

Indian tribes on the great lakes and on the Mississippi, as early as the year 1680, and perhaps before. Father Lasalle in 1679 built a vessel, at a place that was called Fort Frontenac, on the Niagara River, probably near Fort Erie, and leaving it nearly finished, journeyed on up the lakes, giving orders to his men to come on with the boat as soon as possible. He called this vessel the "Griffin." This was the first vessel ever built or that sailed on the Great Lakes. He waited with the men he had with him on the eastern shore of Lake Michigan in the autumn of 1679 for this boat to arrive. He expected his supplies and provisions to arrive in her, and his whole fortune and the lives and welfare of himself and men depended upon her safe arrival. Already had his men begun to murmur loudly for employment and payment. Under these circumstances a thousand miles in the west, among savages, and surrounded by distress and wants, he awaited the arrival of his white "winged Griffin." How different now is the situation of the mighty Lakes. They are swarming with thousands of floating palaces, carrying thousands of happy families to their western homes. Millions of happy human beings are congregated from Quebec to Galena and Chicago, near these great inland seas, blessed with plenty, good government and the Christian religion. The poor men of the wilderness are no more! Like the dews of morning before the sun, so have they fled before the civilization of the white man.

The following lines, except the two last verses, were written in Chicago, Illinois, 21st February, 1841, upon reading an account of this expedition of Lasalle, by C. M. D.

My white winged Griffin! Oh haste thee away  
O'er the waters of Huron and Erie,  
Thy master Lasalle long chides thy delay,  
And with looking for thee is quite weary.

Full many a bosom is beating for thee,  
Glide swiftly o'er the bosom of Erie;  
The first of thy kind most famous thou'lt be,  
With the winds of the east, come quickly to me.

Before thee the red man in birchen canoe,  
Hast ploughed the great lakes of the west;  
But thou art the first the winds ever blew  
Of thy kind o'er the lakes heaving breast.

On the waters of Erie for ages before,  
And Huron and Michigan's waves,  
Dread silence had reigned, and naught but the roar  
Of their own dashing billows was heard.

Superior's rocks and Ontario's shore,  
The abode of the savage had been;  
The beaver and otter there sporting were seen,  
Undisturbed on their banks as of yore.

The wild deer and elk their shadows had seen,  
Reflected in stillness from their silvery breast;  
Unmolested had fed near their waters serene,  
And snuffed the sweet breezes that came from the west.

The buffalo grazed on the meadows of green,  
That lay on the shores of the lakes,  
Where the foot of the white man never had been—  
For his absence a wilderness makes.

Yes, the buffalo herds had for ages before,  
Strayed secure in the vast prairie west;  
Their numbers had darkened old Michigan's shore;  
When coming at night-fall to rest.

The bellowing hoarse of the buffalo bull,  
His wild rushing tramp on the plain;  
The scream of the curlew or fresh-water gull,  
Or the otter's swift splash in the main.

The foxes' sharp bark—the prairie wolf's howl,  
The whistle of the elk with his high horny crest,  
Were music most sweet to the Indian's soul.  
Once heard on the plains of the out-spreading west.

But ah! such music now we hear no more,  
But in its place industry's busy throng,  
The music of the lakes is the steamer's roar;  
The music of the river the boatman's song.

The railroad's path was the Indian's trail,  
Its whistle is the music of the plain;  
Now the lakes are coursed by a thousand sail,  
And the prairies groan with their loads of grain.

### THE ROCHESTER KNOCKINGS AND CLAIRVOYANCE.

We see the Canadian and American Newspapers are giving accounts of this mystery; asserting that it has turned out to be all an imposture. Three doctors of Rochester, it is asserted, have discovered that the Knockings were caused by the skilful use of the Bones in the Knee; in other words that they were made by a process similar to the snapping, or pulling of the finger joints.—They say that when the feet were placed upon cushions, and the Knees held firmly with the hand, the sounds could not be made. We were witnesses last September ourselves to this phenomenon, and with several gentlemen, witnessed the Knockings for several hours; and received answers by Knocks, to questions put, relative to deceased friends. It was quite impossible, that we should have been known to the woman who sat at the table, upon which the sounds were heard — our name and residence were unknown, when we went there, and when we left. We had been in Rochester but a few hours and left by railroad the same night. Incredulity prevailed in our minds as to the mystery when we entered, instead of any prejudice in its favor.—The Novelty attending any new theory or phenomenon, with most people, (not excepting the learned,) creates in the mind suspicion. The world could not believe, and many ignorant persons will not now believe, that the Sun is stationary and that the earth floats in ether around him, in one year. The learned and ignorant laughed at Fulton's attempt to propel boats by steam. Franklin would have called down upon his head the laughter of all, if he had told them he could bring down lightning from the clouds on a wire. It was thought an absurd thing once to believe in the science of Galvanism. Tell mankind that the Sun is not a ball of fire, and you are laughed at; yet the greatest philosophers believe it is but light: and that the heat resulting from its rays, is caused by their peculiar action, upon our air, and its undulating nature. Tell some people that water is not a simple element—

that common air is not, but are composed of several simple substances, and you are laughed at by the ignorant. So the world has always been. Now we are not disposed to laugh at every thing we cannot understand. Gall and Spurzheim were laughed at when asserting the truths of phrenology; a science now pretty generally embraced by the learned.

When Hervey asserted the doctrine of the circulation of the blood through the human system, and when Jenner propounded the fact, that inoculation for the Smallpox would prevent its being taken as a disease by those inoculated; they were looked upon by the learned doctors of those days, as mere enthusiasts.

We are not prepared to pronounce the doctrines of Clairvoyance,—and of Mesmerism or Electro-Biology, absurd and untrue. It will be seen by an article in this number that Sir David Brewster, one of the most learned men in England, has asserted his belief in the truths of Electro Biology. We are not prepared to assert that the spirits of the departed, may not hold communion, with the living in this world. On the contrary we believe, that facts as indisputable as any on record,—facts as strong as our vigorous senses and waking moments can make them; and of which we were as certain as of our existence, go to substantiate the doctrine and belief, that the spirits of the departed or invisible spirits, have appeared to and acted on the living of this world in all ages. We also insert in this number a curious account given by a celebrated English traveller Lane of a strange intercourse he had with the Egyptian magicians. It is an extract we cut out of a paper some years since. All this looks very like the truth. It seems to some extent to confirm the sciences of Mesmerism Electro Biology and the truth of clairvoyance. In reference to the Rochester Knockings, we can assert that it was impossible to cause the sounds we heard, in the way alluded to by the three learned doctors. We placed our ear upon the table when the Knocks were made, and a vibration was distinctly perceptible. This could not have been from sounds at a distance. No substance that we could see was in contact with the table. Again the table moved a foot, very suddenly, without any apparent touch.—How was this caused? Not surely by the sound of the Knee joints. Again the sounds were heard on the table, when the young women were standing up apart from the table, as well as when they were seated near it. The questions answered however, were by far, the most mysterious part of the affair. It is true that some of the questions put were as we thought incorrectly answered but three out of four were as surely correctly answered. Some of the answers were such as no guessing or human cunning could have given. We went there in doubt and we left in doubt, but not convinced that this phenomenon is an imposture. We were disposed to attribute it to some agency superior to common humanity. Whether it proceeds from a knowledge of the secrets of the minds of others obtained in some unknown man-