

the phenomena," that is a most important result, and one which would amply repay the time and pains bestowed on collecting and examining the cases. The prime reason why it seems a scientific duty to collect and examine such evidence is not to support a foregone conclusion, not to prove this or that, but to see what is really involved in it; how far, when rationally criticised, it reveals facts which our previous knowledge fails to explain. No rational opinion could be formed on the subject, no rational guess even could be hazarded, till a wide effort had been made, and a large body of material got together and arranged. Mr. Peirce's provisional conclusion is, therefore, a quite sufficient justification for the book; for I do not imagine that he would deny that, if this collection actually goes some distance towards *disproving* telepathy, telepathy is not very likely to be proved. At the same time, his is not a conclusion which I can pretend that I expect many to share who devote an equal amount of study to the matter. He regards me, no doubt, as an advocate rather than a judge; and he is so far justified, in that the mistakes which I have made are all mistakes which tell in favor of my conclusion. He will pardon me if I say that he is in the same position; he has made (I think) a larger number of mistakes in seven pages than I in as many hundreds; and they all tell in favor of *his* conclusion. Thus the impartial reader who may be led to the book by this controversy will start fair; and that some may be so led is, I trust, one probable and useful result of a controversy which, I gratefully acknowledge, has not been without other uses.

Finally, let me urge on American readers that good as criticism is, cases to criticise are even better. I have expressly stated in "Phantasms of the Living," that, though the book may reasonably be accepted as supplying a proof of Telepathy, the proof is not one which all candid minds are likely to accept. More cases, and contemporary cases, are needed; and for this we must largely depend on the wide assistance of educated persons in many countries. We trust that it is from the United States that the next considerable batch of evidence will come.

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