

as much disturbed as the family,—he would at first bark and snap and leap from side to side, but after two or three days he lost all courage and would run and hide before the disturbances began. These things continued for months, sometimes like dying groans, at other times like silken gowns sweeping through the halls, and in many other unaccountable ways manifesting an extraordinary power and influence.

Southey, in his "Life of Wesley," says that the testimony on which this rests is too strong to be laid aside because of the strangeness of the relation. Dr. Adam Clarke states in his "Wesley Family" that, "The accounts given are so circumstantial and authentic as to entitle them to the most implicit credit."

Modern spiritualism, at least on this continent, may be said to have begun with the experiences of the family of John D. Fox, Hydesville, New York State, in December, 1847. After hearing knockings at the door, etc., after spending weary, sleepless days and nights, Mr. Fox went to try the window-sash, to see whether it was not in some way the cause of his annoyance. His daughter Kate noticed that as often as he shook the window the noise was repeated. She snapped her fingers and asked for a reply and got it. That started a system of correspondence by which correct answers were given to questions relating to the ages of the children, and other matters, such as proved that they were given by some intelligent being. The family was, of course, besieged by excited visitors, and in April, 1848, a pamphlet was written, in which were twenty-one certificates of neighbors, ready to testify on oath that they had heard these things. Kate Fox was sent to Rochester to escape the annoyance of these visitations, but they followed her there. A visitor in Rochester suggested that the alphabet be numbered in order that messages might be spelled out, and thus began the system of telegraphy with the spirit world. The first message received was, that these disturbers of the peace were all spirits of departed friends.

In Corinthian Hall, Rochester, a statement of these things was made before an audience of several hundred people, when rappings were heard by all present. Three different investigating committees were appointed, but no explanation could be discovered. The medium was placed standing on pillows; stethoscopes were applied to the chest to detect any sounds from that