

DERELICT.

I.

I saw a proud ship, tall and gay,
 With streamers waving merrily,
 From lock to lock, a weary way,
 Toil slowly upward to the sea.

And ready hands sprang at her word
 The mighty gates swung free and wide ;
 And many a nimble tongue was heard,
 In wonder at her stately pride

The ruddy light of morning fell,
 On folded sail and naked mast ;
 Louder and louder grew the swell
 Of voices, as the way she past.

And when the noon stood hot and high,
 The broad sails drank the strong sea breeze,
 While shrilly rose the wondering cry
 Of thousands on the thronging quays.

And far behind her as she swept
 Over the wide, sun-sprinkled sea,
 A murmur of deep voices crept
 Marring the white waves harmony.

I saw that stately ship again
 Upon the rocks, a lonely wreck,
 And long the sea-worn sails had lain
 Like shattered wings across her deck.

I heard the dark sea leap and roll
 About the black and sundered beams,
 And one by one the long waves stole
 With dreary murmur through her seams.

And there no human thing could be
 No sound save the lone sea-wind's moans,
 And the deep voice of the wind-worn sea
 Upon its cold and barren stones.

II.

So did I watch a strong man's life
 Steal slowly upward hour by hour,
 Through the grim paths of toil and strife
 To the cold majesty of power.

And thousands sprang to aid him by,
 And watched through all the weary race ;
 With murmuring lip and dazed eye
 The cold calm wonder of his face.

The glow of youth grew sere and dead,
 As year by year the way slid past,
 Till furrowed brow and silvered head
 Beheld the broad bright sea at last.

Short, stormy years had come and flown,
 I saw that stately life once more
 A dreary wreck, storm-riven, blown
 Upon the bleak world's barren shore.

Half-heeded now the deadened roll
 Of envy, sorrow, strife and pain,
 With sorrowful, soft, murmur stole
 Through broken heart and weary brain.

ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

The oft-quoted Shakesperian saying, "There are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in our philosophy," is in no case more true than in that of animal magnetism, or as it is more commonly termed, mesmerism. The progress of this science, for it has attained an importance worthy of the name, has been in the face of ridicule and opposition, learned men have denounced it as imposture, scientists have derided it, and yet within one hundred years of its inception, or rather promulgation, it occupies a position in the learning of to-day, and presents phenomena baffling the most accurate investigation.

The term "mesmerism," is, as most people know, derived from Mesmer, a German scientist, who from his investigations with regard to magnets came to the conclusion that there existed in the human body a peculiar force which he called "animal magnetism." The source of this peculiar power is unknown. It may exist, and does in the most unlikely individuals. It is not limited by distance, and its possession gives to man a power over his fellows of a nature tremendous to contemplate. The possessors seem to be, as it were, isolated specimens of humanity in its fullest development towards which science shews it to be tending ; when our bodies no longer hindrances as they are now, shall be the absolute servants of the spirit, which, baffled by no obstacles of space or position, shall place man in his true status "a little lower than the angels."

Mesmer, who, as I have said before, was the discoverer or rather I should perhaps say the first publisher of this wonderful force, succeeded in Paris for some time, but refusing to communicate his secret, roused the jealous envy of the medical profession, who succeeded in having a royal commission appointed to investigate his claims. As the commissioners were mainly physicians, it is not difficult to conjecture the result ; they pronounced Mesmer an imposture. But not even a royal commission could stifle truth, and gradually the belief in animal magnetism, supported by well authenticated instances, spread, till as I have said before, it is now a recognized force, and one of such power that there can be but little opposition to its possessor : no bounds scarcely to his power over his fellows. That this influence so mysterious in its character is used for evil purposes is certain—such a power could not fail to be, but the extent of that use is unknown. Is it not to this that we might with some appearance of correctness assign the oft-repeated assertion of criminals, who for no apparent object commit a crime, their only plea being, they could not help it ? That this may in many instances be no idle excuse, was shown quite recently at a meeting of well-known New York doctors convened for the very purpose of investigating these phenomena. The experiments conducted by themselves were numerous, and fully illustrative of the principles, and the conclusion unanimously arrived at was, that