

LECTURE

ON

MYSTERIOUS KNOCKINGS,

MESMERISM, &c.,

WITH A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE

'OLD STONE MILL,

AND A PREDICTION OF ITS FALL,

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

Anti-Quarian Society,

AT

Newport, R. I., Feb. 14, 1851,

BY

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PROFESSOR OF

**M E S M E R I S M .**



PREVIOUS to commencing the Lecture, Professor Macy read the following note, and produced the Medal therein alluded to, around his neck.

PROFESSOR MACY—

Respected Sir :—The Town herewith presents you a "SILVER Medal," as a token of their appreciation of your genius. You will confer a favor by wearing it on the occasion of your lecture this evening. P. S. Please read this previous to the commencement of the Lecture.

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## LECTURE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :—Having been called upon to deliver a Lecture in your thriving city, a stranger to you personally, though not in name or fame, I will now give a history of a part of my life, where I was born and how I became a Magnetizer. I was born on the benighted Island of Nantucket, on the 17th of the 4th month, 1807. I will now speak of my becoming a Magnetizer. One day while brooding over the dark thoughts that had hitherto haunted my mind, as I stood gazing into the posterior of a Pond, my attention was aroused by the extraordinary croaking of a frog on the ultra part of the pond. Looking in that direction, I saw the water-spirit and became charmed. My wits that I then possessed, left me and have never since returned. The spirit of sleep entered into me and electerised every vein of my body, and most of my sinews. The spirit that entered into me coiled itself up in the form of a horse-shoe, and become a strong diabolical and indelible precocious Magnet, and changed me into a natural Magnetizer, although for years that greatest of all talents lay conspicuously dormant and most openly hidden to the knowledge of all. This was in my 19th year.

I removed from Nantucket to New Bedford the 15th day of the 10th Month, 1843. I made my first appearance in New Bedford by a public lecture on Mesmerism, with which I was long familiar. My first lecture was delivered in Mechanics' Hall, on William street, New Bedford. I will now give a History of its origin, &c.



While travelling through the abstruse regions of this phrenomagnetic world, with what profundity does the works of nature and art impress us! That glorious orb of day, the sun, rises in the east and sets in the far-famed west; the moon, in her enchanting modesty, appears in the same political horizon, and pillows her head in the same lap of midnight. What wonders are spread before us in this Terrestrial globe we inhabit! In the hoary-headed oak of the forest and the simple vegetable of the flower garden—in the cloud-capped mountain-top and the ant-hill, and the mighty river that studies in sublimity to the ocean; and the small rivulet that oozes from the fissures of the craggy rock; in the sunflower that rears its gorgeous head on the terrace, and the modest dandelion that adorns the numown meadows. For what purpose was man placed on this wonderful geological formation and permitted to dwell in his day and night dreams among these created wonders? to revel in the bowers of this Eden earth and be fanned by the breezes of ocean? Was it not to contemplate these wonders and explain these mysteries by ascending the heights and exploring the depths of Science, to produce out of these mysteries, by the giant arm of his intellect, that secret agent which should prepare him to enjoy this earth of ours—to learn that indwelling power which shall alleviate pain, which shall banish sorrow, which shall create fruit out of barrenness, wealth out of poverty, and joy from mourning? What is that secret hidden agency which, till recently, has been buried in the mazes of man's obliquity, but now shines out in its brilliant lustre, to dazzle the gazing beholder, and remind him of his great and all wonderful creation? It is the science of Animal Magnetism, or Mesmerism, upon which it is my purpose to enlighten you this evening. I shall very briefly address you upon the progress of the Science, explain a few of its general characteristics, and show the mighty influence it is destined to yield upon the future destinies of mankind; it was not until recently that the author of this wonderful Science was discovered. Lecturers have long expatiated upon its origin and characteristics, but like the mariner upon the desert ocean, without the Magnetic needle, they have been tossed about by the waves of uncertainty, and lost in the labyrinth of their clouded ignorance. It is to me a proud satisfaction that I am able, for the first time, before you this evening, to lay open to the optics of your intellects, the discoverer of the great gift of God to man; to tell you how by the magic wand of his mighty mind he laid open the heretofore hidden Science, and moulded it into form and usefulness.

About the year 1545, there lived upon the skirts of a forrest on the Western borders of Mesopotamia, an humble individual, unduown to fame; his humble cottage and a few rods of land enclosed with it, were all his earthly possessions. He knew not of the world's agitations—of the clashings of human passions—nothing of magnificence or misery. The resources of his comforts and happiness, were within himself; it may be said of him that he dwelt on his own developments. The name of this man who, in all future time, is destined to fill the largest page of the world's history, was Mesmer. The only companion of his retirement was his faithful dog, to whom he was indebted for essential aid in his researches. He had, in his deep meditation, received a conception that there was a chain of Electricity running through all the works of nature, binding together all the parts, impressing all the characteristics of one portion of the globe with the other. That the Magnetic influence was the same in the White Mountains of New Hampshire as under the sun of Ethiopia, so there must be the same electric chain running through all animal creation. Being impressed with this great Magnetic truth, he determined to test it by practical illustrations upon his faithful dog. He observed that as he passed his hand over the several portions of the brain, different sensations were exhibited in the dog; that upon one section of the head the animal showed a disposition to antagonise, upon another, there



appeared a spirit of destructiveness ; upon another a tone of affection. Having obtained a confirmation of his long and deep convictions, he proceeded to classify the different developments. This he had scarcely completed, with a manuscript of explanation, when he was prostrated with the Plague that was then prevalent in that country, and in a few hours sunk into the arms of death. Thus, in a retired spot of the earth's surface, was struck into existence that almighty and ever-enduring Science, which is to become the admiration of all coming ages ; and upon the same spot lived and died the author of this gift to man. But his memory will live in the hearts of unborn millions, when Moses and all the prophets will be forgotten ; when the philosophy of Socrates will pass by as the idle wind ; when the names of Washington and Franklin shall cease on the tongues of men,—then shall the name of Mesmer be honored, and babes shall lisp his name, and the great of the earth shall bow down to his name in homage.

I next, Ladies and Gentlement, shall call your attention to those general and grand characteristics which raise this Science as far above all other Sciences as the highest mountains are elevated above the most insignificant gravel of sand swayed to and fro on the sea-shore, by the mighty and tumultuous heavings of the ocean. History is full of illustrations of the Science upon which I have the honor of addressing you, as the earth is full of its wonderful and tremendous effects. The celebrated Prussian General, Nichodemus, mentioned in Scriptures, greatly afflicted with the leprosy, enquiring of the Prophet Ahasuerus what he should do to be cleansed, was told to bathe seven times in the Jordan. The discovery of Magnetism throws light upon this hitherto obscure passage. Jordan, it is well known, is the Hebrew word for Magnetism ; and the word Seven, when used in the sacred writings, signifies complete, entire, perfect. The meaning is obviously then that Nichodemus was directed by the Prophet to be perfectly and completely Magnetised,—he obeyed the direction, and the experiment was entirely successful. It is related in the 4th book of Homer's Illiad that the Mother of Achilles dipped him by the heel in the same Jordan that he might be rendered invulnerable in battle. Here is the most wonderful example of the influence of Mesmerism handed down by the pages of history, or the Patriarchal sources of Tradition. Achilles was rendered invulnerable in all parts of his body except one which was his heel. When we take into consideration that Achilles was a negro,—also when we reflect on that part of the physical formation, I mean the heel, we shall not be surprised at the vulnerability of that part of his body ; it is a remarkable fact that the heel of the African is much more acute and elongated than that of the European race,—this would furnish a means for the Magnetic influence, or fluvia, to escape from that part of the body. It is well-known that Magnetism is always transmitted in points, but there is no necessity for recurring, for the sake of illustration of the Science, to that part in which Hercules, by the magic influence of this most subtle fluid, performed the most wonderful feats which a fate most cruel and necessity most dire had commanded, by the side of which feats, the sturdy heroism of Richard of England and Salladin of Ireland, dwindled into the most minute insignificance. On the pages of the history of our revolution is recorded the death of the distinguished Indian warrior and chieftain, Tecumseh. When the battle raged fiercest, and where honor was most to be won,—there was Tecumseh and there too was Col. Johnson. They met, and fearful, oh, how fearful was that conflict between those two magnetised sons of the earth. The blows fell thick and heavily, but not a hair was hurt, not a wound was given, until finally, the gallant Colonel, fired with despair, raised his arm now firm and strengthened by the Magnetic fluid, raised his ponderous battle-axe and aimed a blow which telled the brave chieftain to the earth ; it was an argument too powerful to be resisted. Hereafter, when posterity shall make



the enquiry, who killed Tecumseh, let the answer be, not Colonel Johnson, but Magnetism.

'Twas this that gave the blow,  
Which laid Tecumseh low.

I have thus, Ladies and Gentlemen, given a brief history of the rise and progress of the sublime Science of Mesmerism, with some practical observations on its application to the kindred Science of Phrenology. It remains for me very briefly to allude to the great events which may be anticipated from a continuation of these two agents, in the progress of human civilization. The wheels of Time would make their evolutions, and the quiet shadows of night give place to the glorious effulgence of meridian day, ere I could enumerate the singularity and incalculable advantages and blessings which the family of man is destined to derive from this well-nigh omnipotent influence. Already are the lame made to walk, the blind to see, old age becomes reinvigorated, while the young are endowed with the wisdom of maturity. The sick are made whole, and diseases which the sublimest art could not discover, are made plain before its piercing glance. But these are considerations insignificant in comparison with what has not been realised. It is a well known fact that in the war between Texas and Mexico, the gallant commander of the armies of the latter power was seduced through the agency which he could not explain, into a vast forest on the skirts of Arabia Petrae, near the confluence of the Mississippi and the Ganges, and there, influenced by the same unseen hand, was drawn into the branches of the Cabbage tree, where he fell into a deep slumber from which he only awoke after he had been deprived of his liberty and been disbanded. It has since been ascertained that this wonderful exploit, which has made the name of David Crocket coexistent with Time, was performed by the influence of Mesmerism. If such was the result in this case, why may not like results arise in other cases? If so, it can be no longer doubted that the humble cottager of Mesopotamia is entitled to the lasting gratitude of all nations. Wars and fightings will cease, blood will no more flow, and the destinies of battling nations will be settled no longer by the sword, but by Magnetism.

There are other effects, not less important; but the audience are impatient to hear about the history of some part of your thriving city, of which I have gained some information about. Flattering myself that I have given a satisfactory explanation of this wonderful Science, heretofore considered inexplicable, I will conclude this subject by quoting the words of the Hebrew poet, David:—

Hail, wondrous Science, mighty agent, hail,  
Let unbelievers swear and sceptics rail;  
Thou still art true, thyself art still the same,  
Mid Cataracts' thunder and Volcanoe's flame.  
And all the world shall yet confess and know,  
The blessings Mesmer wrought the world below,—  
When by his cottage, seated on a log,  
He called the Science from his slumb'ring dog.

I shall now proceed to give you a history of a part of your thriving city, which information I have gained by Mesmerism. And also the Rochester Knockings, that we have heard so much tell about.

I, Professor Macy, do design to leave the goodly city in which I have resided for the last few years, and esme, as it were, into an unknown land, for your benefit, my unquestionable hearers; and to enlighten and edify your darkened and irritable minds on a highly singular and superannuated subject, which has so lengthly chained and hid them, as it were, through a veil of phosphorus darkness



and etherial magic. It is certain there are many mysteries and wonders in our own natal land, for which we, the best and bravest of all God's works, cannot divulge and promote nor account. We see in every falling twig and leaf some mystery, some strange adherence and fortification that would puzzle the Mosaic brain of Achilles to unarrange or disman. If we look into the pure stream of water that gorgeous and blends and trundles at our feet, we wonder what supplies the pure font, or what keeps its uniform law and dimensions. You see one unaccountable mystery which you cannot dissolve. If we cast our eyes above to the beaming sky, that expanse of broad sunny blue, we wonder what holds the unlofty arch from tumbling and crumbling to mites upon our unaluminated heads. And if it is on the unturned stars we admire, we cannot discern what occasions their mild twinkling or ever-silent winking, which is as much as saying gaze on ye silent beholders of my beauty. Ye cannot match it, nor ye cannot tell how long I have been here, or what do I, our veil is unimpenetrable to ye frail untimed mortals. Bye and bye the pale moon comes out, and we wonder what hand sent her forth to our assistance, as we are lost in impenetrable and officious darkness of night. Night? did I say? Night, I repeat and confirm. What is night? What changes the beautiful color of day and brings us into darkness? Who can explain its conspicuous change, or decline it in its variations? That being who can thus diffuse so great and financial account, is surely and confidentially more mysterious than aught I've yet named. But in plunging into mysteries, I might plunge nine fathoms beneath the bottomless pit, and not survive to the bottom of all mystery; and had I the making of the Bible, instead of saying, as the prophet and high-priest, Ecclesiastes says, "vanity of vanities saith the preacher, all is vanity." I, Professor Macy would say, "mystery of mysteries, saith the Professor, all is mystery." But as I am speaking mysteriously, imbibe me, kind hearers, if I promulgate still further on this subject.

Pardon me if I go on, and listen attentively to my sayings, most of you, while I tell you the greatest of all mysteries, by which even every other mystery might be made no mystery at all. And now I elate and conceive a dark cloud; a deep mystery hangs over and shades each brow in my august presence. You say I speak mysteriously, but I say you will feel mysteriously, when,—start not,—when I say that I know of a mystery, that will solve all other mysteries. Would you know it? know then that it is the greatest of all powers I possess and trespass not namely of Magnetism. Now again your brows are clouded with mystery; but hark, while I proceed to force upon your minds that what I have stated is just and true.

Perhaps you are all concentrated in one unvigilant doubt, but I can soon unravel the deepest mystery by this Magnetising power; and by it I can give information that will throw light and grossly explain subjects that have long been in doubt, yea, verily, since the foundation of this earthly ball on which we stand,—subjects and things, too, which have puzzled the greatest philosopher in the unknown world or unravel. For instance, I go into a room where a subject of mine occupies his time in tracing out wonders and miracles by this agency; my eye rests on his a minute, and his eyes are gone into the shades of mystery to seek answers to the questions I may put forward and contrawise to him. I ask him of what to ye all is a great wonder,—the Stone Mill. He tells me its whole unmarked and diffident history. Shall I give it to you? Ladies, I see your pleasant smiles; you encourage me on, and while I relate the story, see if any of you have the minds of the heroic ones of whom I may speak. Doubtless some few of you have read the Bible, or seen it, or heard of it, at least; looking in the 10th or 7th chapter, you that can read, you will find that it contains and that it speaks of the Ark which Noah and his family peopled, and was saved thereby



from the contagious deluge which overflowed the world ; how that they went in 2, and 2, 7 and 7,—and that they and those and they alone were saved. But here this mysterious power which I possess, detects an error, unintentional probably, on the part of the author,—but nevertheless an error. Follow me, hearers, to yon distant chamber, where three maidens are confined, by a cruel father's hand to prevent their seeing their lovers who diligently sought their company,—and how they were left alone, with no book, or anything to take their anilectic attention, but three palm leaf fans which were left them, owing to the heat of the season. The rains and waters had reached their floor and already begun to cover them, when they observed the three fans to be floating about. The water rushed with such limited force and terpidation, that it washed away the windows of the room, and the three maidens found themselves miraculously floating about on their fans, which had swollen to an immense size ; for days and days they floated on, and at length when the rains dismisen and ceased, the three maidens were landed on a desolate looking, uninhabited place which is now Newport. With their own hands they erected the foundation of the Stone Mill, which took many years to accomplish. But say you how were they fed and what kept them alive ? Do you not read in the good Book that the dove Noah sent forth returned once with nothing ; again he went and returned bearing the problem of hope, the leaf ; the third time he went, he came back no more at all, at all,—but sought out the society of the ladies, as every one should do, and for years he fed them by his own industry. He brought them fish from the sea, principally smelts, and occasionally he dug clams for them, and thus they were preserved alive. The youngest of the maidens gave birth to Mary Magdalen, who, when at the age of thirteen was led by the dove back to the land of darkness. The Mill remained and still remains, once the wonder and now the surprise of all people. The bones of the three sisters are buried in one grave beneath the Northwest corner of the North rotundity of the Mill ; they are in good preservation ; though they have lain there thousands of years, they are still fresh and fair as infants. A small stone cross is under the head of each for a pillar ; methinks it a hard pillow for such sacred heads. One has on a wig with a heavy gold spring, which would be well worth securing as it is worth a great sum of money ; a large serpent is entwined around the feet or the second sister, or what appears to be a serpent,—but it is in reality on a serpent's skin stuffed with pounds and pounds of unflagged gold ; the third and last one lies on a bed of gold and silver, and the Electricity caused by the union of these two kinds of metal, is the first cause and foundation of all other electricity. The Dove still remains and visits their grave daily ; every person in Newport has seen it, yet knew it not. It is gray with age, and resembles a white dove ; it has but one eye, and a film is fast covering that. Its bills are completely gone and are supplied by golded ones which were put on by a Dentist in this city, one day when the Dove assumed the form of a young lady by the name of Ruth. That Dentist is here this night and knows not of what I am speaking.

I, Professor Macy, do finish my story with a prediction that the Mill will not stand much longer. The ladies' fashions are fast approaching the dresses the three maidens wore, and when they get them on, the Mill will fall with a crash which will jar the fort, which is like Solomon's temple,—many years in building. I will not say it, though I think it, that when the Mill falls, it will be the fall of the fort,—and I do know that it is already disturbed, and that Electricity flows from it so fast that it has entered into many people, and occasions the Spiritual Knockings we have heard of so much. Go to any circle where these knockings are heard, take notice of the "medium,"—witness if he, she, or it do not have on some dress or particle of dress that resembles the dresses worn by the sisters ; this



angers them, and the electricity flows so fast from the golden bed of the sisters that it enters into the "medium," and admits too large quantities, and some of it in excitement is thrown off, and being a nonmixible, it forms in large or small bubbles, and bubbles large or small, as the case may be,—and when they are sufficiently excited, they explode with a heavy sound ; if the bubble be large, it seems to explode directly underneath the table, or stand, or where we are sitting,—and if the bubbles be smaller, the distance seems greater. This is all fol de rol, though, and the greatest of all humbugs, and I hope you, by the advice of I, Professor Macy, will avoid all such tumults, and be enabled to live so that when next I visit you, you will want to see me with joy and gladness.

The Episcopalians do say, here ends the First Lesson ; but I, Professor Macy, do say, here ends the First Lecture ; and I do hope that you are satisfied with this, and that you will soon send me another invitation to come and enlighten your minds. I will now repeat a few lines to edify you :

And if you do,  
I will come to you,  
With might and main  
To speak again,  
On anything  
You wish to bring  
Before the mind  
Of human kind.  
No matter what,  
If its my lot  
To expatiate,  
I will do it straight ;  
Make plain to all,  
Both great and small,  
The brightest lights,  
Or darkest nights ;  
The hottest noon,  
Or palest moon ;  
The calmest morn,  
Or prickliest thorn ;  
The blackest cloud,

With thunder loud ;  
The Electric wire,  
With lightning fire ;  
The tallest tree  
You ever see ;  
The smallest log,  
The biggest hog ;  
The handsomest fence  
Of great expence ;  
The oldest rock  
That's on the dock ;  
The highest throne  
That stands alone ;  
The Newport Fort,  
Or Lover's Court ;  
The croaking frog,  
The barking dog ;  
The howling wind  
That calls mankind  
To his long rest,  
Or earthly nest ;

A cradle grave  
Or surging wave  
A thousand things  
Like eagle's wings  
That I explain to your dili-  
gence and education.  
Kind friends I thank ye,  
As I am a Yankee,  
For your kind observation  
On this potent occasion.  
I hope you will thrive  
On the lesson I will give  
And never forget,  
Till life's sun is set,  
The wit I have spoken,  
A powerful mind's token ;  
The sound, solid sense,  
Under wisdom's pretence.—  
Though you may be offended,  
You have stayed till I am ended.

But I do expect that things are all right,  
So I bid you, kind people of Newport, good night.  
Now pray dont forget, but always remember ;  
I visited Newport two months from December ;  
Again I, with my braided cue,  
Will say good night to all of you.

Good night, good night,  
"ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT."