

THE LOVER AND HIS RIVAL.



IV.



V.

REMARKABLE CASE OF DUAL CONSCIOUSNESS.

(From Mr Stead's next collection of Ghost Stories)

A GREAT many instances have previously been given tending to establish the theory of double personality held by many students of psychical phenomena. It is now generally recognized that the human consciousness is frequently of a two-fold character, corresponding to the double lobes of the brain, and that the same individual may on different occasions manifest the most divergent and antagonistic traits, according as one consciousness or the other obtains the ascendancy. The normal personality, on assuming control, may be entirely ignorant of the doings of the other, and regard them with horror and detestation.

A remarkable instance of this kind is reported from Toronto, Canada, in the United States. Mr. J. K. Leslie is a member of the City Council, but otherwise a man of good reputation and standing. He has never been detected in taking money from a public contractor, or robbing the treasury, which, according to the Canadian standard entitles him to be regarded as a gentleman of exceptional probity, considering his chances. His discharge of his official duties has resulted in the development of a double consciousness. There are times when the aldermanic consciousness so completely dominates his individuality that he loses all sense of his ordinary identity, while on other occasions when his normal per-

sonality re-asserts itself his mind is a complete blank as to the doings of the aldermanic Leslie.

On the evening of the 15th of March last, Alderman Leslie in his official capacity voted and spoke in favor of handing over a large area of public land, known as the marsh, to a gang of speculators, according to the recognized principles of Canadian public affairs, it being a generally accepted rule in that colony that the public interest is best served by creating a few men millionaires at the expense of the rest. How completely the aldermanic consciousness was independent of the other is shown by the fact that Mr. Leslie, as a private citizen, is heavily interested in the proposed measure, and consequently committed an illegal act in voting for it in his official capacity. But psychological students will readily understand that for the time being Alderman Leslie was really an altogether different person, and that his mind retained no sort of memory or sense of the wishes, views or interests of the normal Leslie. On the following day the private personality having resumed control, Mr. Leslie addressed a Legislative Committee on the measure, speaking from the standpoint of his interests as a citizen and a large property owner, and absolutely ignoring his representative functions. His aldermanic personality was entirely dormant, and he evidently had no consciousness whatever of having any public responsibilities in the matter.

This extraordinary case is engaging widespread attention among psychologists, and the Society for the Promotion of Psychical Research is subjecting Mr. Leslie to a course of experiments. The unfortunate man feels his position keenly, as a heartless and skeptical public are prone to attribute wrong and selfish motives to him, and cannot be convinced that the consciousness of Alderman Leslie is entirely separate and distinct from that of Mr. Leslie, the East End property owner. Which shows the necessity for popularizing psychological study by the circulation of such works as the present.

A BACK-ANSWER.

"YOUR mother is gone, I don't want her back,"
Said the man in a thunderous tone.

"Why no," said the wife, "it were useless, dear Jack,
When you have a good back of your own."

JOHN B. TABB.



AN EXCEPTION.

PROF. HUXWIN (to Prof. Darley, in the background)—"And yet it is one of the axioms that Nature never permits anything to go to waist!"