

# Supplement

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## News from the Russell Editorial Project

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and Sheila Turcon*

### PERPLEXITIES

Nicholas Griffin would like to thank Colin Matthew for discovering in W. R. Le Fanu the source of a quotation used by Russell in "Why Do We

Regard Time, But Not Space, as Necessarily a Plenum?" (1897):

The important point seems to be, that, while I cannot be in two places at once, "like a bird", I can be in the same place at different times.

Catherine Funnell found that the *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations* (2nd ed.) attributes a similar remark to Sir Boyle Roche (1743–1807), an Irish politician famed as a perpetrator of Irish bulls, but does not provide a basis for the attribution. Correspondence with the Oxford University Press led J. LeBlanc to a play by Thomas Jevon, *The Devil of a Wife, or, a Comic Transformation* (1686), in which the following exchange occurs:

*Lady Lovemore*: ... Is not that I there ... How can it be when I am here? I can not be in two places at once.

*Rowland*: Surely no, unless thou wer't a bird.

It is unlikely, however, that this rather obscure play was what Russell had in mind; for, according to Le Fanu in *Seventy Years of Irish Life being Anecdotes and Reminiscences* (London, 1893), by the end of the nineteenth century Roche's remark, "A man couldn't be in two places at once, barring he was a bird", had become a household word. The connection between Roche's bull and Lady Lovemore is still a mystery, but, fortunately, not one that we have to solve.