

But alas, her beloved Charles was no longer 'happy, happy, happy.' He denounced 'Daniel' as an impostor, and advised proceedings at law. The advice was taken, and Mrs. Lyon brought a suit in Chancery for the recovery of the property so recklessly squandered upon her adopted son. The chief forensic interest of the case was the remarkable cross-examination of the plaintiff by Mr. Henry Matthews, Q.C., the present Home Secretary, who was leading counsel for the defendant: 'I have not,' said Vice-Chancellor Giffard in the commencement of his judgment, 'gone through the affidavits made by the plaintiff herself or her cross-examination, because I think no one could have read those affidavits . . . and heard that cross-examination without coming to the conclusion that reliance cannot be placed on her testimony, and that it would be unjust to found on it a decree against any man, save in so far as what she has sworn to may be corroborated by written documents or incontrovertible facts.' No forensic ability, however, could 'pull off' the defendant's case; by decree of the Court the money was ordered to be restored, and 'to the credit of Home, who had it under his absolute control, let it be recorded that such was done.*' The concluding paragraphs of the Vice-Chancellor's judgment, according to Mr. Hume Williams,† proved *social* death to spiritualist exhibitions. They ceased to be fashionable, and were accordingly denounced. 'I know nothing,' said his Honour, 'of what is called "spiritualism," otherwise than from the evidence before me, nor would it be right that I should advert to it except as portrayed by that evidence. It is not for me to conjecture what may or may not be the effect of a peculiar nervous organisation, or how far that effect may be communicated to others, or how far something may appear to some minds as supernatural realities which to ordinary minds and senses are not real. But as regards the manifestations and communications referred to in this cause I have to observe, in the first place, that they were brought about by some means or other after,

and in consequence of, the defendant's presence—how there is no proof to show; in the next, that they tended to give the defendant influence over the plaintiff as well as pecuniary benefit; in the next, that the system as presented by the evidence is mischievous nonsense, well calculated on the one hand to delude the vain, the weak, the foolish and the superstitious, and on the other to assist the projects of the needy and of the adventurer; and, lastly, that beyond all doubt there is plain law enough and plain sense enough to forbid and prevent the retention of acquisitions such as these by any medium, whether with or without a strange gift, and that this should be so is of public concern, and, to use the words of Lord Hardwicke, "of the highest public utility."—*Law Journal* (London).

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(Concluded from page 280).

And now to another matter. Litigation, as far as solicitors are concerned, is a very unprofitable business. There is a great deal of worry in it, and we all know that many old sources of profit are taken away. It is a question which I have not come here to discuss, but I say that litigation *per se* is not that class of business from which we should get on very satisfactorily. There is a tendency on the part of the public and the Legislature to cut down all profit in connection with the law, and I believe that, although we have got a conveyancing scale which fairly pays a solicitor for the responsibility which he undertakes, even that will be assailed before many years are over. We have to think of all these things in looking at the prospects of the legal profession. The business upon which solicitors will have to rely in the future is the business demanding brains, and brains will always be paid for more or less according to their value. The business of diplomatists, which is the largest business of solicitors, will get paid for according to what it is worth. You must look at the class of work which will be reduced, and the character of business which will remain. I say that, having regard to the class upon which solicitors will hereafter largely have to depend, it is more than ever important to

* Hume Williams's 'Unsoundness of Mind,' p. 58.

† *Ibid.* p. 59.