

"SPIRIT-RAPPINGS"

EXAMINED ILLUSTRATED

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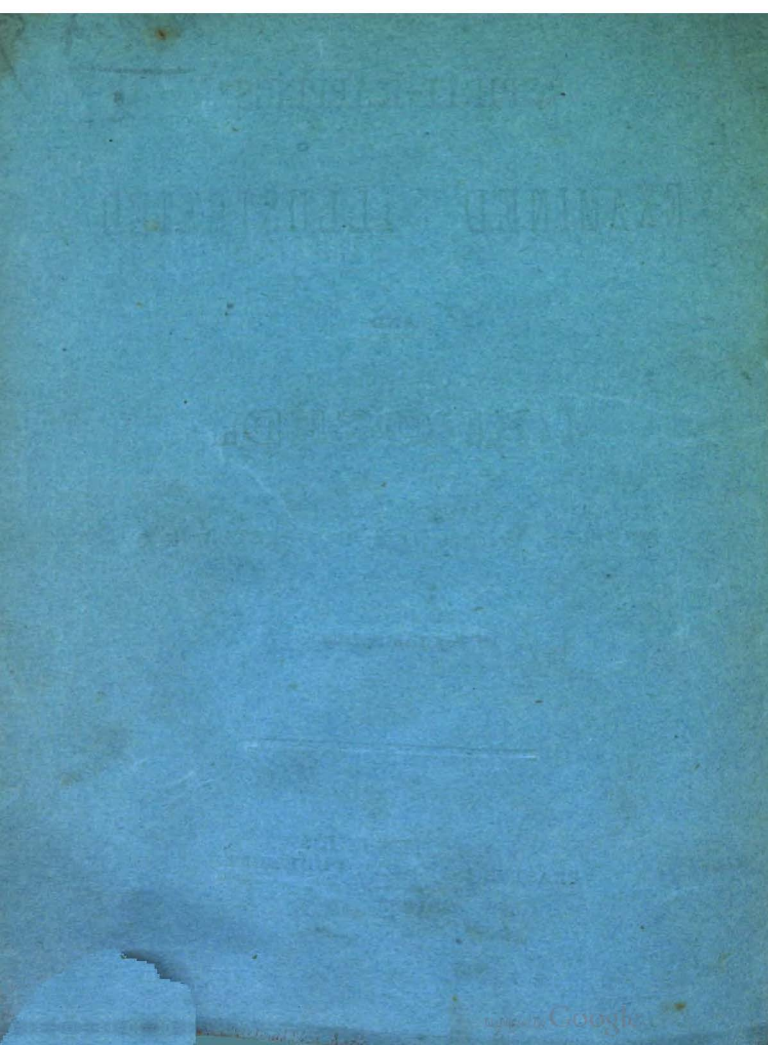
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BY REV. H. WHITCHER, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

"Try the Spirits"

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AN inspired apostle has said, "There are many spirits gone out into the world;" and he tells us "To *try* the spirits, whether they be of God."

This is to be our work in this Lecture. We intend to *try* the "spirits" that are at work among us, and show them to be *deceiving, lying* "spirits."

John speaks of "Spirits of Devils working miracles." So we will see that it is no new thing if our "Spirits," in their "Rappings," and other "Manifestations," work what may seem miraculous to us.

This they may do, and be "Spirits of Devils."

My principal object in examining this subject, is to show that these "Manifestations," however wonderful and mysterious they may be, are not the work of God, nor of "departed spirits."

I wish to convince every mind that there is nothing of a religious nature connected with these "Spirit Rappings."

Now let the reader bear in mind the fact, that in all ages of the world, there have been wonderful

phenomena, which have been used by the designing, in the deception of the unsuspecting. Fanaticisms and Fanatics, Delusions and Deluded, have always been known. Go back to the days of Greece and Rome, and examine their histories, and we find their Magicians, Astrologers, Soothsayers, and them of "familiar spirits" all "working wonders."

OLDFIELD has collected numerous facts on this point, and clearly shown that the manifestations of those days, and our "Spirit Rappings," are identically the same, and are the results of a high state of nervous excitement.

Our Author says, "Bear in mind then, if we can but trace in human nature, developments similar to these of the "Spirit Rappings;" if we can see enough in them to satisfy ourselves that they are not *super-natural*, but *natural*; that they are not communications from disembodied spirits, but mysterious, yet universal workings of our own spiritual and nervous organism, we shall have arrived at all that science can hope to attain." He continues, "Mysterious raps give response to our thoughts uttered or merely conceived, as we sit around the table.

"This, however, is not a new exhibition of what we must regard as an over-excitement of our own nervous energy. These raps are in nature, not unlike those electric crackings heard amidst the whizzing

bands of factory wheels, and the electric snappings heard in cold weather, from the skin of animals when stroked. Physiologists and historians have recorded numberless instances of these electric-like shocks and reports, experienced by persons of an excitable temperament."

I now affirm, that all the "manifestations" connected with the "Circles" of our "Mediums," have been witnessed in past ages, in some form or other; and these wonders of our day, are identical with the phenomena of the Salem witchcraft of other days.

Mather, in his account of what he saw and heard in those *witch-times*, says, "Violent convulsions of the body of those affected, were the first, and chief witnessed facts. Every muscle would be seen twitching; sharp pangs would dart through the limbs as if the very bones were agonized, and the person affected would roll upon the ground, start up, oscillate, and bound upward and forward, as if furiously riding. Surprising superhuman muscular strength was exhibited by persons affected. A man would lift a bedstead, bed, and a man on it. Sometimes a rigidity would come over the frame, every joint becoming so stiff that it was impossible to bend it.

Also an attraction of other substances to the flesh of the affected, was witnessed—such as pins and iron

reds; and these attractions were accompanied with painful pricking sensations.

Violent motions in objects around were seen, as if attracted and repelled by some mysterious force. A staff, an iron hook, shoes, keys, and even a chest were seen to move as if tossed by an invisible hand.

Stones were hurled against persons and houses; articles of pewter, iron and brass were tossed about; a candlestick was thrown down, a press-iron, and even a small anchor were seen to move."

Now no one can fail to see that these manifestations, connected with the witchcraft of Old Salem, were *identical* with the "Spirit Rappings" and other "Manifestations" of Mesmerism in our day.

Our spiritual (?) manifestations are only a *revival* of the Old Salem witchcraft; and I will here say, that witchery was nothing but mesmerism, not understood.

But let us go back to the days of the Latin and Greek orators, and we shall see the same manifestations then. Pliny informs us that they "sought to obtain knowledge of the spirit world, by water, spheres, air, stars, lamps, basins, axes, and by *conversation with disembodied spirits.*"

Apion, the celebrated grammarian, declared that he had "called up departed spirits in order to inquire of what country and ancestry Homer was born."

Achilles, it is said, was first convinced of a future life, by the appearance of Patroclus, his slaughtered friend, to him. And Homer says of Achilles, that "In the intense ardor of debate, he felt the hand of the goddess Minerva check him, while no one else less excited, witnessed anything strange."

Hesiod, Pythagoras, Socrates, Xenophen and Plato, all believed in, and practiced these enchantments and incantations.

This is called a day of *progress*, but it requires only half an eye to see that, taking our "Spirit Rappings" as an example, *our progress* is *backward* at a fearful rate, having returned to the enchantments of heathen philosophers of the dark ages.

Many very wonderful things have occurred in passages, that to us, are mysterious and inexplicable, e. g. Rev. W. Buyers relates that, "in India, a Devotee on a wager, submitted to the following test: After giving directions what they should do to him, he threw himself into an unconscious swoon. He was then sewed up in a bag, placed in a box, and put into a tomb built of solid brick-work; and at the close of one month he was taken out, and although he had been thirty days without food, water, and air, he revived and came to."

This swoon was, doubtless, a mesmeric state, the same thing as that we call "*The Power*," or a trance.

Josephus says, "I have known a man of my own country, named Eleazar, relieving people possessed of demons, in the presence of Vespasian and his sons, his captains, and the whole multitude of his soldiers. And, to convince them that he did actually cast out a demon, he sat a basin of water a little way off, and commanded the demon to overturn it as he went out of the man, and the basin of water was overturned."

We possess wonderful powers of mind; and our minds possess a wonderful power of action through the nervous system.

Plato says, "When the mind loves anything, although it is not really beneficial, and it assures itself the things does it good, *simply from the bias of the mind*, it does benefit it, e. g.: If a person is confident that incantation will do him good, whatever be his character, *him it will benefit*."

Imagination goes very far in making things real. Let a person *imagine* he is going to be sick, and then think he is sick, and he will be sick. So, let a person that has long been sick, *imagine* he is going to get well, and then think he is mending, and he will recover.

On this same principle, if a person of a sanguine temperament, and fond of the marvelous, wish to hear a rap, see a vision, or feel an unseen hand, and really think it will be so, and bend his whole mind

to it, he will be most likely to hear, see, and feel all he anticipated.

It is in this way persons become "mediums," as they are called.

The same may be produced by fear. I once knew a man who left his wife, and ran away with another woman; and lashed and stung by a guilty conscience, while riding along one dark night, all alone, he *imagined* the Devil was after him; he whipped up his horse, but his pursuer followed; he could hear him step, and looking partly around, he saw a frightful beast close to him, and soon *he felt his hand grasp him*. But after all his pursuing Devil was nought but a *guilty conscience*.

You let any person go into the society of others possessed of any mental or nervous affection, and begin to sympathise therewith, and he will be very likely to feel and realise the same. For instance, if a person will sit, and look with intense interest at a man with the shaking palsy, or any other nervous excitement, and yield his mind up to its operations, he will be likely to begin to tremble in like manner.

I have thus dwelt at some length upon the phenomena of the past, in order to show that our "Spirit Rappings" are no "new thing under the sun," but the *witchery* of Salem, and the *jugglery* of Greece and Rome revived.

Ours is the same as *theirs*; perhaps, however, ours is a little more scientific, yet it is much more silly, nonsensical, and foolish than theirs, and much more erroneous and destructive.

But we come now more particularly to examine the philosophy of our "Spirit Rappings."

In doing this, I purpose to show you that none of these "manifestations" are the work of God, nor of departed spirits.

And, so far as they are pretended to be such, I intend to convince you they are downright *delusions*, *DECEPTIONS* and *FALSEHOODS*.

We commence this part of our subject with the Revelations of ANDREW JACKSON DAVIS, the head and leader of the hosts of "Spirit Rappers" in our country.

From the following quotations that we take from Davis' book of Revelations, it will be seen that he is as rank an infidel as Tom Paine was; and that every person that embraces this Spiritualism (?) must renounce the Bible, deny Christianity, and abandon the ministry, and the church of Christ. There is no other alternative.

Davis says, (p. 434,) "The teachings of the scriptures are but mythology, the results of superstition, and the reader is earnestly warned against believing.

any thing he has ever been taught by his parents, or others, tending to lead him to believe them."

Again, (p. 436,) "All the miracles recorded as connected with the deliverance of the Israelites, were wholly matters of fable and superstition. Moses received information from Joshua by mesmerising him as a clairvoyant."

Again, (pp. 528-531,) "Believers in Joe Smith and Ann Lee, are entitled to as much respect as believers in the gospel." And, "Believers in the Bible are no more entitled to respect than believers in the Shæters and the Koran."

Davis continues, "The doctrine that Christ was the Son of God—that he came to deliver men from a state of spiritual death—that he came to be a mediator between God and man—that he came to bring life and immortality to light—that he came to deliver men from eternal condemnation—and the doctrine that men are under condemnation, and exposed to future punishment, all of these originated in the deepest ignorance and superstition, and are unreasonable, false and horrible."

Once more Davis says, (p. 699,) "Of all the professions and situations occupied by men, none are absolutely more corrupting than that of the clergy. All the miseries, the conflicts, the wars, the devastations, and the hostile prejudices existing in the world,

are owing to the corrupting situation and influence of clergymen."

This same Davis, I am credibly informed, in an address to the *Spiritites* of this city, a few weeks ago, said, The Bible was good enough in its day, but it had become *obsolete*, and was not what was now needed.

Here, my friends, we have infidelity in full blast, as rank and as poisonous as ever came from the lips of R. Dole Owen, or the pen of Voltaire.

And now let me ask you if you can drink down this poisonous dose of infidelity?

Will you call this calumny of the Holy Bible, this ranting against the ministry, and this ridicule of Christianity, revelations from God, or communications of sanctified spirits?

This you must do, or give up these "Spirit Rappings" as anything Divine or Spiritual.

If you admit the divinity of these revelations, and the spirituality of these "Rappings," then are you already in the labyrinth of infidelity, in all its haggard forms.

2d. Let us look at the characters of the persons with whom these "Spirit Rappings" commenced; and the principles of many of the leading men connected with them.

It is a well known fact, that the Misses Fox and

Fish, who were the originators of those "mysterious sounds," were anything else than christians, or even professors of religion; and saying nothing about the common reports of their disreputable characters, the fact that they were *Theatre-goers* and *ball-tenders*, during the whole time that they were receiving revelations and communications from departed spirits (?) is enough of itself to condemn the whole thing in any christian mind. We know God does not select the vain and wicked for his mediums of revelation. To do this, would be like attempting to bring pure water to our houses in dirty, filthy pipes.

One thing is certain, if this be the work of God then are the servants of the Devil selected as its agents and not the pious and godly.

Of the thousands that have embraced the spirituality of these manifestations, I have never known one yet to become a christian through their influence. But on the other hand, we know of many christians that have been ruined by them—led from the prayer meeting, from the church, and from the throne of grace. They neglect prayer, because (as they say) the "spirits" have not yet told them to pray.

"By their fruits ye shall know them."

Then again, many of the leading men in these "Spirit Rappings" are visionists and fanatics, and have been into other delusions; and many others of the

leading men in the meetings of the Spiritites, in Rochester, were leading men in the infidel meetings of this city in '44 and '45, and they are as *infidel* now as then, to the Bible and christianity. *These* are as much *Infidel* meetings as were *those*.

And yet how strange it is that some professed christians and church-members mingle with these "babblers" against the bible, with apparent delight. "O, tell it not in Goth," &c.

3rd. Very many, and even the most of the communications received through the "mediums" are *utterly false*.

Let us look at some facts. In the town of W——, in this state, a man was in California—was expected home—rumors of death were heard, and the wife, in her anxiety to know the truth, consulted the "mediums," and they said *he was dead*. This so affected the wife that she became deranged.

But in due time the supposed dead man returned, and found his home desolated by the insanity of his deluded wife.

Another case.

In the village of L——, (N. Y.,) a man took money from the bank, and was soon afterwards missing, and it was feared that he had been murdered, and suspicion rested on a man with whom the missing man was seen riding the day before he left home.

The "spirits" were invoked, and some ten or twelve "mediums" were consulted, and *they all declared the man was murdered*, and might be found near the place where the men were seen.

Search was made, but no dead man was found.

The suspicious man was arrested, and while his trial was going on before the court, a letter was received from the missing man that he had arrived safely at Panama, whither he had gone for work.

Look also at cases that have occurred in our city.

Mrs. Grover feared that the body of her daughter had been disinterred, she consulted the "spirits," and they said the body had been taken away. No rest was had until the grave was opened, and there the body was found undisturbed.

Mrs. Bush was told by the "spirits" that there was a dead body in the canal, and she must go in and get it. She obeyed, but found no body, and came near being drowned in the attempt.

The above facts, and hundreds of others that might be narrated, prove to us clearly, that these are LYING SPIRITS. But we come now more particularly to consider the nature of these operations.

I freely admit that raps are heard, tables and chairs are made to move, and writings are produced, but I utterly deny these being the operations of spirits, or the work of God.

To suppose that the Creator of the universe will condescend to amuse a company of wicked people, with raps, taps, moving tables and dancing chairs, is to degrade Him far below a drunkard, or a crazy man.

Or to believe that the justified spirits of our departed friends have no higher employment, and no sublimer contemplations in the spirit-land, than to return to earth and be present with a company of frivolous youth, and gratify them by such antics as dancing tables, walking chairs, and catching shoes from ladies feet and throwing them across the room into gentlemen's faces, (as the Spiritites say has been done,) is reducing them *a thousand* per cent. below what they would have done while in the body.

We know these are not the work of sanctified spirits.

These *deeds* of the "spirits" (?) are too low, grovelling, silly and nonsensical, to be attributed to "spirits of just men made perfect." If they are the work of any spirits at all, they must be those of a very low grade, *akin* to the *lowness* of the "circles" among which they work.

But the question is, *what is it* that does produce these wonderful "Manifestations?"

I answer *unequivocally*, it is *human electricity*, or

animal magnetism—the same as mesmerism and clairvoyancy.

But say you, this is merely your assertion. Well now to the proof.

1. I have shown that our "Spirit Rappings" are no *new* thing, but old manifestations *revived*.

2. I have proved that the "manifestations" of our day are *identical* with the witchery of Salem, and the incantations of Greece and Rome.

3. I have demonstrated the fact that these wonders are not the work of God, or of departed spirits, or that, if they are, they deny the Bible, and belie the christian religion.

And now, as a farther proof of the point under consideration, I need only refer to the fact that Davis, the leader of the Spiritites, was a clairvoyant, and under this mesmeric influence he received his Revelations, which are now the creed of the "Spirit Rappers."

On this point we have the testimony of his chosen secretary, who says, "In August, 1845, Davis chose Dr. Lyon, of Connecticut, to be his magnetizer during the delivery of his book; and in November of the same year, he appointed William Fishburgh as his scribe."

Again, his scribe says, "His grammar was defective. I have only found it necessary to correct the grammar,

prune out verbal redundancies, and clarify such sentences as would appear obscure."

Now let me say, had these been revelations from God, or communications of departed spirits, these imperfections and redundancies would not have existed; but their existence proves them to be the wild cogitations of his own brain.

Here we have another fact confirming this same point. Mr. D. of B., one of the "mediums," sent a letter to his brother, deacon D. of New Hampshire, saying that it was a communication from the deacon's wife.

The deacon read it, (as he informed me himself,) and found the spelling very bad, and he returned an answer to his brother, saying, "he knew it was not a communication from the spirit of his wife, for she knew how to spell, having been an old school teacher in her lifetime.

The above facts show us that these communications by the "mediums" are the productions of their own minds, through the influence of a strong nervous excitement, tantamount to a mesmeric state.

And I will add, that very many, *and even most*, of these communications are as senseless and unmeaning as the jargon of a crazy man, and as incoherent and silly as the gabble of a drunken man. In fact the entire *pretention* of the spirituality of these

"manifestations," is a piece of nonsensical folly, and downright deception and delusion.

As a still farther proof that these "manifestations" are the results of electricity, I will here state, that in New York city, in Cincinnati, and in this city, individuals (entire unbelievers in the spirituality of these wonders) have experimented upon this subject, and have succeeded fully in moving tables about the room, wholly by means of human electricity. And almost any body can demonstrate the same, by attaching a key, or a pair of scissors, to one end of a string, and winding the other end around his fingers, and suspending it, holding his hand perfectly still, and bring the key to a perfect rest; then just by willing he can make the key vibrate east and west, and then stop, and vibrate north and south, and then stop again, and make it go round and round, all of which motions are caused by the will, acting through the nerves of the arm upon the key.

The following experiment, is a triumphant demonstration of our theory of human electricity in these manifestations, *now* called "Spiritual:"

TABLE MOVING IN GERMANY.—The Tribune says Dr. CHARLES ANDREE who, we are told, is a scientific man of the highest character, gives the following, in Augsburg, Germany, of an experiment at which he was present: "Eight persons, three men and five

women, sat around a mahogany centre table, weighing some sixty pounds. Their seats were so far apart that there was no contact of their garments to interfere with the process. Their hands were laid gently on the table, their fingers touching so as to form a chain or circle. After twenty minutes one of the ladies could not bear it and left the table; the others formed the chain again, and after some thirty minutes more the table began to move, first on its axis, then across the room in a northerly direction, the persons who composed the circle following it: their chairs were removed by some spectators the instant the movement began. A slight attractive force was felt drawing their hands to the table. After the movement had continued four minutes, it was suggested that the persons should touch each other with their arms, though keeping their hands in the same position. This they did, and the movement stopped. On standing as before it presently began again. Dr. Andree regards the existence of a current of some sort causing the movement, as demonstrated, and calls upon scientific men to institute experiments for the determination of its nature. This experiment seems to have been conducted not only with fairness but intelligence."

This experiment explains the philosophy of the whole of these wonders of "Spirit Rapping."

Let us now look at some of the destructive effects of this spiritual delusion.

From the reports of our various Insane Asylums, we are receiving accounts of numerous cases of insanity caused entirely by this "Spirit Rapping" deception.

The editor of the Cincinnati Advertiser says, "there are twenty persons in the Ohio State Lunatic Asylum, whose insanity was caused by 'Spirit Rappings.' "

The report of the Utica Insane Asylum says there are eighteen in that institution made crazy by "Spirit Rappings."

The Cleveland Herald says, "In many minds it ("Spirit Rapping") seems to finish the work that Second Adventism commenced—the fruits are neglect of business and family, running after visionaries and pretended seers, scouting Christianity, spiritual wifeism, insanity and suicide."

Look at the following cases:

"Mr. S. W. Lincoln, of Malone, N. Y., became much interested in 'Spirit Rappings,' and fancied he was a 'medium,' and had communications with the inhabitants of another world; and under these influences he became so much excited that partial derangement ensued, and in this state of mind he seized Mr. Seaver by the throat, and cried, '*you must die, you must die*, the spirits have told me to kill *you*,' and it

was with much difficulty that Mr. S. made his escape and saved his life."

"Mrs. Rich, of Kirtland, O., was taken in a fit; the family supposed her in a trance, and they consulted the 'mediums' on the point, and they said she was in a trance, and would not come out short of two weeks, so nothing was done for her, and in a few days she died, from neglect, through deception by the 'mediums.'" Here follows another case, the work of these "spirits."

"EXTRAORDINARY DELUSION—THE SPIRIT RAPPERS.—It seems incredible that so many people can be led off by that prominent delusion of the day—the pretended spirit rappings. But so it is. A lamentable case on Long Island has already been alluded to. The person is Mr. George Doughty, who is now in the Lunatic Asylum. He was imposed upon by a female 'medium,' who stopped at the Irving House in company with a male attendant, by whom he was victimised to the tune of \$15,000. She professed to receive communications from Doughty's deceased brother, who directed that the said 'medium' should be paid \$5,000. At another time the directions were to pay \$8,000 for a worthless patent in which a friend of the 'medium' was concerned. Mr. Doughty complied with all these directions, and was of course fleeced out of his money. The 'medium' was last

heard of on her way to St. Louis; but Mr. Doughty having become insane, still puts faith in her, and declares his determination to adopt her as a daughter. The case has been investigated before Commissioners and a Jury, when these facts, and many others, were established by witnesses who knew the parties. A verdict of lunacy was rendered. It was also decided that Mr. D.'s property ought to be divided between his wife and children. If such impostures continue, legislation will become necessary to put a stop to them."

From reports already made, the facts are revealed that there are now in our Lunatic Asylums, *five hundred and seventy-three* victims of the "Spirit Rapping" delusion, and *seventeen* persons have committed suicide under the same delusion.

The recent developments of the Chicago Bank—the insanity of the president—the extraction of several hundred dollars, and its suspension, all by the delusion of "Spirit Rappings," are other proofs.

A Cincinnati paper says, "Mr. Peabody, of Loraine Co., O., hung himself a short time since, in a state of mental derangement caused by 'Spirit Rappings.'"

Another case. Samuel Cole, of Washington Co., O., became insane by "Spirit Rappings," and under the influence of this delusion, he fancied that he must offer a sacrifice to God, as Abraham did, and *cut off one of his feet*, and crippled himself for life.

The nervous excitement of these circles are dangerous matters.

Says OLDFIELD, "It is dangerous to experiment thus with our nervous principle. It was placed within us by the Creator to be the steady, constant, mighty, but perfectly controllable mover of the body, which is now the mind's machinery. If I use it carefully, never overcharging the delicate organs in which it is generated, and by which it is conducted through my frame, all will last and keep time like clock-work. Let me allow myself to excite this influence till it overflows and escapes from my fingers, or other organs, in snaps, like electricity from the bands of a factory wheel, or till it sets my arm to quivering in ungovernable spasms, and I shall find that I might as safely try the experiment of over-heating and over-straining a steam-boiler. Mark the invariable result of any undue mental excitement; and especially of a persevering attendance on the circles now so common in our community. On first entering no impression is made upon us. Soon, however, our nervous organism begins to feel the general impulse. There is a magnetic crawling and creeping sensation in the larger muscles, as of the arm, till it increases as we become more impressed. As we daily come in to join the circle, the influence is not felt till we have waited for its generation; and then, every time, more

powerfully it is excited, till raps echo for us, and the table moves at our will. And now the confirmed 'medium' cannot rid himself of the influence when away from the circle. He is nervous. All his senses being unnaturally acute, he naturally and necessarily hears strange sounds, sees strange sights, and feels strange sensations. His mind being disturbed in its calm working, he cannot fix his thoughts on his business, and he is all unsettled. His moral affections soon feel the influence. In the circle intent on spiritual manifestations, religion was all his theme; but at home he speaks hastily, often harshly; he feels conscious that the ties of his attachment to those who should be most dear to him are weakening; and he finds his impressions of duty to family and friends and neighbors growing blunted and dimmed. Finally, his religious nature feels the searing blight; his faith is all afloat, rocking and tossing; the anchor of his hope is broken off at the flukes; and, driven starless and heavenless by every wind of doctrine, even the white wings of his Christian charity, which once bore him to every chamber of suffering, are now riven as by a pestilential gale. Ere he is aware, he is *lost*. I would sooner experiment with my digestive organs, or my blood-vessels, than with my nervous principle; for, the body's derangement is less fearful than that of the mind. I beg of you think of this, if you have

yielded to craving curiosity, in following up these experiments. Be wise before it is too late."

We have the following testimony of others in relation to this *monster humbug*. Rev. Mr. Beecher, of N. J., says:

"The fact of the evil character of these modern spirits is demonstrated by their general denial of the Inspiration of the Bible, of the great fundamentals of Evangelical Christianity, their disinclination toward vital piety, &c. &c. We have in the Bible an infallible test of *spiritual* pretensions, and whatever contradicts any portion of that Book, or denies it the authority and obedience due to the revealed Word of God, is thereby proved false and diabolic."

The editor of the *American*, of this city, says, in speaking of a contemplated convention of Spiritites in this place:

"We presume this city was chosen from the fact that its name is unfortunately connected with the rapping and knocking business. We believe, however, the subject has received less attention here than elsewhere. Its earliest Apostles were not of a stamp to win the public confidence, and its later day propagandists are hardly more successful. Whatever faith the manifestations may have obtained among unbalanced and half crazy impressibles, it is regarded by the sober and intelligent as an utter delusion, and most ar-

rant nonsense, and will be, until the flexible spirit knuckles rap out something practical, or write out some genuine item of news."

The editor of the *Springfield Republican*, says of the Spiritites' convention:

"It was a poor, pitiful, nonsensical, incoherent, hodgepodge, inane, insane, frothy mess of tom-foolery. And there hundreds sat and swallowed it! If any man in his sober senses could have witnessed it without a solemn conviction that it was any thing more or less than a compound of delusion, deception and knavery, he must be made of materials different from those which enter into our composition."

We will close our investigation of this delusion, by reference to the word of God, which utterly forbids and condemns what is now being practiced daily by the "mediums," and those that go to *them* for information.

God says, (Isa. 8, 19,) "And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: Should not a people seek unto their God? *To the law and to the testimony.*"

Again, Deut. 18, 9—12: "When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you

any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, *or* that useth divination, *or* an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things *are* an abomination in the sight of the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee."

Here we have God's prohibitory law against all kinds of witchery and necromancy, whether in the form of mesmeric medical prescriptions; or clairvoyant revelations; or the rappings and writings of our "mediums."

Telling fortunes, seeing money in certain stones, or as Joe Smith, read (?) the unknown language on the gold plates he found (?) are all of a piece with our "Spirit-Rapping" Necromancy. And, I may here be allowed to say, that there was something much more wonderful, and inexplicable in the MORMON wonders—their pretended miracles, and speaking in unknown tongues, than there is in this Spirit Rapping Fanaticism.

We now see the sad consequences of *that* delusion, and we shall see, hereafter, (some of which are now seen,) similar, or worse fruits of *this*. And it is to prevent these evils, or to save some, at least, from them, that this volume is given to the public.

I will merely add, that there is imminent danger of persons of a nervous temperament, with *small* causality, and *large* marvellousness, going into what are called the "CIRCLES." *Such* persons will be most likely to be deluded. Our advise is to a'l, Keep away from all the "mediums," and go not into their "circles." *Shun* them as you would persons possessed of demons, or suffering with the SMALL POX.

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