

STEPHEN ALBRO, Editor.

BUFFALO, JULY 28, 1885.

Fighting in Retreat.

Determined skeptics are in a truly pitiable condition. They are driven from position to position, continually retreating before the march of truth, and taking less and less tenable stand points, in defence of their long cherished errors. When the spiritual phenomena first made their appearance, religious bigotry laughed at it as a clever trick to make the credulous stare and gape, and exulted in the possession of better constituted minds, which could not be induced to turn to the right or to the left to witness sights and sounds partaking of the marvellous and out of the common routine of daily events. Let children and fools go and be cheated by dishonest charlatans, said the wise ones, till the impositions are detected, and it will be a profitable lesson to them; but let men and women with mature and sound minds stand aloof from all such silly attempts at deception. Thus they said, and thus they prided themselves on the keenness of their intellectual optics.

By and by many men and women of acknowledged discernment and moral worth, rose superior to those inhibitory denunciations, threw themselves upon their reserved rights, went and investigated for themselves, and made reports exalting the grossly maligned media from all fraudulent practices. A committee of the most erudite and capable minds in the vicinity of the phenomena, was organized, and sent to examine diligently and make report of the cause of the strange sounds which were heard by so many visitors. They went, carefully investigated every thing and every circumstance; heard the sounds and found that there was intelligence in the power which produced them; were convinced that the spirits of departed human beings were thus endeavoring to hold communion with mortals, and they so reported. Now skepticism and bigotry denounced them as deluded fools or coniving knaves, and gave the media credit for more craft than they had at first attributed to them. All a cheat—all a humbug, they continually cried, but would not condescend to investigate for themselves.

To these pioneer media succeeded many others, through whom communications were freely and continually made by disembodied spirits. All cheat—all trick—all machinery, cried the bigots. At length little children were developed as media, through whom the communicating sounds were received, conveying intelligence far beyond their infant capacities. Apart from any nature minds, the mysterious sounds were heard, in their presence, and the still more mysterious words of truth and wisdom were received. Now, laughing, sneering, scoffing and denouncing skepticism and bigotry stood confounded and amazed. Should they confess that little children could outwit all the sagacious emissaries they could send to spy out the *modus operandi* by which the mysterious sounds were made, and by which such intelligent communications were obtained? This would be sinking themselves and their agents very low in the scale of intellectual capacity. Thus they have been driven from the position of machinery, deception and cheat.

Next upon the stage came their Goliaths of philosophy, armed with all the hard names in the vocabulary of science. To work they go with mesmerism, biology, psychology, electricity, odforce, and all the other forces of nature, which have just as much intelligence as the running water and the whistling wind. With these materials the man of science has to weave a fabric of pseudo-philosophy, which is entirely unintelligible to himself, but which the sage geese and ganders who whilom knew the phenomena to be all machinery and trick, can now see through as plainly as if it were a barrel of tar. Yes, yes, they now confess that they were wrong in their position that it was all deception and charlatanism, happy to find another position which seems to promise tenability and substantial fighting ground. At this time no one of them could be heard to speak on the subject, without using all the terms invented by the schools to mystify science and keep knowledge from the vulgar. And it was truly laughable to hear ignoramuses, who knew no more of nature's forces and laws than Balaam's monitor, prate about the electrical forces and the controlling powers of the human mind. Ah! they would exclaim, we have no conception of the extent of our intellectual capabilities. Indeed there is little doubt that, unconsciously to ourselves, our minds are now continually employed in the creation of new worlds, to fill the vacancies in space, and to become the habitations of rational creatures.

All the intelligence that there is in those manifestations, says the man of science, (at the sound of whose voice, which here seems to say, I am Sir Oracle, all other voices must be hushed) is the reflex of some mind present. No intelligence, he affirms, is communicated by raps, tips, writing or speaking, which is not in some present mind. This shortcoming philosophy is greedily gobbled up by those who are too idle awake to be humbugged, and they are ever ready on hearing of any spiritual communication, to repeat, in the style of *Poor Pol*, *reflex—reflex—reflex*. Somebody was there who knew the fact, and Reflex took it right out of that somebody's mind and put it right into the mind of the medium, which rapped it out by the involuntary use of electricity, of the principles of which it knows nothing in a state of consciousness. Such stupid trash

as this has been passing as currently as sea phrases in a clam boat, in all cities and country villages where the celestial teachers have found means of communication. But listen to the spirit of NAROLAK, speaking through the organs of a mortal, in Williamsburg. He foretells the death of the Emperor Nicholas to a day. The prophecy is recorded in the public journals; the time rolls round, and the specified interval and the Emperor expire simultaneously. Now where is Reflex? Ah! that bastard child of a lying philosophy is mortally wounded. Again the same spirit, speaking through the organs of R. V. Winslow here in Buffalo, told of a great battle which had been fought between the Allies and the Russians at Sebastopol, on the 13th and 14th of April. This, we recorded in the *Age of Progress*; and, nine days thereafter, the mail steamer arrived with precisely the same intelligence. This was another stab at the vitals of poor Reflex, and there was no hope left of his surviving. But the agony is still piled upon him whilst he is expiring. The spirit of a young lady who departed this life in the far west, came to Miss Brooks, when she was alone, and said to her: "I want to see my mother." Who are you? The medium enquired. "My name," said the spirit, is "ELEANOR." What besides, ELEANOR? "ELEANOR PARKER." Where does your mother live? "She lives in Pontiac, Evans, Erie County. I left the body far from home in the west, and my remains were brought home for interment." The medium had never heard of the family of which this spirit was a member; but, on writing, according to the directions given by the spirit, she found every circumstance related by the spirit to be true. This was a finishing blow to Reflex, putting him beyond the power of resurrection. So skepticism and bigotry have been compelled to retreat from that position, as being no longer tenable.

What is the next position taken by them? Many of them have taken the true position, acknowledging themselves convinced of the spirituality of the manifestations and communications, which purport to be such, and, confessing the folly of their opposition to what they are now convinced is the richest boon, excepting eternal life and happiness, that God has ever bestowed upon man. But the salaried clergy, with their adherents, have found another rallying ground, where they are doing battle with desperation. They confess, now, that the phenomena are truly spiritual. To this they were driven. But, say they, it is the devil. Thus the fabulous monster of the fiery deep, which superstition brought with it from the ages of intellectual and spiritual darkness, and which the clergy themselves had well-nigh given up as a myth, which could not be any longer clung to in enlightened communities, has been arrested in its downward march of obsolescence, brought back to the position which it occupied in former centuries, and re-established as a substantive reality, for the sole purpose of furnishing a false pretext for doing battle against God's messengers of love and mercy, who come to whisper into the ear of doubting and despairing humanity, the glad tidings of peace on earth and good will to men.

Well, suppose we go back and ransack the rag-bag of past generations, draw thence, and array ourselves in the faded and tattered robes of superstition which we find there, and acknowledge the truth of the christian demonology with which mind was then enslaved and stupefied, how will the character of his orthodox devilship comport with the teachings which we receive from communicating spirits? Here is a difficulty which must soon rout all the hosts of skepticism and bigotry from that position; and where can they make another stand? There is no other dodge that they can avail themselves of, to escape the convincing force of spiritual truth, short of atheism and annihilation; and to these, if not to the truth, their minds will soon be driven.

The spirits teach that there is but one God, and that He is infinite in power, wisdom, goodness and love, and worthy of adoration by men and angels. They teach that men can, in no other way so acceptably serve God, as they can by loving and helping each other. They teach that the human soul is destined to eternal existence, eternal individuality and identity, and eternal progression in wisdom and happiness. They teach that the man or the woman who lives virtuously and treats others mercifully and kindly, will be ten times rewarded by the natural fruits of such a life, whilst here, and will be laying up a treasure in heaven which can not be measured with anything conceivable by the human imagination. They teach that there is no punishment, for punishment, in the spirit world, but that the natural, unevadable and irreparable law of their being, will regulate their condition, at the transition, according to the course of life which they pursue here. They teach that the spirit of man is elevated or depressed continually, whilst in the flesh, by good or evil deeds, words and thoughts, in the same manner in which the mercury is raised or depressed by the temperature of the weather, and that, at the decease of the physical body, the spirit goes to its appropriate condition as naturally as substances sink or rise in water, according to their specific gravity. Hence the day of judgment for every spirit, is the day in which it enters the spirit world. Thus spirits teach that it is better to live virtuously than viciously, because the spirit which enters the spirit world in a low and unhappy condition, will never see the day, in all the rounds of eternity, that it would not have been more elevated and more happy if its earth life had been spent in doing good to God's human children, itself as well as others. These, with every particular virtue and duty pertaining to this life, and the most graphic and soul-inspiring descriptions of the life to come, constitute the teaching of minis-

tering and communicating spirits. What madmen, then for any one to argue that such spirits are seeking the destruction of human souls! What fools men must be, after having been driven from so many stronger positions, to attempt to entrench themselves on such ground as this, and thence to rally forth against the power of all-conquering Truth.

Manifestations at Davenport.

Since our last issue, we have several times visited DAVENPORT'S Spirit Room, and witnessed some truly marvellous manifestations. In addition to the manifestations which we have before reported, and which are repeated at all meetings there, we heard spirits unite their voices with those of the circle, in singing a number of pieces of music, uttering the words as plainly as those did who sang through physical organs. To afford a better opportunity for the circle to hear those spirit voices, all but one gentleman kept silent. With this single voice, a spirit voice joined, with heavy bass tones and clumsy articulation, frequently clipping a syllable at the end of a word, but otherwise observing the laws of harmony with strict fidelity. All but the mediums were at the far end of the room, sitting on the floor, as directed by the spirits, with their hands joined; and all knew that it was physically impossible for either of those boys to utter such thro-bass tones, with their young organs. Besides this, they were in charge of a lady medium, who was allowed to sit, at the table with them, and who knows that the singing voice was near the ceiling and distant from where they were.

After this, the above named medium was requested to sing alone, which she did, and was joined by three other female voices which seemed to be near her, but more elevated. There were but two other females in the room; besides the medium who was singing; and we know that neither of them uttered a note at that time, as we were sitting close by them.

Besides these performances, there was a species of whistling, which was so sharp and piercing, and was uttered with such varied inflections, that no mortal could have done it without some instrument to blow through; nor do we see how any one could elevate himself as the whistler seemed to be elevated, or move with such celerity as he seemed to move, suspended near the ceiling. Indeed, we have heard the same sound uttered where suspicion of collusion could not be entertained for a moment, by the most skeptical. In addition to this whistling, there were shouts and yells uttered, apparently near the ceiling, and immediately over our heads, where we were sitting in the circle, which were truly astounding. And these shouts and yells were uttered whilst the violin and the hand-bell were sounded, all seeming to move from point to point as they gave forth their discordant sounds. At intervals there seemed to be a number of persons snapping their thumbs and fingers over our heads, which would also move from one side of the room to the other, with the fleetness of thought.

We have heard it suggested that the boys are ventriloquists and make all these sounds by sending their voices to all parts of the room. To this it may be unanswerably objected that if they possess such rare ventriloquial powers, and are using them to cheat a few people into the belief that they are spiritual voices, they and their father must be the most stupid of knaves, as they could amuse hundreds where they now cheat one, and turn their powers to twenty times the account, without cheating at all.

To the Friends of this Paper.

It being desirable to put the *Age of Progress* on a permanent foundation, to enlarge its circulation and corresponding means of usefulness, and to connect with it a Job-Printing Office, the friends of the cause are taking measures to accomplish the object. For this purpose, stock will be issued, in shares of \$25 each, and the concern be carried on by the Association, under the provisions of the "Manufacturing Law," as is the "Democracy" newspaper of this city. Although a few individuals are ready to take the whole stock, of necessity, it is deemed better that it should be taken in single shares, as far as possible, in order to secure more extended personal efforts on the part of its friends. Those who are willing to take one or more shares, are earnestly requested to call upon Dr. W. G. OLIVER or GUY H. SALSBURY, who will take their names, and explain the details of the proposed arrangement. It is not intended that such subscriptions of stock shall be in the nature of a *gratuity*, but as an investment in what is determined shall be a paying as well as praiseworthy enterprise.

There will be an adjourned meeting held at this office, on Monday evening next, at 7 1/2 o'clock, to report progress in the above matter. The friends are invited to attend.

DANGERS OF A HIGH PRIDE.—It is often a question amongst people who are acquainted with the anatomy and physiology of man whether lying with their head exalted, or even with the body, were the more wholesome. Most, consulting their own ease on this point, argue in favor of that which they prefer. Now, although many delight in bolstering up their heads at night, and sleep soundly without injury, yet we declare it to be a dangerous habit. The vessels through which the blood passes from the heart to the head are always lessened in their cavities when the head is resting in bed higher than the body; therefore, in all diseases attended with fever, the head should be pretty near on a level with the body; and people ought to accustom themselves to sleep thus, to avoid danger.—*Medical Journal.*

Spiritualism in Toronto.

I reached Toronto on Wednesday last, and was cordially welcomed by Mr. SWAIN and lady, who were in waiting for my arrival. In the evening, the circle who had invited me there, met at their house, when I witnessed evidence enough of the presence of spirits to have convinced the world, if that world could have beheld the same things. Mrs. SWAIN is a medium through whom the most astounding, and demonstrable facts of spirit intercourse are developed—such as few have yet found. I mean, that there are a greater variety of manifestations under circumstances of less doubt than I have, excepting on one occasion, ever witnessed. And you know, Br. ALBRO, that this is saying a great deal; for it would seem that it is almost impossible for spirits to give greater manifestations than you and I have witnessed in Buffalo. And although I do not suppose that what I am about to relate will be set aside as false by those who know me, yet as many of your readers have not the confidence which I apprehend such circumstances might inspire, I have deemed it best to let every word be established by the mouth of at least two or three witnesses. We will, therefore, simply certify to what is most important as occurring at two sittings of the circle in this place.

On the evening of the first sitting alluded to, there were present in the circle and room, Mr. SWAIN and lady, two Messrs. BRAMMAN and ladies, MR. GARDNER, Miss THOMPSON, T. W. ANDERSON, Esq. MR. CAULKINS and lady, and myself. Being seated around a table, the spirits directed the removal of the lamp, and began to shake a bell and violin which had been previously placed under the table. The strings of the instrument were not touched by any of us, and yet they continued to vibrate, or the bell to ring, for the most part of the evening, sometimes in answer to questions and at others as a demonstration. These instruments were not only used under the table, but were forcibly drawn without our aid from that place, and carried over our heads; the twang of the strings and the ringing of the bell continuing for a period of not less than fifteen minutes, occasionally touching each person on the head or other parts of the body, and answering each such question by these parts of the violin (excepting Mrs. G. who left the room previously and did not return), as were desired.

One spirit whose name is Jim Black, of the Mohawk tribe of Indians, signified himself by his boldness, in taking hold of the hands of several of the circle, and touching others, on their faces. The violin was used very roughly on the top of the table, flying with great rapidity from one person to another, and the hand of the spirit touched the heads gently or severely according to the requests of all who solicited, and at the instant it was asked. During these manifestations a delicious odor was diffused through the room, strong as the aroma of fragrant flowers, although nothing of the kind had been introduced by any person or could be found by any of the company about the house. It seemed to be thrown into our faces from some invisible hand. The tinkling of the bell while over our heads was sometimes made to resemble a retreat, dying away in the distance until it ceased to be heard. And besides the sounds were single, not double, and were regular, baffling all our skill to imitate upon a fair trial with our own hands. The bell and violin were often handed to such as desired and taken from them, and sometimes the spirit would rap it on our feet, whilst the bell would ring over our heads or be pounded on the top of the table. We all sat very compactly, and we agree that no one of us took any other part than to witness the demonstrations.

At length, a sheet of paper and pencil were required by the spirit to be placed on the floor under the table. This being granted, we heard the movement of the pencil distinctly, while the spirit wrote the following sensible communication on ruled paper, omitting every alternate line, and performing the writing as orderly as any living person could have done in the clear light of day.

"Dear and beloved friends, rejoice and join in songs of rejoicing, for the kingdoms of this world are become our Lord's and his children's; and you shall reign forever and ever."

When the writing was completed we heard the folding of the sheet, and on the outside of it was written "to the circle." Then it was brought and placed on the table with heavy thumps of the bell to signify its delivery.

Subsequently, Mr. ANDERSON received from the same source and in the same way a personal communication which was handed to him by the spirit. It requested him to get a piano, for they had done much for him.

On the second evening, the same tangible manifestations were repeated, accompanied with many of a private or personal character and some things entirely new so far as I have seen in print. Each person was separately sprinkled as though some one had thrown a handful of water in the face; and neither water nor any vessel capable of holding it, was in the room. The only solution of so wondrous a mystery is that the spirits condense from the atmosphere the water they use on such occasions. But how they do it without any visible machinery is a matter I will not discuss. Handkerchiefs were taken from several persons' hands and tied in knots, and then returned. Beautiful spirit lights were presented for several minutes to the natural sense of sight of all the circle. I also had a distinct clairvoyant view of the Indian spirit, and beheld him as well formed and dignified as any person I could name in the form. He manifested great happiness on forming an acquaintance with me, and gave me repeated proofs of his sincerity by such signs as were unmistakable. When-

ever a question was asked by any person, the spirit would respond by giving three raps either with the fiddle, or bell, on the head of the questioner, for yes, and one for no. This enabled persons to get answers in as tangible a manner as could be desired. Various persons were handled in as familiar a manner as any friend in the form could have done. But near the close of the evening's entertainment Jim proposed that a contribution should be taken up for the benefit of the poor. He was asked if he would receive the contribution and deposit it in the hands of a treasurer; to which he responded in the affirmative, and immediately proceeded with the violin as a contribution box to each person, giving each notice by a gentle rap on their person to signify his readiness to receive whatever they were disposed to give for such an object. No one was excused. He began and went around the entire circle, and collected the sum of \$2.63. Some of the ladies deposited their gold rings, as their part of the contribution, with the understanding that they might be redeemed upon the payment of three shillings. This collection by a spirit exceeds all possible description, and we do not expect to give any thing more than a faint idea of it. Only consider, for a moment, that a spirit from the eternal world had come to ask for that relief of the suffering which the common charities of humanity had neglected to provide for. Then think of his passing the violin to each of the company, soliciting from them by gentle touches, alms for the poor, which, as soon as it was placed in his charge upon the instrument, he immediately carried to the centre of the table, upon which he threw the change, and then returned to the next person, giving the same signal, and so on until the whole circle had done something for the good of humanity in distress. When he came to Mr. ANDERSON, he took the money from his hand with his fingers, but not so with all. In taking the collection from Mr. A. who gave a second donation, he took hold of his hand and forcibly lifted him from his seat, and extended his arm perpendicularly, pulling him up so that he barely touched the toes of his shoes to the floor. When he came to Mr. CAULKINS, he was told that he believed he had no change, but he pounded the instrument against him as much as to urge him to look and would not leave until he gained a promise that he would do so, when he passed on to the next. When Mr. C. had examined his wallet, he unexpectedly found a quarter, and no sooner was this done than the spirit had the violin before him to receive it. When the whole collection had been gathered, he proceeded around the circle, giving each person his thanks by three distinct pats of the violin on the head, and then proceeded to gather up the money and rings on the table. First, he used the instrument to scrape the pieces together. Having done this he laid it down, and commenced taking them up one by one in his hands, the pieces meanwhile ginging as he threw them from one hand into the other. Having completed the task of taking them up in his hand, he placed one hand over the other, shook them violently, making the money rattle in his hands as naturally as though it were shaken with each intent by human hands. The spirit, after shaking these pieces for a minute or more, dashed them on the table again. This performance was repeated several times. Next he proceeded to deposit the same in the hands of the treasurer, whom he had before designated by three distinct raps on the head. The person thus designated was Mrs. SWAIN, who is a lady that has been deeply interested, the past year, in behalf of the unfortunate poor of the city.

During the evening a communication was written without human hands, under the table, of which the following is a correct copy. "Dear friends, let your earth life be one purpose of eternal good. Listen to the words of wisdom from your many spirit friends."

We may say that these demonstrations are such as we witnessed among many others of startling importance, on the evenings in question.

Mrs. SWAIN was consecrated by the laying on of hands, and a suitable lesson given through a medium present, who was controlled during the whole exercise.

The undersigned having heard read the above narrative of facts, concur in the statements, and cheerfully attest to the same as correct.

C. Hammond, M. A. Swain, John Swain, W. E. Braman, Miss H. Braman, Mrs. Gardner, Miss Thompson, T. W. Anderson, Andrew Braman, Mrs. E. Braman, J. P. Caulkins, J. A. Caulkins.

On Sunday evening the following communication was given me by the raps through Mrs. SWAIN: Friend "H. we wish you to publish all you have seen and heard, (of spirits in this city) that it is truth." Following this, on Monday evening last, the spirits wrote without human hands, and addressed it to the circle, as follows: "Dear friends; blessed are ye if you listen to the words of truth and wisdom which come from those whose life is one clear, unclouded day, bright and beautiful, unbroken by stormy passions and untainted by the breath of death and strife. We wish you to enter into the ranks of our Father and your Father, with boldness and not with fear and trembling; for you shall be robed in garments of living light, and sound high anthems of praise on the golden lyre of God's love."

Friend H. then has found the diamonds; thou hast found the pearl of great price. Turn it to good account.

Yours,

D. C.—J. B.

The facts above narrated are of common occurrence, I am told, on the meeting of that circle; and besides, I have been credibly informed of several very remarkable cures effected by the direct agency of Jm, as he calls him-

self, one of which had been given over by the best physician in Canada. I had a first rate visit, found happy friends, lectured only to the circle, and was abundantly compensated for all my time and labor, for which I feel to express my grateful acknowledgements to all who made my stay so agreeable. I hope to meet them again at some future time.

C. HAMMOND.

A prayer dictated by Spirits.

The following prayer was written by the hand of Dr. DEXTER, and published in volume II. of EDMONDS and DEXTER'S spiritualism. It was approved by BACON, who said it was written by the spirit of Judge EDMONDS' wife.

Oh, thou universal Spirit! by whose laws every thing was created, and by whose love every thing exists! we look to thee, and we regard thee as our Father, for thou hast taught us that in loving thee we approach spirit attributes which are thy characteristics. We pray to thee that our feelings may be elevated to a just perception of what is good, what is true, and what should belong to us in connection with others. Enable us to live consistently, and to develop those feelings of our nature which are innate and coeval with thee. Enable us to control ourselves—to feel the high obligations of beings destined to live forever. Enable us to improve the faculties of our spirit, as well as material being, and enable our desires for the true, the good, the just, and the beautiful, to develop with our days, and harmonize with all that we see of thee in thy works. Let us feel, let us see, let us know that in us are the germs of everlasting knowledge and happiness; and when at last we lay down this body, let our spirits rise in their new birth, active and earnest in the all-pervading desire to progress toward those spheres where thy glory and power, thy love and wisdom, are most manifest. Amen.

There is in that Book called the "Word of Jehovah" the elements of spiritual growth, which can not be found in any other written Book.

It is the best of Books.

Every born child should have a copy of this for his own.

In reading this Book for instruction or spiritual growth, which always follows spiritual influences, choose those parts which the young mind can understand. Instruction in spiritual things should always be adapted to the most developed mind, for a developed mind will ever find joy in that employment which instructs. Oh! how much ye wise ones of the earth have yet to learn and unlearn. Ye set your table with the richest viands; your wine-cup is filled to the brim; you eat, drink, and are merry over your own fullness, heeding not the starving one that would gladly rejoice over the smallest crumb of bread that falleth from your well-strewn table.

But the day has come when the little one shall become or make one of a thousand, therefore a new table is to be spread, that the feeble may feast and find strength and the growing mind knowledge.

The fattened calf will be killed for the prodigal, music will send forth its cheering notes to bring into the fold of God him that sitteth by the wayside and leaneth against the wall; nay, even he that maketh his home in the filthy pool will lift his head as the glad sounds reach his ear—"Arise, go thy Father, he is prepared, the table is ready—and a brother, ay, thy brother, stands ready to sit, feast, and rejoice with thee."

SYMPATHIZING WITH THE DEVIL.—Mr. Smith arose as usual to speak in meeting, a thing which he was continually doing "whenever opportunity was given for any brother to 'exercise his gift.' Then you were certain to hear from Smith. On the occasion now referred to, he prefaced a long, prosy, incoherent harangue, with an account of a previous controversy he had been carrying on with the great adversary. My brethren, said he, the devil and I have been fighting for more than twenty minutes, he told me not to speak to-night, but I determined I would, he said some of the rest could speak better than I, but still I felt that I could not keep silence; he even whispered that I spoke too often, and that nobody wanted to hear me, but I was not to be put down that way; and now that I have got the victory, I must tell you all that is in my heart. Then followed the tedious harangue, which being finished and the meeting dismissed, the self-appointed and self-complacent orator for the evening drew up to the person, hoping to receive his congratulations and sympathies. "You saw, brother Brown," said he, that I had a hard struggle with the devil, but I overcame him at last. Yes, said the pastor, "I witnessed the struggle with a great deal of interest, and for once in my life, my sympathies were on the devil's side. I did hope he would succeed in keeping you down, but it seems he could not."

We are part spirit and part matter by the former we are allied to the spiritual world and to the absolute spirit; and as nobody doubts that the latter can work magically, that is by the mere act of will—for by the mere act of will all things were created, and by its constant exertion all things are sustained—why should we be astonished that we, who partake of the Divine nature, and were created after God's own image, should also, within certain limits, partake of this magical power? That this power has been frequently abused, is the fault of those who, being capable, refuse to investigate, and deny the existence of these and similar phenomena; and, by thus casting them out of the region of legitimate science, leave them to become the prey of the ignorant and designing.—Mrs. CROW.

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Obituary.
On Wednesday last, as Miss Brooks was reading a letter from Miss HARRIET E. SCOTT of Cuba, in this State, in which there was a statement of the decease of her father, the time when he departed, his age at the time, and a request that we should publish it in our paper, raps were heard on the table, and the presence of Professor DAYTON was announced, who proposed to write an obituary notice of Mr. SCOTT's transition, which he did, through the raps, as follows:

WENT HOME.
Mr. J. Scott, of Cuba, N. Y. His spirit left the physical body on the eighth day of June, at the age of fifty-nine years, eight months and sixteen days, after an illness of eighteen weeks.

Another is added to the throng of immortality. The baptismal dews of heaven fall upon his freed and joyous spirit, as it moves on over the pulsating bosom of eternity, and gently touches the harp strings of celestial melody, whose loud and pealing strains fall upon the tendril of the human heart, with a power and beauty undefinable. The eternal sunrise of immortality, far stretching along the divine shores of the inner world, sheds its radiance over his spirit.

Weep not for him because he has gone hence—because disease set its seal upon his fine and vigorous form—for the wasting flesh, the wearied heart, the eye's unceasing beam, and the hectic kindling on his cheek, have only borne his spirit to the universe he yearned to find. It is true that he has gone, but he will return and show to his friends who stand upon the shores of the outer world, the star-beams of life and hope beyond the cold sepulcher where is confined the old form.

He may return and tell how he loves thee, and speak of purity and peace, as like angel twins they go breathing joy itself into the wearied heart, and teach you the silvery songs and show you the thrones of crystal light in the universe beyond. And though vacancy whispers that a kind and loving parent and friend has gone from the deserts of human life, to bathe his spirit in the gushing founts of unutterable glory, in the beautiful land of which angels speak, yearn not for his society, as before, but desire him to come to you clothed in the effulgence of eternal beauty, and tell you of heaven—of its deep and sincere truths. The sounds of his voice now, will vibrate through the wounded hearts of those who realize his loss, wakening the echoes of long hidden memories linked with his life, to the loftiest strains, filling the whole rich element of inspiration with a new life and beauty. The faculties of his noble mind will sparkle beneath the waves of time, and those true friends who weep, will feel their bright influence, and sorrow will wear a softer shade, and grief be soothed, though never forgotten. His soul dwells like a star in the realms above, lighting the outer world. His God-like spirit now trends the isles of eternal light. The vital glow of memory and his hopes of the friends whom he left on earth, still live. The voice and heart that lay hushed, are now filled with a strange music, which will draw you to the unseen minstrels of heaven, among which the lost is found and the parent and friend recognized. Then weep no more.

"Who was Edgar C. Dayton?"
Twice before now, we have published the account which this spirit gave of himself, when he first introduced himself to us and organized a small circle to receive his communications. Still the same question is asked of us by many who read the lectures which are received from him, through Miss Brooks; they not having seen the account previously published. All that we know about him, is what he has told us. We have never entered into correspondence with any person in either of the places of his residence which he has mentioned, because we have never doubted the truth of his report. Let those who doubt, write and ascertain whether he represents himself truly or not. These were the words of his first and only communication, in relation to himself.

"My name was EDGAR C. DAYTON. I was born in Richmond, Virginia; lived there till I was seventeen years old; then emigrated to England, where I became a professor of Anatomy and Obstetrics, and lectured in all the dissecting rooms, from Liverpool to London. Four years ago (now nearly six) when I was thirty-four years old, I was at Bristol, where I fell from the top of a flight of steps thirty feet high, and died of concussion of the brain."

Rev. C. HAMMOND, having returned from his visit to Canada, will lecture for us on Sunday, afternoon and evening. Circle meeting will be held in the morning, till another hall can be procured.

In the stanza of Mrs. HEMANS, published in the last *Age of Progress*, for "Affliction" read "Affliction." What strange work types make! but it is of no use to fault them.

C. H.
Those who are in arrears with us for their subscriptions—think of it.

Lecture No. 17.—By Edgar C. Dayton.
THROUGH MISS BROOKS, MEDIUM.

THE HARMONIAL PHILOSOPHY.

The individual life is impregnated with the spirit of God, and becomes an instrument which the winds of joy or sorrow may play upon, and man has his brief history of material imperfection. The heavy voice of the thunder, the shrill music of the distant forest, and the faint voice of man when in sorrow, teach you of the elementary lessons of the harmonial philosophy, and prove that even your world may be attuned to its laws of music and wisdom. By the convulsions of earth, in its transitory refinement, progression first sprang from the parent rock, and seemed for a while firmly locked within the embrace of chaos; then, mounting alpine heights, it floated through the world of vegetation, moving on for centuries, until all objects within its grasp became progressively finer each hour, ever unfolding the flowers of God upon its mossy surface, until the irresistible tides of development brought every living thing upon the shores of being, then floated onward into spheres above, where harmony is the destiny of all things. Harmony sweeps out through the opening realms of eternity, where are evolved the sources of life, from the homogeneous principle and cause; where the deep river of celestial love moves with a silent but irresistible force; where the sweet vibrations of nature's melodies sublimely and majestically peal forth, making the spirit realms resound with strains of joy, inviting man to join the universal anthem.

The sun of truth rises from the dark shadows of earth, clad in auroral beauty, showing the evangel existence of the soul, where the clanking chains of eternal misery are never heard; where angels never weep; but where the dark fables of oriental history fade away beneath the waves of time, and where all heaven is found in the beautiful world on high. Inspiration, affection and true sympathy, speak from the heart of man; every faculty of his being pronounces a benediction; and the soft, divine light which bathes the world, unchains the spirit from its physical home, and it flies far, far off into the realms of infinitude, where it is destined for the unbroken glory of an immortal youth. The tattered garments of outer nature, are torn off, and the robes of eternity clothe the spirits, while in their bright hands they hold the golden reins of affection, drawing each warm and sympathizing soul nearer to their own bosom, where they become an immutable oneness in truth and hope. The angel of charity comes to man, winging its way through the rugged regions of humanity, and reciprocates the low echoes of harmony that fall from mortal lips; and as youth retires into the folds of age, and as the twilight of human existence approaches, the inward sensibilities become inspired by the twin angels of charity and hope; and as outward life terminates with the last beat of the pulse, so is the soul born again into a new life where it must learn of the constitutional growth and progressive refinement which endow the eternal form.

The laws of God have thrown open the dark recesses of earth to the rays of wisdom, shining from afar; and as the human intellect power grapples with the unfolding truth of nature, and as man enters into the subterranean apartments of nature, he can but imperfectly read the lines of science and knowledge traced upon the inner chambers of his being. He stands upon the granite rock of science, and begins to enumerate the various substances which constitute earth; he beholds the star-beams reaching from heaven to earth; he sees the various works and arrangements of the world; and from the simple ray of light, he follows on to the silent splendor which the sun gives forth when night has passed away; and in his contemplations of a sublime creation, he wonders if man is an embodiment of eternal nature, an image of God, from which the revelations of Deity may be made known to the limited, finite mind. As new forms of existence are created from unformed materials, and brought to the verge of human life and organization, he studies for himself, by which his mind becomes adorned and enriched by the gems of science, and every thought becomes wreathed with every flower of affection and truth. Man is endowed with faculties of love and perception which are manifested in the functions of the mind. Motion and life diffuse themselves through the body and upon each clothing membrane; and his will, or executive power, has various ways of action, and his faculties act as various and innumerable manifestations of desire.

There are an infinite variety of men, and in some are developed particular qualifications. Some can bring forth truth in advance of their age, while others rely upon long fostered opinions. This is to be accounted for by the external vision being opened and the internal closed; and the other where the interior is open and the exterior is closed. Sensation often connects the spirit to external objects: this is material to every individual. Spirit, man is an embodiment of all principle—he is the highest point of created matter, and the indwelling forces of his mind are as pure in the parent germ as the fountain from which the spirit life flows. Ignorance is a great barrier against a better analysis of the nature of man; but self-willed skepticism is the great obstruction to a greater knowledge of his relations and attractions—the cause of his wandering in glooms of midnight sadness, and prevents him from discerning upon the ever thrilling waves as melodious truths of liberty; because reason nor truth cannot touch the immortal chords of his being, telling him to never weary but look far away into the land which brings forth the flowers of peace.

Wretchedness still means from the dungeons of crime, and the whisperings of distress issue from the shattered habitations of your world, while selfish thought, phantasm-like, flits away 'mid the ruins and fragments of useless speculation. A mountainous cloud hovers over the human heart, and the spirit lies hidden and powerless, lost in human solitude and folly, while religion, in its diviner form, has never lifted the curtain hanging over the archway of the soul's spiritual destiny, nor has its breath inspired man to see with reason and understanding. It has never opened the dreamy eyes of ignorance—it has never opened the spirit's impassioned gaze to the boundless pathway of truth, whose loveliness elicits the impassioned expressions of angel eloquence. It has never broken the sensual reign of the animal nature, and unfolded its symbols from the regions of purest brilliancy. But time has brought crime and desolation on its wing, the wreck of many national splendors, while their memories decay upon the lifeless page of history. Then what will stop the tide of error, that man may communicate the noble thoughts conceived within? What power shall throw away the wonders and miracles of antiquity and teach man that he is the grand consummation of the material structure—that atoms of matter change and expand, and flow into higher channels and forms of being, each tending to the development of man.

Biblical religion has failed in arresting the tides of infidelity. That teaches man of scenes and circumstances buried beneath the ocean tide of time, while the harmonial philosophy brings evidence of his eternal individuality out of the very rocks, trees and flowers of earth. It proves to man an existence hereafter, and is the river that ripples unto everlasting life. Reason is a principle of the harmonial philosophy, and should be recognized as the authority of all beliefs. Men of churches exclaim that spiritualism sprung from a low source—from undeveloped minds; but let us reflect, and we discover the whole sectarian religion to be based upon a birth in a manger. The cold unfeeling manger gave birth to a babe, or, rather, was the first place upon which those little limbs rested, and so from the manger sprung their religion, and is this a low channel, through which the truths of God may flow? Ignorance alone would claim this; but this foundation upon which sectarianism is based, is fast decaying; and as Jesus spoke from the authority of intuition, so must his followers rely upon the same authority before they become reconciled to the true harmony of the principles of nature. The mind cannot be chained; and though the lips may speak falsely, yet the heart speaks fondly, and men to day, who stand in the altar of worship, mocking the truths of God—teaching doctrines that will not bear the test of scientific principles, nor the rigid analysis of reason, know that they are setting up barriers of ignorance and cupidty against the spontaneous development of the soul's own true religion. The harmonial philosophy tears away the curtain which has so long hung between the origin and destiny of the finite man, and brings forth a new religion whereby to adore God—a harmless and creedless religion. A new religion of human improvement is required when the hour of real prayer may come throbbing over the soul, from which the mind may draw an imperishable education. Though the world is advancing in artificial civilization—though the red men of the forest have died like the blasted oak—though the canoe is buried, and though the quiver and bow repose in dust, and though the wigwam have been driven from nature's home, yet crims flows in fearful gloom, through the veins of your country at the present age.

From the heights of honored power to the depths of the dungeons of sorrow and woe, wrong, injustice and ignorance reside; yet man is ever hopeful that he may see the eternal banner of liberty unfurled and freedom established without his exertion. The unfeeling grave-seeds to be the sweetest sorrow, though wreathed in mystic solitude. It seems to lead enchantment to the heart, while the gentle flowers adorn the silent mound; and while the evergreen sends up its tendrils, and the willow boughs hang mournfully over the cold sanctuary, all is fraught with superstition or pensive sadness, which twines around the memory of the departed.

Man listens for a note of harmony from the nations of warfare, but nought but the dead voice of war answers him, while the rugged earth echoes back the songs of death; and where is your liberty? It has gone out from its primeval sanctuary and sits upon the eternal hills of justice, yearning to embrace the entire human family. Then what is to be done? Who and what shall arrest the flow of oppression and ignorance? A new philosophy, from God, has come to teach men that they must live naturally and glide away to the spiritual universe naturally. It throws the gloom from the grave and proves that the natural changes are as sweet as the divine breathings of truth, and that the partially unfolded flower, or being, is not destined to be taken from its parent home to revenge upon its friends for some sin that they have committed, but that if a being in infancy is taken from its home, it is a violation of the laws of its constitution. Much, very much, is yet to be received.

What is the use of good of spiritualism? the advocates of oriental religion ask. It is to learn you to be yourself. It is to unfold a world of meaning from every thing; to kindle the flame of celestial love upon the heart's bright altar, whose incense shall ascend from the individual soul to God. It is to show you the symbols of the past and future, where the almighty sun's kindling beams wake millions of beings to expression of praise and glory. It is to show you the true origin and destiny of man, and to prove to you that the stars in the heaven constitute not the universe more than the sparkling dewdrops of morn constitute the ocean but that all things on earth and elsewhere, constitute the realms of immensity. It is to show you that the progression of man is not silent, but is attended by agitation—that he is the transition type, from the lowest order of vegetable, animal or mineral life, to angels. It is to dispel the gloom from the grave and show that the spirit slumbers not for centuries after death until the day of judgment or resurrection, but rises from the old world of organized matter, to the bright home of immortality. The harmonial philosophy cultivates the inward sensibilities, and their fragrance goes forth and pervades all congenial minds. Reason awakes from the long night of creation and incarnated the attributes of the Infinite into the human mind. Hence man's course is onward, and the new philosophy is coming like a rolling flood, bearing on its vital and muscular waves the decaying embers of error; and ignorance is fast sinking into chaos—Truth and time sprung from eternity and continue through eternity; and when the inferior self rises to that better and fairer country, it is not insensible to the bleeding heart nor the evils of its first native land; but memory and love are the guardian angels of their being. The harmonial philosophy is a system of universal nature, material and spiritual, whose authority is immortal reason. It makes truth the supreme consideration of the mind; and if one there is who believes that the chains of eternal misery clank perpetually in heaven, let that one hang the heavens in mourning; smile no more; go away into silent solitude and hear not the music of the sparkling wave as it breaks against the shore; look not at nature and see its circling gems of beauty, but go away into the mystic shadows of oriental fables, and let angels weep because you are so destitute of reason. Though you cannot grasp the idea of a universe worthy of God, you can enjoy a clear vision of the magnitude and unutterable beauty of the universe on high.

Yours truly
E. C. DAYTON
The Sun.—Sir David Brewster makes the following remarks relative to the sun: "So strong has been the belief that the sun cannot be a habitable world, that a scientific gentleman was pronounced by his medical attendant insane, because he had sent a paper to the Royal Society, in which he maintained that the light of the sun proceeded from a dense and universal aura, which may afford ample light to the inhabitants beneath, and yet be at such a distance aloft as not to be among them; that there may be water and dry land there, hills and dales, rain and fair weather, and that as the light and the seasons must be eternal, the sun may easily be conceived to be by far the most blissful habitation of the whole system. In less than ten years after this apparently extravagant notion was considered as a proof of insanity, it was maintained by Sir William Herschel as a rational and probable opinion, which might be deducible from his own observations on the structure of the sun."

Bright and beautiful gems of thought are often wrapped up in the covering of materiality which mankind have thrown about them. Their beauty is thus clouded or concealed, but it is not lost. It still lives, and it will yet shine upon the world. The soul struggles with a deep and mighty thought. It seems to find no compass within large enough to contain the great truth which is swelling and almost bursting its tensesment for utterance. But it will not burst, it will not die. It has had its birth from the innermost recesses of the soul, and it has gone up to meet and mingle with other developed truths which have been given from time to time to man. It has expanded his soul by its beauty, and it leaves a bright green spot whereon the angels love to gaze. It is but making ready the inner chamber of his soul, and beautifying it for the reception of greater truths and higher wisdom from the interior courts above.

AMUSING MISCONCEPTION.—Hodie, the author of Douglas, one day entertained at lunch the Lady Randolph of his play, the celebrated Mrs. Siddons. She was asked at table what beverage she would take, and replied, "A little porter." Ringing the bell—"Bring a little porter for Mrs. Siddons," said the reverend dramatist to his servant. The servant returned in a few minutes, bringing in from the street the least of the Gaelic porters he could find on the stand. Mrs. Siddons was convulsed with laughter—just as Faulkner of the Durham Circuit was, when, between two acts, running about the stage after he had been slain as Roland, he roared to the property-man, "Where's the beer?" and a little arch answer, "Here sir!" thrusting in his face a girl of ailed, which he had been instructed to take behind the scenes for the Green Dragon.

A truth once implanted in the mind can never be destroyed. It will linger there, buried, perchance, in temporary forgetfulness, to be brought forth with still higher lustre, as the diamond from its dusty bed.

Thou hast no time to be idle. See to it that the earth is made brighter, because thou hast lived, both in thy own and in the days to come.

He who conquers self, conquers a world.

American Poetry.
THE WILDERNESS.
BY WILLIAM C. BRIDGES.
There is a wilderness more dark
Than groves of fir on Huron's shore;
And, in that cheerless region, hark!
How serpents hiss—how monsters roar!
Tis not among the untrodden isles
Of vast Superior's stormy lake
Where social comfort never smiles
Nor sunbeams pierce the tangled brake.
Nor is it in the deepest shade
Of India's tiger-haunted wood,
Nor western forests unsurveyed,
Where crouching panthers lurk for food.
Tis in the dark, unpeopled soul,
By education unrefined,
Where hidden malice, vices fowl—
And all the baneful passions grow!
The frightful wilderness of sin.

We need to remember, that every new disclosure of a law of mind, throws a light upon the future of that mind, by revealing a new power or privilege to its Spiritual nature.
When new truth and new phases of old truth rise up before us, it is degrading to our intellect, to deny or neglect what alone can bring us enlargement of mind and satisfaction of soul.
Be not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good.
Disinterestedness is the very soul of virtue.

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Timothy,	"	3.50 @ 0.00
Oats,	"	55¢ @ 60
Apples, dried,	"	2.00 @ 2.25
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SPIRITUAL MANIFESTATIONS.
THE PUBLIC ARE HEREBY ADVISED that I have taken the upper story of building No. 247 Main street, second door from South Division street, east side, over J. Blanchard & Co's Botanic Medicine store, for the purpose of accommodating those who are desirous of witnessing the extraordinary manifestations which, for the last six months, have kept my house thronged with visitors of the highest respectability, from all parts of the country. I am impelled to this course by the great inconvenience to my family of having my dwelling house so continually thronged. The rooms will be open from 2 to 6 and from 8 to 10 P. M. An admission fee of 25 cents will be required, which is hoped, will meet the expenses of rent, fuel and light. Every facility will be afforded for investigation of the phenomena.

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House, lot and Barn on Sixth street, lot 32½ by 100—has gas and water; bath room, etc. Price, \$4,000.
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