

[So far from being a "weak and unreasoning faith," the belief in Special Providence rests upon the facts of human experience, is a legitimate deduction from them, and but for these facts could have had no existence. It is, therefore, grounded not in "ignorance," but in knowledge, and is independent of "doctrinal education and desire." It is held that the Divine Providence works not by interference with natural laws, but by operating through and from beyond them;—through spiritual agencies and spiritual laws acting upon both spirit and matter. The spiritual being the sphere of causation—of free potencies acting upon the physical—the world of effects, through its law of natural and necessary sequence.—T. S.]

THE DOUBLE.

To the Editor of the "Spiritual Magazine."

London, 6th August, 1855.

Sir,—While sitting one evening lately in a lower parlour with my daughter, she heard footsteps in the parlour above, which being also heard by a little dog on her lap, it began to bark. She remarked to me that it certainly must be the double of my sister, my brother and sister being from home and no one in the room.

When she visited a clairvoyant two days afterwards, whom she is accustomed to meet the departed spirit of her mother, she asked her mother respecting the matter, and was informed it was not what we call the double of my sister that appeared, but that of my brother; stating circumstances that had led to it, and which double they, (the spirits,) called his brother-spirit.

I have thought the incident remarkable, as evidencing that the departed ones know of, and recognize what we call the double, and therefore it is not probable as is now believed by some, that it is only the spirits of living persons that manifest at our circles.

It may fairly be presumed that if the spirits of a resident of the earth can appear and manifest when for a short time out of the body, so can the spirits of the departed that have entirely left the body.—I remain, Sir, yours, &c.

T. BLACKBURN.

To the Editor of the "Spiritual Magazine."

8, St. Mark's Crescent, Regent's Park, N.W.

August 6th.

Sir,—Will you allow me to suggest that much good would be done by printing separately the letters of Mr. Vassar and Mr. Burson, which appeared in your June number, together with that of Mr. Hawley, in your number of this month. These would occupy ten or twelve pages, and might be sold at 6d. singly, or 1s. a dozen to give away. I would take two or three dozen with pleasure, to give away to scientific friends, and I am sure many would do the same. If headed, *Men of Science on Spiritualism*, quantities would sell at the Railway Bookstalls, and if a copy were sent to every newspaper and periodical in the Kingdom, such a proportion of them would notice or even reprint it, as to prove an excellent article to the general eye-sightfulness of the press. Hoping this may be practicable, believe me, your well-wisher.

ALFRED R. WALLACE.

[We should be happy to see these letters reprinted and widely circulated as suggested by our correspondent.—EDITOR.]