

**THE VEIL LIFTED: MODERN
DEVELOPMENTS OF SPIRIT
PHOTOGRAPHY. WITH
TWELVE ILLUSTRATIONS**

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The Veil Lifted: Modern Developments of Spirit Photography. With Twelve Illustrations by J. Traill Taylor

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J. TRAILL TAYLOR

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This spirit-face is the realisation of a high ideal of beauty, sweetness, and spirituality. The beauty of it we cannot now fully comprehend; but, as we gaze on it, we may say in the words of Michael Angelo:—

"Souls burn for souls—spirits to spirits cry,
I seek the splendour in thy fair face stored;
Yet living man that beauty scarce can learn,
And he who fain would find it first must die."

[See page 98, tenth line.

THE VEIL LIFTED.

MODERN DEVELOPMENTS OF
SPIRIT PHOTOGRAPHY.

With Twelve Illustrations.

A PAPER BY J. TRAILL TAYLOR
DESCRIBING EXPERIMENTS IN PSYCHIC PHOTOGRAPHY.

LETTER BY THE REV. H. R. HAWEIS, M.A.

ADDRESSES BY JAMES ROBERTSON, GLASGOW.

AND

MISCELLANEA BY THE EDITOR,

ANDREW GLENDINNING.

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1894.

II

PREFACE.

THE publication in the *British Journal of Photography* of Mr. Taylor's Paper, with the proceedings of the meeting at which it was read, has aroused a wide-spread and deep interest in the subject. The principal portions of it, and, in some instances the whole of the Paper, together with editorial comments, have subsequently appeared in newspapers and journals in Canada, Australia, India, America, and other countries. As his experiments will be a matter of historical interest, many scientific men will be pleased to have his Paper in this book form, with the reproductions of two of the psychic pictures which he obtained on his photographic plates.

The term "spirit photographs" is generally

used to describe photographs of psychic entities who cannot be seen by ordinary persons, but can be photographed by a medium, or with the help of a medium, and with the co-operation of these unseen entities. Such portraits are obtained both indoors and in the open air, with and without a background, by natural light and by artificial light; and, in the case of "materialised" forms at séances, which are visible to every person present, the portraits have sometimes been taken by light produced by the spirits, the exact nature of which is unknown.

The following may serve as a rough classification of what are called spirit photographs:—

1. Portraits of psychical entities not seen by normal vision.
2. Pictures of objects not seen nor thought of by the sitter or by the medium or operator; such as flowers, words, crosses, crowns, lights, and various emblematic objects.

3. Pictures which have the appearance of being copied from statues, paintings, or drawings. Sometimes these are busts or heads only. The flatness in some photographs of this class is supposed, by persons who have *not* investigated the subject, to be proof that the photographs are produced in a fraudulent manner.

4. Pictures of what are called materialised forms visible to normal sight.

5. Pictures of the "wraith" or "double" of persons still in the body.

6. Portraits on plates which developers have failed to bring into view, but that can be seen and described by clairvoyants and by mediums when in trance and whose descriptions agree, though made independently.

There are, also, portraits that cannot be classed as photographs, as they have not been taken by the agency of a camera, or by exposing the prepared plate previous to development of the image.

Those who desire further information than is contained in this volume on the subject of spirit photography should read the following :—

A series of important articles by the late Mr. Stairton Moses (M.A. Oxon), in *Human Nature*, Vols. VIII. and IX., 1874-75. The volumes may be had on loan from the Library of the Spiritual Institution, 15 Southampton Row, W.C., or from the Library of the Spiritual Alliance, 2 Duke Street, Charing Cross. The subscription to either Library is a guinea a year.

Article on "Ghosts and their Photographs," by the Rev. H. R. Haweis, M.A., in the *Fortnightly Review*, January, 1893.

Chronicles of the Photographs of Spiritual Beings and Phenomena Invisible to the Material Eye. By Miss Houghton. Illustrated by six plates, containing fifty-four miniature reproductions from the original photographs. E. W. Allen, Ave Maria Lane, 1882. Sold also by Jas. Burns, 15 Southampton Row, W.C. Price 10s. 6d.

"Stand upright, speak thy thought, declare
The truth thou hast, that all may share ;
Be bold, proclaim it everywhere ;
They only live who dare."

LEWIS MORRIS .

"All great discoveries have at first been derided as ridiculous and then denounced as impious, and lastly adopted as a matter of course. Let us, then, as we have to learn to labour and to wait, stand firm for the expansion of human faculty, increase of human growth, accession to human knowledge, and welcome, as all in the day's work, even the silent apparition or the gibbering ghost."—Rev. H. R. HAWKES, M.A.

"There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body."

PAUL.