

HOCKLEY'S EVIDENCE TO THE LONDON DIALECTICAL SOCIETY

[Hockley gave verbal evidence to the London Dialectical Society's special Committee on Spiritualism on Tuesday 8 June 1869. It was printed on pp. 184-187 of the Report on Spiritualism published by the LDS in 1871.]

Mr Hockley, the next witness, spoke as follows:

'I have been a spiritualist for 45 years, and have had considerable experience. This is a crystal encircled with a silver ring, as a proper crystal should be. It was formerly the custom to engrave the four names of God in Hebrew on this ring. I knew a lady who was an admirable seeress, and obtained some splendid answers by means of crystals. The person who has the power of seeing, notices first a kind of mist in the centre of the crystal and then the message or answer appears in a kind of printed character. There was no hesitation, and she spoke it all off as though she was reading a book, and as soon as she had uttered the words she saw, they melted away and fresh ones took their place. I have 30 volumns [*sic*], containing upwards of 12,000 answers received in this way, which I keep carefully under lock and key. A crystal, if properly used, should be dedicated to a spirit. Some time ago I was introduced to Lieutenant **Burton** by Earl Stanhope, and he wished me to get him a crystal, with a spirit attached. I also gave him a black mirror as well, and he used that in the same manner as you would a crystal. You invoke the person whom you wish to appear, and the seer looks in and describes all, and puts questions and receives answers. Lieutenant **Burton** was greatly pleased and went away. One day my seeress called him into the mirror. She plainly recognized him, although dressed as an Arab and sunburnt, and described what he was doing. He was quarrelling with a party of Bedouins in