Henry Seybert's "Spiritual Communications obtained with the Aid of Instruments through the Mediumship of Miss Catherine Fox and H.C. Gordon."

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This document is composed of transcripts taken from Henry Seybert's personal séance journal kept as he attempted to fine-tune a set of spirit communication apparatus, which consisted of an "alphabet rod," assorted dials, and other apparatus, obtained through himself and various mediums. The spirit guides are numerous, but are led by Henry's deceased father, Adam Seybert, and Benjamin Franklin. Right-slanted entries are typically inquiries and note in Seybert's voice, which left-slanted italics indicate the spirits' responses.

1857

Associated Mediums
Catherine Fox
H.C. Gordon

Apparatus Descriptions:
"Alphabetic Rod"
"new mode of communication"
"Semicircular Dial"
"Dial with pulley and vertical rod"
"cords used on a former occasion"
"an instrument with keys" with "upright bars, only the keys at the foot"
newly arranged keyed instrument."
"dial pointer"
"sliding scale"
"instrument…better with the lever principle, because we use the perpendicular current on shaft…"
"new sliding instrument"
"upright slide"
"new wooden Dial" [Alhauss's dial]
"A new dial"
"another Dial"
"cog Dial"
"Under the table too much power; rod too long."
"ordinary Dial"
"a large new Dial"
"the [large] Dial is too clumsy and to rickety"
"the rod proves best for the upright Dial"
"new instrument"
"the one with two pulleys"
"insulated tables with the Dials"
"the Telegraph"
"the Dial with two pulleys"
"rod Dial"
"the Dial with the strings'

First account is dated April 16, 1857.

April 16, 1857—Among other communications and affirmations received by the medium Kate Fox through the "Alphabetic Rod," the spirit of Adam Seybert reports "I am pleased with this new mode of communication." Benjamin Franklin communicates "we are so happy to communicate through this new channel." Seybert's friend, Mr. John Miller, receives an address from the spirit of his daughter, Anna, through the machine: "My dear father, I can gratify you by talking with you through this channel. I love you. Anna." Anna's spirit also addresses another sitter, her father's friend Mr. Harrison G. Dyar.

April 17, 1857—Communication "with the Semicircular Dial" "as a test in the presence of Mrs. Fox" (making her

the probable medium). The spirit of Adam Seybert reports through and of the dial: "This is the exact thing, and we are delighted with it. Benjamin Franklin fully approves of it…you shall receive communications in all their purity." He continues: "*In allusion to the Dial:* You have it almost perfected."

April 21, 1857—After a gap of several days, the mediumship chair is taken over by H.C. Gordon. An Mr. L.C. Spooner is also in attendance. Benjamin Franklin requests: "Place the Bible on the table. Spirits desire the bell on the table." Is this an early instance of spirit bell use, as later used by spookshow and séance-style magicians? Seybert makes an inquiry about whether Dr. Hare was right in his claim to correspond spiritually with Jesus of Nazareth. The spirits claim Hare has been deceived. There is mention that Gordon's mediumship "would do better in a short time," possibly an allusion that his communications are more expedient that Fox's.

April 27, 1857—Mr. Miller is back at the séance table, and receives some test results from Gordon. Adam addresses Seybert: "My Son, I have held holy converse with progressed Spirits, and they approve of your movements" then "Get the machine get Printing press."

May 1, 1857—Seybert must have rearranged the dial, as the spirit of his father reports "*In allusion to the Dial arrangement*. Better than you conceived at first." Adam's spirit requests that his son give Dr. Hare his thanks and best wishes, and promises the doctor the aid of Benjamin Franklin and George Washington.

May 3, 1857—Seybert must have rearranged the dial yet again, as the spirit of his father reports "*Alluding to the modification of the Instrument:* We are much pleased with the change. No more at this time. Done."

May 4, 1857—Another test of the Dial is undertaken: "*Trial of the Dial with pulley and vertical rod*." The presence of the pulley (which is later modified with two pulleys) and some later clues indicate that this is a table-mounted device, similar to an Isaac Pease Spiritual Telegraph Dial, which debuted 4 years previously.

More clues are given in the same correspondence: Henry records his inquiry: "*I observed the vertical rod appeared to answer better than the cords used on a former occasion*." The spirit of Adam Seybert answered: "Son, the rod is much better than Aaron's of olden time, we are sure it will do more good. Ha ha!" Benjamin Franklin was noted as being present.

This indicates the rod-associated dial in previous use also used cords or a pulley.

May 5, 1857—Another communication reveals the belief of what is happening with the movements—the spirits are controlling the device. "*Alluding to the indisposition of the Medium Instrument:*" The spirit of Adam Seybert replies: "We are controlling instrument we are glad it is truer. Please favor us by dimming the gas." No indication which medium is at work here. Is it still Mr. Gordon?

This entry also verifies there is more than one instrument at play: "Now try the other instrument we are ready."

At this point, it appears they are working with a "Semicircular Dial" which is likely a pulley-driven, table-mounted device, and the "Alphabet Rod."

May 23, 1857—phrases indicating male medium still working at this time, likely Mr. Gordon, though he is also indicated to be ill at this time, though recovering. The spirits indicate a preference for his work, as he allows faster communications.

May 26, 1857—Another round of improvements have taken place: "Dear friend we are pleased with the improvement," wrote "Father Adam." He also reported: "Franklin and numerous other Spirits are endeavoring to develop this instrument through yourself."

In a correspondence later that evening, the presence of the instrument's "cogs" are revealed: "We are ready to proceed. Try oil on cogs" and, in a subsequent entry: "We [Adam and Franklin] desire to test the cog movement."

May 27, 1857—A new keyboard-like device being worked on is introduced when Henry inquires: "should [I] prepare the Type?" Franklin's spirit is otherwise engaged and answers negatively.

May 28, 1857—The spirits of Franklin and Adam Seybert are "present for testing the instrument" [the cog dial]. They report "We are experimenting," "Most too much friction of cogs; try once more to adjust," and "A modification of the instrument; At 4 PM we will try it." Furthermore, another sentence from Henry inquires on the "failure of our contrivances" and the reply states the problem is "only one of Earth's obstacles." This is specifically in reference to "an instrument with keys" as noted in the subsequent 4 PM communication.

As a result of the failure, the spirit of Adam Seybert requests that Henry "Please get the Dial." He then reports "My son, I am pleased with the keys, they should be further apart: can not they be made wider? I do not mean the upright bars, only the keys at the foot. Great efforts are made to perfect you: we desire effectually to establish these high and sacred communications."

May 29, 1857—In the earliest communication (12 PM), the spirits of Adam and Franklin instruct Henry: "Prepare your instruments for we are ready to test them."

At 5 PM, the spirit group (Adam, Franklin, John Newton, and Robert Fulton) convenes for a "*Trial of a newly arranged keyed instrument*." The communication ostensibly received through the device is:

> "Although you are in the mystery of the movements we are engaged in, we are desirous of giving all we can, to make you feel encouraged. Henry, my son, you are progressing. Conquer all thy scoffing friends."

Despite the address to "my son," this entry is signed by the spirit of George Washington.

May 30, 1857—This date illustrates a lot of the amusing coming-and-going of the attendant spirits, with some not being present due to other engagements, spirits not being able to meet at appointed times because they're running off to speak at New York séances, and new spirits joining the conversation to contribute to the device; in this case, Dr. Benjamin Rush and John Hancock who, through Adam Seybert, recommend "A crimson cord extended from lights. Place it around the dial pointer." The spirits go on to report: "We are trying to direct the influence by conductors from above the table," another hint that use of this device was contingent on table-tipping for its operation, which, phrases like a spirit needing "sufficient strength to endure motion" leads further credence to this theory.

May 30, 1857—This entry contains a question regarding the machine's purposes: "The importance of the new mode of communication to endorse the discourses of Speaking Mediums?" The reply was "Certainly."

June 1, 1857—Henry mentions a possibly new device the 9 AM session: "*Inquired if we should try the* ***sliding scale****?*" The reply was "Yes. After the trial." The spirits return for a 5 PM trial, instructing: "Friends get the cogs" and "Friends we are making efforts to control dial in the rain. The electric atmosphere hinders the controlling of the magnetic fluid, or current from operating through the Medium's sphere, directly upon the instrument. I hoped that when the instrument was perfected we should receive philosophical information. We think the labor will not be lost: persevere."

The entry continues, calling the nature and identity of the "sliding scale" into question, as it may be reveal to have "keys" like the previously-mentioned device, OR they might have switched instruments without acknowledgement: "Trial of the instrument with keys wider apart." Adam responds: "You have improved on this."

June 2, 1857—Adam and Benjamin Franklin arrive at 12 PM and announce: "We are now prepared for the keys" followed by the next entry written "While trying the same: "My son. If you will see my efforts. In relation to a marker with a XXX on it which the Medium was impressed to place on the table. We do believe it will yet work well…" followed by exultations of Christ. The entry closes with "Please try Dial at Five P.M. Farewell"

June 2-3 (?), 1857—Though the date seems to indicate June 23, there is some mistake, as the previous entry is

June 2 and the subsequent entry is June 3. Communications continue, from Adam Seybert: "*Alluding to an instrument in the hands of a mechanic*: The object of calling you to sit at this time is to say that the instrument in progress is **better with the lever principle, because we use the perpendicular current on shaft**." George Washington then makes an address: "I promised to present the Medium with a better one. My Son [(again?)] I am happy to see you active in this movement, delightful. In your presence is Emmanuel Swedenborg."

"*In alluding to the movement*: Onward, still onward. All for this time."

June 4, 1857—After a long address by Adam Seybert extolling virtue and dismissing criticism from Henry's friends, a new "sliding instrument" is introduced:

> "*To that sitting I took with me* [Henry] *a new sliding instrument*. [Spirits]: Now we will try the upright slide. *It did not answer as well as the Dial.*"

June 5, 1857—A new medium, Mr. George Redman, is introduced, who may also be a writing medium (see June 6 entry, below).

June 6, 1857—Henry reports: "*Trial of a new wooden Dial made by Mr. Alhauss*" (sp?) The spirits reply: "You are too early with this dial." When Henry asks for further explanation, he is told to wait 15 minutes. After the allotted time, Seybert receives the following reply from Adam:

> "Franklin, G. Washington, and myself [Adam Seybert] are present, and have held an investigation of this Dial, & pronounce this nearest perfect of all the Dials, and instruments now on Earth."

This session ostensibly took place under the mediumship of Mr. Redman, and a review of his services is requested in this entry, by a Mr. Miller. A critique and comparison is given:

> Think not because George Redman gives so much in writing while through Henry you get a few words through your instrument that the former is a better Medium; for on the contrary the latter I like best for his childlike [passiveness?], & gentle heart: for his truthful disposed Spirit. We desire to reward the just by making him a chosen one for our great mission, & desire to make him a Medium of great merit to the world.

The sitters remark to the spirits that they have returned the dial to the "1st letter of the alphabet," to which the spirits respond: "I impr'est the mechanic rightly in constructing this, with hopes to give rappid [sic] communications."

June 7, 1857—Session begins with a version of the Lord's Prayer. This is followed with a note that the Medium (George Redman?) will be absent for "about 10 days." The June 6 entry noted possible conflicts with Redman "getting off" [from work?], and the predicted delay is longer than anticipated, as the following entry is June 30.

June 30, 1857—The séances begin again after a several weeks' delay, this time with the medium S.B. Brittan at 10 pm that evening:

"We have tried to make use of the Dial, and find it has become disarranged due to shrinking, and we will postpone sitting until ten tomorrow morning."

July 1, 1857— The next entry is entered as "Second Sitting with S.B. Brittan" but is not labeled with a date, though given the late hour of the previous entry and the spirits' previous instructions, it is most likely this takes place the following day as instructed. Isaac Newton arrives early to provide support words, though Adam Seybert continues on as the spirit guide. A discourse on the nature of evil and sin commences. Benjamin Franklin appears, and there is a discussion regarding Brittan's Spiritual Art Journal—the spirits offer their assistance in its completion—as well as the paper Spiritual Age. For whatever reason, the spirits recommend Brittan move his offices to Philadelphia.

The spirit reconvene at 2 PM, which is noted as the third and last witting with S.B. Brittan. "A new dial" is introduced, perhaps due to the shrinking damage on the previous one, and the spirits promise their assistance, replying: "The new dial not working well it was exchanged for the old one."

A host of spirits is listed as present to provide assistance, which includes, curiously, Robert Hare, who is not yet deceased. There is talk of spirits "impressing" Mediums to create works, including Mr. Brittan after his departure.

July 3, 1857—There is talk of a sitting with Mr. Conklin. "Through this instrument we hope to do a great work, we hope now to convince mortals of the glory of god, and teach them of heavenly joys…" There are multiple sittings on this day, including whether or not there should be public sittings ("Until he can sit for five hours a day"), and paying the rent ("this bill of this house should not trouble H.[enry] as the Spirits desire him to be free from its care.") Portraits of Benjamin Franklin and George Washington—both spirits having been in attendance, are instructed to be hanged in front of the medium. There is discussion of homeopathy (a "Spiritual principle") and instructions for sittings in a dark room. The evening closes with an untranscribed discourse from Lafayette.

July 5, 1857—Henry Seybert notes: "We had substituted another Dial in the place of the one used the day before." The spirits replied: "We see you have altered the condition of the Dial. Why change?" There is a reference to a missing pin that is now gone from the rod. It is noted the pin was supplied, and the Dial's condition improved. After the spirits invite Mr. Miller back, they note: "We are practicing the Dial my Son: we are highly gratified to see the progress of your usefulness in the good work."

July 6, 1857—Henry Seybert inquires: "In regard to an improvement to the Dial I thought the mechanic had been impressed [by the influence of the spirits]?" The spirits confirm "We were there." There is a hint to publication of some of the Dial's messages: "Mr. Spooner said he had some facsimiles of the first papers published by Dr. Franklin when the index was made to spell" which may be signed "Courant."

Dr. Hare—this time alive, apparently—is discussed after the Medium [Is this Henry Seybert now?] inquires about sitting with him, presumably under test conditions:

> "I returned and impressed the Medium to speak in relation to Proff. Hare's movements, and I request that Henry does not sit for testing instruments; when I said he might sit I did not perceive his motives."

July 7, 1857—After some discussions and prayers, there is mention to "commence sitting with music; we will direct, but cover Dial with table-spread." A mention of "Hume" [D.D. Home?], who is feared by the spirits to not be long for the mortal world due to an "affection of the heart" thought the spirits say they will aid him to "prolong his mission".

A new medium is present at the Dial—Mrs. Akin, the wife of deceased Charles R. Akin? Is this Gordon's aunt, as mentioned earlier in entry? There is an address by her "spirit daughter," Amanda.

July 6, 1857—[Page appears out of order but is not. See below] Napoleon is present but does not speak long, answering "Oui, Monsieur" in answer to an inquiry as to whether he is now in favor of liberty as a spirit. They hope to invite him again "when the Dial would be more perfected."

July 8, 1857—[same page as above entry, so the July 6 entry seems to be a backtrack]: "We hope to see an instrument which will yet be perfect, that we can give a large amount of matter."

July 9, 1857—From the spirit of Adam Seybert: "A word to you my dear Son, we are delighted to have made so good an impression on Mr. Miller, although imperfect was the Dial."

July 10, 1857— From the spirit of Adam Seybert: "We see that we can control instrument better after a little manipulation, and every spirit that is introduced into the sacred circle for dispensing light, has to become acquainted with its use."

Later in the same entry, Adam Seybert replies: "We wish you carefully to prepare the statement of the first idea of constructing the movement, applied to Dial." With a later statement that "Father"[Adam?] impressed "improvements in the Dial."

July 11, 1857—Another new dial is mentioned: "Will it doe to bring the new Dial on Sunday?" The spirits reply affirmatively: "Fetch it, for better the day to test it."

July 12, 1857—The new dial mentioned previously is put to trial: "Under the table too much power; rod too long."

July 13, 1857—[since: June in entry] "In reference to the Motto being inscribed on all Dials" Adam Seybert's spirit replies "I think so too." Shortly after, they go on: "Spirits think you are progressing. We much admire this new mode; we all decide it the nearest perfect of all instruments constructed for this purpose. Spirits are highly gratified with this new Dial." There is later mention of unspecified "rather heavy demands" put forth by S.B. Brittan that are being negotiated. Napoleon may chime in once more when "The Dial was made to spell" "*Oui Monsieur*." The spirits make mention of D.D. Home's ["Hume's"] efforts with Napoleon III in France, which is accurate to his location and séances at the time. Seybert's spirits are said to be in attendance with Home in his Paris séances.

July 14, 1857—A Mr. Barry is brought in to witness the Dial.

July 15, 1857—The spirits bring in the Duke of Wellington to witness a demonstration of the Dial, and he is said to have been "highly gratified at the operation of it."

July 17, 1857—There is mention of a "trial of a large new Dial" in the presence of the spirits of Benjamin Rush, Benjamin Franklin, Emmanuel Swedenborg, Walter Scott, and Adam Seybert. The Dial arrived at 4 PM, and was tested. The Dial failed in some regard, so: "After the failure we were directed to place the ordinary Dial on the table." Adam Seybert's spirit reported: "The Dial is too large." And continues with encouraging words and "In relation to the large Dial, we see this excels, for every effort has proved a failure."

July 18, 1857—Henry inquires to the spirit of Adam "In relation to the large Dial referred to in the last sitting":

> "I see there are objections to the large instrument which can not be surmounted: in the first place the Dial is too clumsy and too rickety: but the main obstacle was it could not be graduated in force."

After more discussions of homeopathy, Adam Seybert's spirit communicates Benjamin Franklin's feedback: "Franklin thinks the Dial will be improved, by enlarging its surface about one third; you can introduce more words about four between each letter. " [This calls to mind the Pease Spiritual Telegraph Dial and Hare's own device that copied it: there are arrayed words between the latters]

There is mention that the spirits "would like to try to cog Dial, as some friends have not seen it operate, and we are anxious to see it in motion."

There is also mention "one of the instruments being constructed" and Franklin's promise through Adam's spirit that "We will try it."

July 19, 1857—The "cog Dial" is back in play but the user is given pause since not all spirits who want to witness it are present. The "other dial" is brought out as well. Henry Seybert asks for a critique on the "new Dial" from Adam Seybert, who replies: "I observed a perfect instrument for communications would be a great blessing for mankind."

Apparently Seybert has met with Dr. Hare recently, as the meeting is alluded to by the spirits, who tell Henry "He was impulsive and you kept calm."

July 20, 1857—"Trial of modification of Dial." The criticism is: "the table is too long for this influence brought to bear on the upright rod" and "The table should be insulated by glass."

July 21, 1857—"Trial of a Dial." The spirits again complain that "This table is too long: too much material about the extension. Only a hole in the centre for the rod." There is a curious note that "The spirits had opened the table by extending it close [?]" Shakespeare makes an appearance, apparently, and induces a "violent shaking of the rod" saying "***Do not the dry bones rattle now***. "

Later that evening, in a 7 PM session, Adam Seybert reports many are "coming to try the new table this week if you can get it ready."

July 23, 1857—The movement is tried on "A new Dial which had just then arrived." There is a later mention on the same day (after much discussion of spiritual spheres): "After the trial of another new Dial." According the Henry's transcript, the spirits answered "Yes" when questioned on its operation: "The Dial not operating will I asked if I should have the change made which was impressed on my mind?"

July 25, 1857—"The movement of the Dial [the new one introduced above?] is the most perfect one yet, and like the rod and its movements it is good."

After some congratulations, there is mention of "A further arrangement of the Dial." Benjamin Franklin replies through Adam Seybert's spirit: "Dear Son. Spirits are happy to see this mode, yet do not know as it will do, for it is not steady." The passage closes with Henry's request that a "servant woman" be allowed to try, to which the spirits consent.

July 26, 1857—After a long entry of communications, Henry mentions wanting to "try a new Dial noon tomorrow" after Adam expressed hope that the spirits would try it that day, though other spirits were "engaged at the lectures today."

July 27, 1857—Henry reports "The spelling was confused," to which the spirits reply "We are trying the index" and "I became somewhat impatient owing to an oversight of the mechanic." The spirits also ask "When will you have the new table?" Henry replies: "It is ready but we wished to see if the new Dial would answer," after which the spirits instruct him to try the "new one" at 7 PM.

At 7 PM, the séance continues with feedback all in a row: "It is wonderful mortals do not see the great use of this new mode of communication. We will try the movement of the rod as the cog Dial. The rod is not good we meant the long rod. Get the Dial. The one in general use. This movement proves to be the best, as the swinging of cords will not do. This is preferable."

July 28, 1857—The trials continue as Adam Seybert's spirit asks: "Can not this Dial be affixed to the other table? We have discarded the larger one." The spirit also gives feedback: "We are gratified with this new arrangement." After other communications, there is a curious instruction: "Look at the chairs and read the writing (see minutes of this date)."

There is another clue on the nature of the Dial's operation: "My dear Son we do not think the strings will work; they are elastic and the rod proves best for the upright Dial. Therefore the Dial fixed as this will be best."

July 29, 1857—Henry Seybert expresses disappointment: "I impressed my surprise that a former sitting the spirits declined trying a new Dial," to which Adam Seybert's spirit replies " we could not try the other Dial as it was reserved for the Scientific circle, who could not be present."

August 5, 1857—Adam Seybert's spirit: "Bad conditions tonight but will try the other Dial now." Benjamin Franklin: "This is beautiful accept my thanks."

"You have done well with this beautiful Dial; we are sorry to postpone further operations with it tonight."

August 6, 1857—Henry Seybert: "I observed the Dial seemed to work well."

August 7, 1857—Spirits compliment beautiful instrument.

August 8, 1857—Adam Seybert's spirit reports: "Emmanuel Swedenborg is here, and the Duke of Wellington: they are delighted to behold the improvement which Franklin suggested carried out by you." And "Dear Son, do you not see the rapid improvement through your Medium in the use of this Dial?"

August 9, 1857—Another instrument seems now in play, as Adam Seybert's spirit mentions that Franklin's spirit is currently in France and cannot try it until Tuesday (the 9th is Sunday).

August 10, 1857—In preparation fro Franklin's return, Henry is instructed to "Please have that new instrument ready for tomorrow, noon…"

August 11, 1857—"Another modification of Dial" is prepared with the usual host of spirits. After the list of spirits in attendance and blessings for "the prayer for the success of this instrument," the spirits abruptly announce "Now we are ready for the other instrument" with no further feedback or comment, with the exception of a brief report on the "other instrument": "On trial of the instrument was spelled Adam."

A 3 PM continuance of the earlier séance reports on the "delay of the mechanic" that caused a switch when the spirits "resorted to the ordinary Dial," which itself reported:

> "We think best to use this, and try to perfect it before the other. As we like both we would have you keep improving them. The Spirits are happy to see this work so well, they endorse all I have given you. The circle was happy to see such great improvement. All is quite ready now and you can rest."

There is an **August 12** entry, which then jumps several weeks to **September 4, 1857**. Most of the talk is in regards to the medium and health, indicating the medium may not have been well. Three days later:

September 7, 1857— Henry: "With regard to tests." Adam Seybert's spirit may indicate a close of the instrument trials: "Don't need tests. No more at present only answer questions."

September 8, 1857—Entries continue from the usual host of spirits (Franklin, Washington, Lafayette) with a contradictory request for more tests: "[The spirits] would like that instrument to test it; and we will give directions at that time." Henry asks: "Is it the one with **two pulleys**" and the spirits answer "yes."

This likely makes the two-pulley dial the "ordinary Dial," which was then affixed to the table at the 2 PM séance. This instruction is immediately followed with another request: "The other Dial if you please."

Adam Seybert's spirit then reports, in sequence:

"The Medium using a Spirit hand under the table."

The italics shift, indicating Henry's voice: "He did see my hand."

Trial of the Dial.

September 9, 1857—"Improved Dial with pulley**s**." Adam Seybert's spirit responds: "We are beginning to control these instruments for the purpose they are intended." The spirit also reports "The insulated tables with the Dials should be called Franklin's and Adam's."

September 10, 1857—The close of the tests is further hinted by Adam Seybert's spirit: "We beg you will not strive to put the Medium to further tests."

An entry later that day states: "In reference to the Telegraph No. Yes." Another entry indicates the table is not yet varnished: "My Son you can now varnish the table and be ready for Sunday noon" and "We see it will be better as it is as a non-conductor."

When later asked: "Shall we put a coat of varnish on the top of the table?" Adam Seybert's spirit responds: "If it is thin. Oil the top of the table. Get some fiddle strings." Henry asks "Aported sizes?" and Seybert's spirit answers "Yes." Henry then asks: "Shall we varnish the Dial?" and Seybert's spirit replies: "Do no harm."

September 14, 1857—Garbled communications are received. Henry posts: "In reference to stopping a hole in the table" Adam Seybert's spirit replies: "The endeavor will be satisfactory."

Later that day, further clarifications to the identity of the two instruments: "After the trial of the Dial with two pulleys" the spirits respond: "Please get the rod Dial." Communications are received, including the confusing "I intended to say, we would not need the Dial, nor this table."

September 15, 1857—Reference made to Napoleon arranging for his nephew (Napoleon III?) to test the instrument. There is a reference that "the hole [in the table?] is for the fiddle strings" and other compliments on a "beautiful dial" from Franklin.

September 17, 1857—Henry Seybert reports: "We will try the Telegraphic instrument tonight." Prayers and communications are followed with the now-incredibly common "Now try the other Dial," some appeals for patience, and "Now sit in the dark a short time. Adam Seybert. Done with the Dial."

September 18, 1857—Another dial? "Dear friends we are now preparing for a trial with the new instrument, as soon as can be arranged. The Medium is not yet in condition for that test." After some mentions of favorable weather, the spirits continue: "In the mean time we will be busy with the Telegraph."

September 21, 1857—After an appearance by Edgar Allen Poe, and a short poem:

> "Ask ye if rivers glide over golden sands in your bright Spirit Land, & glittering gems are there which dazzle the beholder's eyes in Spirit's home beyond your sky. We answer yes, all beauty rare is there: every joy the heart desires is ours—Edgar Allen Poe."

Adam Seybert's spirit reports: "My son I think we will not try the other instrument until settled weather" and some further mention of the hole**s** in the table. Adam requests in closing: "I meant to request the Dial with the strings at five."

September 22, 1857—The spirits appeal to try the Telegraph device despite unfavorable weather.

September 23, 1857—There is a final entry at 10 AM on this date, but no contents beyond the date and time. The record closes.