

company with a brother of his, now dead. He has forgotten the medium's name, but she made upon him a distinct impression of honesty. She was an utter stranger to both young men, but she insisted on talking to my friend's brother. There was a strange, intense excitement in her manner. She gave no name, but she told him that a dear friend of his, very dear to him, but very, very far away in the West, was at that moment suffering terribly. 'I see blood, blood,' she cried, 'oh, so much blood!' Then, as he said nothing, she turned away and devoted the rest of her hour to more responsive subjects. But just at the last she turned again to my friend's brother, and said, with a sort of triumphant earnestness, 'Ah, he does not suffer now; he's dead—dead!'

And the strange thing was that in the course of time came the explanation of it all, in the tragic story of the death of a young man who had been the closest friend of my friend's brother. He lived on a cattle ranch in the far West. Some desperados had stolen his cattle. He went in pursuit of them, and was himself pursued and overtaken by a terrible blizzard. He tried to cut some wood to build a fire, but as he saw the axe slipped in his benumbed fingers, and cut deep into his knee-pan. He bandaged it as well as he could, and struggled to make his way to the nearest settlement; but just as he had almost reached it, the bandage came undone, the blood burst forth again, and what with stress of weather and of pain, and terrible loss of blood, he died that very afternoon. As nearly as the difference in time could be computed, he was in his final agony when the medium spoke of him first; and he was, as she said, already dead before the end of her seance.

'And all this does not make you believe in spiritualism?' I asked, as my friend concluded his story.

'I am convinced,' he answered, with a sceptical smile of the *fin de siècle* young man, 'that there are a great many things in this world which we are not able, as yet, satisfactorily to explain, but at least I will vouch for the truthfulness of every detail of these two stories.'—LOUISE CHANDLER MOULTON, in the *Arena* for May.

LIGHT ON THE OCEAN.

The idea of a lighted pathway across the Atlantic seems to be looming up as a possibility. Some time ago it was suggested that such a scheme was practicable, and would tend in many ways to increase the safety of ocean liners and other ships sailing between Europe and America. The question has recently been revived and now it is hoped at no distant day that the Atlantic route from Ireland to Newfoundland will be lighted. It is proposed to put ten powerful floating lights, 200 miles apart, and connect them by electric cables.

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