

(Copy.)

I wrote a long portion of the present letter, of the following way:  
I had just heard of "The Wiles of Ben Loller conley," recited at a few days ago

## The Banshee.

Hamilton, Hancock Co., Illinois, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1891.

Mr. Joseph P. Harney,  
Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

My Dear Sir.

In the Banner of Light of Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, I happened to notice when you speak of the Banshee and persons who hear the Banshee in Ireland are members of families who live in the same dwelling from generation to generation. This, I learned from Mrs. Jane Joseph Prentiss, who told me her best often heard and always observed, when in relation of her dear late old mother.

After reading your account of the Banshee in The Banner [of Light, of Boston Mass.] I met Mr. Hurley (an Irishman and a citizen of this place). I asked him if he ever heard the Banshee cry? — Oh yes, in the Old Country, I often heard it. In your own home, Mr. Hurley? — Oh no, I never heard it at my own house. I was heard among some very old families of Ireland. The Lynches, Stuarts, and, some others he named.

Where did you hear it, Mr. Hurley? I often heard it at the Ford of a small River where, at certain times of the year, it often comes and people hear it cry. I have heard it often at this place.

The Banshee has a great care for the old families, says Mr. H. and persons who have spoken ill of it have often been slapped on the face by some invisible hand.

Mr. H.'s mind is not altogether clear on the origin or source of the Banshee, but I have no doubt he has heard it well. He said he could not imitate the voice nor sound of the Banshee.

He seems to think it is a young and handsome lady who was taken from Earthlife in some sad manner — without the benefit of the church or Priest, and is doing penance by looking out for her friends in Earth life, etc. etc.

Evidently, his mind is not altogether clear on this subject. Revd. Talmadge says that he never yet has heard an audible voice from the Spirit World!! I am quite inferior to the Revd. Gentleman in many respects, but in this respect, I have been more highly favored than he. I have often heard my own name spoken by some invisible presence. In my boyhood I have often been startled to hear my name called, and loud enough far me to hear it distinctly. Then voices seemed to come from one heart. When I would be standing out in the open space away from building or tree. And now, since I have begun I may as well say further, that since reaching manhood, I have heard a whole sentence, and as far that