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# TABLE MOVING.

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"The subtlety of Nature far transcends the subtlety of either sense or intellect."

BACON.

The new discovery of "TABLE MOVING," by means of an unseen power from the human hand, has only been introduced into England within the last few weeks; but it would be difficult to single out any scientific subject which has with such rapidity, taken so extensive a hold of the popular mind. If we travel by railway carriage, steamboat, or omnibus, this is the universal topic of conversation. From the aristocratic saloons of Belgravia to the "Parlours" of Whitechapel—from the Green Park to the Cat and Mutton Fields, "table moving" is all the rage. From the Royal Institution, where the secretary pokes his head through a forest of electrical apparatus, to inform the audience that the *facts* are established, down to the humblest Mechanics' Institute, all are full of it, and the tables, to quote the words of the old song—

———"are all a moving,  
Move, move, moving."

Every evening party must of course have its experiments; accordingly, gentlemen come provided with very elegant *chapeaux* for the occasion, and many an innocent flirtation occurs consequent on the proper arrangement of the little fingers of some of the fair operators. As "sweet eighteen," with her blue eyes and golden locks, gracefully links her little finger with Charles's, in a retired corner, what wonder if the hat should tremble? And Charles, being of course fond of poetry (his very name's a guarantee for that), cannot resist softly breathing into Lucy's ear, that exquisite line from Waller, on his fair one's harp---

"Touched by *that* hand—who would not tremble too?"



And after a little more conversation of a strictly scientific character, they feel quite satisfied with the success of the experiment. Mamma, who has been watching the progress of the magnetic influence at a distance, "has no patience with such nonsense, and wonders young men and young women cannot find something better to do." She forgets that there was a magnetic influence at work about thirty years since, and what little trifles served as conductors *then*.

But a trace to pleasantry---our duty is now to present to our readers, some account of these extraordinary phenomena.

Nearly allied to this subject is that of "SPIRIT RAPPING," which has lately excited a great deal of attention, both in this country and America, and has been much animadverted upon by the press of both countries. By the aid of "Spirit Raps," persons are declared to be enabled to hold converse with their deceased relatives; the raps being so directed as to indicate certain letters upon the *Alphabet*, upon which the enquirer is looking, and thus spelling out the message sought to be conveyed from the land of Spirits. These Spirits of deceased relatives will also, it is affirmed, move tables, &c. &c. at the request of the Medium, or *through her*, at the request of others. The Movement of the Tables, *where it is not the effect of a trick*, (and in all cases which the writer has witnessed, it has been,) is now proved not to rest with Spirits, not to require the presence of a Medium at a Guinea per sitting, but can easily be obtained, in a short period of time, by a few persons seating themselves round an ordinary table, and submitting to a few simple conditions, when the *mundane* character of the experiment will be sufficiently obvious.

Upon this *new development* of the powers of Animal Magnetism has been grafted this most Gigantic Imposture of Spirit Rapping. An Imposture, which, in America, has made a few wise men foolish, and many weak ones mad.\* So far as the Imposture has been represented by an American "Medium" in this country, the Exposure in the *Leader* newspaper, by Mr. Lewis, and in the *Zoist* for the present quarter, is complete. It is needless, therefore, to repeat the exposure here; all who are interested in this subject, we refer to the above mentioned publications. Our purpose is, at present, to collect such materials together on the subject immediately before us, as will convince every unprejudiced and impartial mind of the existence of the extraordinary phenomena of Motion, imparted by touch and volition.

The theory of "Animal Magnetism," and its application to

\* The New York Asylum has 30 or 40 inmates from this cause alone. (See Dr. Kendriak's Report.)

disease, has, notwithstanding the opposition it has met with from the Medical Profession, forced its way despite of adverse interests, and obtained for itself a high position. A "local habitation," in the shape of the "Mesmeric Infirmary," has now for some years existed, and this institution numbers amongst its Vice Presidents, The Earl of Carlisle, Baron Goldsmid, Monckton Milnes, Professor De Morgan, and Dr. Whately, Archbishop of Dublin. Thus embracing amongst its supporters the first Logician and first Mathematician of the age.

Notwithstanding the accumulated proofs of the potency of Animal Magnetism in the cure of the most inveterate diseases, the Medical Profession, as a body, tried to scout it down, branding its operators Impostors, and its recipients Dupes. They have reiterated, that any fluid, force, or influence, however subtle, passing from the human body through the hand, existed only in the brain of the visionaries who affirmed it. "Time," however, "works wonders," and, lo and behold, a demonstration is now presented to the world more palpable than the so-called visionaries could have imagined. The triumph of Dr. Elliotson\* and his noble colleagues, who have so bravely "stood the pelting scorn of half an age," will be now complete. *Who* have been the most faithful in their observations on Nature, will soon be glaringly apparent, and then all honor to those who seeing the Light walked in it, and shame and confusion on those who wilfully closed their eyes to it; or seeing the Light, preferred the Darkness.

We will now give a few directions for the application of the newly developed force.

Let a few persons take their seats round a wooden table, the material of which is unimportant, and having denuded their fingers of rings, place their hands upon the table with the ends of the fingers resting upon the table. Care must be taken that no artificial impetus is given to the table by all the hands unconsciously pressing one way. The distance between each person should be about twelve inches, and the dresses of the operators should not be allowed to touch each other or the table. Let the hands form a circular chain by means of the little fingers, so that each operator will have the tip of one finger covered and the other covering. In all probability, the force produced issues from only two or three† persons in the group, and it

\* Dr. Elliotson has, perhaps, sacrificed with this generation his well won fame. All honor to him for this! Yet his noble stand for the yet dawning truth shows him to be a man of great courage, intellect, and self-denial. He may descend to the grave without his fame, but let him not repine. Posterity will yet repay him for all. (*Dublin University Magazine*, October, 1851.) This prophecy is nearer fulfilment than the writer supposed.

† The writer is acquainted with a lady who is sufficiently endowed with this power to move an object entirely by herself.

is therefore better that the experiment be made with seven or eight persons, in order to secure a number of persons having the required influence. Should no motion be apparent after the experiment has been tried for half an hour, another group had better be formed. If this be inconvenient, let the same group try again, occupying different positions. A table without any metallic substance connected with it is preferable, and it has been found, that where the table has been insulated, the effect has been stronger. This can easily be done, by means of a sheet of Gutta Percha or glass. The effects then will be more rapid and certain.

If a Hat be taken, let all the persons that can, take hold of the brim with both hands, under the conditions mentioned above, and wait the specified time, when charged, it will slowly revolve.

The following extracts will show what has already been accomplished.

*(From a Correspondent of Galignani's Messenger.)*

On the evening of Saturday, April 30th, I witnessed at the house of an American gentleman in Paris, a series of experiments, of which I will give a brief account. It may be proper to say that some fifty persons were present, among whom were several Parisian *savans* of great eminence, and who participated in the performances; there were also other persons of high distinction. The party was strictly private, therefore I do not give the names. No professed adept in the art was in the room. In the first place, a light mahogany tea-table, with six legs, was placed on the waxed floor of the saloon, and the palms of the hands of four persons (two ladies and two gentlemen) were placed upon it. The formation of a chain or circle connected by the touching of the little fingers, being a mere pedantry of those who know little of the subject, was not observed. In three minutes, the table cracked, undulated, and then moved on being directed by the will of one of the party; it moved along the floor slowly or rapidly to the right or left, forward or backward, when thus directed it also rose on two legs, and resisted strong pressure before it would come down. While standing on two legs, it also turned round to the right and the left, as directed by the will. A child of seven years, weighing 35 lbs., was put upon the table, and it then moved as before, though somewhat less rapidly. Similar experiments were made with other tables, one larger and one smaller, the former moved freely under the hands of two of the French scientific gentlemen, going round and backward and forward, and rising upon two legs or one, in exact obedience to their volition. They fully admitted the astonishing reality. A large table, weighing 75 lbs., was tried, and the experiments were perfectly successful. It moved rapidly and freely, and rose

upon two legs, by the volition of one of the party, an effect equal to raising a weight of 15 lbs. The experiments were repeated over and over again. There was no doubt, I believe, in the mind of any person present as to the facts here stated. I need but add, that these are but confirmations of what is familiarly known in the United States, and what any sensible person may determine for himself. Let the experiment be made in any circle of a dozen persons, men and women, among these some will probably be found to have the requisite magnetic power, four such persons being found the test is obvious and certain. Two persons of strong magnetic power will succeed perfectly. I have also seen one person go through with all the performance. It is to be understood, that a person who has not the power to charge the tables, can direct them if he has a steady intellect, and a strong persistent power of volition. He must put his hands on the table with the others, as far as my observation goes. It will be understood that I here state facts, and attempt no philosophical explanations.

The *Times* of the 20th April, contains an account of similar experiments at Vienna.

The following is a complete account of a series of experiments, by Mr. Bates of the Nautical Academy.

*Experiment 1.*—A small round mahogany table, about 30 in. diameter, was employed; five gentlemen sat around it with their hands (fingers) so placed that a ring of fingers surrounded the table, the little fingers of each neighbour being joined, also the thumbs of each operator. During the period of about half an hour, sensations of throbbing in the fingers and thumbs, pains in and about the regions of the elbows were experienced, and a perceptible vibration of the table observed. The table was placed on the floor *uninsulated*.

*Experiment 2.*—The same table, under the same circumstances, was employed, but instead of five, seven gentlemen operated: on this occasion an electrometer, composed of two flaxen threads suspended from a brass wire, was employed to indicate if the table had received an electric charge; the threads were held together by a small strip of lead, and the brass wire was brought into contact with the table by a piece of iron wire. While the table remained *uninsulated* no effects were perceptible during half an hour beyond the throbbings and pains mentioned above.

*Experiment 3.*—The table was now *insulated*, by being placed firmly on an ordinary electrical stool about a foot square, a party of gentlemen sitting round as before; the same phenomena of throbbing at the fingers' ends, pains in the elbows, &c. were observed; at length two gentlemen, sitting opposite each other, experienced similar phenomena, especially a particular sensation on the balls of the thumbs—in one instance the ball of



the thumb was in contact with the table, in the other in contact with the operator's other thumb: about this time a remarkable vibration of the table was observed, its peculiar character was perhaps noticed more distinctly by the threads of the electrometer exhibiting a trepidatory motion which had not occurred before. A railway train passed during these vibrations, but as several had passed during the experiment the distinctive character of this vibration was apparent. The next phenomenon observed, about twenty minutes after the commencement of the experiment was remarkable—the operators, without being sensible of any motion, observed the position of their hands to be different, *i.e.*, their hands had moved towards the right, so that while they remained in a sitting position a kind of hoisting was produced, the motion of the table now became apparent; to retain the position of the hands on the table it was necessary for the operators to rise—a rotatory motion was induced, which, from commencing very slowly and gradually accelerating, occasioned the operators to follow the rotating-table first at a slow and afterwards at a brisk walk; while thus proceeding, a gentleman attempted to reverse the motion, by pulling the table in the contrary direction, and by exerting muscular force upon it, in this he succeeded; the other operators declaring that some one was pulling the table. The direction of motion, when influenced by the electricity or magnetism of the party, was contrary to that in which the hands of a watch move; in one or two instances there was a slight tendency to move in the opposite direction, but it was soon overcome.

*Experiment 4.*—A large sheet of gutta percha was laid on the floor, on this was placed two smooth boards, and the table *uninsulated* (so far as the boards were concerned) placed on them. A party of six operated in this instance, some of the gentlemen not having operated in the former parties. The fingers in contact were simply laid on the table, and a strict eye kept on certain marks on the boards, to ascertain the exact time of the commencement of motion. Nothing beyond the sensation above mentioned was noticed during twenty minutes.

*Experiment 5.*—The table was now insulated as before, so that it was insulated as regarded the operators, by the glass stool, and *they and it* insulated, as regarded the earth, by the gutta percha. In three minutes the rotation was induced; it was in the same direction as before, *viz.*, contrary to that in which the hands of a watch move, and was maintained during six minutes, in which the table made upwards of six revolutions.

*Experiment 6.*—Everything remaining as before, a party of ladies and gentlemen placed their hands on the table; in two minutes the rotation commenced, the period of revolution being about one minute.

*Experiment 7.*—A party of gentlemen now placed the palms



of their hands on the table, their fingers being unconnected ; in this case rotation \* in the same direction was induced in a short time.

*Experiment 8.*—Two gentlemen standing opposite each other placed the palms of their hands on the table with similar results.

*Experiment 9.*—The rotation was induced, when one gentleman placed the palms of his hands firmly on the centre of the table, pressing in the direction of the axis of the supporting pillar.

*Experiment 10.*—The gutta percha and boards were removed from the floor, and the table *insulated* by the glass stool being placed thereon, the party sat round as before ; in two or three minutes the rotation commenced at first slowly, but accelerated so rapidly that the operators were obliged fairly to run, till at length, being exhausted, their hands were removed from the table, and the motion stopped.



On Friday last, May 20th, some experiments were performed, at Oxford, in which Mr. Henry Hallam, and the Dean

\* The writer is intimately acquainted with a scientific gentleman of much eminence in the City, who permitted *himself*, a day or two since, to be operated upon by a surgeon and two other friends, who placed the tips of their fingers upon his breast and shoulders. In a few minutes the influence operated so powerfully that he was compelled to rotate, otherwise he would have been thrown upon the floor. This experiment has since been confirmed from various sources. It may be mentioned that the aforesaid gentleman was a complete sceptic, and is about as *unimaginative* a person as Joseph Hume.

of Christ-church were the operators, when the table rotated in a few minutes, to the satisfaction of all present.

The Lady of Professor De Morgan and Sir Charles Style have sufficient of this power, to make the tables move in obedience to the command of their will.

The Mayor of Alençon, the Deputy Mayor, the substitute of the Procureur Imperial, Dr. Prevost, and several other persons of high respectability, have signed a declaration that they tried the magnetic experiment upon a heavy billiard table, which, under the influence, advanced four feet from them; and then, in obedience to the will of one of the company, returned to its former position.

The *Journal of Elsinore* states, that a lady of that place in trying the experiment, experienced a violent head-ache. Two others, who were operating, placed their hands upon her head, when she was immediately thrown into a magnetic sleep. While in this state she became highly clairvoyant, and accurately described the place and employment of persons far away from her.

All the scientific men of Germany are now studying this subject, and we may therefore hope that some new light will be thrown upon it shortly. The Nautical Academy are also devoting themselves to studiously investigating these phenomena.

As an evidence of the interest that is being taken upon this subject, the *Illustrated London News* of last Saturday, May 21, contains a large woodcut, representing the experiment, as performed by a happy domestic circle, which represents four out of the seven ages of life, deeply occupied in the development of their newly-discovered powers. It also contains an article which completely confirms the facts above mentioned.

It may be mentioned in conclusion, that in addition to other numerous instances that could be given, the above class of experiments have been successfully performed by the Bishop of Oxford, the Earl of Carlisle, the Ladies of Lord Grosvenor's family, Mr. C. H. Wild, the Engineer of the Great Exhibition, the Hon. & Rev. Mr. Law, (brother of Lord Ellenborough,) the Rev. George Sandby, the Rev. Chauncey Hare Townsend, M.A., and several well known gentlemen at the Bank of England, Stock Exchange, and Lloyd's, together with many names that could be mentioned, highly distinguished in science and literature.

NOTE.—Another mode (just discovered) of operating, is by forming a pile of hands under a table. When fully charged, the table rises as high as the hands can go. Of course the table must not be a heavy one. By a "pile" is meant a vertical superposition of hands, the upper hand gently touching the table.

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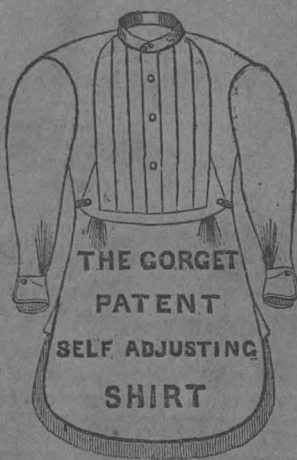
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