

felt, as I always feel, that every medium should be sternly tested, for impostors are no doubt plenty enough.

"At my suggestion, therefore, Mrs. Hall and her friend, Mrs. Senior, immediately on Miss Nicholl's arrival, took her into Mrs. Hall's dressing room, and with the instant approval of Miss Nicholl, examined minutely every portion of her dress. They found no leaves or flowers; nothing that could in the slightest degree insinuate deception. That a willingness to dream is foreign to her nature may be only an opinion. It is my opinion, however: but it was utterly beyond her power to have concealed the flowers that were scattered about our table.

"I have seen phenomena more wonderful; but none that I have been able to test more conclusively, so as to obtain conviction that there was neither delusion nor fraud.

"One of the branches of apple-blossom is on my table as I write; the other was taken by an eminent physician who was present.

"I am, Sir, your faithful servant,  
"8, Essex Villas, Kensington. "S. C. HALL, F.S.A."

We have also received the following:—

NOTES OF A SEANCE WITH MISS NICHOLL AT THE HOUSE OF  
MR. A. S——, 15TH MAY. BY ALFRED R. WALLACE.

"There were present at this *séance* the party that sit together weekly, with the addition of a friend who accompanied me. The room was made dark, and we joined hands round the table, when we had a number of interesting phenomena, such as a hand bell rung under the table and then brought up and carried in the air round the circle, touching several of the party and ringing loudly. Several notes were also struck loudly on the piano, and a book was twice brought from the piano and placed on the table with a blow. But by far the most remarkable phenomenon of the evening, and that which I wish in particular to place on record, was the following.

"My friend, Mr. Smith, who was a perfect stranger to all the rest of the party, sat next the medium and held both her hands, when her chair was drawn away from under her and she was left standing. About a minute afterwards I heard a slight sound, about as much as would be caused by placing a wine glass on the table, accompanied by a movement of the glass chandelier overhead and an exclamation from Miss Nicholl. I saw something dark close in front of me, and putting out my hand felt a chair and a lady's dress, and on procuring a light Miss N. was found seated upon the top of the table with her head just touching the chandelier. The table at which we sat was an ordinary round

one, with a centre pillar and tripod feet; Miss Nicholl is tall, stout and very heavy; there were ten persons sitting round the table as closely as possible. Mr. Smith, who held Miss N.'s hands, declared that she simply slid away from him, and the next instant was found seated on her chair in the middle of the table, near which there was no other unoccupied chair; she was seated under the glass chandelier, where there was just room for her head, and, yet this had been effected instantaneously and noiselessly! If any sceptics read the *Spiritual Magazine*, I beg of them to offer some explanation of this phenomenon. I pledge my word for the reality of the facts, and I maintain, that it implies the manifestation of some strange and preterhuman power. Let those who believe it to be a trick, devote themselves to practise it, and when they are able to succeed in repeating the experiment, *under exactly the same conditions*, I will allow that some far more conclusive proof of the reality of these manifestations is required.

"This remarkable phenomenon has now occurred to Miss Nicholl some half dozen times, in different houses in London, and there must be at least twenty persons, of the highest respectability, who can testify to the facts. I call upon them to come forward and confirm any statement with their names and any further particulars they may have noticed, since this is a test experiment perhaps even more conclusive than the flotation of Mr. Home."

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### THE INQUIRER CONTROVERSY.

IN reply to a second letter by "Nemo," in the *Inquirer*, the writer of the article on Spiritualism in the *Truthseeker* has sent to the *Inquirer* a further communication, which, with the exception of the two opening paragraphs, we give below. The objections of "Nemo" are just those which are ordinarily urged against Spiritualism; and this reply will, therefore, be just as applicable in many other cases as in the one which was the immediate occasion of its being written. After telling us that he took a course the very opposite of that taken by "Nemo"—that he thought the right way was to get at the facts first; that he knows more of the facts than the books; and that as he does not even profess to have studied the literature of Spiritualism, he does not undertake its defence; the writer of the article continues:—

"Nemo" tells us he is content to wait till God "sees fit to withdraw the veil which parts the seen and the unseen." So was I, and so am I; but what if God has