

periment was conclusive; but why had the hat remained motionless? The hat was of felt not silk, like most of the hats in use here. When it was first saturated it moved rapidly; but when the fluid had become excessive, the felt acted as a conductor of the fluid to the table, and the table and hat became one body." These experiments, Doctor, I think, upset your theory about muscular action, which you have cribbed from M. Arago.

DOCTOR.—I am quite as well aware of Mr Arago's opinion of this science (\*) as you are, Major, and I do not assert that his idea is the correct one, for one reason, it is not yet proven. But, again, I do not think your cases conclusive, as we have not tried the oil and fat trick ourselves yet; besides, should the cases related by you, be true, confirmative experiments will soon settle the muscular action question. We must then look for some other cause.

LAIRD.—Ye need na' look far. I solemnly believe the motion to be spiritual, an' if ye wad only use your reason anent the matter, Doctor, ye wad see it was the speerits o' the departed obeying the will o' the present.

DOCTOR.—Ha, ha, ha, Laird. How in the mischief can you form any connection between the mind of living men and the souls of the departed, *requiescent in pace*. You will have great difficulty in convincing me that there is anything spiritual or supernatural in the affair. No, no, if it is to be explained at all, it is only on natural grounds.

MAJOR.—I agree with you there, Doctor; and the only natural explanation that you can have, is that of animal magnetism.

LAIRD.—Animal feeddesticks. It is speeritual I tell ye.

DOCTOR.—Well, Laird, explain your views, and, after you, we will let the Major have his turn.

LAIRD.—That table-moving is a speeritual phenomenon, there canna' be the smallest doubt, an' the way I have arrived at my conclusion is simple in the extreme. We are all sprung, as ye must allow, fra' ane great faither, Adam, who was endowed by his Creator, when perfected, wi' a soul. Eve, as we are told, was created out o' Adam, bone o' his bone, an' flesh o' his flesh, an' consequently received fra' Adam a portion o' his soul, for they twain were one. Now on the birth o' their weans, Cain and Abel, an' many others, we have na' heard tell of, a portion o' their soul was imparted to their offspring. The offspring o' Adam an' Eve, again in their turn gave up a fraction o' their portion to their children, an' so on to the present generation.

MAJOR.—So then, Laird, you think that we have only an infinitesimal dose of soul in our composition?

LAIRD.—I think, Major Crabtree, an' i. is

noble thoct, a sublime idea, absolutely a wonderfu' fact, that a portion o' that soul, that made the heart o' our forefather Adam glad, an' caused him to bless his Creator and thank him for his mercies, at present animates my frame, an' occasions me to relate this great truth.

DOCTOR.—Go on Laird. Major, we must have no more interruptions.

LAIRD.—Well, if it is ane soul that has been distributed to the whole human species ye will naturally ask what has become o' the fractions that once animated the bodies o' the dead? These fractions, I believe, to have gane to the place o' departed speerits, but where that is we canna' tell; but it may be that they are hovering o'er this earth, having an interest in that portion, which, still unreleased, inhabits our bodies on this globe. Now, when all men are dead, this great soul returns entire to his Lord our master, having performed the appointed mission. Now what is mair likely than that the portion released, we will suppose it to be now the greater half, should seek to converse with that lesser half we yet possess, and to teach it a method of communication either by rappings or table-moving. As a proof o' what I say I will just read you an extract or twa fra' the first number of *Putnam's Monthly*.—It is a letter fra' Mrs. WHITMAN, Providence, an' the Mr. SIMMONS mentioned of was once a United States Senator frae Rhode Island.

"Dear Sir,—I have had no conversation with Mr. Simmons on the subject of your note, until to day. I took an early opportunity of acquainting him with its contents, and this morning he called on me to say that he was perfectly willing to impart to you the particulars of his experience in relation to the mysterious writing performed under his very eyes in broad daylight, by an invisible agent. In the fall of 1850, several messages were telegraphed to Mrs. Simmons through the electric sounds, purporting to come from her stepson, James D. Simmons, who died some weeks before in California!

"The messages were calculated to stimulate curiosity and lead to an attentive observation of the phenomena. Mrs. S., having heard that messages in the hand-writing of deceased persons were sometimes written through the same medium, asked if her son would give her this evidence. She was informed (through the sounds), that the attempt should be made, and was directed to place a slip of paper in a certain drawer at the house of the medium, and to lay beside it her own pencil, which had been given her by the deceased. Weeks passed on, and, although frequent inquiries were made, no writing was found on the paper.

"Mrs. Simmons, happening to call at the house one day, accompanied by her husband, made the usual inquiry, and received the usual answer. The drawer had been opened not two hours before, and nothing was seen in it but the pencil lying on the blank paper. At the suggestion of Mrs. S., however, another investigation was made, and on the paper was now found a few penciled lines, resembling the hand-writing of the deceased, but

\*Query? Can table-moving be called a science? P. D., senior.