

# Lending a Hand

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**Chris Sinclair**

“Do come in Lord Kelvin, you are most welcome, I trust you had a pleasant journey.”

“Thank you Mr Campbell-Swinton, I am most intrigued to see your apparatus. I fell about laughing when I read of Professor Rontgen’s rays but it seems to me now there might be something in it.”

“I am sure I can convince you of the merits of the Rontgen photography machinery. My equipment here is the best there is, built to the highest standards of engineering. Might I trouble you to assist me?”

“By all means Mr Campbell-Swinton, I am at your service.”

“This is a Rontgen photograph of my hand. As you can see it makes a most satisfying picture. But we can do better. I have improved the apparatus greatly. Would you permit me to make such a photograph of your own hand? I think I have perfected a means to visualise the fine bones of the fingers.”

“If it is of assistance to you then I am most willing. Shall I sit here?”

“Please, the exposure should not take much longer than fifteen minutes. A little souvenir perhaps. Place your left hand on this slab please.”

“Like this?”

“Yes, I see you have a most magnificent ring on your little-finger, this will make an excellent feature in the image. Please keep your hand as still as you possibly can. The gentlemen at the Camera Club will be most impressed.”

“Tell me Mr. Campbell-Swinton, do you think this apparatus will be of any use to the common man?”

“Most certainly Lord Kelvin. One day every household will be equipped with one. Every child in the country will have his own Rontgen machine to play with as he pleases. Now, please Lord Kelvin, hold as still as you can.”