

THE FRINGE OF IMMORTALITY

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The Fringe of Immortality by Mary E. Monteith

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MARY E. MONTEITH

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BY
MARY E. MONTEITH

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"In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die and their departure is taken for misery, and their going from us to be utter destruction: but they are in peace. For though they be punished in the sight of men, yet is their hope full of immortality."

The Wisdom of Solomon.

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NEW YORK
E. P. DUTTON AND COMPANY

1921

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PREFACE

THIS book is composed, principally, of a few of the many experiences which have helped to convince the writer of the power of thought and, on this basis, of the power of the spirit independent of matter.

Gratitude is due to the people concerned in the various cases who have most generously allowed the publication of incidents which, by reason of their private and personal nature, may influence the hopeless outlook of those who stand 'twixt faith and knowledge.

The names and initials used are fictitious without exception.

31 X 6 85.
Although care has been taken to ensure privacy, and certain details have been omitted in deference to the wishes of the family when they have been too sacred or too private to give in full, in no case has the addition of fiction been added to replace these omissions. It has been considered advisable to state only the facts sufficient to make the necessary point and, in consequence, the evidence for survival is less than would have been the case had equivalent, but fictitious, matter been introduced.

Full confidence, however, was permitted for the late editor of "The Nineteenth Century and After," who carefully examined the entire documentary evidence before he accepted the articles entitled "Automatic Writing," "Telepathy as a Natural Means of Communication," and "The Survival of Memory After Death."

Adequate testimony is necessary in the interests of psychical research. A great deal of evidence is lost because of the haphazard nature of psychic revelation. A clairaudient communication, for instance, may occur anywhere and at any time; there is nothing to show for it except the knowledge of details referring either to the identity of an unknown communicator or to a prediction which may be confirmed only by subsequent events. When such details are confided, without delay, to responsible and disinterested persons, allowing nothing to depend on the word of a single individual, the matter may then be brought as evidential to the notice of the general public.

As time goes on and experience increases, opinions on all subjects are apt to be modified, intensified and, sometimes, completely changed. Prejudice is swept away by the tide of incoming invention; impossibilities of old become everyday occurrences; speculative thought, reality. Theories on abstract truths are more influenced by tangible discoveries than credit is allowed. "In the middle of the last century as the prestige

of Darwinism increased," remarks a modern writer, "it was almost as if the desert and the jungle had begun to voice themselves in human thought." Current literature shows that evolution has had a marked influence on nearly all subjects, and especially is this noticeable in the modern writings on matters of Faith, when we read the progressive views on the immediate life hereafter which was once held to be a static sleep.

An old scientist, somewhat opposed to speculative thought, once said to me, "Study facts and you will find each one a rung in the ladder you climb, and as each step will take you higher, so will all fall into a true perspective when seen from the higher point of view." The advice was sound, but all will agree, and none so readily as the scientist, that the impetus to discovery, the working hypothesis, is always an ideal before it is proved a reality. The hypothesis of survival is necessary for the investigation of much that is a natural, though little understood, faculty of human beings. Survival itself, when indicated, is but the lowest rung in a ladder which out-distances our greatest hope—the rung that touches earth.

Facts, however, do not change, but their position, when observed in relation to others, gives a key which progressively unlocks the doors of our understanding. Because of this progression, the theories advanced in these pages

are only so far as experience has led and, in this light, the attention is desired of "the worthiest sorte of people that gently can reade and justly can judge."

MARY E. MONTEITH.

INTRODUCTION

DEAR MISS MONTEITH,—

I am glad that you are going to make public some of your valuable experiences which I have followed with great interest and some amount of discriminating attention for the past eight years.

I can testify to having carefully noted the facts as presented to me from time to time, have examined the documents and the evidence produced as confirming your statements and conclusions.

While you have been obliged, for evident reasons, to conceal the identity of most of the individuals concerned, I have been privileged to become acquainted with some of these, and have questioned them regarding the facts and the history and precise sequence of the phenomena.

I therefore willingly bear testimony to the truth of your statements based on the facts presented.

"The Fringe of Immortality" will prove a most valuable contribution to the literature of psychic and metaphysic phenomena; and I congratulate you on the use of exact and, not