

Further and still more wonderful developments of spiritualism is now being demonstrated

the Brothers Davenport, gentlemen
A "Master of Arts" writes as follows to

of the *Daily Telegraph* :—
 a witness, on Friday evening of last week, to
 of the "manifestations" which are exhibited by, or
 occur in the presence of the young Americans

[illegible]

to the devices which such strange phenomena
 by, my own observations, striped, fish, theory, or
 and, and made as I should make them in the witness
 of a court of justice.

Andersson, his custodian! However—who will testify to
 be possible of calm observation—is by a turn an impostor—may
 —and those with him may have been severely and
 actively, like himself, fool or knave. True, that is
 false; but what is not possible is to find evidence not
 to these actors.

For the inevitable tale of anonymous testimony,
 name will weigh, however, with you, I think, for
 fidelity and ordinary intelligence; and, with regard to
 acquaintance with the resources of legerdemain, a long
 knowledge of jugglers and snake-charmers.

My regret of this has at least been the cause of my won-
 der, and trouble now. For my fellow-guests, they too
 of, think again, when deception could not be easily

Officers of the army and navy, a colonial agent, a well-known sculptor, a public writer, and a few habitués to keep their wits sharp in conversation with ladies, the circle numbered fifteen persons. The party was presided over by the two brothers Davenport, Mark and A. M. Ferguson. There is nothing to be marked about the first two gentlemen: the Davenports are quiet young men, of mild and agreeable address; so also is their companion, Mr Fay, though he is more English or German in appearance. The appearance of the party, indeed, those who encounter him in a casual way, would lead them to encounter him in a philosophical discussion will probably acknowledge. I was, however, from metaphysics to what I saw, heard, and felt. We sat in a half-circle round the side of the drawing-room—Mr Ferguson being at one end, and one of the Davenports at the other; in the middle of the circle sat myself and myself and myself upon two circular chairs. With a small table between them, on

There were laid a chair, bell, tambourine, and trumpet; while about twelve yards of olive-drone, in two pieces, lay at hand. It was then requested that someone would kindly secure each end of the olive-drone and fasten it with a coil of rope. My Davenport was operated on by a captain of one Her Majesty's vessels of war, a distinguished Arctic navigator. As a yachtsman, I must here plunge so far into technicalities as to say that this ankle of Mr Davenport was roundly secured by his gentleman with a coil of rope, and each end was fastened to the bar of the chair. Then, the captain, and the legs made secure by passing the line round and round the foot-bar, and up to meet the wrist-ropes—when both were joined with a "bread-bag" knot. Sailors will know that a "bread-bag" knot is a knot that will not come apart. The captain then took a coil of "red-knot" into it; in fact, it is the old boat-builder's trap to catch a thief at his biscuit-crate. Mr Fay was made fast scientifically, but very sufficiently,

As the circle was formed in front of the captain, the men were specially warned to keep their hands and feet still while the dancers moved. The men in the semi-circle were only grasped and held by their neighbors. The lights were then extinguished, and in an instant there commenced a melody of noises from tambourine, guitar, and bell. The sound in all parts of the apartment was high, low, now, then, and there simultaneously being heard the passing of them through the air could be heard and felt, immensely rapid, and accompanied by no footfall on the floor. The knees, forehead, and feet of those in the circle were every now and then slapped by the instruments as they whirled about but without any intimation of amusement or surprise on their part mingled with this curious babel. The guitar especially passed and repassed with what was more like a light than ordinary motion, at times violently strummed, and at others as gently thrilled as an *Electric Blue* and

As the attachment being instantly illuminated, the prisoners were discovered exactly as they had been last seen, the instruments lying about, or upon the knees of those present. The captain's sailor-like fastenings were precisely as he had left them, and he was to have been untroubled by his closest examination. The hands were the case with Mr Fay. Hands were then joined, and the lights were once more extinguished; whereupon the same curious and vivacious sounds, motions, and playful rappings re-occurred; and the whole appeared such a scene of the most self-defined—graphic—action, that the hands of some, or touched the knees of others, and then a sound was suddenly heard of rope being whisked apart. The light was struck again, and Mr. Davenport was found perfectly free, with his hands untroubled about the neck of his coat. The whole scene, which this interval did not appear as all sufficient for a week of him disengaging the captive's talons.

After discussion this marvel or trick, the circle was re-formed, the rope placed upon the floor, and the lights re-extinguished. To the same discordant music and with the same rustling noise, the rope was again in motion. Mr. Davenport was taken up, and in a twinkling he was again in the position, with his hands tightly bound than before, in the old position, with a perfect roll of hitches on wrists and ankles, and the chair bars. Again darkness was made, and it was desired that the dress coat worn by the prisoner should be removed. On this point the audience was told that "with a snap" something was heard to fly towards the circle, and Mr. Davenport appeared bound exactly as before, but in his shirt-sleeves, the coat lying between two of those looking on. We had been requested previously to assure ourselves of the integrity of the second set of the rope. On this point the audience was told that "with a snap" the hand was twisted in a very peculiar way over the principal knot, and bound and knot so far as the sharpest of us could judge, were absolutely

instruct after the experiment. We had either witnessed, therefore, a feat which laughs at the law of conservation of energy, or, possibly, a feat which displays the skill of a master juggler, without breaking it, or we had been duped. You, sir, must take your choice, as we did, or the alternatives. This was performed with Mr Davenport's coat, which may give "Wizards of the North and South" the right to smile at what they once called "magic." But afterwards the coat of one of the gentlemen present was taken off and laid on the table, and, with the same "swish" in the dark, it was instantly and accurately adjusted to the back and arms of Mr Davenport, his wrists being still bound together with the same cords. His behind and his legs were also instantly and accurately adjusted to be so, for so as could be judged by the closest inspection, unviolated. Again, Mr Editor, I must present you with the dilemma, upon the horns of which we were tossed; either we had witnessed a feat which laughs at the law of conservation of energy, or we were duped.

The last is the explanation, I have provided, of some professional prestidigitators, naturally alarmed for their trade; but, though the "cost changing trick" is common enough among the "Houdinis" and "Amps," they can accept of rope and Axis, it remains the fact that they cannot witness the "cost changing" which I have attempted to describe. As a witness, it can, it is doubtless, prestidigitation which we witnessed, and the darkness is a shield of tricksters, not an atmospheric condition absolutely demanded by the subtle laws of some new and unexplained force. As a candid reporter of facts, I cannot but state that the "cost changing" conjuring was not that which was pronounced by my companions. But then almost every one was in the habit of seeing and hearing "manifestations" at home or in private residences, of a kind daily familiar to us then, whatever and whenever they may be—familiar, in fact, to them, I repeat, except among the patients of the little London Dispensary among the patients

These words make, however, a head-roll most surprising to the exterior, comprising, it is whispered, distinguished statesmen, authors, scientific men, and clergymen, who form together a curious and quiet society—either the complement of a natural and casual self-direction, or the alien heralds of a social revolution which must shake the world.

I shall neither report to you the astounding account which were given to us of what "had occurred" in the same way, nor the explanations attempted in the conversations that followed. My wish has been simply to present here what was seen, heard, and felt, especially in a private and unassuming circle of friends, who, with their own errors, with serious reasons for detecting a trick it could be detected. It only remains to say that the cords upon Mr. Fay's hands and feet had been all this while so tightly tied that the tension was painful, and another minute's gloom was therefore recruited to

and
hav-
few: still, you
lose and fastened about Captain——'s neck, in a knot
which sailor's call "the hangman's"—an intricate s-

