

The Fox Sisters.

Elder Evans's Opinion of the Latest
Exposure of Spiritualism, Which He
Denominates a Science & Firmly
Believes in.

To the Editor of the Albany Journal.

I have recently received a communication
inclosing an account of Margaret Fox Kane's
confession of the manner in which the famous
"spirit rappings" were produced, & stating that the
opinion of the Shakers, who "had been led to believe
that the spirit communications among people of the
generative order were genuine", would be of value
to the speculative onlooker.

Spiritualism is a Shaker product. Eleven
years before the "Rochester rappings" began, it was
originated in one Shaker family, & then spread
gradually over the seventy families in the Shaker order.
It is not a religion, but a science. It is independent
of the moral character of the mediums, just as
astronomy is independent of astronomers or agriculture of
farmers.

Now that two of the Fox girls — the original
mediums of the "Rochester rappings" — have confessed
themselves frauds, & in a New York audience of
2,000 people, a mixed multitude, Margaret has
declared that she & her sister Kate had done all
the rappings with their big toes; that they had led
"a dreadful life of deception", & that spiritualism
was "a horrible delusion"; is not spiritualism
killed — dead — past a resurrection; and its
millions of believers, will they not turn from it

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as from a snare to their souls & the proudest error
of their lives? Let us see!

In a former exposé an editor remarked
"Spiritualism is again exposed. It has often
been exposed & put down before, but it does
not stay put down worth a cent." Will it
do any better this time? The waterfalls,
knee-joints & big-toes have had their day.
But when the Katie King exposure in
Philadelphia - which drove my friend & former
associate, Robert Dale Owen, mad - occurred, the
American press were jubilant & almost unanimous in
their verdict that a death-blow had really been given
to spiritualism. The "Tribune" published an article
of mine of over a column in length, which
affirmed the verity of spiritualism as a science,
resting upon its own facts, & denounced the
"exposure" as a fraud. Horace Greeley said,
"Elder Evans is a practical man, & the head of
a successful community. We will hear him."
Henry Jordan we proved, at the North Family,
to be a genuine medium. In New York he
was caught playing tricks with paraffin, masks, &c.
In company with Elder Richard Bushnell,
I attended Margaret & Katie Fox's seances in
New York, when they first went to the city,
paying \$1 for admission. We heard raps, &
had questions answered intelligently, & information
given, beyond the knowledge or power of the
Fox girls or their big or little toes.

From New York we visited Dr. Phelps,
in Stamford, Ct., where a grandson, a boy of
13, was a medium, attracting editors, doctors,

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priests & common people by the hundred, from all parts of the continent, & filling the papers with accounts of his "spirit manifestations." We took the medium home with us, & detected him, more than once, in playing tricks. He owned that he had often duped his grandfather, Dr. Phelps, to obtain what he wanted. He was a genuine medium, as Burns was a genuine poet, but not a saint. Balaam was a good medium, but not a good man. He cursed Israel in his will & heart; but when the spirits had him under control, they made him "bless Israel altogether." This displeased Balak; & it will displease & confound D. Richmond, if the spirits - good spirits - cause the Fox girls to bless spiritualism & spiritualists altogether, in one of his public meetings. If he will invite the older sister Leah to attend, under police protection, I think he will reach that result. Dare he try the experiment? Let the public have all three of the Fox girls. The oldest is not under sectarian influence, & is a sincere, godly woman.

After the grand Katie King exposure, Spiritualism took an upward move of progress, & has spread far & wide. It will do the same again, until the public learns that even a donkey can be a medium.

When these pitiful women, "foaming out their own shame; who need food,

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clothing & a home - are provided for; perhaps they will expose the Catholic influence, as the Katie King woman exposed Protestant orthodox influence. Arnold's treachery pleased the Tories; but what was its effect upon true-hearted Americans? And will not the intelligent American people learn to discriminate between inspecunious men & women who happen to be mediums, & the angel of spiritualism who has come down from heaven - the spirit world - having great power over the material elements, to move & manipulate them, to cause voices, sounds & sights that tend to enlighten the earth - earthly, materialistic men & women - who were just emerging from the "Dark Ages", mental & spiritual darkness that was so dense that it could be felt? During which, the Catholic church held supreme power over all civil governments, so that no man could buy, or sell, or breathe except by permission & dictation of the holy Catholic Inquisition.

Respectfully,
F. W. Ennis

Mt. Lebanon, N.Y.
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