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## Original Communications.

### CLAIRVOYANCE AND SPIRITUALISM.

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(Continued from page 97.)

It will probably tend to throw some light on the subject, and, I trust, interest the reader, to enquire more particularly into the subjects of Catalepsy and Ecstasy, states allied to and forming the basis on which the so-called "clairvoyance" or mesmeric trance is founded; and thus giving ourselves all due latitude, seek to determine how far scientific investigation will allow us to go in our endeavors to reconcile the vagaries of the mesmerist and medium with scientific facts, and, if possible, decide and draw a line at that point where the reasonable and natural end, and humbug begins.

Sir Thomas Watson\* defines Catalepsy to be "a sudden suspension of thought, of sensibility, and of voluntary motion; the patient remaining during the paroxysm in the position in which she (for it is almost always a female) happened to be at the instant of the attack, or in the position in which she may be placed during its continuance; and all this without any notable affection of the functions of organic life. . . The patient so affected, with open staring eyes often, and outstretched limbs, looks like a waxen figure, or an inanimate statue, or a frozen corpse. That catalepsy depends on nervous influences, is shown by its being brought on by sudden or long continued mental exhaustion or

\*Watson's Lectures on Physic, Vol. I., pp. 714 and 715.