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# KIRBYE'S

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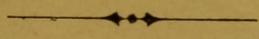
## SECOND-SIGHT MYSTERY

AND

## PRETENDED CLAIRVOYANCE

EXPOSED.

AS PRACTICED AND PERFORMED BY PROF. HELLER, MISS  
LOOMISS, THE SCOTCH GIANTS, AND OTHERS.



NEW YORK:

FOR THE AUTHOR,

P. F. HARRIS, PUBLISHER,

No. 102 NASSAU STREET.

1855.



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## NOTICE.

THE Science of "Second Sight" teaches any person the true method by which they are enabled, through the medium of SOUND, to distinguish the *color, name, and quality* of any articles that may be held in the hands of an operator. Also, to tell the *number, dates, quantity, time, direction, etc.*, during which time the subject may be satisfactorily blindfolded, or even placed in some other apartment, will readily describe all the above-named *orders* to which it belongs, thus making it a highly interesting exhibition of ingenuity and talent. It is not expected, however, that every person who reads this little book intends putting the examples into practice, but the reading of it once through is well worth the price asked for it, and a gratification to know that the "secret is out."

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Entered, according to Act of Congress, in the year 1854, by

P. F. HARRIS,

in the Clerk's Office of the District Court for the Southern District of New York.

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*Mail Stereotype Edition \$1, to any part of the U. States.*

## P R E F A C E .

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As a great deal of anxiety has been manifested in every part of the community respecting this very successful and ingenious method of silent telegraphing, or, in other terms, the phenomena of SECOND SIGHT, or seeing without eyes, and by many called "Clairvoyance," for this reason I feel it my duty, as well as a gratification to myself and others, to make some comment upon the subject, together with a brief explanation of the manner in which it may be performed.

When the "Second-SIGHT *Mystery*" was first produced, it was not intended for a speculative trick, or to be introduced before the fashionable assemblages of our theaters, museums, and public places of amusement, but was simply designed for the social circle and fireside amusement. We could scarcely conceive of a more pleasant yet innocent recreation than that of the present method of seeing, as it were, without the use of our eyes. One of the party being brought forward, and carefully blindfolded, or even placed in an adjoining room, may readily conceive the name and description of every article held in the hands of the opposite party, without the least recourse to bribery or accomplicity. We are well aware that even all the principal tricks of jugglers, magicians, etc., as practiced at present, are accomplished by means of collusion through a third person. But in the present no such recourse is necessary, as any two persons, by committing to memory the following examples, are enabled to perform the experiment of second sight. I am well satisfied that there are at present

numerous professors of mesmerism and pretended clairvoyants who are continually impressing upon the minds of the public that they, the clairvoyants, are enabled, through the medium of electro or animal magnetism, to distinguish and describe *foreign lands*, hidden treasures, and even to tell the thoughts of those whom they never seen, or could not have had any correspondence whatever

All this *they profess* to do without any recourse to bribery or the optical vision.

This illusion they have carried very successful for a number of years, and in fact the community never recognized the second sight under any other circumstances than when connected with demonstrations of their so-called clairvoyance. I have frequently, when exhibiting this experiment in various parts of the country, been very much annoyed by sudden contentions, arising out of inconceivable ideas respecting the manner of correspondence.

One says it is clairvoyance, another mesmerism, or sychology ; some say it is a spiritual manifestation, others say ventriloquism. Thus we see many ideas advanced by many different people ; yet all are totally ignorant of the true method of its accomplishment. A careful perusal of the following book will scatter every erroneous idea concerning the supposed miracle. This beautiful trick has progressed rapidly from its infancy, and was for a great length of time withheld from the criticism of the public, and only exhibited in private circles, but recently it has acquired a considerable popularity, and is now daily astonishing the multitudes who witness its demonstrations with wonder and delight.

Yours, respectfully,

G. W. KIRBYE.

# CLAIRVOYANCE EXPOSED.

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## LESSON I.

NOTE.—Great care should be taken by the operator not to **PLACE** the *least stress* or to *emphasize* upon any *letter, word, or sound*. Speak natural, loud, and distinct, in order that the subject may hear with accuracy every sound that is uttered. The subject must also speak loud and distinct, so that the audience may hear every answer clearly. All the **CUES** in this science are marked *thus*; and must be impressed upon the mind of both the subject and the operator. But not regarded in any example of communication.

A correct distinction of all **COLORS** may be known by the following examples :

### EXAMPLE I.

*What Color?* White.

*What is the color?* Black.

*What color is this?* Red.

*Name the color?* Blue.

*Describe the color?* Green.

*Can you tell the color of this, that, or them?* Yellow.

*What is color as near as you can tell?* Brown.

*What is color of the article?* Gray.

*Tell me what color, etc.?* Mixed.

### EXAMPLE II.

*Tell me the color of this handkerchief?* Mixed colors; and **RED** the most prominent color, etc.

NOTE.—The best method to distinguish any variety of mixed colors is first to distinguish the most prominent color of the article



What Number can you <i>see</i> of any article, and	Ring.	50
Repeat	“ “ “ “	55
What Number can you <i>tell</i> of any article, and	“	60
Repeat	“ “ “ “	65
<i>Count</i> the Number of any article, and	“	70
Repeat	“ “ “ “	75
<i>Tell</i> me the Number of any article, and	“	80
Repeat	“ “ “ “	85
<i>Please</i> to count the Number of any article, and	“	90
Repeat	“ “ “ “	95
<i>What three</i> figures denote the Number	“ “	100

NOTE.—Should the answer of any intermediate number be demanded, as 37 for example, the question denoting 30 would be asked thus :

*What Number* of, etc.? *Please to count them?*

*What Number* denotes 30, and the remark, “*please to count,*” signifies that there were more than five more in contemplation. Thus the subject imagines 30, and commences to count thus, 1, 2, RING. We now have by this process 32 and the five additional, as 32+5 are 37.

#### LESSON IV.

What *do I hold* in my hand? A pair of gloves.

Are they *ladies* or gentlemen’s gloves? LADIES gloves.

Now reverse the question thus :

Are they *gentleman’s* or ladies gloves? Gentleman’s gloves.

(See example for color on page 5.)

*What kind* of an *instrument* is this? A pocket knife. (See color of handle, etc.)

*What number* of blades? One.

What *is the* number of blades? Two.

What number *can you see*? Three.

What number *can you tell*? Four. If more than five, refer to the table of Numerals.

Here’s a *rare article*, what is it? A handkerchief.

*What color*? White.

*What quality*? Linen

What *is the* quality? Cotton.

*Can you tell* me the quality? Silk.

*Describe* the quality of this or that? Cloth. (See color.)

What is this? A porte-monnaie or pocket-book. (Repeat.)

"A porte-monnaie" or pocket-book, but which of the two is it?

A porte-monnaie. (Reverse as in gloves.)

What is this I hold in my hand? A watch.

What quality? Silver.

Can you tell me the quality? It has the appearance of gold.

Answer the question *direct*? I would take it for gold.

Can you tell me the quality? It has the *appearance* of gold.

"*Appearance*" of gold, what do you mean by that? I mean, it's a poor example for genuine, like the owner. (N. B. For time, see page 11.)

What have I in my hand? A hat. (See color.)

What kind of a *Fancy article* is this? A snuff or tobacco box. (Reverse as in porte-monnaie, gloves, etc.)

What does this instrument *pertain* to? To music.

Here is a very *curious* instrument, what is it? A lancet.

Describe the *nature* of the *article* I hold in my hand? An opera glass.

If you can *discriminate* an article through the *back* of your *head*, tell me what this is? An umbrella. (See color, etc.)

Here, what do you call this? A cap. (See color.)

Here, *what's* this? A cigar.

Here, *what's* this *for*? A cigar case. (Repeat.)

A case? A cigar holder.

What *kind* of an *article* is this? A cane. (See color.)

Here's a *common* article, what is it? A tumbler.

Here is *something else*? A stick of some kind.

Do you *know* what this is? A toothpick.

What *quality*? Ivory.

What *quality*, *direct*? Silver.

What *kind*? Goose quill.

Can you tell the *quality direct*? Gold.

Here is an article of *great value*, what is it? A pair of spectacles. (See quality, etc.)

The gentleman *desires* you to name this article? A boot.

The gentleman is *anxious* you tell what this is? A shoe.

I believe I am *puzzled* to know what this is, can you tell? Curiosity (curiosity), spoken with surprise; but it is a greater curiosity for me to see and not know what you know and don't see.

This article the owner *prefers* to keep? A comb. If but one

comb, answer instantly (correct); if it should be a pair of combs, make a slight pause between the word comb and the word correct.

Here is an *article used by ladies*, what is it? A pencil. (See color and quality.)

What is this *article used for*? Soap.

What are *these*? A pair of scissors.

*Tell me what this is*? India-rubber.

*Please to tell me what these are*? A pair of tweezers.

*Will you tell me what this is*? A pocket-slate.

Here's a lady's *favorite article*, what is it? A ring. (See quality.)

What does this *gentleman hold in his hand*? A musical instrument.

What does this *lady hold in her hand*? A bonnet.

This is of some *importance*, what is it? A penny.

*Here is still something else*? A string or line. A *string*? Yes, tape.

Here is an *exceeding common article*, what is it? A book. Correct. Should the word *a book* be repeated it signifies a blank book. (See comb, for example.)

What *kind of a book*? A map.

*Name this*? A nail.

*Hand me some other article*, but never mind,—A screw.

*A screw*? A corkscrew.

What do you *see in my hand*? A bottle.

What does this *box contain, or for*? A match box.

What *kind of a box is this*? A cap box.

*What quality of box is this*? A fancy or toilet box.

What *kind of money or coin is this*? It is no money.

*What is it then*? A medal.

What is this *glass for*? An eye glass.

*A gent's favorite article*? A watch guard.

Repeat a watch guard? A watch chain. (See quality.)

What does this *belong to*? A watch.

What part? The seal. (See quality.)

What part of *apparel is this*? A lady's shawl.

*Name this for the lady or gent, as the case may be*? A ribbon.

**TELL** the *lady or gent* what this is? Lace.

What do *ladies use this for*? Thread.

*Can you tell what this is*? A key. (Remark.) A key? A safe key.

- What *is this* key USED FOR? A door key.  
 When *is this* key used? At night, or night key.  
 What do you *think* it is used for? A trunk key.  
 What *use* does the *owner* make of it? A watch key.  
 What *quality* of key? Iron.  
 Can you tell me the *quality*? Brass.  
 Can you tell me the *quality direct*? Gold.  
 Can you tell me what *these* are? A bunch of keys.  
 Count the number? 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. (If more than five then resort to the bell as before)  
 Here's an article—I *scarcely* know what it is myself? A stone.  
 (Remark.) A stone? A marble.  
 What *color*? White.  
 What *is it used for*? Chalk.  
 What *color* is *this* stone, and what is it used for? Red chalk.  
 This is something of *vast importance* to every man, what is it? A piece of money or coin.  
 What *quality*? Silver.  
 What *value*? Three cents.  
 How much *value*? Five cents.  
 How much *is the value*? Six and a quarter cents.  
 How much *is it worth*? Ten cents.  
 What *value* is this coin? Twenty-five cents.  
 What *is it worth*? Fifty cents.  
 What is this *coin worth*? One dollar.  
 This is something of *vast importance*, etc.  
 Can you tell me the *quality direct*? Gold coin.  
 What *value*? One dollar.  
 How much *value*? Two dollars and fifty cents.  
 How much *is the value*? Three dollars.  
 Of how much *is the value*? Five dollars.  
 What is this *coin worth*? Ten dollars.  
 What is the *extreme value* of this coin? Twenty dollars.  
 What *two figures* denote its value? Fifty dollars.  
 What kind of a *book* is this, or the gentleman has just handed me a *valuable book*, etc.? It is no book.  
 What *is it then*? A bank note.  
 What *value*? One dollar.  
 How much *value*? Two dollars.  
 How much *is the value*? Three dollars.  
 How much *is it worth*? Four dollars.  
 OF HOW MUCH *is the value*? Five dollars.  
 How much is this *note worth*? Ten dollars.  
 What is the *extreme value* of *this note*? Twenty dollars.  
 What *two figures* denote its denomination? Fifty dollars.  
 What *three figures* denote its denomination? One hundred dollars.  
 What *state*? The present state.  
 What *city or town*? The present.

What day? What week? What time? What date, etc.? Always the present subject then in view. Example:

What day did he or she go? To-day.

What year? 1854, etc.

The following examples are calculated to denote within fifteen minutes of any required time.

From these examples we find but two hours specified by the questions. And it is expected that every subject, when about to perform this experiment, can certainly judge within two hours of the correct time.

Thus he can apply the following rule at any time, day or night. Should the hands of the watch or clock be at great variance with the correct time, you may then refer to the numeral table to find out the figures denoting such time. Then add this rule, and you can not fail to arrive at the correct time denoted by such watch, let it be right or wrong.

What time is it by this watch? (Ring.) Eight o'clock exactly, or one hour before the time designed to be answered.

What time is it now? (Ring.) Fifteen minutes after eight.

What time at present? (Ring.) Half-past eight.

Can you tell the time? (Ring.) Fifteen minutes to nine o'clock.

What time is it by this watch? Nine o'clock. (The exact intermediate time designed to be answered.)

What time is it now? Fifteen minutes after nine.

What time at present? Half-past nine.

Can you tell the time? Fifteen minutes to ten o'clock.

What is the exact time? Ten o'clock.

### BELL QUESTIONS.

Bell questions are voluntary terms made use of, and not being a direct question put to the subject; but the remark made to terminate by one stroke of the bell. By this process it seems that the bell is the only medium by which the intelligence is given; thus it always confounds the mind of the spectator, how that, by the same one direct and only sound of the signal bell, could give sufficient intelligence for the explanation of the color and quality of a difficult article (say the entire description of a watch, and time likewise). In order to make this appear plain I have annexed a few examples. Thus, addressing the persons present:

*Subjects* are enabled by this process to see as it were any article in *possession* of another. Ring. A lady's muff.

Some very *industrious* person must have brought this article. Ring. A thimble.

I *will pass* this article out of my hand into that of yours, *sir*.

Ring. A money purse.

*Observe*, if you please, how every article is named correctly?

Ring. Tobacco.

It does seem a *mystery* even to me to see and know how this trick is accomplished. Ring. A miniature.

Many persons would be easily convinced that this was actually *clairvoyance*, but we repeat this is a trick forever. Ring. A lady's veil.

This trick is well calculated to confound the minds of many *intelligent men*. Ring. A letter.

This trick is *susceptible* of being carried to a greater *perfection* than this. Ring. A card.

We make many *mistakes* but seldom *detected*. Ring. A necklace, or pertaining to the neck.

I wonder if the subject *foresees* the articles *held up*. Ring. A garment.

We admit of this as being a trick only, yet a very *novel one too*. Ring. A paper. Ring. A newspaper.

This *principle* so frequently *manifested*, I was a going to say by gentlemen, but never mind. Ring. A rule. Ring. A tape line or rule.

Ah! this is *handsome enough*. Ring. A breast pin.

The *subject* sees these articles as *readily* as you do. Ring. A looking-glass.

A toy may be known by one full stroke of the bell, during a short interval, say five seconds, or thereabouts.

An ornament may be known by a half or condensed stroke of the bell, by making one stroke and immediately touching the bell with the ends of the fingers, stopping off the sound

Inclose this article in your hand. Ring. A buckle.

This is a *precious* good trick, yet there are but few who can carry it out successfully. Ring. A lock of hair.

*Young man*, hold that in your hand. Ring. There's a button for you.

It *matters not* what the articles are, but all will be readily *described alike*. Ring. A check. Repeat a check. A pass check.

What is this check used for? A baggage check.

*Produce* any article you please for description. Ring. A keepsake.

This is a — (Interrupted by a—). Ring. A lady's reticule. It's *surprising to see how articles are described so accurately*. Ring. Sealing wax.

I *thank you* for that. Ring. A piece of candy.

Seeing this is pretty good, I guess I'll keep it. Ring. Perfumery.

More of this would be agreeable. Ring. Fruit.

Have you any more of the same sort? Ring. Pass that spice over this way.

Well! well! what next will people hand up? Ring. A file.

*Communications* in this science are simple enough for any one to acquire in a short time. Ring. A brush. (Correct.) *Repeat a brush!* A tooth brush.

It BECOMES very *difficult* to describe articles, particularly if we do not know what they are. Ring. Dental or surgical instrument.

Which is it, the first or last named instrument? The first, or a dental instrument. (Reverse for the opposite.)

I PRESUME he or she can tell what it is. Ring. Kneedles.  
(Repeat ring.) Pins.

## BELL EXERCISES

Are only repeated strokes of the bell denoting the time when the articles are held up without using any language as a corresponding medium. (See example.)

- Ring. 1. A pair of gloves.  
 " 2. A handkerchief.  
 " 3. A hat.  
 " 4. A black hat.  
 " 5. A cap.  
 " 6. A black cap.  
 " 7. A lady.  
 " 8. A lady's hand.  
 " 9. A lady's bonnet.  
 " 10. A garment.  
 " 11. A nose.  
 " 12. A rumsucker's nose (changing to another).  
 " 13. He professes to be a gentleman.  
 " 14. Deeply in love.  
 " 15. With ladies and whisky.  
 " 16. Shall I count the ladies he loves?  
 " 17. (*This ring denotes yes.*)  
 " 18. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17,  
 18, 19, 20. (*Interrupted.*) Hold on! hold on!

Why does he love so many? He follows your example.

What example? To fall in love with all he meets, whether they be white or black.

That will do, I perceive you know it all.

NOTE.—The operator during these exercises should be very careful to know that he can procure the above list of articles, or at least a similar list which he can arrange at any time with his subject; you can also change your list each evening at pleasure, and not be confined exclusively to the above memoranda.

NOTE.—The following examples will correctly denote any century or date, from 1854 back to 1400. Articles or coin dated further back than this will seldom if ever be offered for explanation.

## EXAMPLE.

*What date is this coin or article, etc.?* 1800.

*Of what date, etc.?* 1700.

*Tell the date, etc.?* 1600.

*Can you tell the date, etc.?* 1500.

*Describe the date, etc.* 1400.

Two special questions will be given to denote 1853 and 1854, as so many articles are presented having one of the above dates.

*What date is this?* 1854.

*What date do you see?* 1853.

In order to ascertain any intermediate date, as 1804 for example.

*WHAT DATE, or What number can you tell?* 1804.

See the first example on page 13, "*what date*;" by this we have 18 or 1800, "What Number can you tell" (see page 6), we have 4 or 04; thus 18+04 or 1804. Suppose the number to be answered was 1710.

"*Of what date? Please count.*" 1700—1, 5, 3, 4, 5 (Ring), 6, 7, 8, 9, 10—1710.

Thus we have at once 1700 and 10 or 1710.

In these examples it will be well to get a perfect knowledge of the tables of Numerals, and particularly the exercises of the bell.

Now suppose the date to be 1830. Example.

*What date or number?* Ring. 1830.

*What date?* 1800.

What number? Ring. 30. Thus we have 1830—a repeated stroke of the bell denotes five above, as usual. Thus 1830. Ring. 1835, and all other numbers to be calculated in the same manner. (See page 7.)

In no case must the subject name the century until he has first ascertained the additional number of years, as in 1710, "*of what date*," must be borne in mind until the remaining numbers be calculated, thus answering two questions at once. "*Of what date?*" "*Please count?*" Thus 1710.\*

The following examples denote the month and day of the month.

NOTE.—To find out the day of the month refer to the bell exercises in table of Numerals, on page 13.

What month? January.

What is the month? February.

What month was it? March.

What month do you say it was? April.

Name the month? May.

Please name the month? June.

Could you name the month? July.

Will you tell us the month? August.

Tell us the month? September.

Can you tell the month? October.

What month do you think it was? November.

Describe the month? December.

The following three questions denote the location of any person present.

*Point to the person?* (For example.) Center.

*Can you point to the,* etc. " Right.

*Will you point to the,* etc. " Left.

In order to ascertain any desired number the following examples of silent telegraphing may be acceded to, thus: we wish to ascertain the number of 143; one stroke of the bell being given, the subject and operator both begin counting in their mind, keeping the exact time by practice; and so soon as the operator arrives at the required figure, strikes the bell once, then returns to count

\* It was impossible to give the correct date without first uniting two distinct questions by the word "or," thus making them appear but one question.

again until he has finished the full amount of figures, when he must make a half stroke. (See example.)

Ring	1	Ring	1
"	1, 2, 3, 4	"	14
"	1, 2, 3	half	143. Thus 143. Now suppose the number to be 450.
"	1, 2, 3, 4	Ring	4
"	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	"	45
"	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 0	half	450. Thus we have 450.

In these examples the figures are simply brought down to make it appear plain to the learner.

Names or articles can be spelled out in the very same way alphabetically. (Example.)

Ring A, B.

" A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O.

" A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O.

" A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K. Ring. Thus we

have spelled out the word book—and any correspondence can be conducted in the very same manner.

A list of articles generally presented by the audience for description :

Hats,	Tooth brushes,	Watch guards,
Caps,	Dental instruments,	Lady's reticules,
Gloves,	Surgical instruments,	Tuning forks,
Canes,	Musical instruments,	Pocket slates,
Watches and chains,	Maps,	Pass checks,
Keys,	Shawls,	Sealing wax,
Pencils,	Cards,	Tape lines,
Rings,	Cravats,	Locks of hair,
Books	Pens,	Opera glasses,
Coins,	Thimbles,	Eye glasses,
Bank notes,	Brushes,	Lancets,
Medals,	Buttons,	Keepsakes,
Snuff boxes,	Mirrors,	Umbrellas,
Tobacco boxes,	Garments,	Buckles,
Match boxes,	Ribbons,	Files,
Cap boxes,	Tape.	Bottles,
Fancy boxes,	Laces,	Perfumery,
Strings,	Cord,	Candy,
Sticks,	Scissors,	Fruit,
Stones,	Thread,	Spices,
Paper,	Kneedles,	Toys,
Letters,	Pins,	Miniatures,
Combs,	Muffs,	Boots,
Handkerchiefs,	Spectacles,	Shoes,
Breast pins,	Cases,	Tumblers,
Pocket knives.	Cigars,	Cloth,
Screws,	Purses,	India-rubber,
Nails,	Veils,	Soap,

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### CONCLUSION

We now have had a brief illustration of the mysteries of "Second Sight," or the pretended art of seeing without eyes. You have, I hope, found it to be a pleasant and interesting study; and should you wish to introduce the experiments before an audience or private party, bring your subject before the visitors; now take a pocket handkerchief and fold it up and place it over the eyes of the subject, with face first to the company; then make a few polite remarks respecting the trick as not being clairvoyance, mesmerism, ventriloquism, or any other of the popular illusions of the day.

Now procure some of the articles contained in the list; after a few have been named, remark to the company that you believe the subject can see through the handkerchief; and you will please the company better by turning your back to them and then describe the articles held up; or should there be an adjoining room convenient, place your subject in that, under such circumstances, however, that they are enabled to hear every *sound that is uttered distinctly*.

A. B.—Should any articles be presented in the course of your experiments not contained in the list, you must then prepare yourself with some new cue in the list; in this way you will soon be able to swell up the catalogue to a wonderful size, by writing all your new questions down on paper and committing them to memory as the others.

Size and weight have been omitted in this work, from the very fact that nothing of that order is presented. And when you have studied this work sufficiently to give and to answer every question, it will be quite sufficient to gratify the taste of every anxious inquirer concerning the ingenious trick of "Second Sight."

New and Beautiful Tale, by a Great Author.

~~~~~  
NOW READY,

*Just issued from the Press, a beautiful, exciting, and extraordinary Romance, entitled*

## THE BRIDAL CHAMBER,

AND ITS MYSTERIES;

OR,

LIFE AT OUR FASHIONABLE HOTELS.

BY GEORGE THOMPSON, ESQ.,

[“GREENHORN,”]

Author of his own “Autobiography,” “The Actress,” “The Lady’s Garter,” “Dashington,” “Jack Harold,” and fifty other popular Novels, which stamp him as being

One of the best and most prolific Writers of the Present Age.

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