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सत्यात् नीस्त परो धर्मः ।

THERE IS NO RELIGION HIGHER THAN TRUTH.

[Family motto of the Maharajahs of Benares.]

OLD DIARY LEAVES.*

CHAPTER VII.

I HAVE read, but forgotten—it is so long ago—the particulars of Dr. Henry Slade's biography. It seems to me that he was born in the State of Michigan (U. S. A.) and that the title of "Doctor" is a sort of *nom de guerre*. In America, for that matter, a chiropodist or a patent-medicine man assumes the title of Doctor or Professor, as a borrowed decoration, and military titles are manufactured out of "such stuff as dreams are made on." But that is nothing to the purpose: Doctor or no Doctor, Henry Slade has for many years been one of the best-known spiritual mediums in the world.

I find, on reading an editorial extract from the *Spiritual Scientist* of November 11th, 1875, that we had already made Slade, among others, the offer to go to St. Petersburg, and that he had declined. The Editor says they (the mediums) had—

"made a great mistake, in our opinion, for mediums never had such an opportunity to help the cause by gaining world-wide celebrity for their wonderful powers; and, so doing, at the same time help themselves.... Our mediums have looked at the long journey and the moderate compensation offered for the time their services are required by the University, instead of at the lasting reputation and immediate advantage they would have reaped as the result of successfully passing the scientific ordeal."

* I shall be under great obligations to any friend who wishes well to this historical sketch, if he (or she) will give or lend me for reference any interesting documents, or any letters written them during the years 1875, 6, 7 and 8, by either H. P. B. or myself, about phenomena, the occult laws which produce them, or events in the history of the T. S., or any newspapers or cuttings relating to the same subjects. Loans of this kind will be carefully returned, and I shall be glad to refund, if desired, any expense for postage incurred by the senders. Reminiscences of occult phenomena shown by H. P. B., if described to me by the eye-witnesses, will be specially valued. I may not live to get out a second Edition of my book, and wish to make the first as interesting and trustworthy as possible. One ought not, at the age of sixty, to trust too much to one's own memory, although mine seems not to fail me as yet. Friendly Editors will oblige very much by giving currency to this request.

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