

refused. the will touches *electricity*, electricity touches *nerve*, nerve touches *muscle*, muscle touches *bone*, and bone raises *dead matter*."

"That is quite comprehensive," said St. George, who was listening with the deepest attention; "but what follows?"

"That this agent, electricity, is a universal agent, pervading all space, and that if I—mark me—if I can employ it to raise *my own arm*, I can employ it to raise *yours*."

"That does not follow," interrupted St. George, because it is impossible."

Rodolphe smiled. "Young man," he said, "the truths revealed in nature are inherent, indestructible, immutable, eternal; therefore it is not in the power of man to create or annihilate a single truth. *They exist*; *your* belief or disbelief, weighs not a feather; *they exist*, independent of belief or disbelief, and all we can do is to grope about in darkness and bring them to the light of day. I said that a natural consequent of the above theory consisted in the fact that I could will your muscular movements, and that once under my control, I could make you stand there motionless, or make you walk across the room. Our bodies are two pieces of mechanism constructed on the same principle, and therefore any motive power, which puts my body in motion will put yours also in motion. That common agent is electricity. You will that your hand should rise to your head, instantaneous as lightning—because it *is* lightning; the messenger conveys that message to the nerves of the arm, and the arm moves. Well, I place myself in connection with you—I will, mark you, that *your* arm moves; the *same* messenger leaves *my* brain, descends on similar nerves to mine, along your arm, and it moves, in consequence of *my* willing it to move."

"But this theory sounds strange," said Edmund incredulous.