

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-04439-4 - A Thought-Reader's Thoughts  
Stuart C. Cumberland  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

## CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

*Books of enduring scholarly value*

### **Spiritualism and Esoteric Knowledge**

Magic, superstition, the occult sciences and esoteric knowledge appear regularly in the history of ideas alongside more established academic disciplines such as philosophy, natural history and theology. Particularly fascinating are periods of rapid scientific advances such as the Renaissance or the nineteenth century which also see a burgeoning of interest in the paranormal among the educated elite. This series provides primary texts and secondary sources for social historians and cultural anthropologists working in these areas, and all who wish for a wider understanding of the diverse intellectual and spiritual movements that formed a backdrop to the academic and political achievements of their day. It ranges from works on Babylonian and Jewish magic in the ancient world, through studies of sixteenth-century topics such as Cornelius Agrippa and the rapid spread of Rosicrucianism, to nineteenth-century publications by Sir Walter Scott and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Subjects include astrology, mesmerism, spiritualism, theosophy, clairvoyance, and ghost-seeing, as described both by their adherents and by sceptics.

### **A Thought-Reader's Thoughts**

Although famous throughout Europe for his mind-reading skills, Stuart C. Cumberland (1857–1922) was a staunch critic of the ‘rascality’ of some spiritualist practices and their practitioners. He claimed that many of the séances and other events which he had experienced were merely fraudulent money-making impostures. He wrote several books on his life as a thought-reader, in which he also revealed the techniques of fake mediums and psychics. (His *That Other World*, of 1918, is also reissued in this series.) In this 1888 work, Cumberland narrates his own history and career and describes some of his most memorable séances. One of these took place in the House of Commons, where Cumberland subjected none other than the prime minister at the time, W.E. Gladstone, to having his thoughts read. Their encounter made a great impression on the author, who found Gladstone one of his most remarkable subjects.

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-04439-4 - A Thought-Reader's Thoughts  
Stuart C. Cumberland  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library and other partner libraries, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection brings back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-04439-4 - A Thought-Reader's Thoughts  
Stuart C. Cumberland  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

A  
Thought-Reader's  
Thoughts

STUART C. CUMBERLAND



Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-04439-4 - A Thought-Reader's Thoughts  
Stuart C. Cumberland  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,  
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108044394](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108044394)

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2012

This edition first published 1888

This digitally printed version 2012

ISBN 978-1-108-04439-4 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with, or with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-04439-4 - A Thought-Reader's Thoughts  
Stuart C. Cumberland  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

A  
THOUGHT-READER'S THOUGHTS.

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-04439-4 - A Thought-Reader's Thoughts  
Stuart C. Cumberland  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---



Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-04439-4 - A Thought-Reader's Thoughts  
Stuart C. Cumberland  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

A  
THOUGHT-READER'S  
THOUGHTS

BEING THE  
IMPRESSIONS AND CONFESSIONS

OF

STUART CUMBERLAND

AUTHOR OF "THE QUEEN'S HIGHWAY FROM OCEAN TO OCEAN,"  
"THE RABBI'S SPELL," ETC.

LONDON  
SAMPSON LOW, MARSTON, SEARLE & RIVINGTON

*Limited*

*St. Dunstan's House*

FETTER LANE, FLEET STREET, E.C.

1888

[*All rights reserved*]

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-04439-4 - A Thought-Reader's Thoughts  
Stuart C. Cumberland  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---



## CONTENTS.

### CHAPTER I.

	PAGE
My first "subject"—The process of development— What the mystics thought—A noted medium— A "spirit" appears—The "spirit" lied—I squirted "the spirit"—What "a spirit" is made of—The medium and the prince—"The spirit" forgets his boots—The "spirit of Dante" and the business end of a tin-tack—The perils of in- vestigation—At a rapping séance—Three familiar "spirits"—The sex of "Old Tom"—How raps are produced—Mr. Gladstone and the medium —Spirit children . . . . .	I

### CHAPTER II.

A believer in "willing"—Lord Lorne and the Moose —The Crown Prince Rudolph and his dog—The pin in Trafalgar Square—The United States Minister and the Easter-egg—A modern Judg- ment of Paris—A Redskin and the whiskey— General Ignatieff—The General as a "subject" —The General as a Diplomat—M. Lessar—Mr. H. M. Stanley . . . . .	25
---	----

### CHAPTER III.

Russian superstition—Hidden treasure—A séance in Warsaw gaol—The prisoner confessed—General a	
---	--

	PAGE
Gourko—The censor intervened—Madame Gourko—Russians and Poles—A Russian's word—Red-Tape—"Backsheesh"—A Polizei-President—Bill-posting in Russia—My Warsaw receipts—The contra account—The last straw—I pay under protest—The "Blessed poor"—The Jew's account—I am referred to the Tzar—Russian officialism—Tipping in Russia—How to tip, and whom to tip—Squaring a minister—Seeing M. de Giers—It cost ten roubles—For three roubles he told the truth—Russian society—Dogged by detectives—Mr. Gladstone and the Russians—Such a good friend to Russia . . .	39

## CHAPTER IV.

Notable people at the séance—Extremes meet ; Mr. Gladstone accepts a chair from Mr. Healy—366 the number thought of—Mr. Gladstone remembers it is Leap Year—Mr. Gladstone a remarkable "subject"—Sympathy <i>versus</i> judgment—Mr. Gladstone a magnetic man—Mr. Gladstone as a mesmerist—Seeing with their own eyes—The personal charm of Mr. Gladstone—To one thing constant never—A letter from Mr. Gladstone . . . . .	67
---	----

## CHAPTER V.

The late Kaiser Wilhelm—His reception of me—His Majesty thinks of a date ; and I at once divine it—The explanation of the figure 4—The Kaiser as a "subject"—Nervous people as "subjects"—The Kaiser's eyes—The Kaiser's loyalty—My indebtedness to the Kaiser—The character of the Germans—German friendship—Entertainments on the Continent—Thought-reading in theatres—A leap in the dark—French and	
---	--

Cambridge University Press  
 978-1-108-04439-4 - A Thought-Reader's Thoughts  
 Stuart C. Cumberland  
 Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

## Contents.

vii

	PAGE
German audiences contrasted—Theatres and halls—An intelligent public—A dishonest double : and his reward—I suffer from impersonation—The police interfere—A visit from the police ; and what followed—Under arrest—All right at last—My portrait—Doing a don—The don's disappointment ; and his vexation of spirit—German officials—Red tape—The police's opinion of thought-reading—Satisfied at last—The kindness of Herr Tisza—The results of my Vienna <i>séances</i> —The press and the public—My indebtedness to the press—Taxes on performances—The story of a trustful man—The Dutch chair-tax—The Dutch psychologically considered—The Dutch as linguists—More about the taxing of performances—The stamp tax on printing—How to raise the wind—A hint to Mr. Goschen . . . . .	75

## CHAPTER VI.

The Land of *Mañana*—The Orientalism of the Spaniard—Spain a land of contrasts—A dominant idea—A descendant of the Stuarts—A Spaniard's hospitality—I find myself *de trop*—"Some day"—It was washing day—Infidel and Christian—The Spaniards as linguists—The typical grandee—Sir Clare Ford—His tact and knowledge of Spanish character—The Spanish Royal family as linguists—The Queen-Regent—Mother and child—Monarchy *versus* Republicanism—The Spanish Gladstone—"All brains and no conscience"—Spain's ablest statesman—Reforms in Spain—A *séance* in the royal palace at Madrid—An imaginary murder scene—Down came the knife—The Comtesse de Paris and her permit—Queen Isabella—My experiments with her Majesty—A traitor disposed of

a 2

	PAGE
—A thought-reader as a husband—Queen Isabella and the Queen-Regent—So very Spanish—Spain and her colonies—About the fair sex—Chaperoning in Spain—Spanish “cuss-words”—A Spanish woman’s education—I am much sought after—And my patience is sorely tried—A delicate matter—Alfredo <i>versus</i> Antonio—In a dilemma—First come first served—A fat lady’s secret—If this should meet the eye of—A serious affair—Cher Alphonse—A dog with a curly tail—Buried treasure—Spanish frugality—Spanish amusements—Between the acts—A Spanish audience—The prices at the theatres—A Spaniard’s word—I am taken in—A Spaniard’s idea of a contract—His idea of time—An honourable man—A delicate matter—A first night in Barcelona—The bull-fight—Pity the poor horses—How a bad bull fares—A bull-fighter’s wealth—One’s sympathy for the bull—The way a Spaniard stabs—The Catalans—The Valencians—The trail of the Arab—La Patria—The future of Spain—Official corruption—Train robbers . . . . .	115

## CHAPTER VII.

The Portuguese and Spaniards contrasted—The King of Portugal—The Queen of Portugal—A striking experiment—The Portuguese Premier—In a dilemma—The Marquis Fronteira at Benefica—A dream of the past—Portuguese names—Portuguese money—Lent in Portugal and Spain—I am an object of suspicion—A strange dream—In which I descend to the nethermost pit—The climax . . . . .	186
---	-----

## CHAPTER VIII.

The Khedive as I read him—His loyalty and	
---	--

*Contents.* ix

	PAGE
straightforwardness—His powers of concentration—A model husband and a model father—An experiment with Baker Pasha—Nubar Pasha—Pashas as “subjects”—It is the pace that tells .	202

CHAPTER IX.

Arabi, the Egyptian—At breakfast with Arabi—The exile's home—Arabi's opinion of Theebaw—An experiment with Arabi—Arabi psychologically considered—Arabi's expectation of the English Radicals . . . . .	209
---	-----

CHAPTER X.

About nationalities—Alike, yet how unlike—The pompous man—The listless man—The jolly man—The “clever chap”—“The strong-minded” female—Women as “subjects”—A galaxy of “good subjects”—Madame Adam and Madame de Novikoff—Miss Braddon—“Willing”—How it is done—Further explanation—The reply of the “true believer”—Those who make the best “subjects”—Princess Bismarck—Prince Bismarck—The outer and inner Bismarck—The all-round popular man, and the unpopular man—Individuality—Prince Gortchakoff and M. de Giers—The policy of M. de Giers—When Russia is most peaceful she is most dangerous—Count Peter Schouvaloff—Count Paul Schouvaloff—Count Julius Andrassy as a “subject;” as a politician—M. Alexandre Dumas—An experiment with M. Dumas, in which I encounter many difficulties, but in the end am successful—A kindly thought and a strong will—A great honour—Sir Edward Malet—The duties of a diplomatist—Our One Man idea—Lord Dufferin : his ability and tact—Lord
--

	PAGE
Dufferin and the natives of India—The policy of Lord Ripon—The voice of the Bengali Baboo—Sir Lepel Griffin on Babooism—The evolution of the Baboo—What the native princes think—The Baboos and Lord Dufferin—The good work done by Lord and Lady Dufferin—The Baboo's swagger—I am tempted to “forget myself”—A Baboo's indignation—Tremble ye at Lord Ripon's name—A term of endearment—The Nizam of Hyderabad—Dining with the Nizam—A Maharajah's idea of a good drink—The Nizam's loyalty—The Prime Minister's confirmation—The foresight of Lord Dufferin—Abdul Huk—The Nizam as a “subject”—Sir Salar Jung—Mehdi Ali—The Maharajah of Cashmere—A present from his Highness—Re-enacting a murder—The possibility of applying thought-reading to the detection of crime—Lawyers as “subjects”—Sir Henry James, Sir Edward Clarke, and Sir Charles Russell—Musicians as “subjects”—Gounod—Rubinstein—A batch of artistic “subjects”—Clergymen as “subjects”—Medical men as “subjects”—M. Coquelin and Mr. J. L. Toole—An experiment with Mr. Toole—The comedian's opinion of thought-reading—Mr. S. B. Bancroft—Signor Rossi—Mr. W. S. Gilbert as a “subject”—Gilbert and Sullivan—Mr. Joseph Chamberlain—As I read him—The man of the future—Mr. Henry Labouchere—A much misunderstood man—A man of his word—A good story—Mr. Labouchere as a friend—Mr. Labouchere as a “subject”—Red Shirt, the Red Indian—A scalping experiment with Red Shirt—Red Shirt's determination, and his disappointment—Mr. J. R. Whitley—An experiment with a converted cannibal—The thoughts of a monkey—An experiment with the late Colonel Burnaby—An	

*Contents.* xi

	PAGE
outdoor test with Mr. Grant Allen—A curious mistake—Mr. W. T. Stead—The best “subjects” according to nationality . . . .	218

CHAPTER XI.

The use of thought-reading—A big offer—A debt of honour—Posted—A gipsy's warning—Fate—Monarchs as “subjects”—I am asked my “terms;” and not having any, am asked to supper—Supping with grand dukes—The *Nouveaux Riches*—A monarch of finance—His “little present”—The history of a souvenir—I pay the piper, as well as dance the tune—Society and artistes—Meissonier and his dinner—An imposition upon one's good nature, which I resent—The way out of the dilemma—The Duke's plan; and how it worked—“Somewhat rough”—Not worth acknowledging—Acknowledged with thanks—Bank-note reading—A notable challenge—About the figures on bank-notes—They adjourn with the note; and “peter” it out in whiskies—The first “subject” with whom I read the number of a bank-note—True gentility—Baron Henry de Worms—Latter-day thought-readers; and their antics—What thought-reading has been brought to—The last stage of all—As like the genuine article as an artichoke is like a moss-rose—The *modus operandi* of thought-reading—Why I am blindfolded—Reading thoughts without physical contact—Perception of touch—Body-reading—Character reading—First impressions—About liars in general; and one in particular—Lying will out—“Talk of the Devil,” &c.—A curious coincidence—First exhaust the natural—The gift of thought-reading—Who possess it—The wear and tear of thought-reading—Adieu . . . .

28