

## MYSTERIOUS KNOCKINGS.

[We have often heard of certain mysterious knockings, which have been heard in various parts of New England and the Middle States the past year, commencing in or near Rochester, New York; but such has been the general tone of ignorance, folly, trifling, superstition and doubtful representation of the public Journals, that we have seen nothing that had the appearance of candor upon the subject, till we met with the following from the pen of the Rev. Mr. Phelps, of Stratford, Conn., to the N. Y. Observer:]

The phenomena consisted in the moving of articles of furniture in a manner that could not be accounted for. Knives, forks, spoons, nails, blocks of wood, &c. were thrown in different directions about the house. They were seen to move from places and directions which made it certain that no visible power existed by which the motion could be produced. For days and weeks together, I watched these strange movements, with all the care and caution, and close attention which I could bestow. I witnessed them hundreds and hundreds of times, and I know that in hundreds of instances they took place when there was no visible power by which the motion could have been produced.

Scores of persons of the first standing in the community, whose education, general intelligence, candor, veracity and sound judgment, none will question, were requested to witness the phenomena, and, if possible, help us to a solution of the mystery. But as yet no such solution has been obtained. The idea that the whole was a "trick of the children"—an idea which some of the papers have endeavored with great zeal to promulgate, is to every one who is acquainted with the facts, as stupid, as it is false and injurious.—The statement, too, which some of the papers have reiterated so often that "the mystery was found out," is, I regret to say, untrue.—With the most thorough investigation which I have been able to bestow upon it, aided by gentlemen of the best talents, intelli-

gence, and sound judgment, in this and in many neighboring towns, the cause of these strange phenomena remains yet undiscovered.

I have watched the progress of this matter with great care, and have done the best in my power to learn what these strange things mean; and although I have not yet been able to ascertain the cause, I am satisfied that their communications are wholly worthless. They are often contradictory—often prove false—frequently trifling and nonsensical, and more in character with what might be expected of a company of loafers on a spree, than with what might be expected from spirits returned from the world of retribution, to "tell the secrets of their prison house."

Such manifestations are now being made in many other parts of the country. According to the information which I suppose to be authentic, they are witnessed in from 150 to 200 different places at the present time. In many of these places, they are said to advance ideas on the doctrines of religion, wholly at variance with the teachings of the Bible, and subversive of many essential truths which the Bible reveals. Under an impression that whatever is communicated by a spirit must of course be true, many persons are receiving these communications as the truth of God—as a new revelation from the spirit world.—But it should be remembered that there is no proof that what purports to be a revelation from spirits, is the work of *spirits* at all. The most that can be said is, that we do not yet *know* how or by whom these communications are made. If they are made by spirits, we have no proof that they are *good* spirits. The presumption is that they are *bad* spirits; lying spirits. At my house they often accused each other of lying—contradicted at one time what they affirmed at another—inflicted injury on property in the most wan-

ton manner, and have given throughout conclusive evidence that the discipline of hell, which they profess to have experienced for several years, has as yet been wholly ineffectual in improving their characters, and qualifying them for the "higher sphere" for which many suppose that the discipline after death is a preparation.

I cannot now say to what conclusions future developments may lead me; but my present impression is, that the whole thing, so far as the transactions in this place are concerned, is to be set down among those devices of Satan, by which he is promoting his work of destroying souls; and my chief object in this communication to the public at this time is, to caution all who would avoid error, against trusting to these pretended revelations. I have had a better opportunity than most men to witness them, and to judge of their claims, and I have full confidence that the opinions I have expressed, will be found to be correct. I will merely add, that for some weeks past these annoyances at my house have been subsiding, and now, as I hope, have ceased altogether. Very respectfully,

ELIAKIM PHELPS.

Stratford, June 20.

[Those who wish to understand more about these mysterious things, can learn it by reading in their Bibles about the magicians in the days of Moses in Egypt;—and those who don't believe that account may learn still more particularly concerning the matter, by waiting a few years; living in the midst of the Gentiles; and watching the signs of the TIMES, just about to PRECEDE the COMING of the SON OF MAN, and if Satan don't make such watchers, to SEE and FEEL, as well as hear strange knockings, don't blame HIM, for it will be because HE HAS NOT THE POWER.]

UNITED STATES MINT.—Gold received from California, from the 1st to the 21st of June, \$1,750,000; other gold bullion, \$150,000; total, \$1,900,000. Gold coinage, same period, \$1,674,000. Silver bullion received same period, \$32,000; do coinage, \$10,800.