Scientific Experiment.

Tom Wilkinson had looked forward to the evening of the 17th of December with some amount of pleasure. He was to spend it at the house of his friend Jack Spencer of Guy's. Not only that, but Spencer's aunt, who kept house for him, had been kind enough to ask Amy Durant, Tom's *fiancee*, to come as well. Tom had but few opportunities of meeting Amy, so he naturally was glad of this one, especially—but the reason why will soon be manifest.

However, for some reason or other, he did not greatly enjoy himself. Miss Spencer, having taken the somewhat bold step, for her, of inviting the lovers to her house, did not see fit to leave them alone for an instant.

Jack Spencer scarcely saw the fun of having Tom up to spend an evening trying to be alone with Miss Durant; so, after an hour's insipid music, and more insipid conversation, he drew Tom out of the room on a very weak pretext, and dragged him off to his den.

"Look here, Tom, I've had enough of that cackle. Come and have a smoke."

"I don't care if I do; but I'm afraid Amy won't half like my leaving her."

"Quite a mistake; don't flatter yourself so grossly. Beeides, yon'll see plenty of her when you're married. She'll get on very well with my aunt now they're alone, and it strikes me you weren't getting on very brilliantly. Now what's your particular weakness—Scotch or Irish?"

"Irish, please."

"Ah, I thought so."

"Why?" asked Wilkinson; "I generally take Scotch."

"Yes, I know," replied Spencer, without volunteering any further information.

In a few minutes they had put on easy jackets, mixed their whiskey and water, and settled down in easy chairs.

"Now," said Spencer, "what will you smoke?"

"I've some rather good cigars," was Wilkinson's reply; "Let me offer you one."

He put his hand in his pocket.

"Confound it!" he exclaimed; "I must have left my case in my great coat."

"Never mind, old man, try this pipe; it's a beauty, got it from an American, whose leg I helped cut off for him at the hospital.

Wilkinson took it, thinking at the same time the recommendation was a strange one.

"What a jolly den you have!" he said as he lit up.

"Not so bad. Don't let my aunt hear you call it a den, though; it's a study."

Wilkinson laughed.

"By Jove, though, Tom, I do study now, and no mistake. I'm one of the coming men, I can tell you. I'm going in for medicine on a new theory."

"And how about your practice while you are perfecting your theory?"

"Oh! my aunt will buy me a practice fast enough. Yes, my boy, I'm going to revolutionize medicine. No more doctoring up a man's body; that's a vast mistake."

"What are you going to do then?"

"Doctor up his mind."

Wilkinson smiled; he did not quite see what his friend was driving at. However, he had considerable interest in science, and still more in Jack Spencer's progress, so he asked to be further enlightened.

There was nothing that Spencer wanted so much as an appreciative listener. He launched out under full sail.

"It's a perfect mystery to me, Tom, a d a few other men, why such marvellous phenomena as we hear of occasionally in the domain of electro-biology, as it's called, obtain so little scientific attention."

"There's such a lot of humbug connected with it," suggested Wilkinson.

"Of course there is, but it has a sound basis of fact. The science is in its infancy as yet, but it must grow. It is a known fact that one mind can influence another even at a distance, is it not?"

"I once saw a mesmerist, and certainly he seemed able to do anything, but I thought he was only a conjuror."

"Empirical generalization, unworthy of you," remarked Spencer. "I won't quote cases, though I might do so for a week, but look at those books, they are full of well-authenticated, scientifically conducted, experiments."

He took down from a shelf Darwin's "Zoonomia," Machish's "Philosophy of Sleep," and several volumes of the "Revue Scientifique."

"Now," continued Spence, "it is proved that the mesmerizer can control the will, the actions, even the belief of his subjects; if he gives him a draught of water he can make him believe it is champagne; if he gives him an ink bottle, he will smell it and think it a lovely rose."

"Have you seen these experiments?" asked Wilkinson.

"Seen them? Why I've made them.'

Wilkinson looked up astonished.

"Yes," said Spencer, "that's why I feel such an interest in this business. I possess the power of mesmerizing to a considerable degree, and cultivate it every chance I get. Have a little more whiskey?"

"Thanks, I will."

"Of course you will," replied Spencer with a satisfied smile. "I decided that while we were talking. Influence of one mind over another, you see."

Wilkinson made a hasty exclamation. He was rather averse to being experimented on in this way.

"How is all this going to help you in doctoring?" he asked.

"Simply enough. Induce a state of trance give your patient some water; make him believe it is the medicine he requires, and it will have the same effect. Or if an operation is required you can perform it during the trance, as he is quite insensible to pain."

"But can you always induce this trance?"

"That's a weak point, but in time we shall get over that. I can influence four people out of five. Miss Durant, for instance, would be a very good subject."

Wilkinson sat silently smoking for a few minutes. Apparently the mention of Amy's name had turned his thoughts into another channel.

He half wished he were back in the room where she was sitting. Then he thought of recent events, and determined that he would how that he could enjoy himself without her.

The two friends were soon in the midst of an animated discussion of their former subject. Spencer told of various curious experiments in which the operator had questioned his victim on all sorts of subjects, obtaining replies to everything, even when the question was one which he could not have wished to reply to if conscious.

This made Wilkinson remark that the possession of this mesmeric gift placed a vast power in the hands of the operator.

"Yes, it undoubtedly does. Fortunately scientific men are the last in the world to take advantage of it for private ends."

Wilkinson looked at his friend.

"Did you ever try it from personal motives?"

Spencer looked as if he wished the question had not been asked.

"I don't mind telling you, Tom—I did once. You remember Nellie Fletcher?'

"Yes; I thought you liked her at one time."

"So I did. but I wanted to know if she liked me. I put her into a trance, with her consent, and made her an offer. She refused me."

"Didn't she remember anything about it afterward?"

"Not an atom. The best of it is that the subject can't help answering absolutely truly uninfluenced by etiquette or anything of that sort. You're a lucky fellow, Tom, to have been safe in proposing to Miss Durant without having to experiment first."

"Yes," was Tom's laconic reply.

"No doubt about her liking you?"

"I hope not, as we're engaged."

"You're a lucky dog, she's a charming girl."

Wilkinson naturally assented, but did not feel altogether pleased when Spencer began praising Miss Durant somewhat enthusiastically.

He felt still less so when Spencer ended by saying:

"You don't know what a debt of gratitude you owe me, Tom. I could make her think you the meanest scamp on the earth, and I forbear."

"What do you mean?"

"I mean she is a splendid subject. I could easily gain complete control over her mind and continue the influence in the waking state."

Wilkinson began to feel uncomfortable, and changed the subject abruptly.

"Did you have a good time at the Kesterton's dance the other night?"

"Splendid," replied Spencer, warmly. He was not so wrapped up in science that he was unable to enjoy the lighter pleasures "I'm afraid you didn't though; you looked as if you had the blues."

Tom could not say he had passed a pleasant evening. The truth was that Amy had, on that occasion, danced several times with Bartlett, a cousin, and a reputed old flame of hers. Tom was of a very jealous disposition, and had taken offense at it without explaining his reason. Consequently there had existed during the last few days decided coolness between the lovers, and Tom had hoped that on the present evening he might have a chance of making matters smooth again.

However, Amy had not felt called upon to allude to her conduct, and he had not done so.

He wanted a confidant, and so he began to monopolize the talk; it was his turn. He told Jack the whole story, confessing his jealousy of Bartlett and asking his advice.

"My dear boy," said Spencer, "there's only one course open to you. You are making yourself miserable by this uncertainty; why not decide once for all whether Miss Durant cares for you, and you only?"

"How can I?"

"Easily enough. We will get her in here; I will mesmerize her, and while she is in the trance we will ask her if she cares two straws about Bartlett."

"It's all very well for you to talk in this easy way; you don't know what it is to be jealous.

"Don't I," exclaimed Spencer; "remember Nellie."

"But how can we get Amy here?" asked Wilkinson. "What possible excuse can we have for asking her?"

"We don't want one," replied Spencer, confidently; "all we have to do is to will that she shall come."

"I don't believe it."

"Let's try," suggested Spencer. "We may fail, I acknowledge; we can but try."

After a moment's hesitation Wilkinson assented.

"Now," said Spencer, "concentrate your mind and will strongly that she shall come."

Tom knitted his brows and willed. It would have been an amusing sight for any spectator. The two young men, with eyes fixed and hands firmly clenched, were bent forward in an attitude of intense suspense, doing apparently nothing.

"Are you willing?" asked Spencer, after a time.

"Willing as Barkis," was the response.

"Keep it up."

They kept it up for some time without result. Then just as Wilkinson was about to resign, Spencer exclaimed:

"Hark!'

"I sha'n't be long," said a voice in the distance.

Then came the sound of a door being closed.

"By Jove, she's coming!" cried Spencer. "Quick, Tom, hide away those things."

The whiskey bottle and glasses were hastily smuggled into a corner, and the pipes shied into the fireplace.

Then came a gentle knock at the door, followed by a soft "May I come in?"

Spencer opened the door.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Promenaders in Washington often stop to look at a pair of high-stepping, black, blooded horses attached to a high road waggon, driven by a handsome, military appearing man of some fifty years, who is invariably accompanied by a handsome, matronly lady and two or three bright-eyed little girls. The driver is Jerome Napoleon Bonaparte, grandson of the Bonaparte's eldest brother Jerome, and who possesses, it is asserted, the first right to whatever claim the Bonapartes may have to the imperial throne of France. The lady is Madame Bonaparte, a granddaughter of Daniel Webster.

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2nd.—Name an Ethiopian who delivered a prophet from danger.

3rd.—Name a wife given as a reward of valor.

These are the Bible questions that *Truth* propounds in the new competition just now opened. They are certainly difficult, but any clever Bible student ought to be able to answer them, and to secure one of the magnificent rewards offered. We will give them in detail, as it will, no doubt, interest our readers.

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The address is S. FRANK WILSON, "Truth," 33 & 35 Adelaide Street, Toronto, Canada. Since writing the above we notice that the sender of the

MIDDLE CORRECT ANSWER

of the whole competition from the beginning to the end and the twenty-eight persons next following, who send correct answers, will receive the following prizes respectively:—

1.	One Solid Gold Stem-Winding and Stem-Setting Genuine Elgin Watch, valued at	$100 00
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26 to 29	Four Elegant Aluminum Gold Hunting Case Watches at $14 each	56.00

Should it so happen that there are an even number received—that is, that there may be two middle correct answers—then two gold watches will be given, above described as number one reward.

Then, not to disappoint *even the last ones*, a large list of consolation rewards has been prepared, which, as above, will be given in the order numbered to the *last one hundred and twenty-one* persons who send *correct* answers to these problems. The letters must all be postmarked at office where mailed, *not later* than the closing day of this competition, which is *April 7th.*

The first prize in the consolation rewards, which will be given to the sender of the *last correct* answer is

1.	One Extra Fine Toned 12 stop Cabinet Organ, by the Dominion Organ Co., of Bowmanville	$250 00
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5.	One Wanzer "F" Sewing Machine, from the renowned Manufactory of R. M. Wanzer & Co., Hamilton	55 00
6 to 11	Six Fine Hunting Case Solid Nickel Watches, valued at $12 each	72 00
12 to 19	Eight Open Face Heavy Bevelled Crystal Watches, valued at $10 each	80 00
20 to 25	Six Solid Aluminum Gold Hunting Case Watches at $10 each	60 00
26 to 31	Six Solid Nickel Renowned Waterbury Watches at $5 each	30 00
32 to 92	Sixty-one Volumes beautifully bound of Hood's Poems, at $2 50 each	152 50
93 to 121	Twenty-Nine Triple Silver Plated Butter Knives on Solid Steel at $1 each	29 00

Remember that all the questions must be answered correctly to secure any of the rewards offered. If you send a correct answer and one dollar for a half year's subscription to *Truth*, you will take your place in the order your letter is received at *Truth* office. We can assure our readers that all the rewards named above will be cheerfully and promptly handed over or sent to the successful ones as soon as it is known who they are after the close of the competition on April th. In every alternate issue of *Truth* will be given a complete list of the prize winners with their post-office addresses and rewards obtained in previous competitions, so intending competitors may be assured of the genuineness of the whole matter. We certainly would not have taken all this time to explain the plan in detail to our readers if we had not been certain that it was conducted in an honorable manner.

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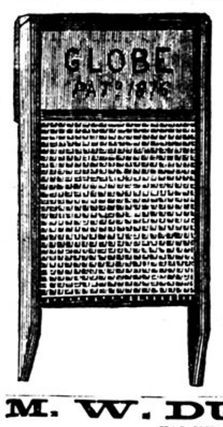

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