioned the message that had been received, and we all adjourned into the next room, and the doors and windows being shut, sat down round a table, (which we had

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previously cleared of books, &c.) holding each other's hands. Raps soon began, and we were told to draw back from the table. This we did, but thinking it better to see how we were placed before beginning the *séance*, I rose up to turn on the gas, which was down to a blue point, when just as my hand was reaching it, the medium who was close to me cried out and started, saying that something cold and wet was thrown in her face. This caused her to tremble violently and I took her hand to calm her, and it then struck me, this was done to prevent me lighting the gas. We then sat still, and in a few moments several of the party saw faintly that something was appearing on the table. The medium saw a hand, others what seemed flowers. These became more distinct, and some one put his hand on the table, and said: "There *are* flowers here!" Obtaining a light, we were all thunderstruck to see the table half covered with flowers and fern leaves, all fresh, cold, and damp with dew, as if they had that moment been brought out of the night air. They were the ordinary winter flowers, which are cultivated in hot houses, for table decoration, the stems apparently cut off as if for a bouquet. They consisted of 15 chrysanthemums, 6 variegated anemones, 4 tulips, 5 orange berried solanums, 6 ferns, of two sorts, 1 *Auricula sinensis*, with 9 flowers—37 stalks in all.

All present had been engaged for some time in investigating Spiritualism, and had no motive for deceiving the others, even if that were possible, which all agreed it was not. If flowers had been brought in and concealed by any of the party (who had all been in the warm room at least an hour), they could not possibly have retained the perfect freshness, coldness, and dewy moisture they possessed when we first discovered them. I may mention that the door of the back drawing room (where this happened) into the passage was locked inside, and that the only entrance was by the folding doors into the lighted sitting room, and that the flowers appeared unaccompanied by the slightest sound, while all present were gazing intently at the table, just rendered visible by a very faint diffused light entering through the blinds. As a testimony that all present are firmly convinced that the flowers were not on the table when we sat down, and were not placed there by any of those present, I am authorized to give the names and addresses of the whole party.

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