

could not avoid putting it down as 'one of the weddings.'—[American Union.

MYSTERIOUS KNOCKINGS.

Correspondence of the Daily Mail, Rochester, N. Y., Feb. 16, 1850.

The house where these knockings are heard is on Troop street, a short distance from the centre of the city; the occupants are very respectable though poor; the family comprises a widow and three daughters, the youngest a girl of thirteen years of age, to whom the spirit (?) makes itself more manifest than to either of the other daughters; the mother as yet, never having been favored with any manifestations, excepting with other people in the presence of these girls.

The sounds are generally of one description, with the striking of one knuckle after another in rapid succession on a board, table, or side of a room, and will occasionally imitate the boring of an auger, or the cutting of a saw, and other noises. The sounds are sometimes very loud, and at others soft; sometimes in one room and one place, and again in many places, and different parts of the house at the same time; it is not confined to this house, but follows these girls wherever they go, and may be heard in any house they enter, in the street even, on the pavement, or any object near.

Many visit the house to converse with the spirit, which at times it does with great freedom, and at others it is very reserved; often it demands certain persons to leave the room, who, for some reasons, are supposed objectionable; particularly those who openly sneer and pronounce it a humbug, imposition, &c. Those who wish to communicate with the spirit, generally sit around a table in company with one or more of these girls; after all is quiet, (the spirit hates 'noise and confusion') it indicates by raps its willingness to answer questions.

You address the spirit directly—'Spirit, will you do this or that,' &c., (always in a very respectful manner, however.) The mode of conversing is very simple; when 'no' is an answer, or the spirit declines answering, no sound is heard; when 'yes' is the answer, three raps; when the age of a person is asked, or any similar question, a rap counts one, and so on to the required number.

When the spirit wishes to communicate, it calls for the alphabet by five raps; commence then reciting the alphabet, and at the pronunciation of the first letter forming the sentence, it raps; this letter put down; commence the alphabet again, and so on till the whole sentence is spelt out. Generally it answers questions with astonishing accuracy, though frequently making great mistakes.—The spirit in attendance will call the spirit of any departed friend, with whom you can communicate.

For instance, a gentleman, a perfect stranger in the city, called for the spirit of his wife, who related to him the family history, stating the number of deaths, the year, month, and day of each death; to another, from Ohio, the same particulars; to another, who lost a brother in Mexico, it told his name, age, where he died, how he died, and how long he had been dead, and all the circumstances attending his departure for Mexico—incidents known only to the person asking the questions.

On one occasion it told a gentleman from abroad, that since he left home, one of his

children had died, and that his wife was then very sick. The next day he received a telegraphic despatch, giving the information, and desiring his immediate return; and so on in numberless instances.

On the other hand, a gentleman called for the spirit of his mother, and it stated all the circumstances of her death, age, &c.; but unfortunately for the spirit, the mother is alive and well. To another it told that it would tell the town in England where he was born, which it failed to do; to another, it proposed to tell the number of years since the death of his father; this also it failed to do.

In communicating, it generally raps on the floor or table, and frequently on the limbs or feet of the person conversing. It will also answer questions proposed to it in any language, and frequently questions proposed mentally. Other demonstrations it makes; it will call for a pencil and paper to be put on the floor under the table, on which it will write its communications; writing more in five minutes than a person can in half an hour; it will move a heavy solar lamp from one table to another and back again, turn a table over and turn it back, and again, cause it to slide or move from one part of the room to another; it will hold it fast to the floor, so that no person can lift or move it; it will stop a clock, close a door and hold it; cause the house to shake as if it were coming down.

On one occasion, it called the family in the night, saying that a person was in the yard; they arose and looking out the window saw a man stealing clothes from the line; on another occasion, while in communication with a company of visitors, it stated that a house in the neighborhood was on fire; on going to it they found the family away, the fire in the stove fallen out, and the floor on fire.

A gentleman from Albany, while making sport of the manifestations, received a severe blow on the side of his head, which nearly forced him from his chair; other instances similar have occurred. Persons have had their feet confined to the floor; a foot suspended and not able to put it down; a limb put in rapid motion and not able to stay it; while standing unable to sit down, and when sitting unable to rise. Wherever these girls are, there these mysteries take place.

The following account of the discovery of Chloroform in this country, is from the pen of Samuel Guthrie, Esq., of Sackett's Harbor, N. Y. He is known to the editors of the Commercial Advertiser,—to whom he wrote the letter from which we make this extract,—as an able Chemist:

"In making experiments, some eighteen years ago, with chlorine and alcohol, I obtained a new product, having the properties of the chlorine ether of the Dutch chemists, with which I supposed it to be identical. As I first obtained it, it was in solution in alcohol. In consequence of its pleasant flavor, and the delightful sensation it produced when taken into the stomach, it was greatly sought for in my neighborhood as an exhilarating drink. After seeing its effects in producing a higher degree of jollification and mirth than I had ever seen from intoxicating drinks, and finding that I was introducing a dangerous auxiliary to the cause of intemperance, I refused peremptorily ever to sell another drop to be used as an exciting beverage.

From seeing its surprising powers in restoring a daughter, nearly dead from the effects

of burning charcoal in a close room, and other known qualities, I thought it might prove of much value in Asiatic cholera, and while that disease was traversing this continent, I sent it into Canada, New York, New Haven, &c., in the hope that it might be tested in that frightful disease.

When first obtained, it was in solution in alcohol, and my first object was to separate it from all foreign matter, and to present it in a state of absolute purity. This I effected on the 6th of January, 1832, by concentrating it to a specific gravity of 9.486. An account of the discovery and improvements in constructing it, up to that time, was published in the American Journal of Science and Art, by Professor Silliman.

It was important to find a more simple mode of concentration than any I had used, and finding it was very sparingly soluble in water, I concluded that low proof spirits might be used instead of alcohol in generating it, and that the product might be washed freely with water, and thus freed from alcohol. The trial was made, and resulted in complete success.

To give an idea how easily and rapidly chloroform may be made, and of great purity and strength, I will detail one operation made in 1832, from which course I have never since had occasion to deviate.

Into a 500 gallon copper still, I poured 100 gallons of common whiskey, and then plunged in 250 lbs. of chloride of lime. The still became instantly hot, and before I had luted on the head I had a full stream of chloroform from the still worm. It continued to run freely for some time without fuel. When the product ceased to come over sweet, I removed the receiver and ran off the remainder of the spirit for future use. The product was re-distilled from a profusion of water, or was well washed in some five or six waters, when it had reached a specific gravity of 1.473. From 2000 lbs. of ordinary chloride of lime I obtained nearly 100 lbs. of chloroform."

SLAVERY IN THE UNITED STATES.

The people of the United States are at this time so circumstanced, as to be incapable of fully appreciating either the consequences of the institution to themselves, or the feelings which its existence in their country excited in the minds of foreigners. They, more than any people, are exposed to danger from its existence. With a perfectly free press—with institutions and manners which give rise to, and actually demand on the part of every citizen the most outspoken expression of opinion upon all questions of government and policy—exercising among themselves the most unbounded liberty of speech—resting their own political constitutions upon wide principles of general freedom, and appealing in every discussion upon political powers to INALIENABLE rights—rights which they assert no man can take away, which no man can even voluntarily alienate—in such a condition of things, the existence in the midst of the nation, and in the very bosom of their families, of an immense class of human beings, subjects to hourly wrong, is frightfully dangerous. The true illustration of such an awful peril, would be the mad freak of brilliantly illuminating a powder magazine, and as if it were impossible to exhaust the forms of folly in this matter, they who are zealously endeavoring to extinguish, only increase the evil. One set of unwise men having