

upon the deck of the boat, and called loudly upon the captain; but a low growl, which evidently proceeded from the cabin, was the only reply.

They then both made for the hatchway, each being armed with a cutlass and a brace of pistols. Just as they reached it, David's foot slipped, in the haste and perturbation of the moment, and he was precipitated into the cabin, head foremost. The noise of his fall was succeeded by a terrible roar, like that of a wild beast. Louis followed with all possible expedition, but started back with an involuntary shudder at the scene which the dim light of a lantern revealed to his eye.

A royal Bengal tiger, grisly, and gaunt with famine, and with his terrible jaws all smeared with human gore, stood crouching over the prostrate body of the mate, from whose carotid artery, already severed by the monster, the life-blood was streaming, with a force over which no human aid could have gained the mastery; while a little farther off lay the mangled, headless corpse of the captain, upon which the horrid brute had almost satiated his ravening appetite.

Louis Allwyn, during a short but somewhat eventful life, had witnessed more than one scene of carnage and bloodshed, but never before had such a sickening sense of horror oppressed his soul. But it was no time to indulge in any thing that bore even the semblance of weakness, for the savage monarch of the jungle was crouching lower and lower, evidently with the intention of springing upon him. He hastily discharged one of his pistols, but with little effect. Seeing this he summoned all his self-possession; and taking deliberate aim with the other, drew the trigger. It missed fire; and on the instant the tiger sprang upon him, before he had time to use his cutlass.

His eye, which was as keen as an eagle's perceived the coming danger, and quicker than thought he dropped upon his knees, in the hope of avoiding it. In this he was partially successful. The animal missed his throat, at which it was aiming; but Louis was overturned by the shock, and the man and the monster rolled together on the floor. From the position in which he lay his cutlass was useless to him, and he already felt the sharp claws of the beast entering his flesh. Most men, in such a situation, would have given way to despair; but Louis Allwyn had been educated in a school which had taught him coolness and self-reliance in the hour of danger; and while the breath of life remained, no thought of succumbing could find place in his bosom. Prostrate and weaponless as he was, his thoughts instantly reverted to a sharp Spanish knife which he carried in the pocket of his vest. In less than a second it was in his hand; and it was not a moment too soon, for the glaring eye-balls of the creature were within a few inches of his face, and he could feel its hot, blood-reeking breath upon his cheek. With a powerful effort he sprang back from the hated contact. The tiger snarled at his right arm. It was impossible to withdraw it, and he boldly plunged his hand into the huge cavern-like mouth. The animal attempted to close his jaws, and the sharp-pointed knife pierced its palate till it lodged firmly in the bone. The tortured creature bounded and howled with anguish, but the undaunted youth kept his hold, drew his cutlass with his left hand, and with one vigorous stroke, made a deep gash in its throat. The blood welled forth, the flashing eyes grew dim, and the monster was soon stretched lifeless on the cabin floor.

The combat had lasted but a few seconds, and by the time that Louis' less agile companions could get down the hatchway, it was over. He had been pierced by the animal's claws in several places, but had received no serious injury. After having the dead bodies of the captain and mate removed to the boat, he proceeded to make a more minute examination of the cabin. It was a long, low apartment, extending the whole length of the vessel, and having, at either extremity, a massive iron chain, terminating in a heavy ring at one end, the other being fastened by a strong staple to a beam in the vessel's side.

A number of human bones strewed the floor, and various articles of wearing apparel, which evidently indicated that two human beings, of opposite sexes, had once tenanted this gloomy spot, and had probably been torn to pieces by the famished tiger. The beast had a chain round his neck and had been confined to one corner of the cabin by a slender iron ring, which apparently was put there to be broken. Over the centre of the room, was written a single word, in large letters, but no one could tell the meaning. We afterwards ascertained it to be the word VENGEANCE, written in the characters of an Indian dialect.

Louis now prepared to leave the fatal vessel. When he reached the deck he found a number of the men engaged in hauling in a strong rope, which they found towing in the water, with one end made fast to the windward side of the vessel.

"What have you got there, Bob?" said the young man as he saw them.

"Well, sir, that's a precious sight more nor I can tell you. We've been a heavin' away here long enough, to my notion, to haul in a *dipsy-line* from t'other side of no whar. Jest look-ee thar, sir, what a *kile* (coil) o' rope."

There was evidently something at the end of the line, and the men continued to haul away faster and faster, their curiosity increasing at every pull. Everything is finite and this rope, long as it was, was no exception to the universal law. Something glittered through the waters; one more effort, and a small leaden coffin made its appearance.

"By the powers!" shouted an Irishman who stood nearest the water "it's one o' the devils own babbies!" and so saying, the superstitious creature whipped out his jack-knife and cut the rope, before any one was aware of his intention. The little coffin was seen a moment glancing through the waters, and then its unknown contents disappeared forever. Some were angry, some looked wise; others shook their heads; and Paddy insisted that he had done exactly right in getting rid of the little imp as speedily as possible; but there was, perhaps, not one of them who did not believe Bob's assertion, that the little coffin had towed the mysterious vessel to this spot, for the express purpose of assuring the destruction of the

captain and Mr. Davis. Of this and all these matters, nothing more was ever known, and the reader is just as capable of forming conjectures about them as I am.

Loudon County, Va., Sept. 27th.

J. S. B.

A GHOST STORY.

The following singular revelations, giving some accounts of communications with spirits in Western New York, is taken from the *Tribune*, of the 29th ult. To those who are fond of the supernatural, it will be interesting:—

Knowing that the public mind, in various locations in Western New York, has been somewhat agitated on account of certain sounds, called by some "mysterious," we shall offer no apology for making the following plain statement of facts in regard to our knowledge of the matter.

The sounds were first heard about two years since, and have not yet ceased, but seem to be spreading from one place to another and gradually claiming the attention of the public mind. When first heard, they were manifested by a simple hollow-sounding rap upon the floor of a house. This rapping continued every night, for a long time, and finally commenced in the day-time. It was at first entirely unintelligible to the inhabitants of the house.

At length a little girl said "Now do as I do," and snapped her finger three times. She was answered by three raps. On repeating it she found that it invariably repeated the number she made herself. Another person said, "Now count ten," and it was done. "Now count the age of—" (one of the children.) It was done correctly. Another tried with equal success. As it began to display signs of intelligence the family became alarmed and the females all left the house at night. The neighbors were called in, but there was no cessation of the sounds. The excitement became intense, and at one time, it is said, nearly or quite three hundred persons assembled to discover from whence the sounds proceeded. The house was thoroughly examined from garret to cellar, but while the sounds continued, no one ever discovered the operator. At length it was discovered that every time a question was put that required an affirmative, a rap was heard—for a negative—no sound.

The question was put, "Are you a spirit?" The answer was by rapping—three raps. By this means they found that it purported to be the spirit of a man. Many expedients were resorted to by which to find out the name of the man whose spirit was making these manifestations. At length a stranger asked, "If I will call the alphabet, beginning with A, will you rap when I come to the first letter of his name?" The answer was affirmative. He then commenced "A, B, C," when he came to C, there was a rap. Again he went on, and it rapped at H; and in that way he spelled out the name of CHARLES RASME. As before stated, these sounds have, from that time, been heard in various families in that place, and the cities of Auburn and Rochester, and various places in the country. Although confined to this rapping sound, the mode of communication is rapidly improved, so that many very curious and astonishing sentences have been spelled by the use of the alphabet. It no longer purports to be the spirit of one man or person, but when an individual makes the inquiry, "who is it that wishes to communicate with me," they will generally get the name of some friend or relation—a mother, father, sister or brother, who have passed from visible existence. Many persons have made the trial and have had names spelled out to them of their friends unknown to any persons present. Strangers have tried the experiment and had their names spelled out before any person present knew it or where they came from.

In each family where the sounds appear, there seems to be some one or two, whose presence is necessary to insure communications freely. Generally we find that these persons are susceptible to magnetic influences, and clairvoyant. In the family of Mr. Granger of Rochester—a citizen well known there—the communications could be had with any two of the family previous to any of them being placed under the magnetic influence, but after a daughter was magnetized and became clairvoyant, no communication could be had without her presence. No person had ever been magnetized in the family where it first appeared.

We first became acquainted with these manifestations about one year since, and we have taken every opportunity to discover, if possible, what it is. We have become convinced that these three facts there is no disputing, viz: The sounds, the intelligence, and the absence of any collusion or deception in the matter.

Some two weeks since, we were in company with some persons who were getting communications from this invisible communicator, when a message was spelled out to us, to the import that the matter should be made more public—that the time had arrived for the people to investigate the whole affair—that it was a thing which would ultimately become known to all men, and that we should immediately take measures to have it investigated. The directions were then minutely given by these spirits, as they purport to be, and which we are willing to believe, are, until we have as much proof to the contrary as it required to bring us to this conclusion. These directions will appear in the following history, as they were fully and strictly followed. The great object was to start investigation and clear those who had been hearing it for the last two years from the imputation of fraud and deception.

Accordingly, on the evening of November 14, a lecture was delivered in Corinthian Hall, in the city of Rochester, and a full history of the rise and progress of these manifestations given. During the relation of these facts the sounds were distinctly heard by the persons in the hall.

After the lecture a committee was chosen by the audience, composed of the following persons: A. J. Combs, Daniel Marsh, Nathaniel Clark, Esq., A. Judson, and Edwin Jones.

On the following evening the committee reported in

substance, as follows—that without the knowledge of the persons in whose presence the manifestations are made, the committee selected the Hall of the Sons of Temperance for the investigation—that the sound on the floor near where the two ladies stood was heard as distinctly as at other places, and that part of the committee heard the rapping on the wall behind them—that a number of questions were asked which were answered not altogether right nor altogether wrong—that in the afternoon they went to the house of a private citizen, and while there, the sounds were heard on the outside (apparently) of the front door, after they had entered, and on the door of a closet. By placing the hand upon the door, there was a sensible jar felt, when the rapping was heard. One of the committee placed one of his hands upon the feet of the ladies, and the other on the floor, and though the feet were not moved, there was a distinct jar on the floor. On the pavement and on the ground the same sound was heard—a kind of double rap, as if a stroke and a rebound were distinguishable. When the ladies were separated, at a distance, no sound was heard. The ladies seemed ready to give every opportunity to the committee to investigate the cause fully, and would submit to a thorough investigation by a committee of ladies, if desired. They all agreed that the sounds were heard, but they entirely failed to discover any means by which it could be done.

After this report and some discussion on the subject, the audience selected another committee composed of the following persons: Doctor H. H. Langworthy, Hon. Frederick Whittlesey, D. C. McCallum, William Fisher of Rochester, and Hon. A. P. Hascall of Leroy. At the next lecture this committee reported that they went into the investigation at the office of Chancellor Whittlesey, and they heard the sound on the floor, on the wall and door; that the ladies were placed in different positions and, like the other committee, they were wholly unable to tell from what the sounds proceeded or how it was made; that Dr. Langworthy made observations with a stethoscope to ascertain whether there was any movement of the lungs, and found not the least difference when the sounds were made; and that there was no kind of probability or possibility of their being made by ventriloquism as some had supposed, and they could not have been made by machinery.

Again, after this report, another committee was formed, from persons who had opposed in the meeting all pretensions to there being anything but a trick.

This committee was composed of Dr. E. P. Langworthy, Dr. J. Gales, Wm. Fitzhugh, Esq., W. L. Burris, and L. Kenyon. This committee met at the rooms of Dr. Gates at the Rochester House, and appointed a committee of ladies, who took the young women into a room, disrobed them, and examined their persons and clothing to be sure that there were no fixtures about them that could produce the sounds. When satisfied on this point the committee of ladies tried some other experiments, and gave the young ladies the following certificate:

"When they were standing on pillows with a handkerchief tied around the bottom of their dress, tight to the ankles, we all heard the rapping on the wall and door distinctly."

(Signed,) MRS. STONE, MRS. J. GATES, MISS M. P. LAWRENCE.

In the evening the committee, through their chairman, Dr. Langworthy, made a full report of their examinations during the day. They reported that they had excluded all friends of the two ladies from the committee room and had the examination only in presence of the committee of gentlemen and ladies chosen by them. Notwithstanding this precaution, these sounds were heard when the ladies stood on large feather pillows, without shoes, and in various other positions, both on the floor and on the wall—that a number of questions were asked which, when answered, were generally correct—Each member of the committee reported separately, agreeing with and corroborating the first statements.

Thus, after three days of the strictest scrutiny by means of intelligence, candor and science, were the persons in whose presence these sounds are heard, acquitted of all fraud.

On Friday evening, after the lecture, three of the committee, viz: Hon. A. P. Hascall, D. B. McCallum and Wm. Fisher, repaired to the house of a citizen and pursued their investigations still farther. There were nearly a score of persons present. The members of the committee wrote many questions on paper, which no person present knew the purport of, and they were answered correctly. At times they would ask *mentally*, and would receive the answers with equal correctness, and they were fully satisfied that there was *something* present manifesting intelligence beyond persons visible.

One of the committee tried the experiment of standing the ladies on glass and failed to get any sounds; but the same was subsequently tried in presence of a larger number of persons, and the sounds were as loud and distinct as before, on the floor as usual.

Such are the facts so far as the public proceedings are concerned, (which is but a small part of these strange occurrences,) with the committee's reports greatly condensed.

Thus the matter stands at present, and whether it is only a remarkable phenomenon which will pass away with the present generation, or with these persons who seem now to be the medium of this extraordinary communication, or whether it be the commencement of a new era of spiritual influx into the world, it is certainly something worthy the attention of men of candor and philosophy.

E. W. CAPSON, Auburn.

GEORGE WILLETS, Rochester.

Rochester, Nov. 22, 1849.

INFLUENCE OF NEWSPAPERS.—Small is the sum that is required to patronize a newspaper, and amply rewarded is its patron, I care not how humble and unpretending the gazette which he takes. It is next to impossible to fill a sheet with printed matter without putting into it something that is worth the subscription price. Every parent whose son is away from him at school, should supply him with a newspaper. I well remember what a marked difference there was between those of my schoolmates who had, and those who had not, access to newspapers.—*Ohio Branch*