

# Spiritualism Exposed

By HARRY HOUDINI

## 1. Story of the Fox Sisters.

"After I married, Dr. Kane would not let me refer to my old life—he wanted me to forget it. But when I was poor, after his death, I was driven to it again, and I wish to say clearly that I owe all my misfortune to that woman, my sister. I have asked her time and again:

"Now that you are rich why don't you save your soul?"

"But at my words she would fly into a passion. She wanted to establish a new religion and she told me that she received messages from spirits. She knew that we were tricking people, but she tried to make us believe spirits existed. She told us that before we were born spirits came into her room and told her that we were destined for great things.



MARGARET FOX KANE.

"Yes, I am going to expose Spiritualism from its very foundation. I have had the idea in my head for many a year, but I have never come to a determination before. I have thought of it day and night. I loathe the thing I have been. I used to say to those who wanted me to give a seance:

"You are driving me into Hell. Hoped for Death Blow."

"Then the next day I would drown my remorse in wine. I was too honest to remain a medium. That's why I gave up my exhibitions. I have seen so much miserable deception! Every morning of my life I have it before me. When I wake up I brood over it. That is why I am willing to state that Spiritualism is a fraud of the worst description. I have had a life of sorrow. I have been poor and ill, but I consider it my duty, a sacred thing, a holy mission to expose it. I want to see the day when it is entirely done away with. After my sister Katie and I expose it I hope Spiritualism will be given a death blow.

"I do not want it understood that the Catholic church has advised me to make these public exposures and confession. It is my own idea. My own mission. I would have done it long ago if I could have had the necessary money and courage to do it. I could not find anyone to help me—I was too timid to ask.

"I am now very poor. I intend, however, to expose Spiritualism because I think it is my sacred duty. If I cannot do it who can? I who have been the beginning of it? At least I hope to reduce the ranks of the eight million Spiritualists in the country. I go into it as into a holy war. I am waiting anxiously and fearlessly for the moment when I can show the world, by personal demonstration, that all Spiritualism is a fraud and a deception. It is a branch of legerdemain, but it has to be closely studied to gain perfection. None but a child at an early age, would have ever attained the proficiency and wrought such widespread evil as I have.

"I trust that this statement, coming solemnly from me, the first and the most successful in this deception, will break the rapid growth of Spiritualism and prove that it is all a fraud, hypocrisy and delusion.

(Signed) "Margaret Fox Kane."

Mrs. Kane's "confession" was published in the Sunday edition of the New York "World" on October 21, 1888. Arrangements had been made for her to give a public demonstration and exposition of the so-called "marvellous" Spiritualistic "phenomena" that same evening at the Acad-

emy of Music in New York. Meanwhile, in order to foil the "attempts" of certain mediums to "kidnap her" she was being closely guarded at her hotel where during the day she was interviewed by newspaper men. Expecting when she left her room to answer questions only she nevertheless readily consented to give some evidence of "how the trick was done" in order to do all in her power to "complete the exposure and demonstrate the utter absurdity of the claim made by mediums that she was possessed of spiritual power in spite of her denials." The "World" reporter told of this private demonstration as follows:

"Now," said Mrs. Kane, "I will stand up before these folding-doors and you may stand as near as you please and I will call up any 'spirit' that you wish and answers any questions. One rap means 'no' and three raps mean 'yes.' Are you ready?"

"Is Napoleon Bonaparte present?" the reporter asked, watching Mrs. Kane closely. Three raps (yes).

"Does he know me? I mean did he ever meet and converse with me?" Three raps.

"That's strange, isn't it," remarked Mrs. Kane, smiling in view of the fact that he must have died before you were born? Try again."

"Is Abraham Lincoln present?" Three raps.

"Well, you see the 'spirits' are very obliging."

"Will Harrison be elected?" One loud rap (no).

"Will President Cleveland get another term?" Three raps."

### That Wonderful Toe.

That night some two thousand or more persons crowded the Academy of Music to witness the sensational expose. Most of them were sober, sensible people who "hailed with delight" the announcement that one of the famous Fox Sisters was to make a "clean breast of her share in Spiritualistic humbuggery." But certain portions of the house were packed with pronounced Spiritualists, men and women who regarded all efforts to disillusion the public as so many personal insults, and when, previous to Mrs. Kane's appearance, Dr. C. M. Richmond, a prominent New York dentist who had spent twenty years and thousands of dollars investigating mediumistic tricks and wiles explained and demonstrated in full light the full methods of producing them, this Spiritualistic contingent became decidedly hostile and when Mrs. Kane finally stepped before the big audience to "confess orally what she had already confessed in print" she was laboring under too great a nervous strain to make any "intelligent utterance." Those in charge of the affair, realizing that an address was out of the question at once suggested that she immediately give a demonstration of the "rappings." One of the New York papers the next morning published the following description of what happened:

"But if her tongue had lost its power her preternatural toe joint had not. A plain wooden stool, or table, resting upon four short legs and having the properties of a sounding board was placed in front of her. Removing her shoes, she placed her right foot upon this little table.

(Continued Tomorrow).

## HEARTBURN

Gas, belching, sour risings and such distresses that rob you of life's chief delight—a relish for the good things of the table—are so quickly relieved with one or two

### STUART'S Dyspepsia Tablets

that you then tackle pie, cheese, pickles, milk, fried eggs, bacon, onions, sausage and buckwheat cakes with the utmost unconcern.

These tablets give your stomach the alkaline effect, they aid digestion, they give the stomach a rest, you really enjoy meals that you were afraid to even look at.

AT ALL DRUGGISTS