

ception would at once be taken in the case of an ordinary conjuror; to darken the room and place the spectators so as to preclude close inspection. Under an imperfect light, the professor of Spiritualism orders a heavy arm-chair to leave its place against the wall and to come to him in the middle of the room. The arm-chair obeys. The spectators, fascinated beforehand by the professor's mental art, stand, where he has placed them, all agape, and awestruck at his miraculous power. If he were a common conjuror they would bid him cause the chair to move away from him as well as towards him, or place themselves between him and the chair as it moved; they would then perhaps become aware that he was pulling the chair to him with a horse-hair line. Curiosity once led us to visit a medium, whom a spiritualistic friend recommended as the very first of the class. Never was money better spent than the fee which we paid for the interview. To call the imposture gross and palpable is to do it less than justice; it was absolutely childish: and when we witnessed it, knowing that it had duped, and was still duping, thousands, the depth of human credulity was revealed. The female spirit who entered into the medium, as the charlatan avowed, groped her way evidently by the light of a few facts gleamed from a preliminary conversation between the sitter and the medium: she stumbled from blunder to blunder and gave accounts of what had never existed. In the United States there was a famous female medium, who kept a hotel and drew guests by her spiritualist performances. She sat in a sort of box, with one opening on a level with her head, and another on a level with her knee; through the upper opening, when the spectators had been wound up by singing and other devices to illusion point, the spirits of the adult dead showed their faces; through the lower, those of the infant dead, who, it seems, retained in the other world the disability of stature. The adult dead were, no doubt, personated by a mask on the medium's face, the infant dead by a mask on her knee. The presence among the spectators of a professor of science caused the spirits to decline performing for that day. A pas-