

# BANNER OF LIGHT.



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### LETTIE ARNOLD; OR, THE BOUND GIRL.

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#### CHAPTER I.

The last rays of the setting sun fell in golden waves over hill and dale, lighting up the village of Greenville with its parting smile, and falling over the old almshouse, it seemed to lovingly woo the soul within, that was so soon to take its flight upward.

Silence brooded over the scene, and a strange awe filled every heart. They knew the Death-Angel hovered near.

Within a small, comfortable room in the western wing of the house, lay a woman upon a cot. The deadly pallor of the countenance contrasted strangely with the masses of dark hair that lay upon the pillow. Her eyes gleamed brightly from beneath the arching eye-brows, while the finely chiseled lips were firmly compressed, as if to stifle the agony that might otherwise find vent.

Near the couch stood the matron. A neat gingham robe enveloped her corpulent form, and the face beamed kindly forth, as if peace and love found an abiding place within her heart.

By her side stood a little girl of about four years. An expression of sadness rested upon her features, painful to behold in one so young; while the glance of yearning affection which was bestowed upon her by the sufferer upon the bed, needed not the striking resemblance between them, to explain the relationship that existed.

Bending over the departing one stood the physician, and though accustomed as he was to scenes like the present, still his eyes filled with tears, as he gazed upon the little child so soon to become motherless.

A clergyman sat near by, occasionally speaking in low, earnest tones to the sufferer, who appeared deaf to his voice, as though the veil which hid the spirit-life from her view had been drawn aside, and the tones of earth sounded far in the distance. Only once had she spoken in his presence, then she said, pointing to the child:

"Pray for her who is in the valley; I who am on the mountain-top, need not your prayers."

After a few minutes she turned to the physician, and said:

"Dr. Willet, would you place Lettie by my side, and then leave us alone together for awhile."

For a moment he hesitated, and then lifting the little one upon the bed, left the room accompanied by the clergyman and the matron.

"Do you think she will live through the night, doctor?" asked the matron, Mrs. Blunt.

"She may, but I think not," was the reply. "Her disease appears of the mind, as well as of the body, and to me she seems like one whose bark has been storm-tossed and driven by the winds and waves of sorrow and suffering, and when at last wrecked upon the rocks of despair, she gladly welcomes the embrace of the icy waters of Death."

So saying, he passed up and down the room, occasionally casting anxious glances toward the door, through which they had just entered.

The clergyman, after passing the salutations of the day, left the house, and Mrs. Blunt left the room to attend to some household duties.

An hour slipped through the great gate of the Present into the Past, and Dr. Willet and the matron again stood in the sick chamber.

Sleep, like the moonbeams, had glided through the open window and folded the two forms in its close embrace. Mother and child had stood upon the portals of the spirit-life, and as the former joined the bright and glorious multitude beyond, the latter was borne swiftly back to earth-life, in the great chariot of Sleep.

"Life and Death in one embrace," said the doctor. "Happy mother, who has entered into the bright dawn of immortal life! Poor child, who still sojourns in the valley of Death!" and lifting the little innocent in his arms, he left the room.

Three weeks have passed away since the death of Mrs. Arnold, and the bustle of every-day life has crowded her memory from the minds of all, but Mrs. Blunt and Lettie.

The latter is recovering somewhat from the deep passionate sorrow, which, like a whirlwind, at first swept over her young spirit. But now, when the twilight hour rests upon the earth, she comes to the matron with such a deep, yearning look in her great brown eyes, that it fairly makes that good woman's heart ache.

#### CHAPTER II.

Two months prior to the commencement of our story, on a dark night, when the rain descended upon the earth, the lightning wrote in fiery characters upon the clouds, and the deep-toned thunder sounded the clarion of the coming tempest, Mrs. Blunt heard the wail of a child. Supposing it to be one of the pauper children, she immediately stepped into the open air, and guided by the cry, proceeded down the street. The next flash of lightning re-

vealed to her astonished gaze a female figure extended by the roadside. A child was endeavoring by kisses and entreaties to arouse the insensate form.

"Oh! mamma, awake! Speak to me, mamma! Lettie can't go to sleep! Lettie's afraid, mamma." The heart-rending tones of the little one brought the tears to her listener's eyes, and returning to the house, she procured assistance, and in a short time mother and child were safe from the inclemency of the weather.

Proper restoratives being applied, the sufferer soon revived, but to all the inquiring looks and eager questions with which she was assailed, she simply replied, that she had traveled far that day, and, at last, weary nature had sunk beneath the burden. Her name she gave as Arnold, and the child's as Lettie.

From the couch upon which the wanderer was laid that night, it soon became evident that she would never rise again, save when her spirit plumed its flight from earth, and her form was placed beneath the sod.

As the sun of her life sank slowly to rest behind the clouds, she at intervals related her sad story to the sympathizing matron.

Born of wealthy parents, and possessing everything that could make life happy, no cloud shadowed the summer sky of her young life, until she reached her seventeenth year.

As wealth, beauty and accomplishments were hers, of course she shone the idolized star amid a small circle of friends, while many suitors bowed before her favored shrine.

Philip Danville, the man to whom Dora Grafton gave her pure young heart's best affection, met not her parent's approval, although they could urge nothing against him, save that he possessed but little of that substance to which the world pays homage, gold. Still, as their darling smiled more brightly when he approached, they permitted his attentions.

But alas! a serpent was entering poor Dora's Eden; who wore the dark, handsome face, and fine figure, together with the polished address and smooth tongue, of George Arnold.

In a short time he insinuated himself into the good graces of Mr. and Mrs. Grafton, and became one of their daughter's most ardent admirers. Now the shadows descended, and darkened around her footsteps. Philip Danville came to bid her farewell; with a buoyant heart he was about to cross the ocean, to seek his fortune, and, returning, claim his bride.

Weeks passed on, and snowy messengers came to Dora, breathing love and hope, and she guarded them as her heart's best treasures—for were they not traced by Philip's dear hand?

At last the storm clouds burst in fury upon her defenceless head. Her father commanded her to dismiss young Danville from her mind, telling her that he was a noted gambler, that he himself had seen him enter the gaming saloon, and his numerous crimes coming to light, he had been obliged to flee to distant lands.

At first, Dora rebelled against this storm, but as no tidings came from her absent lover, refuting the accusations, she sank down and prayed in the bitterness of grief, for death.

When an alliance with Arnold was urged upon her, she told them that a new love could never spring from the dead ashes of the past.

At last her will was borne away by the overwhelming force that was rushing down upon her, and she became that saddest of all beings, an unwilling bride.

Three weeks passed among the things that were, and her parents sailed for their native Italy, to breathe again its balmy air, and gaze upon its smiling skies. Weeks were lost in months, and then came the crushing intelligence to the already miserable wife that the vessel in which her parents sailed had sunk to rest, with all its living freight, beneath the deceitful waves. Closely following in the footsteps of this calamity, came the news that her father's wealth had also taken unto itself wings and flown away. Then as if to fill her cup of misery to the brim, her husband's character was fully revealed to her suspicious heart. The wealth of which he had boasted came from the gaming-table, and then slowly in delight at her keen torture, did he reveal to her agonized heart, that Philip Danville was worthy of her best love.

Then he exultingly spoke of the cunning by which he had won her. One day as he and her father were in the street together, they saw her lover enter a gambling-saloon, and though he knew that he had gone hence to draw a young friend away, he suppressed the fact from his companion, and, by false representations, succeeded in poisoning Mr. Grafton's ear against him, until, at last, having intercepted the lover's letters, his purpose was accomplished.

Then he told Dora that he only married her for her gold. Then he cursed her for not inducing her father to double the elegant marriage portion with which he had endowed her, before the rest was laid upon the bankrupt altar.

While this storm of agony was sweeping over the wretched wife, one ray of light penetrated the gloom. A child was given unto her—a noble boy.

Ten years passed away, and Dora's property had melted before her husband's touch as quickly as dew before the sun.

From city to city and from town to town they had taken their weary way, sometimes with scarcely a shelter for their heads, and then again living comfortably for several days together.

But the storm had not yet spent its fury. One day in a fit of drunken rage, Arnold struck his boy prostrate to the floor, as he was endeavoring to shield his mother from his brutal father.

In three weeks from that day the weeping mother saw the last star of life go out in bitter darkness, as she followed the loved form of her noble Walter to its last resting-place.

Five years dragged their slow length wearily by, and Mrs. Arnold was freed from her tyrant. He had lost his life in a drunken brawl, and she was left but a wreck of her former self, with a little girl of one year dependent upon her for support.

She maintained herself and babe for three years, by the use of her needle; but hearing of more profitable employment that she could procure in a neighboring city, she had taken up her weary line of march for that place, when the Death Angel overtook her in the quiet village of Greenville.

Thus she who was once the heiress of thousands and the petted idol of society, found that repose so long desired, so wearily waited for, in an almshouse.

#### CHAPTER III.

Swiftly on golden pinions fled the years, until Lettie had attained the age of eight. She was a bright, active child, with a heart brimming with love and affection for Mrs. Blunt. Sometimes her laugh rang out clear and joyous, and again her voice thrilled forth a bird-like note, which excited the admiration of all who listened; but oftener she sang as though her spirit was weeping bitter tears.

As the pauper children were withdrawn from the guardianship of Mrs. Blunt from time to time, and sent forth to climb the hill of life alone, she naturally trembled lest her darling should be taken, and had therefore watched over her with jealous care, hoping that she would yet be transplanted to bloom a loved flower in some happy home.

Ah, Lettie, thy bark is on the broad ocean of life, and thou wilt meet with rougher winds and waves, that will toss thee on more quickly into the calm peaceful waters beyond!

Again the Angel of Change knocked at the door of the almshouse, and as Lettie answered the summons, she disappeared from the view. Oh, joyous was the morning, when the weary spirit relieved from the angel throng, and the music of one voice, as it said, "Well done, good and faithful servant," was sweeter to her ear than all the praises of earth combined.

Soon there was a change at the almshouse; another ruled in Mrs. Blunt's place, and Lettie, with the story of her mother's life written on her young heart, felt most keenly the loss of the kind-hearted matron.

It was no gentle hand now that drew the veil from her mother's memory, and often she was roused to retort, when some cutting word had pierced her sensitive soul. But she zealously guarded her mother's secret, knowing full well, that few natures could appreciate the beauty and excellence of that being she had loved so fondly.

Mrs. Carr, the new matron, conceived a great dislike for Lettie, because of the latter's grace and dignity, which always made her seem so inferior, even in the presence of a mere child; and like all mean natures, she endeavored to harass the child as much as possible.

"Oh, she thinks altogether too much of herself," she would say, "and I shall have her 'bound out,' at the earliest opportunity; then we'll see if the fine lady won't come down a peg or two with her airs."

In the outskirts of Greenville, two miles distant from the village, was a large farm owned by Deacon Bell. Broad acres of corn and wheat bowed and nodded their graceful plumes to the passing breeze, while waiting for the harvesters.

At the right stretched rich meadow land, where the lowing kine grazed in happy content. On the left, an orchard of fruit trees lifted their heavily laden branches upward, as if proud of their burden.

In the rear of these smiling fields was a beautiful grove of young trees. Lifting their arms toward the blue sky, they seemed striving to ascend higher. A little further on, these young monarchs of the wood, guarded with loving care a murmuring stream, that went singing and dancing over picturesque rocks, and then falling into the dell below, it went on more calmly, as if its descent had taught it wisdom, and it had outgrown the frolicsome spirit of childhood.

The buildings connected with the farm were built by the deacon's ancestors. No tree, shrub, or graceful clinging vine relieved the house of the stoniness that rested about it.

The passing traveler looked in vain for the sweet, bright emblems of Spring. A few sunflowers reigned sole monarchs there; but the deacon and his wife would not have tolerated these, if they had not been conducive to the health of the poultry.

On this morning we find the deacon and his family at the breakfast table. He is a stern, hard-faceted man, and about little beloved by his family. They fear him, and the gloom which surrounds him is so thick that affection cannot penetrate it.

By the steaming tea-urn sits his wife. She is a notable housekeeper. Her features seem to have taken the stern impress of her husband's; but, unlike him, self-esteem sits enthroned in every look and motion. A boy of ten and a girl of six, occupy chairs on either side, while a baby sleeps in the cradle.

"Nancy," said the deacon, "I expect my mind here next week to harvest the corn, and gather the apples,

and I think you will need some help, so I've engaged to have a girl bound to us from the poor-house."

"Well, Jacob, that does beat all," exclaimed Mrs. Bell in astonishment. "To be sure the work is very hard; but then to think of taking a pauper! There is no knowing what tricks she will be teaching the children, and I am sure they behave bad enough now."

"I've thought of all that," was the reply. "But then to think how we can lead the child to salvation, and instruct her in the paths of righteousness. If we don't take her, she may become a curse upon the earth, and I shall always feel as if the sin was laid at our door."

"Well, I do not know but what you are right," responded his wife. "It is a fearful responsibility though; but perhaps we are the chosen instruments in the hands of the Lord to snatch the child from ruin."

"Well," said the deacon, rising from the table, "I will go after the girl this evening. She may as well come now; then she will get used to our ways some, before the hard work comes on."

At night when the family assembled for evening devotions, Lettie Arnold stood among them. The customary formalities have been observed, and she is assigned to the tender mercies of the deacon and his family, until eighteen summers shall have passed over her head.

#### CHAPTER IV.

Lettie Arnold has been installed in her new home one month. To-night we find her washing the kitchen floor. She is faint and weary; for no refreshment has she had since noon, nor can she have until her work is done.

Two hours previous, the deacon and his wife, together with Moses and Ruth, went to a prayer meeting, leaving her to put Abel, the baby, to sleep, and to wash the floor.

For an hour, with weary step and aching head, she traversed the room, endeavoring to still the fretting child. At last, tired with his own cries, he sank to sleep, leaving her to finish her task.

The hands upon the clock pointed to the hour of nine, and her work at last finished, with the pail in her hand, she opened the door, and was stepping out, when Moses, with a groan, sprang up before her. Her burden fell from her nerveless grasp, and its contents were precipitated entirely over him.

"There, miss, see what you've done!" he exclaimed, in an angry tone. "Won't you catch it for throwing all that dirty water over me?"

"You know I did not intend to, Moses," she quietly replied. "Please tell your mother how it was." At that instant the deacon and his wife came up. They stopped short when they saw the plight Moses was in, and the troubled look on Lettie's face.

"Well, this is pretty doings," exclaimed Mrs. Bell, with an angry flush upon her countenance. "How happened it?"

"Lettie flung all that dirty water in my face," replied the hopeful son. "She pretended she did not see me when I came up. I suppose she thought it would be a good way to vent her spite, because she had to wash the floor this evening."

For the next few minutes the blows descended thick and fast upon the shrinking form of the orphan, and then she was sent to her wretched bed in the attic, faint and weary from hunger and exhaustion.

"That girl belongs to the world's people," began Mrs. Bell, as she returned to the kitchen, where the deacon had already seated himself. "I don't know what I shall do with her. She didn't seem to care a bit for spoiling Moses's clothes, but went off to bed as sulkily as could be. I do believe she is hardened against all attempts to redeem her from sin."

"We must watch, pray and constantly strive with her, Nancy," replied the deacon. "I hope she will yet become an ornament to the church. By our efforts, she may yet be a worthy offering before the throne of Grace."

Midnight found the angel-sleep resting over the farmhouse, yet one watcher was not folded in his embrace. Poor Lettie's heart ached with the weary burden upon it, and she did not lose herself in dreamy forgetfulness, until morning, with rapid strides, followed quickly in the retreating footsteps of the night.

Several days after the events narrated above occurred, as Mrs. Bell sat busily sewing in the kitchen and listening to Lettie's quick step in the porch, Ruth came in, and flinging herself into a chair, commenced drumming with her feet.

"Go into the other room if you want to make that noise," said her mother, looking up.

The child deigned no reply, but continued swinging her foot, though with less noise than before. Suddenly she hit her mother's work-basket and sent it spinning over the floor. The next instant, a box upon the ear sent her after it.

"You little good-for-nothing thing!" exclaimed Mrs. Bell, in an angry tone. "You can't be content with you, unless you are up to some mischief? Now do you pick up all those things, and then take yourself off, and don't let me see your face again for one while."

Several minutes of quiet ensued, and at last Ruth spoke: "Oh, mother, I wish you would get me a new dress to wear to meeting. I am actually ashamed of my old one, it looks so shabby. Why, last Sabbath, when I went into Sunday School, it looked dreadful mean by the side of the other girls," and Eliza Green pointed at me, and then whispered to Maria Small,

and they laughed together, and Eliza said, 'poor thing, she don't have a new dress once an age.' Now, would you get it, mother?"

"I should think you would be teasing for new clothes, after such behavior," replied her mother, in a taunting tone. "What would your father say if he heard you talking about dress and Sunday school, all in the same breath? But go away, now, and I will see what I can do for you. I am sure the child needs it," she said, as the door closed after the retreating form of Ruth; "but I don't see how I can get it. It won't do any good to ask her father, and I sha'n't have any money to spare, until after the cranberries are sold. Then to think of Deacon Green's daughter making fun of her, when they have hard work to live themselves; rake and scrape as best they can. As for Maria Small's father, he is n't worth half so much as the deacon. I declare, it is too bad that they should have a chance to crow over my child. I must contrive some way, that's certain. The girl sha'n't go to meeting again, until she can hold up her head with the best of them. I can make some excuse to the deacon, next Sunday, if he says anything about her going to church. I think that Deacon Green and Mr. Small had better teach their children good manners, though."

And Mrs. Bell laid down her work, to muse upon the pride and sinfulness of human nature. Suddenly a happy thought seemed to flash through her mind, and a smile attempted to play round her mouth.

"Lettie," she called; "come here. I want you." In a moment the child appeared, and Mrs. Bell's face lighted as her eyes fell upon the beautiful curls that fell in such luxuriance over her shoulders, and nestled so lovingly about the sweet face.

"Lettie," said she, "I am going to cut off your hair. It must be a great trouble to you when you are about your work, and then, again, these frivolous curls are snarled, leading your soul to perdition."

The child stood bewildered a moment, but the sharp click of the shears, as several long, glittering curls fell into her mistress's lap, seemed to arouse her, and she sprang away from her grasp.

"You sha'n't cut off my hair!" she cried, with flashing eyes. "It is all I have left to remind me of my dear mother. She loved it very much, and she would not like to have it cut now, I know. Please let me have my curls!"

"You are a good girl," replied Mrs. Bell. "Come here, this minute, if you know what's good for yourself. I'll learn you to resist me when I'm trying to do you good," and she caught her and shook her violently. "You needn't trouble yourself about your mother; she's where she don't care for you now. She's got as much as she can do to attend to her own sufferings, if she's got what she deserved. She was a bad woman, and you are just like her, treading in the same path."

The child clenched her small hands, and stamped her foot with rage.

"You shall not talk so about my darling mother!" she cried. "She was a great deal better than you are, and I hate you—you wicked woman. If every one upon earth was like you, I should think God would send down a shower of brimstone and fire upon it, as the deacon read about, the other night."

For a moment Mrs. Bell was struck dumb with astonishment. She could not believe that the excited creature before her was the gentle Lettie of the morning. She finished cutting her hair, without a word; but the child knew that it was only the silence that betokened a storm.

Half an hour later, the deacon's wife sat with her treasure before her.

"Yes," she said, gathering it up triumphantly, "the hair dresser in the village will give me a good price for this, and then Ruth can have her dress. I mustn't let the deacon know a word about it, though, or he never would get over it. He says the little jade must be treated like one of the family. Strange, he has n't more pride, than to want to bring a pauper up like his own children!"

Poor Lettie lay writhing in agony upon her little bed in the attic; but the cruel stripes which Mrs. Bell had laid upon her body, were nothing compared with the soul-anguish that was cutting her spirit.

"Mother, mother!" she sobbed; "oh, take me away from this cruel world. No one loves me here. I know I was wrong to speak so to Mrs. Bell, but I could not help it. I felt just as if I could have killed her. Oh dear, I am so sorry, now!" and the child again gave vent to a paroxysm of tears.

At night, when the moon-beams bathed the earth with their mellow light, Lettie stole out from the house and flew down to the murmuring stream. The silvery, dancing water smiled brightly as she bent above it.

"One leap," she thought, "and then I can lay calmly at rest beneath those waves. No one will regret me, if I do leave this world of sorrow and care," and she sat down upon the bank, with her feet in the water.

Then the wind-harps sent forth a mournful sound, and it thrilled the child's heart, and she paused and looked up. The moon seemed to smile lovingly upon her, and the quiet scene soothed her spirit, and she said:

"Nay, I will not leave this glorious world until a message comes to me from the Father of souls. But I will strive to be good and pure, and seek to live so truly that I shall go with joy and gladness to meet my angel mother, in heaven."

As those words fell from her lips, it seemed as if the wind anthem caught them up and responded with joy.

#### CHAPTER V.

The Sabbath was a day of dread to all the children.



at the farm house. In pleasant weather, they always walked to church; a distance of a mile and a half. To Lettie, the way was a delightful one. The trees met above their heads, forming a beautiful green arch, while the sunlight played amid the leaves and the birds sang their morning orisons upon the topmost boughs.

All this was lost upon the Deacon and his wife, as they marched with military precision forward, keeping a strict eye upon their youthful charges, lest they should, by a skip or a jump, violate the sacredness of the day.

The deacon always required Moses and Lettie to repeat as much of the discourse as they could remember, every Sabbath; if they could not do this satisfactorily, they were obliged to learn a chapter in the Bible in addition to "Watts's hymns for infant minds," which was their regular Sunday evening lesson.

Weeks passed on, bringing no change to the monotonous drudgery of Lettie's life. Winter had ascended earth's throne, and now reigned supreme. The old year lay stretched upon his funeral bier. The snow formed his winding-sheet, and the winds sighed his requiem through the leafless branches of the drooping trees.

Poor Lettie was now very lonely. Oh, how her heart yearned for sympathy. Life seemed almost unendurable. Sometimes, as thought rose surging within her, it seemed as if her soul would burst with its pent-up emotions. One day she ventured out to the hill back of the house. The music of merry voices had been borne to her ear by the passing breeze, and very delightful did the swift, gliding motion of children's miniature sleighs appear to her wondering gaze. Suddenly she was aroused by her cry:

"We don't want any paupers here," and a snow-ball, aimed by a rude hand, struck her cheek. Instantly, with shouts and laughs of derision, the snow fell thick and fast around her, and turning, she entered the farmhouse, followed by epithets and abuse, and, loud above all, she heard the voices of Moses and Ruth.

"I wonder if I am any worse for being a pauper?" thought she.

The deacon's oldest children were now attending school, and Lettie lounged to go, too, but did not dare to make the request. She studied what books she could find in the house, but her thirst for knowledge almost grew intolerable, and what little she could acquire only seemed to feed the flame.

Slowly the roses faded from her cheeks; her step lost its elastic spring, and she grew pale and languid, with a sharp pain in her side, that made her catch her breath in agony.

One morning she did not come from the attic at her usual hour, and her mistress sent Ruth to call her.

"Come, lazy-bones; mother says you must come right down this minute," was the girl's rude greeting, as she opened the door.

"Oh, my, nint I glad I nint in your shoes; wont you catch it when mother gets hold of you?" she added by way of encouragement.

Lettie heard her footsteps die away in the distance, and then strove to rise, but the room seemed to whirl before her eyes, and she sank back upon her pillow, unconscious. The next thing she knew she stood in the middle of the floor, shaking under the vigorous hand of Mrs. Bell.

"I'll learn you to lay till you are called," screamed the exasperated woman. "Pretty well, if I've got to come up here and put you out of bed. I guess you won't want me to come again, though! Now, clap on your duds and be down stairs in no time, if you know what's good for yourself!"

Very soon she appeared below; but it seemed to her as if she was walking in a dream. She ate no breakfast, and when the Deacon inquired the reason, his wife replied:

"Oh, she's only got a fit of the sulks."

An hour or two after, as Mrs. Bell sat sewing in the kitchen, she heard a heavy fall in the porch.

"I wonder what that girl's broke, now?" she muttered. Stepping to the door she opened it, and beheld Lettie extended at full length upon the floor. Her face was deadly pale, and the small hands were clenched as if in pain.

Now thoroughly frightened, the woman raised her in her arms and placed her upon her own bed. No signs of life appeared. Hastily stepping to the door, she called Moses and told him to go with all speed for the doctor. When the latter arrived, he found the child delirious. To all the questions with which he was assailed, he gravely shook his head.

"I cannot do much for her," he said.

Only once that day was the sufferer conscious. Then a feeling of delight shot through her heart, as she thought that perhaps this might be a summons from the Death Angel.

For weeks her hold upon life was very weak, and it seemed apparent to all that a greater master than the Deacon was about to snatch her away ere she had completed her years of servitude.

But the child was not yet to go through the silent passage to the world of spirits. Earth had not done with the little "bound" girl.

When Lettie again walked forth, winter had retreated, step by step, before the conquering spring. The dancing water laughed joyously that it had been freed from its fetters, and all nature rejoiced in its gala dress.

For a time, Moses and Ruth were more kind than before, as if they realized that Lettie had struggled back to life, even when the shadows of the dark valley had fallen about her.

The school for the summer term is about to be again opened, and the child sighs as she thinks that she cannot walk in those pleasant paths of learning.

Everything now drags on in its accustomed routine at the farm-house, from which they have been turned aside to let the car of sickness pass.

One evening, when the twilight hour rested upon the earth, Mrs. Bell gave Lettie permission to walk out for a little while. To the beautiful grove and the running brook, she wended her way, and seating herself upon the mossy bank, her thoughts traveled into the dim future. The quiet of the hour, the gentle zephyrs toying lightly with her soft, dark hair, the bright silvery stream at her feet, and above all, the blue canopy overhead, with its diamond eyes, filled her soul with a lofty inspiration, and tuned her harp to sing the praise of the All-Wise Father.

How grandly, solemnly, rang forth her voice in the dim glades of these woods, until the whole scene was bathed with the rich glow of melody, and the voices of the Night were hushed before it. She sang of the strife between Truth and Error, and her soul seemed filled with the desire to go forth and battle for the Right. Then she sang of suffering Humanity, of the chains of bigotry and superstition that bound them;

of the oppressors' proud and mighty feet placed firmly upon the neck of the miserable and the lowly. Again her voice grew soft and gentle, as she dwelt upon the cries of agony that had been wafted to the angel-world upon the speaking breezes, until bright spirits had bowed their heads in sorrow as they listened; and now, with their hearts filled with love from the Great Fountain, they had gone forth to give "hope to the hopeless—to the dying, life."

And when the orphan returned to her dreary life, the light that dwelt in her heart radiated about her person, and for a time the fogs and clouds of her daily life were powerless to reach her.

#### CHAPTER VI.

One evening the Deacon came in with a flush upon his countenance. There was no one in the kitchen but his wife, and she looked up in surprise when he appeared, knowing by his manner that something had happened to disturb him.

"You know, Nancy," he exclaimed, throwing himself into a chair, "that Bro. Grant has been strangely neglectful of our meetings, lately? He has not been to the missions for several months, and his seat has been vacant for many weeks when we have assembled for prayers. A fortnight ago he was superintending the putting down of a new carpet in his parlor, and to-day I saw a cartload of furniture at the door of his house."

"You don't say so!" exclaimed his wife. "Well, I thought sister Grant was getting very worldly; but really, I did n't think it had come to this!"

"So, to-day," continued the Deacon, without noticing the interruption, "I met him in the street, and I thought it was my duty to admonish him of the error of his ways, and strive to win him back to the paths of peace. He heard me through, very patiently, and I began to think I had convinced him of the many pitfalls that are open ready to receive him, and of his certain destruction if he kept on in his present course; I saw the glory that would be mine if I restored this lost sheep to the fold, and I prayed earnestly that I might be successful; when he spoke in this manner:

"Well, deacon Bell, I think you have overlooked the beam in your own eye, in striving to get the mote out of mine. You say you were at the missionary meeting last night, collecting funds for the heathen, when you have one of them in your own family, only a great deal worse off, for you ought to know better. Now every one knows that you and your wife make a perfect slave of that little 'bound' girl, and you even grudge her the time she ought to spend in school."

"Oh, how I wish I had been there, I guess I would have given him a piece of my mind!" exclaimed Mrs. Bell, who could scarcely restrain her indignation until her husband had finished. "The little hussy must have been complaining to somebody! Oh, was there ever such depravity? Why she do n't even earn her salt, and if she went to school, she would only be a burden to us; besides, she's only a pauper, and precious little good would it do her to go to school. Oh, every day I realize that the devil is indeed going round like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour! I declare, though, it is melancholy to think that Brother Grant has become one of his victims."

"We must watch and pray constantly, Nancy, that we may not fall into his clutches also." And the deacon leaned back in his chair, and sank into a reverie.

His wife went on with her work, her tongue still busy. "Mrs. Grant, I know, is at the bottom of all this; she is leading her husband astray. Mrs. Lane, Mr. Lane's new wife, has filled her head full of notions, and enticed her into the path of sin and folly. They do say that that woman has induced her husband to go over to the Universalist meeting, and I suppose the Grants will follow soon. If anything could make Mr. Lane's first wife rise up in her grave, it would be to see that young frivolous creature the mother of her children. Poor things, how my heart does bleed for them! Why, only this afternoon I saw little Nettie out in the yard, so I just stepped over there with a piece of cake in my hand, and says I,

"Does your new mother whip you, Nettie? Come here and tell me all about it. Here's a nice piece of cake for you."

Then the child looked up with the tears running down her cheeks, and said between her sobs:

"My new mamma is real good, and Nettie loves her dearly."

But, land! it sounded to me just like a parrot saying something it had been taught to say.

"What are you crying for, then?" I said. "Tell me—you need n't be afraid."

She replied, "Cause my little birdie is dead."

"Perhaps your mother killed it," I said. "She would if you loved it."

Upon that the child screamed out,

"Let me go, you bad, naughty woman! She's Nettie's dear, pretty mamma!"

I knew she was afraid, though, for at that minute Mrs. Lane came out, and the child ran up and put her arms round her neck; but I knew she had been made to do so. There Mrs. Lane stood, with her long dangling curls, looking as vain as could be. There is no knowing what sins that woman will have to answer for, especially in regard to her treatment of those children.

Then I hurried home, and found Lettie had let my apple-sauce burn; so I boxed her ears smartly, and told her she should n't have a mouthful of supper."

Here Mrs. Bell arose and went to the deacon's side, and found him sound asleep.

"Well, I never," she soliloquized; "if that man has n't gone to sleep; I declare I do n't believe he's heard one word I've said. Dear me, I do wish the deacon would get a carpet for our keeping-room floor—but only to think of the worldliness of those Grants!"

The next week, to Lettie's great joy, she was told by the deacon that she was to attend school. Moses and Ruth objected strongly to this; but their father was firm. His eyes had been opened somewhat by the application of Mr. Grant's plain words. Of all things he desired his name to stand high in the estimation of his fellow men. He had spoken, and the child should go to school. Now did a ray of heaven's own sunlight stream across Lettie's path.

Ruth tried her utmost to make her situation as bad as possible; but even her rude manner was sometimes checked by the meekness with which the gentle girl bore her revilings.

There were a few pious-proud girls at school that

shrouded her mother's memory, then did her dark eye flash, until they covered before the stormy spirit they had themselves evoked.

Miss Allen, the teacher, was one of those gentle beings that walk the earth, of whom the world has many, although unrecognized by the multitude. Their trials and sufferings are not chronicled upon the martyr's list, nor their courage and fortitude heralded to the world with a blast of trumpets. When will Humanity learn to give to these their due?

Miss Allen was much interested in her new scholar. Her character she studied earnestly; proud and passionate, yet open-hearted and generous, scornful of a mean action, yet pitying the actor. Genius had placed its impress upon her regal brow, and inspiration dwelt in the rich cadence of her voice.

Oh, earnestly did this true-hearted teacher pray for strength and judgment from above, to assist her in developing the latent powers of this glorious creature!

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Written for the Banner of Light.

#### MY MOTHER.

BY BELLE BUSH.

My Mother's a beautiful spirit, and her home is the holy Evangel's;

There she feels neither sorrow nor pain, and treads not the path of the weary.

Years ago, in the bud of my being, I knew her a radiant mortal,

But the house of her soul decayed, and she fled from the crumbling mansion.

And over the sea of eternity, bridged by the hands of the angels,

Uniting the links of belief with the golden chain of repentance,

She passed, with the torch of prayers, to the opposite shore in safety;

Where, crowned with the garlands of love, she mounted the steps of the city.

And the angels of Mercy and Truth, keeping watch at the heavenly portals,

Beheld her approach from afar, and flung open the pearly partitions;

With songs and with loud halleluiahs they welcomed the earth-ransomed stranger.

And guided her steps, till she stood on the brink of the Life-giving fountain.

Where, tasting its Lethæan waters, all joys of the world were forgotten.

Save the beautiful bloom of the soul—the love in the heart of the neighbor.

This, the light of her life upon earth now budded and blossomed in heaven—

Stately and fair it towered, and the hue of its leaves was immortal.

Strong tendrils grew out from each bough, and twined round the chords of her spirit.

While the zephyrs of Paradise played and toyed with the delicate branches.

Till each leaf like a harp-string swayed and murmured in strains of Zion.

And oft with their musical numbers reminded the wondering mother

Of the flowers she had left in the desert—her weary and sorrowing children.

In their half open lids she read the pledge of her glorious mission.

And rejoiced that love should gather those earthly buds to her bosom.

The angels beheld her with gladness rise up on those radiant pinions

Which float on the wings of a sunbeam, and rival the joyous angels.

Oh! my mother's a beautiful spirit, and her home is the holy Evangel's;

But she comes on her soft floating pinions to look for her earth-bound children;

She comes, and the hearts that were weary no longer remember their sorrow

In their joy that the lost is returned, our beloved and radiant mother!

She comes, and our spirits rejoice, for we know she's our guardian angel.

O'er our journey in life keeping watch, and giving us gentle caresses.

She comes, she comes, with the light when it opens the gates of the morning.

And her voice is our music by night—of perils and storms giving warning;

Her robes are of delicate pink—sweet emblem of holy affection—

And twined o'er her radiant brow are the amaranth blossoms of heaven.

She smiles, and the light of her smiles bringeth joy in our seasons of darkness;

She whispers, and soft are the zephyrs that echo her musical numbers.

As they wait o'er the chords of our being her thrilling and fervent emotions.

We listen to her in our sorrow, and yield to each gentle impression.

Till pleasant to us is the path leading down to the rushing river;

O'er the swift rolling current of death we shall pass to the homes of the spirits.

And waiting beside the still waters, our mother will be there to greet us;

With songs she will welcome our coming, and fold us to rest on her bosom.

And teach us, like sleeping children, to murmur the language of heaven!

Oh! my mother's a beautiful spirit, and her home is the holy Evangel's;

But she comes on the pinions of love, to watch o'er her sorrowing children.

She comes, and the shadows depart, as we thrill to her gentle caresses.

Our Father in Heaven, we bless thee that our mother's our Guardian Angel!

"Say 'Our!'"—Mr. Spillman had just married a second wife. A few weeks after the wedding, Mr. S. remarked:

"I intend, Mrs. Spillman, to enlarge my dairy."

"You mean our dairy, my dear," replied Mrs. Spillman.

"No," quoth Mr. Spillman, "I intend to enlarge my dairy."

"No, my dairy,"

"Say our dairy!" said our—screamed she, seizing the poker.

"My dairy, my dairy!" yelled the husband.

"Our dairy, our dairy!" re-echoed the wife, emphasizing each word with a blow on the back of her ringing spouse.

Mr. Spillman retreated under the bed. In passing under the bed his suspenders broke. He remained under cover several minutes, waiting for a lull in the storm. As length his wife saw him thrusting his head out at the foot of the bed, much like a turtle from his shell.

"What are you looking for?" exclaimed the strong-minded wife.

"I am looking for our breeches, my dear."

The wife looked ally.

"Better to be alone than in bad company." True; but unfortunately, many persons are never in so bad company as when they are alone.

#### Original Essays.

#### ANCIENT GLIMPSES OF THE SPIRIT-LAND.

NUMBER THIRTY-FIVE.

From the very beginning of our Glimpses, we have shown that Hebrew Spiritualism did not essentially differ from that of cotemporary and surrounding nations. The bloody sacrifices as a means of placing the wrath and enlisting the favors of their tutelary Gods—the means of obtaining a *quid pro quo*, were alike common to Jew and Gentile as the Scriptures of both fully bear witness; that the Lords, Gods, Angels or Demons, were the beings to be nourished in these manifestations of the spirit in blood, entrails and incense. Through the peculiar mesmerio or odyllo aura as resultant from these sacrifices, we understand how the grosser spirits would both seek and delight in bloody sacrifices. Search the Scriptures, for in them you will find that the Hebrew Lord was as fond as the Gentile Gods of the "sweet smelling savor" of blood paunches and incense. Probably, for this reason, some of the early Christians classed the Deity of Israel with the subterranean Gods.

Let us seek to the ancient views of these matters. Again we turn to Ralph Cudworth, *Doctor of Divinity*, to gather from his exhaustless garner of antiquity. He shows that the Ancients, for the most part, believed "that in angels there is a complication of incorporeal and corporeal substances, both together, or that they are animals consisting of soul and body; that they had bodies, and yet were not bodies, but as other terrestrial animals, spirits or souls clothed with ethereal or aerial bodies. And that the generality of the Ancient fathers did not conceive angels to be mere embodied spirits is unquestionably evident from hence, because they agreed with the Greek philosophers in that conceit, that evil demons, or devils were therefore delighted with the blood and noxious of sacrifices, as having their more gross, airy, and vaporous bodies nourished and refreshed with those vapors which they did, as it were, luxuriate and gluttonize in. For thus does Porphyry write concerning them in his book *De Abstinentia*:

"These are they who take pleasure in the incense fumes and noxious of sacrifices, wherewith their corporeal and spirituous part is, as it were, pinquified; for this lives and is nourished by vapors and fumigations." And that before Porphyry, many other Pagan Philosophers had been of the same opinion, appeareth from this of Celsus, who says: "We ought to give credit to wise men who affirm that most of these lower and circumterrestrial demons are delighted with genture, blood and noxious, and such like things, and much gratified therewith; though they be not able to anything more in way of recompense than sometimes perhaps to cure the body, or to foretell good and evil fortunes to men and cities." Upon which account himself—though a zealous Pagan, persuadeth men to moderation in the use of these sacrifices, as principally gratifying the inferior or worse demons only.

In like manner Origen frequently insisteth upon the same thing, he affirming that devils were not only delighted with the idolatry of the Pagans, but that "their very bodies were nourished by the vapors and fumes arising from them." And before Origen, most of the ancient fathers, as Justin Martyr, Athenagoras, Tatian, Tertullian, &c., and also many others after them, endeavor to disparage those material and bloody sacrifices upon the same account, as things whereby evil demons were principally gratified.

So too, St. Basil, who says: "Sacrifices are things of no small pleasure and advantage to demons, because the fresh life essences are assimilated to the substances of their bodies." Thus do we see it undeniably manifest that many of the ancient fathers supposed devils to have bodies; neither can it be at all doubted, but that they concluded the same of angels too, these being both of the same kind, and differing but as good and evil men. And though they do not affirm this of good angels, but of devils only, that they were thus delighted and nourished with the fumes and vapors of sacrifices, yet the reason hereof was not because they conceived them to be altogether incorporeal, but to have pure, ethereal, or heavenly bodies; it being proper to those gross and vaporous bodies of demons only to be nourished and refreshed after that manner.

But where in this category will appear the God of old Jewry, who so delighted in the "sweet smelling savor" of the sacrificial stink-pots? On the same principle, too, was the witch's cauldron of "stewed, fried and baked." How comes the parallel so complete between the Hebrew and the Gentile sacrifices, so alike palatable to Heathen Demons and to Hebrew Lords? Will not sauce for the goose, prove to be sauce for the gander? Will the rule that measures the Gentile, fail to measure the Jew and the Christian? That these latter should charge the former with being Demon-worshippers, is simply equivalent to the "pot's calling the kettle black," as our rival Christian sects charge each other with being children of the Devil. The upright mind must pass judgment above the prejudices of education. In the unlearned sight, the Hebrew sacrifices are found to be in no wise above the plane of cotemporary Gentileism.

The ancient and modern Spiritualisms have apt correspondences to each other as set forth in Swedenborg, and in every day's experience of the modern unfolding. The more beautiful spirits, or angels of old time, are represented as "sending forth rays and splendors," and the less developed as more or less "dark and obscure, foul and squalid, and greivous to behold, it being deprived of its cognate light and beauty"—the lighter having facility of passage where the darker one shut out till they bring forth works meet for purgation. "The demons by reason of their tonality, commonly escape our sight, yet have they, notwithstanding, gross matters in them, especially those of them who inhabit the subterraneous places."

Marcellus, a monk, being initiated in the diabolic mysteries which are only the lower octave on the same scale with the mysteries of godliness, declares that "The demoniac spirit, or subtle body being in every part of it capable of sense, does immediately see and hear, and is also obnoxious to the affections of touch; inasmuch that being suddenly divided or out in two, it hath a sense of pain, as the solid bodies of other animals have, it differing from them only in this, that those other bodies, being once discontinued, are not easily consolidated together again, whereas the demoniac body being divided, is quickly re-integrated by coalescence, as air or water." He also

affirms that the bodies of these demons are nourished, though in a different way from ourselves, "Some of them by inspiration, as the spirit contained in the nerves and arteries; others by sucking in the adjacent moisture, not as we do by mouths, but as sponges and testaceous fishes."

On this, our *Doctor of Divinity* adds: "And now we may venture to conclude that the opinion of angels not being not mere abstract incorporeal substances, and unbodied-minds, but consisteth of something incorporeal, and something corporeal, that is, of soul or spirit, and body, joined together, is not only more agreeable to reason, but hath also had more suffrages among the ancient fathers and those of the greater weight, too."

Joannes Hense Conicenis, in his dialogue, approved in the seventh Council, says, "If you find angels or demons, or separate souls called sometimes incorporeal, you must understand this in respect of the tonality of their bodies only, as not consisting of the grosser elements, nor being so solid as the bodies in which we are now imprisoned;" and Origen cites Jesus as declaring himself in a spiritual manifestation that he was not "an incorporeal or bodiless demon," though he showed to his disciples the exact counterpart of the earthly body he had left. Again Origen declares, "Our soul, which in its own nature is incorporeal and invisible, in whatever corporeal place it existeth, doth always stand in need of a body, suitable to the nature of that place respectfully, which body it sometimes beareth, having put off that which before was necessary, but is now superfluous for the following state; and sometimes putting on something to what before it had, now standing in need of some better clothing, to fit it for those more pure, ethereal, and heavenly places." It thus appears how fully the Christian Fathers built upon the more extended foundations of the Heathen than the spiritual quarry of the Bible afforded. True, they build on Samuel's ghost who manifested to the witch of Endor as a basis not to be rejected, but as worthy to be placed as a clincher to "become the head of the corner;" for, says Origen, "Samuel also visibly appearing after death, maketh it manifest that his soul was then clothed with a body; that the exterior form and figure of the soul's body after death doth resemble that of the gross terrestrial body here in this life, all the histories of apparitions making ghost, or the souls of the dead to appear in the same form which their bodies had before." This fully corresponds to modern spiritual experience, and completely removes the stumbling-block of the ghost of Jesus presenting the same counterpart as his natural body. His resurrection was of the spirit, not of the flesh, for "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven." We doubt not that Jesus appeared a very much brighter ghost than the dark and revengeful Samuel, who hewed Agag to pieces before the Lord, and was otherwise relentless in bloody sacrifices of men, women, children and cattle.

The "ministering spirits" are of all characters, like those encased in flesh. "There are," says Cudworth, "understanding ministers of the Deity, demoniac or angelic, beings appointed to preside over mankind, called by Plato rulers or presidents of the supreme God who governs the whole world." It was these Rulers or Presidents who were worshipped as the Lords and angels of the Hebrews, and as the Gods and Heroes of the Gentiles. According to the spiritual status of the worshippers, would be the sacrifices to the Gods. The "sin offerings" and "trespass offerings" of goats, lambs, rams, bullocks, &c.—the divination by blood, tripe, and ram-fat—as "heave offerings" give the exact measure of the Lords or the Gods so propitiated. The witch's cauldron was only heretical, because not regularly ordained, but maintained a squatter sovereignty, as come-outers from the house of the Lord. Regular atonement to the spiritual powers was, says Cudworth, made "by the priests who were the mediators of the people unto God and in covenant with him, therefore, they were in their own persons to eat of those sacrifices." They waged a most terrible "odium theologum" to the utter extirpation of those Heathen neighbors who sacrificed on altars not reared by themselves. The blood, tripe, and ram-fat of the Hebrews was the only true "bread of the Lord." "He took a burnt offering and sacrifices for God, and Aaron came, and all the elders of Israel, to eat bread before the Lord."

The mysteries of Godliness of Jewish sacrifices were found most potent in the blood, as containing more of the life essence. Divination by the entrails while yet quickened by the aura of the blood, as well as more potently by the blood itself, was common to Jew and Gentile. Say the Hebrew Doctors, "the very essence of a sacrifice is in the sprinkling of the blood." And the Talmud, with its parallel of the Bible, says, "All Israel killed the passover, and the priests received the blood." So too the Bible runs with the Talmud, which says that "the Levites were appointed to sanctify the work unto the Lord." And again the Bible, "If any man bring a burnt offering to the Lord, he shall lay his hand upon the head of the burnt offering, and he shall kill the bullock before the Lord, and the priests, Aaron's sons, shall take the blood." Says the Talmud, "After the blood was sprinkled, the entrails were taken out and laid upon the altar." It will be recollected that when the Lord was about to kill all the first born of Egypt, he was to know his own people by "the blood marks upon the lintel and sideposts" of their houses. Cudworth shows that "the Jewish religion, and the Heathen superstition" were as one in their sacrifices. "And as the Jews, so likewise did the Heathens, in the same manner, use to ratify their covenants between parties, by eating together. In like manner, the eating of sacrifices, which were God's meat, was a federal rite between God and those that did partake of them. For the better conceiving whereof, we must observe, that sacrifices, beside the nature of expiation, had the notion of feasts which God himself did feed upon," and was supposed "to dwell among them in a visible and external manner." That which was consumed upon God's altar was accounted God's meat, as appears from the first chapter of Malachi, where the altar is called God's table, and the sacrifice upon it God's meat." When the Heathen objected to the God of Israel, that he was grossly material in feeding so much upon blood and garbage, the Hebrew Doctor of the Law replied that "the blood of beasts offered up in sacrifice had an attractive power to draw down Divinity and unite it to the Jews." In this lies the basic mystery and truth of all the ancient sacrifices. Inquire through your circles of the day of spiritual beings, having knowledge of these things—Indians, physicians, or others—and you may probably learn, as we do, that there is a rapport, mode of being between blood freshly shed, and



fleshed spirits or souls. Hence, the bloody sacrifices to the ancient Lords, Gods, or Demons.

Again says Cudworth, "The sacrifices then being God's feasts, they that partake of them must needs be his convivial, and in a manner to eat and drink with him. And that this did bear the notion of a federal rite in the Scripture's account, I prove from that place, Levit. ii: 15, 'Thou shalt not suffer the salt of the covenant of thy God to be lacking; with all thine offerings thou shalt offer salt.' This shows that the God of Israel was rather partial to salt, as well as to blood and tripe. Salt was also a part of the Heathen sacrifices, as appears from Pliny. We have seen that it was only the Orthodox who had Lords and Gods to their feasts. The same things among heretics and Heathens were pronounced as *cathedra*, as 'sacrifices to devils' or demons. Thus Maimonides, an Orthodox Jew, says of those not gathered to the altars of the Synagogues, that 'they gathered together blood for the Devils, their idols, Gods, and did eat of that blood with them as being the guests of Devils; and so were joined in federal society with them. And by this kind of communion with Devils, they were able to prophecy and foretell things to come.' See also the travels of Bruce to discover the sources of the Nile, where he found the Christian Jews of to-day fond of the bloody meat which was so attractive to their forefathers two and three thousand years ago—cutting live steaks from the animal and eating them in their blood, confirmed too by the later travelers over the same ground.

Does it appear, then, in light not clouded by nursery and priest, that the ancient religion of old Jewry surpassed that of cotemporary heathendom? Both were deeply immersed in slime, and their barbarous birth was of their barbarous antecedent causation. Sufficient unto the day was their good and their evil, the exact measure of their status in development, growth, or unfolding. The greater light of to-day must cast the ancient slough rather than continue it as the stationary, infallible mold of God. It is time to be delivered from the body of this death, a Bible as the infallible word of God, which never was, nor ever can be, but only the Scripture limnings, outwrought through fallible mediums of flesh—now darker, now brighter, in the coloring, according to apt conditions of mundane and trans-mundane worlds. We do not deny there is light in the Bible, and much of a beautiful character. Nor grant we less to scriptures of the Heathen. Both received as much as they were open to of a common Father's light, of which much comes 'glimmering through the things that were,' from the beared plane of past humanity, to the more unfolding vision of to-day. It is only the shell of the past we are willing to let slide, that the soul may breathe more freely, that it may ventilate itself broadly from old Jewry confines.

"The mills of the Gods grind slowly, But they grind exceeding small."

While we work with might and main, let us wait patiently while beholding the pulverizing of old theologues in these 'mills of the Gods.'

The Heathen Plotinus, in the fourth century before Jesus, seeks to find a harmonious whole in that "all is for the best," or, that "whatever is, is right." He says, "God made the whole most beautiful, entire, complete and sufficient; all agreeing friendly with itself and its parts, both the nobler and the meaner of them being alike congruous thereunto. Whosoever, therefore, from the parts thereof will blame the whole, an absurd and unjust censor. For we ought to consider the parts, not alone by themselves, but in reference to the whole, whether they be harmonious and agreeable to the same. Otherwise, we shall not blame the universe, but some of its parts, only, taken by themselves; as if one should blame the hair or the toes of a man, taking no notice at all of his divine visage and countenance; or, omitting all other animals, one should attend only to the most contemptible of them; or, lastly, overlooking all other men, consider only the most deformed Therites. But that which God made was the whole, as one thing, which he that attends to, may hear it speaking to him after this manner: 'God Almighty hath made me, and from thence came I, perfect and complete, and standing in need of nothing, because in me are contained all things, plants, and animals, and good souls, and men happy with virtue, and innumerable demons, and many Gods. Nor is the earth alone in me adorned with all manner of plants, and variety of animals, or does the power of soul extend at most no further than to the seas; as if the whole air, and ether, and heaven, in the mean time, were quite devoid of soul, and altogether unadorned with living inhabitants. Moreover, all things in me desire good, and everything reaches to it according to its power and nature. For the whole depends upon that first and highest good, the Gods themselves, who reign in my several parts, and all animals, and plants, and whatsoever seems to be inanimate in me. For some things in me partake only of being, some of life also, some of sense, some of reason, and some of intellect above reason. But no man ought to require equal things of unequal; nor that the finger should see, but the eye; it being enough for the finger to be a finger, and to perform its own office. As an artificer would not make all things in an animal to be eyes, so, neither has the divine Logos or spermatik reason of the world made all things Gods, but some Gods, and some demons, and some men, and some lower animals—not out of envy, but to display its own variety and fecundity. But we are like unskillful spectators of a picture, who condemn the limner, because he hath not put bright colors everywhere, whereas, he had suited his colors to every part respectively, giving to each such as belonged to it. Or else we are like those who would blame a comedy or a tragedy, because they were not all kings or heroes that acted in it, but some servants and rustic plowmen, introduced also, talking after their rude fashion—whereas, the dramatic poem would neither be complete, nor elegant and delightful, were all the worse parts taken out of it."

Orthodox Christian Cudworth, D. D., endorses this of Heathen Plotinus, with additions of his own. Of the cloudy aspect of things, the ignorance, the darkness, and what thereof is conceived in sin and brought forth of iniquity, we can only say that the effects must unfold from the causes to which they are linked or, in the language of Jesus, "It must needs be that offences come, but we would not that by whom they come." Again: "Let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall." So too the prophet Jeremiah: "Oh, Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself, nor in man that walketh to direct his steps." And St. Paul's "abounding in sin with a superabounding of grace," is another attempt to adjust the balance as set forth in "Mother Goose's Mel-

odies." Here we go up—up—up! Here we go down—down—down! Here we go backwards and forwards, And here we go round—round—roundy.

Mr. Pope also is close hauled upon the wind as he pursues the rather difficult navigation between night and day, in their very closely embracing of each other, particularly where he discovers all nature to be anchored fast in fate, with the human will left free to swing from its moorings, to drag at length through the horrible pit of misery, and then to throw its grapple to the more solid basis of the delectable mountains, whose far reaching spurs are in the deep bosom of the ocean buried.

The following lines from Pope rather jump with our own way of seeing:

"Extremes in nature equal ends produce, In man they join to some mysterious use; Tho' each by turns the other's bounds invade, As in some well-wrought picture, light and shade; And oft so mixt, the difference is too nice Where ends the virtue, or begins the vice. Poole! who from hence into the notion fall, That vice and virtue there is none at all! If white and black blend, soften and unite A thousand ways—Is there no black or white? Ask your own heart, and nothing is so plain, 'T is to mistake them, costs the time and pain. This light and darkness in one chaos join'd What shall decide? The God within the mind."

Here we find the higher law which also the Heathens taught. The more we cultivate this God-head, the more advanced becomes "the Lord our God," in the line of progression, up the mount of vision, till at last we behold him in the Celestial City, with an innumerable company of angels. C. B. P.

## TO THE SPIRITUALISTS OF AMERICA.

BY A. B. WHITING.

NUMBER TWO.

As the reformers of the nineteenth century, you are particularly blest in living in this age of progress and civilization; while our ancient co-believers were subject to all manner of persecution, which affected not only their minds but the welfare of their earthly bodies, and in many instances, their lives and liberties. We who have none of these obstacles to overcome, save a little lying slander, which is the expiring ghost of buried *Auto da fe* and inquisitions, should be very careful not to fall into the path of dead formalism, which the Church leaders of old Catholicism and Jewry, or modern Protestantism, have marked out for us; but ever preserve in its purity, the spiritual truth which the angels, through the enlightenment of this age, have been able to shower upon us.

History, if it proves anything, proves that spirit-communion in some form has existed among all nations, at every period since man's existence. It also proves that no nation, society or church, as such, has ever been able to apply and live out the great principles taught by their prophets, seers, philosophers, and their controlling guides or spirits. Hence, nearly all of the advanced Spiritualists of former ages were obliged to suffer imprisonment or death; or resign their claims at the command of a priest-class, who claimed a direct commission from God, or the gods, to say how far man might extend his observations, and in what way he should be permitted to recognize the existence or presence of his spirit-friends.

The next pretence of this class was to be able to determine and regulate the condition of spirits, establish their respective positions, and define their mental and moral status by the priestly hour-glass of the ruling religious faith. The priesthood, having control over mankind, by the aid of kings, emperors, and infamous laws, have, in all past time, been able to ward off or utterly destroy, for the time being, the influence of the spirit-world.

When Socrates taught the sublime truths of immortal life, and declared to the Athenians "that he was controlled by a spirit or demon who warned him of danger, and foretold future events," he was straightway condemned by the Grecian priests and rulers for corrupting the Athenian youth and reviling the gods. "He must die," was their edict. So he drank the poison hemlock, and passed on to his guardian angel, a martyr to the ignorance of the age.

Joshua, the seer, commonly called Jesus of Nazareth, for teaching the same great truths, was condemned and crucified by the Jewish priesthood on a similar charge, with no foundation, only he dared to be wise above priests and kings, and joined hands with the other world. The fate of the Apostles and their immediate successors is also a matter of history.

Spiritual gifts were preserved in the Christian circles for centuries after Jesus, until they were crushed out by temporal power.

The learned Ammonius Saccus, who opened a school at Alexandria, near the close of the second century, was greatly persecuted because he taught the art of procuring intercourse with spirits. His disciples called this art, *Theurgy*. Every reader of Catholic history knows how terribly the Church condemns the Theurgists.

Tertullian, one of the earliest and wisest of the Church fathers, was banished by Pope Zephyrinus, because he believed in the doctrines of Montanus, who was a visionist, or medium, who with two spiritual-minded women of noble birth, named Maximilla and Priscilla, was a continual recipient of gifts from on high. In his writings he relates many instances of spirit-control. Among others the case of a young lady who saw and described a spirit to a public assembly, so that it was recognized; and made clairvoyant examinations and prescriptions for disease.

During the terrible persecutions in Alexandria, in the year 230, there were a great many mediums burned at the stake; among them, one named Potamiana, and who afterwards appeared to a soldier, covering his head with a crown. He became converted, and suffered martyrdom shortly after.

The celebrated Irenaeus, bishop of Lyons, also taught spirit-intercourse and practical healing by laying on of hands. He died a martyr, A. D. 292.

According to Eusebius, these things were very common up to the time of Constantine the Great. This we may call the turning point with the Christian dispensation, or whose temporal power, gained its great ascendancy over Spiritualism. Here behold the corner-stone of that religious despotism that crushed out Spiritual gifts, and ruled the people with an iron hand for ages!

Constantine was the father of modern Christianity. He knew too well the power of spirits and mediums; so he passed severe laws against them, as sorcerers, magicians and children of Satan, forbidding all attempts at spirit-intercourse by the most terrible penalties. So truth, being crushed by religious and imperial despotism, struggled faintly, yet resolutely, for existence. Thus it continued for ages.

Pope Gregory, the Great, who ascended the Papal

chair A. D. 590, added somewhat to the despotism of his predecessors, and established in some respects a new order of things. All historians assert that he was a very learned man; and many declare him to have been possessed of supernatural powers. Certain it is, that he was a believer in the occult sciences, and held converse with magicians, and those that "sought favors from spirits." He was very intolerant, and condemned without reserve the very ones through whom he had received these favors as "children of the devil." Educated in a knowledge of the Latin language, and associating familiarly with astrologers and magi, all of whom believed in spirits, and in progress beyond the grave, he shrewdly caused them all to be banished or put to death, after he had stolen their doctrines and gained from them all the knowledge they would impart. From this he established the idea of purgatory. His methods of expression are very much like Virgil, whom he evidently copied, as will be seen in the following quotations from "Virgil" and "Gregory's Psalms of Penitence."

### Virgil.

"Human souls are enclosed in the obscure prison of the body, where they acquire a carnal defilement; and they preserve some corruption, even after they have left this life. To purge them, they must suffer different kinds of punishment. Some suspended in air are the sport of tempests. Others expiate their crimes in the abysses of waters. Flames scorch only the most guilty; none are exempt from punishment. Some shades are in the fields of Elysium, where they wait till a long revolution of years has purified them from the defilements of their terrestrial existence, and re-established them in their former purity. After a thousand springs spent in this sojourn, they quit it, and God recalls them to the borders of Lethe."

### Pope Gregory.

"When human souls are delivered from their terrestrial prison, the guiltless ones are condemned to punishment, whose duration is infinite. Those who have committed, on their passage, lesser crimes, or but slight faults, arrive at life eternal after having been regenerated by purifying flames."

Here, then, behold the origin of the Catholic idea of purgatory, for the discovery of which, among other virtues, Pope Gregory was made a saint. Hence the formula.

Question. How shall souls be released from purgatory?

"Answer. By the intervention of saints and the prayers of good men," i. e., priests.

This, though far ahead of the Orthodox Protestant, who will acknowledge no progress beyond the grave, "and no hope for the wicked there," is far from being up to the spiritual idea of progression, inasmuch as it places the power to decide this matter in the hands of the papacy and priesthood, giving them the keys of the holy city, so that without their aid all poor souls must knock in vain at the gates of the heavenly mansion—thus reversing the order of things; and instead of acknowledging all spirits as natural heirs to just what they deserve, and assistants to, and co-laborers with us mortals, it virtually assumes that man can, under certain circumstances, (i. e., the priestly order,) control and determine the destiny of human spirits in the land of the hereafter.

Is it then a wonder that these pseudo deacons of heaven are generally opposed to open intercourse with spirits, when all their pride, conceit, power and hopes of pecuniary reward stand tottering on the verge of human ignorance and gullibility? As the clouds of superstition are dissipated, the people rise and throw off the rule of popes, priests and kings.

In the time of Pope John 224, who ascended the papal chair A. D. 1310, the theory of praying souls out of purgatory for money, was practised to a greater extent than ever before. Pope John was a wicked and unscrupulous man. He was at one time deposed for his enormous crimes, and afterwards reinstated by fraud. He made his palatial residence at Avignon, that sink of papal iniquity and priestly crime. He learned Italian cotemporary, the worthy historian, John Villani, speaks of him thus: "After his death they found in his treasury eighteen million florins in coined money, besides his vessels, crosses, mitres and precious stones valued at seven millions more. I can render certain testimony to this, because my brother, a man worthy of belief, one of the purveyors of the pontifical court, was at Avignon when the treasurers made their reports to the cardinals. This immense wealth, together with the far greater portion which the holy father had expended, was accumulated in part by the sale of benefices and indulgences; but what contributed most to this vast wealth was the tax from the apostolical chancellors for the absolution of all crimes and prayers for the dead." To illustrate this: If an individual had committed a crime, or wished indulgence to commit one, all he had to do was to go to the chancellor and pay so much for the privilege; or if he had some friend in purgatory whom he wished prayed out, he could have it done by paying a certain sum into the treasury, etc., etc.

This infamous pope published an apostolical code, which is still in existence, stating the sum required for license to commit all kinds of crime. This kind of a tax became for the popes, his successors, one of the most vast and fruitful sources of revenue that avarice and an infernal genius ever invented. It is but proper to add that Pope John was a most relentless and violent opposer of all astrologers, necromancers, and all who in any wise "sought favors from the dead," and persecuted most cruelly a spiritual order termed the Fraticelli.

This idea of absolutions for crime, and praying souls out of purgatory, has been treasured in the Romish church up to the present time. But the Catholics, notwithstanding their cruelty and audacity, are far more consistent than Protestants; they will admit of no repentance after death; or the Spiritualist, who arrogates to himself priestly powers and professing to be wiser and better than all the spirits in the other world, with great bombast professes of the silliness of trance-speaking, and the useless and trivial character of spiritual communications," or "the tendency to evil of mediumship, seances, &c." [vide Harris, *etc.*]; or those conceited ones who suppose they are conferring great favors upon spirits in allowing them to come back and gain wisdom from such giant souls as theirs; like a certain individual I knew in an Eastern city who was wont to sign himself, "Controller of Spirits."

I cannot conclude this article without alluding to those articles in the BANNER entitled, "Spirits in Prison," wherein an anonymous correspondent, over the *nom de plume* of Paul Pry, professes to have the power to get souls out of purgatory, or "prison," as he calls it, and reconcile with each other the souls who were estranged on earth.

Is it possible that among all the hosts in the bright spheres above, there are none to be found capable of ministering to these dark souls (admitting

his premises that there are such), that they are obliged to look to this earth for assistance, from a man embodied in the flesh? Are there no fields of progress through which they can pass, no angel finger there to point to the pure light of goodness, no bright chains of love or friendship, they can feel to draw them toward those from whom by the strife and perplexities of earth-life they were alienated, without coming in servile form to Paul Pry through an earthly medium, in order to be reconciled? This looks, to my feeble vision, like a second edition of priestcraft, revised and corrected. I am unable to see any difference between paying a Catholic priest, of the order of St. Gregory, to pray out my friends, and paying Mr. Pry, or anybody else in like manner, to relieve their pains by spiritual or *spirituous* consolation.

I can only think from what I have known of spirits, in a medical and observatory experience of over eight years, that they (that is, the majority) are a step in advance of us, though what they impart to us seems to be on a similar plane of being with ourselves, in order to suit our finite capacity. "They descend to simple things, for simple is the lot of mortals; but they can rise to nobler themes, for the soul hath a heritage of glory."

They are co-workers with us in the great work of human elevation and individual growth. They, like us, progress by growth through knowledge, and not by the special act, edict, or prayer of any being terrestrial or celestial.

Spiritualists, you should take warning from the past, and frown down every attempt on the part of a conceited few who profess to rule the spirits, to make this glorious cause a pack-horse to their own aggrandizement, as also those who are striving to supercede spiritual gifts and mediums, and establish, in their stead, a priest-class that shall tyrannize over the people like those of other dispensations, and like them profess to hold in the hollow of their hands the eternal destiny of immortal souls.

Spiritualists of America, the time is at hand when you will be called upon to choose between Spiritualism and temporal powerism. One or the other must rule. Which shall it be?

You secret believers—by far the most numerous—you who are still connected with the relics of old Constantine and St. Gregory, under the name of Christianity—will you acknowledge the truth you have received, or will you as now only seek the Lord in secret or by night, like Nicodemus of old?

To you, old soldiers of the truth, who have for years battled openly and fearlessly side by side with your true and noble spirit-guides, my feeble pen need give no words of warning. Continue then as you are, free and untrammelled by creedal forms, priestcraft and tyranny!

To you who have resisted the poetic fervor of a Harris, and the stern eloquence of a Tiffany, when they urged you to discard the spirits, and follow them back to old formalism, set prayers and written creeds, I will only say, still stand by the knowledge you have received, and watch and labor for the truth we all know and feel must conquer, though kingdoms fall.

Albion, Mich., Nov. 10, 1861.

## PRAY AND PREY.

BY WARREN CHASE.

In practical life it has been so long the habit of persons to follow both the above practices, that it may be well to couple them together, and attach them to the engine that has already started for the deposit of fossils. In one, people ask for what is never granted for the asking (unless the request be to a fellow-being, and then it is not prayer) for the immutable laws are never changed, and of course what comes or falls, is regardless of your prayer, whether it be rain or shine, life or death, foe or friend.

In the old time, people prayed to secure the favor and make God pleased when he showed anger in an eclipse, or thunder storm, and they were glad when he smiled in a sunshine or rain-bow, and returned thanks. The ignorant and superstitious still go to prayers when the storm comes, if they are caught in a vessel, or in a dangerous place. The wise use lightning rods instead of prayers, and depend on science and skill, and on sailors, instead of preachers, in a storm on ship-board.

But it is not more ridiculous to depend on prayers to save a ship in a storm or a house from lightning, than it is to depend on them to save a wicked, turbulent, stormy soul from hell. The prayers of the congregation will be as effectual in saving the deacon's body from his fever as they will in saving his soul from hell, and God will do as much for him in one case as the other.

Hell is anger, in various degrees and stages, hatred, scorn, contempt, jealousy, envy, malignity, &c. All the prayers of Christendom cannot stop its burning a soul that contains it, and God will aid, as he does in fever or storms, and no other way. Get out of the fever, out of the storm, out of hell, and you are safe, whether by washing, running, cooling or affectioning the soul.

God drives on the machinery of the universe without the least regard to your health or life, happiness or misery, body or soul—"helps those who help themselves, and works in the working soul." Praying to God for favors for the soul, or in the next world, is about as absurd as praying for them in the body, or in this life; for general not partial laws govern all worlds where God rules, and we must conform or break, yield or fall—prayers or no prayers. Prayers will never answer for wet powder, and chaplains in an army will never secure a victory by the especial favor of the Gods. God will never hoe your corn, weed your garden, nor pluck the thorns out of your heart, or quench the passions in your soul, in answer to your prayers; and in every case they will prove as worthless, so far as God and especial favor are concerned, as the moanings of a fly in the web of the spider, or the howling of a wild beast in the cage of a menagerie.

God is Law, and Law is Fate, and it will not soften or change for prayers, however earnest; but if you can hoe corn better for praying in the morning, then go to prayers, but do not expect God to help you as a reward for your prayers, for they are worthless to him.

The other—praying—often carried on by the same persons, is worse than useless; it is injurious and destructive to both parties. It is a sort of petty plundering of goods and chattels; loving black mail, or gossiping on reputation, and nibbling at character—pulling threads out of the garments of others. It often gets souls into hell, and prayers cannot get them out, and hundreds of persons keep up a kind of sawing operation, praying themselves into hell, then pulling at the other end with prayer, and in-

stead of getting up and out, out deeper, till the life is worn off. Praying necessitates praying, as the use of tobacco necessitates the use of rum, and rum that of opium. Thomas Paine once said to a preacher, through the late Mrs. Morrill, of Lawrence, that prayers in our world were what slaves and crutches were for the lame, not the sound; but it was no doubt given as a rebuke, for a crutch does bring foreign aid to the body of a cripple, but prayers do not do it, except aid from mortals or spirits—then they should be addressed to them, as a cripple would pray to the mechanic to supply a crutch.

Tunton, Mass., Dec. 24, 1861.

## LIGHT AS MATTER.

EDITOR BANNER.—Several weeks ago I wrote an article for you, in which I endeavored to lay before your readers a few natural truths, about which the public generally are quite in error.

An article appears in the BANNER of Nov. 16th, page three, signed "A. J. B." in which the writer, in giving his own views, expresses also the general view respecting light as matter. He uses the following expressions, viz: "Is light the only material substance, &c.?" in which the material character of light is taken for granted.

I will now endeavor to make my remarks upon this subject brief enough for a place in the BANNER.

Light, heat, electricity, magnetism and various forms of attraction are not matter, but *forces*, and are so demonstrated to be, by modern science. Professor W. Thompson, "On the Possible Density of Luminiferous Medium," conceives that "a cubic foot of luminiferous ether, at the distance of the earth from the sun, cannot contain less than  $\frac{1}{1600 \times 10^{17}}$  of one pound of matter," and the inference is obvious that if we regard light as a *simple force*, propagated through the luminiferous ether as vibrations, as sound is propagated through the air by vibrations, we shall have a better understanding of the matter.

The old philosophers, with all their efforts, could never transcend matter, hence we have light, heat, electricity, classed by them as *imponderable agents*, in which term was left a considerable ambiguity of meaning, but, in reality, only asserting that they did not know that these forces were not matter.

Mechanics who have studied Joule's method of determining his mechanical equivalent of a degree of heat, appreciate that heat is a force. They who are familiar with the steam engine need not have any demonstration forced upon them. The analogies between light and heat are great. Indeed, to a certain extent they seem to be convertible to each other. Of Electricity, we know nothing, except of the phenomena incident to its transfer from place to place. But enough is known to demonstrate its analogy to light and heat, as the equivalent of a mechanical force. Of attraction we can have no idea, except as a force, but light and heat, under certain circumstances, modify attractions, while electricity develops attractions of a peculiar kind. ENOS N.

Written for the Banner of Light.

## A SOLDIER'S FAREWELL.

BY REMUS ROBINSON.

Farewell, dear New England, the home of my birth! Thou dearest and brightest and fairest on earth! Fate, stern, inexorable fate doth decree, That we must be parted—farewell unto thee!

Thy mountains and rivers, thy lone woods deeps, Thy dark, gloomy gorge where thy proud eagle sweeps; Thy hills and thy valleys where my young feet have strayed, Are scenes that from memory, never can fade.

But not all the scenes to me beautifully fair, With the one grandest feature of time can compare; But the name that has best thee from moment of birth Is a halo of light encircling the earth!

Yes, Herald of Freedom—blest land of the free! 'T is this that instinctively turns me to thee; Fond home of humanity, around clustering stand The hopes of oppressed ones in every land.

Your bright starry banner that first was unfurled On the ramparts commanding the "hub of the world," Has proved a protector, a passport in hand, To thy children when wandering in far distant land.

But alas! its bright folds have been trailed in the dust By despots and traitors in whom is no trust; Yet the world calmly waits thy rallying cry—Sound it, "Death to all traitors ere Liberty die!"

O, my native New England! I woo befitting the day, Is thine that thou countenance Slavery's sway; And thy children must bear woes and sufferings untold, In the struggle that follows thy fame to uphold.

Still strong hands are ready, warm hearts wildly beat, Thy hill-sides resound to the hurrying feet Of thousands who crave as the heart of one man, To stand first and foremost in Liberty's van.

Then raise the proud standard and fling to the breeze That flag known and honored on all the broad seas; And let it proclaim, as it spans the blue wave, That no longer it floats o'er the land of the slave!

Make then this struggle a contest for right, And who would not answer thy call to the fight, And speed to the field to redeem and to save—Dying proud, though we win but a warrior's grave?

Williamstown, Conn., 1861.

A GOOD STORY.—The following is told of a Washington county man, who on his way to Cincinnati became somewhat elevated by sundry "drinks," but, as good luck would have it, found a boat at the wharf and was quickly on his way.

Soon after leaving the wharf, a man came aboard for his fare. Horrell handed out a five dollar bill, and received four dollars and ninety-five cents in change. He rammed it into his pocket-book with a great eagerness, supposing the clerk had made a mistake. That done he leaned back into his chair and fell asleep. A little while, and he was plucked awake by the same man, who again demanded fare. "Discovered the mistake," thought he, holding out a handful of change. The man, as before, took only five cents, and Horrell again went into a doze. Ere he had got fairly to dreaming of home and friends far away, around came the collector again, and thus it went on for a long time.

At last Horrell thought it very inconvenient, and concluded to vote the collector a nuisance, and give him a bit of advice besides; so said he—

"Is (ho) this a da-n-ger (ho) oos be (ho) boat?" "By no means," said the man. "Bran new."

"Then, by gummy, (ho) why do (ho) do n't you collect all the fa (ho) hnr at once—not bother a fel (ho) heller for its every mile as it (ho) comes due?"

"Really," said the man, "where do you think you are going?"

"Cincinnati (ho) hinnatt!" said Horrell. "Cincinnati?" said the polite conductor: "why, you must be sadly out of your reckoning. This is the ferry-boat, and all this afternoon you have been riding to and fro between New Albany and Portland." That night Horrell staid in Louisville. —*Examiner.*







# Written for the Banner of Light. HOW SHE CAME.

BY EMMA TUTTLE.

I thought I had Aladdin's lamp,  
And said, "Oh, Genie, rise!  
Bring to my home a sunny maid,  
With soft and loving eyes—  
With cheeks that dim the rose's blush,  
And lips that pale the morning's flush."  
He scanned my mind, then sought the East,  
To cull the rarest flower  
Which blossoms in that morning land,  
But came without the dower.  
"In faith, she dwells not in that land,  
In proof, I quote my wizard band!"  
Then to the West, you clumsy elf,  
Go to the setting sun;  
She shall inherit beauty's dower,  
And brighter charms have on,  
For she must have a sage's mind,  
By all of woman's grace refined."

The Genius scowled as he flew past,  
And doubtful shook his head.  
But in an hour returned again,  
And brought a maid to wed—  
Before my eyes my darling stood,  
In all the grace of womanhood.

LIZZIE DOTEN AT LYCEUM HALL,  
BOSTON.  
Sunday Evening, December 29, 1861.

In the afternoon, the spirit of John Bunyan spoke through the organism of the medium, giving "The Pilgrim's Progress through the Spirit Land." The allegory commenced with the passage of Christian and Hopeful over the river called Death, and carried them onward to the portals of the Celestial City. Our opinion is but an echo of that of the multitude who heard the lecture, when we say the spiritual conception of the journey of the faithful soul was far more beautiful than that journey which the strange Bunyan dreamed on earth. The spirit promised, when he had explored the mysteries of the Eternal City, and his soul has grown large enough to take in the goodness and wisdom of Deity, to return, telling of the glories of the world of spirits.

In the evening, the discourse was of a far different character. It was promised that the evening should be devoted to the illustration of a doctrinal subject, adapted especially to the Spiritualists of Boston, but generally to all who bore the name—according to the custom of old Doctors of Divinity, who sat aside certain days to enlarge upon doctrinal points, to the end that belief might be refreshed, and the hearers know what kind of men and women they were. She spoke of the various tides—marks of truth, in the past; of true, old, common-sense John Cotton; the scholastic, erudite Cotton Mather; the more frivolous and sarcastic pungency of Mather Byles, down to the beautiful teachings of a beloved Channing, the bold, iconoclast Theodore Parker, smiling with his mighty hammer of truth the idols of old Theology, all along his way, and the calm, methodic, bold but undeputable words of Ralph Waldo Emerson. These were so many strata, so many gradations from the past up to the present, necessary for the spiritual unfolding of the latitude of Boston. She then spoke of the tide-marks of spiritual unfoldment from the grosser manifestations to the higher, and the analogy to be drawn for the benefit of the future.

She made a neat allusion to the BANNER OF LIGHT, the standard of spiritual freedom, gemmed with spiritual truths from all parts of the land, and around which are rallied the liberty and truth-loving souls of every plane of existence, and which indicates to the spiritually wise that Boston is to be the Banner-town—the "hub" of the new light.

The spirits desired from their friends in Boston a New Year's present—a hall, opened to all spirits and mortals, without money or price. The controlling influence closed by saying: "Wishing every one of you a happy New Year, let us be sure that your present will be ready for us next Sunday."

We should like to report this lecture and that of the afternoon in full, but we cannot this week. Both are masterly productions, each in its own class, but as different from each other in style as one can imagine.

## The Herring.

Few people have any idea of the countless millions of this fish that congregate in the various seas, bays and straits of the world. They see them packed away, heads and tails, in boxes, but that furnishes them with a slight conception of the way they are stored in the great deep. The enormous schools of these fish have many times been described; but the French historian, Michelet, thus speaks of them in his new volume, entitled "The Sea":

"Gregariousness is the fixed rule, the indefensible law of that race; you never see them but in shoals. In shoals they lie buried in the east, dark depths, and in shoals they come to the surface to take their summer part in the universal joy, to see the light, to revel—and to die. Packed, squeezed, crushed, layer on layer, it seems that they never can be close enough; they swim in such compact masses that the Dutch fishermen compare them to their own dike—afloat. Between Scotland, Holland and Norway, one might fancy that an immense island had suddenly risen, and that whole continent was about to arise. In some of the narrower straits you cannot row, so dense and solid is the mass of fish."

## The Death of Prince Albert

Has thrown a cloud of gloom over the entire British nation. Just at the very moment when the people and presses of England were rampant for war with the United States, the husband of the Queen was stricken down, and Death visited the royal household. We truly sympathize with them, in this their hour of affliction, and pray that it may be the means, by the aid of the Father of us all, in allaying the whirlwind of passion that has so recently been wafted in words to our shores. May peace and love unite in one common bond of brotherhood the inhabitants of all the earth, when war shall be known no more, is our deepest, most fervent aspiration. That time will come.

## "The Star of Hope."

We have on exhibition at our rooms, 168 Washington street, a large sized Grayson picture of exquisite workmanship—the production of Miss Adelaide E. Sawyer, of this city. The public are invited to call and examine it. It will be sold for \$25. Patrons of the fine arts would do well to make the acquaintance of this talented young lady.

## The Banner of Light.

Bound Volumes of the BANNER for the year 1861—Vols. 5 and 6—can be procured at this office. Price \$3 each.

Beware how you have dealings with a man taller than yourself; he can always overreach you.

# ALL SORTS OF PARAGRAPHS.

We detect growlers. They are the worst sort of vermin humanity has to deal with. A growling man or woman, or dog, are on the same plane of mind. There are a variety of growlers. Some are jaundiced-eyed, and all are devils but themselves. It is consequently their "mission" to growl at them. Sometimes through the newspapers, sometimes by letter, and sometimes orally. But this class of growlers soon get "growled out." We are sorry that human nature is so constituted. But so it is. We have ample evidence of the fact. Yet, notwithstanding all the annoyance that comes from the vermin aforesaid, we have learned to pity as well as despise them.

For some unaccountable reason, nothing has been received from our regular New York Reporter this week.

There will be given a Musical Entertainment at 14 Bromfield street, on Tuesday evening, January 7, 1862, by the "Nocturnal Quartette Club," consisting of Miss Hattie Stevens and Miss Adams, and Messrs. A. M. Cushing and J. W. Adams. If sufficient encouragement is given, these entertainments will be given once a fortnight through the winter, of which due notice will be given. Admission ten cents.

Last week we inadvertently understated the price of Leo Miller's lecture on the Great Conflict, for sale at this office. The price is twelve cents a copy.

Bro. F. M. Wheat, of Floyd Co., Iowa, says:—"The cause of Spiritualism has already got quite a footing here, but we have no good mediums as yet developed; and as a general thing, we are all too hard up for money to think of sending East for one to visit us at present. At the same time, we know that a first class lecturer would open the eyes of many that now grope their way on in darkness."

The Gardener's Monthly, edited by Thomas Meehan, is on our table. It is one of the most chaste, well-printed and edited journals which we receive, and should be in the hands of every person interested in horticulture, or its kindred branches—fruit and tree growing. It is published by W. G. P. Brinkloe, at No. 23 North Sixth street, Philadelphia, at one dollar a year.

## ENGLAND'S DEMAND FOR SLIDELL AND MASON.

The Salem Gazette contains the following sharp hit at "John Bull":

Take them and welcome, Old England—the traitors! Though a slave cannot breathe on your boasted free soil,  
Your arms open wide to receive their oppressors;  
Should any one hinder, the world you'd embroil!  
Sit down at your ease, with your ears stuffed with cotton,  
(Full long are they closed to your papers' and wall!)  
You like the slave's products, if others will keep him;  
You heed not the sorrows pressed down in each bale.

Take them and welcome, Old England—the traitors! They could not breathe long in our free Northern air! Take with them the scorn of a free-hearted nation—Then put forth another demand, if you dare!  
Take them and welcome, Old England—the traitors! We'll send you the rest, or their heads, by and by, But never more say that you stand up for Freedom—Or the civilized world will call it a lie!

Why is a vain young lady like a confirmed drunkard? Because neither of them is satisfied with the moderate use of the glass.

A general order will make important changes in the uniforms of our troops. Sky blue cloth is to be substituted for dark blue for the pants of officers and privates of the cavalry, artillery, and infantry arms of service. The saving in the cost of indigo will be very great—they say, something like three quarters of a million dollars a year.

THREE GOOD MOVES.—The suspension of specie payments by the Banks is a "capital" move, Digby is of the opinion; and that the removal of Slidell and Mason is another good move; and that the removal of the Boston Post Office to its old, time-honored quarters, was the best move of all.

AN INCIDENT.—Mr. Archibald Morrill of Salisbury, last week cut up a tree which grew fifteen feet—one limb of the tree given nine feet. He cut from this tree five cords of wood. But the most remarkable fact is, that Mr. M., who is now 80 years old, planted this tree when a boy, has watched its growth for a period of seventy years, and now, in his old age, when the tree, unable to bear the heavy blasts of winter, is thrown down, he is vigorous enough to use the woodman's axe upon it. Few, indeed, are the records of such an occurrence.—*Haar-hill Tri-Weekly Publisher.*

The cheerful are the busy; when trouble knocks at your door or rings the bell, he will generally retort if you send him word "engaged."

There are melancholy men to whom life is only a dismal swamp, upon whose margin they walk, making signals to death to come and ferry them over the lake.

The oldest house in Boston is the ancient wooden building in Washington street, opposite Milk street, which was built in 1666. Its solid oak timbers, and near the spot, are still sound and in good state of preservation. It was the residence before the revolution; of the Secretary of State, and Gov. Hutchinson.

Orestes A Brownson has given a new turn to an old idea, in the following style: "We have talked about the sublime courage of dying for our country—of standing up in the ranks to be shot at—to be killed for this glorious cause; but what is needed now is the courage to kill ourselves!"

"A man can't help what is done behind his back," as the scamp said when kicked out of doors.

A CLEVELAND THIEF.—The papers tell the following story of Gen. Schoepff, of Kentucky:

"When the General arrived in the neighborhood of London, after the Wildcat fight, he found that Zoll-offer had been levying on Union men for provisions, forage, transportation, &c., and had paid them in Confederate bonds. Imitating an example which the secessionists thought so unexceptionable, General Schoepff commenced levying on the secessionists for similar supplies. In the meantime he assembled the Union men, and, opening an exchange office for their benefit, set at defiance all banking rules by taking Confederate bonds at par, and supplying the Union men with good Ohio and Indiana money in its stead. Then when the secessionists presented their bills, he paid them off, with the utmost politeness, in their own currency! They did not know enough to be thankful for the arrangement, but that was n't his fault."

The following highly interesting nautical information is given by that magazine and receptacle of all kinds of jolly things, the Boston Saturday Evening Gazette: "The Bertha on board a ship do not necessarily add to the census. The hatchways are not hives' nests. Pigeons are not engaged to box the compass. The Boatwain does not pipe all hands with a meerschaum. The Boats are not suspended. The Deck is not a pack of cards. The men are not Beat to Quarters with a club. The Bow of a ship is no evidence of its politeness."

# Reported for the Banner of Light. BOSTON SPIRITUAL CONFERENCE, WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 1, 1862.

## Question.—Insanity.

Dr. CHASE.—Spiritualism has dealt with insanity, and does deal with it, as no philosophy or religion has ever done. It has, or will, recognize insanity as real spiritual manifestations, though generally broken, absurd, unintelligible and confused. In passing over the dividing line between material and spiritual perceptions there is of necessity a most mysterious and inexplicable manifestation of what conservatism does call, and may justly call, insanity. It has heretofore been thought that all that disposes from consistency in materialism, may be said to border upon insanity—I mean insanity viewed as being an evil. In Spiritualism we learn that many of its devotees are, purely from being such, called insane, and by the standard of material philosophy, are justly called so. One who takes a Spiritual view of these devotees, cannot but say that their insanity is an evil in the sense that insanity has been viewed, for a use and beauty, by Spiritual eyes, is discovered therein. The marked cases of insanity in Spiritualism, lead the reasoning man to a different view from that heretofore taken of insanity—and he asks, is not all insanity but the effect of a transition of perception from material things that have limits, and are defined, to spiritual things that have no limits, and are not defined? And it is thus that the thinking, reasoning spirit-loving man, is brought to take a new view of what has ever been considered a terrible affliction of humanity, called insanity. Spiritualism extends a more lenient and kinder hand to a criminal man than does the civil authorities, or than does the Church, for the reason that every criminal is as truly insane as are all the inmates of a crazy house. All misfortunes that come of the wreck and ruin caused by injudicious and malignant human rule, Spiritualism treats with kindness and forgiveness for the reason that the actors are what material perception call insane men and women. I thank God that Spiritualism has opened a new perception with which to view the insane sections of men, and all the physical causes flowing therefrom; for in this direction Spiritualism will lead us to the lovely, amiable virtue of charity—Charity for the wicked and overdone actions of men that are ever the offspring of insanity in this family of human beings on the earth.

Mr. WETHERBER.—This question has been commented on thus far generally, that all the world is insane in a degree; every face on the right hand and on the left, covers a mind more or less under a partial eclipse, and I do not doubt the fact; it is very near the truth from one standpoint—namely, that we would suppose. But I have no reflection to make upon poor human nature, from which exhalates so much that is Godlike, as well as the reverse, from out of this boiling, bubbling, hissing cauldron of humanity. I am rather inclined to take a look at insanity in more specific character—where the individual loses the consciousness of his identity. Is there any evil a man can conceive of so dire and dreadful as this? Take the thought home; you and I now realize our existence, our self-hood, our relations, and our surroundings. By disease, by hereditary influence, perhaps the over-taxing our powers, some calamity, an experience of religion, or loss of wealth, and our mind is a wreck. I can conceive nothing comparable with it as a misfortune. Any provisions made to cure, to ameliorate, or to restore such afflicted ones, or to prevent the evil, I hail with pleasure. It is some of the sunlight of God shining through the chinks of humanity. And we who believe in modern Spiritualism, that the air is full of spirits, that thousands of beings surround when we are most alone, to quote from Milton, what I subscribe to, and more, too:

"Nor think, though men be none,  
That heaven would want spectators—God want praise.  
Millions of spiritual creatures walk the earth  
Unseen, both when we sleep and when we wake.  
All these, with ceaseless voices, his works behold,  
Both night and day."

And of all these, once with us, some may have been insane. And it appears to me all such souls went out in night, before the King of Terrors knocked at their door, when they wake up in the better land, must feel with a peculiar interest in these darkened ones, and it may be the interest now taken in them, and increasing so apparent and practical in this age, is the angel voices from that better land whispering in our hearts, and thus co-operating with us.

And as there is a growing idea that insanity is obsession—the thought is a suggestive one—it is said by some conversant with this class that all cases of delirium tremens, and most of other kinds, is obsession by spirits. As for myself, I am confident some are, as I am that the sun is the source of light and heat to the bodies in the solar system. Many of the details of cases would prove this. What I have said does not contradict my former remarks. In a broad sense all are slightly angular from the perpendicular; but I have now been talking in the narrow sense—insanity in its special significations.

Mr. CHANEY.—I assume as a basis, that while the spirit dwells in the form, there can be no mind independent of the brain. The spirit may pervade all parts of the human form, but the mind is a manifestation of the brain only. A sailor, wounded in the battle of the Nile, in consequence of his skull being fractured, remained unconscious for thirteen months, but was instantly restored to consciousness, spoke, and concluded a sentence which he had commenced when wounded—the moment the surgeon removed the pressure from the brain. All this time the mind had been a blank—it had been like a music box, stopped in the middle of a tune, but if started thirteen months afterwards, would commence exactly where it stopped, and conclude the tune. Numerous cases might be cited, proving that even a slight pressure upon the brain suspends all action of the mind, notwithstanding no function of physical life is impaired; but I must not occupy my time by referring to them.

From these premises I deduce that the mind is deranged, only through the action of the brain. Hence, numerous and almost numberless are the causes which produce insanity. From the strong sympathy existing between the stomach and the brain, a diseased action of the former often produces insanity. Overloading the stomach, or long fasting, tend to the production of insanity. Unwholesome diet, alcoholic and other deleterious stimulants, have that tendency. Sometimes insanity results from a violent shock to the nervous system, (of which the brain constitutes an important part) sometimes from overtaxing the brain, sometimes it is hereditary, etc., etc. Insanity is very common in cases of high fever, which is explainable in this wise: The pores being closed, the perspirable matter falls back into the circulation; nature then tries to relieve herself of this enemy to health by an increased action of the heart and arteries; thus the blood is pumped to the brain faster than the capillaries and veins return it, leaving a constant pressure upon the brain, and producing insanity just as long as this pressure continues.

It seems to me that insanity is a quickening of some of the faculties, and a corresponding weakening of others. This appears to be in harmony with a law of nature, always tending to maintain the equilibrium, making for withholding her gifts in one department, by bestowing more bountifully in another. Thus we frequently observe in the insane a degree of shrewdness and intelligence in some directions, far surpassing any manifestation of the intellect in their normal state. So, too, in cases of somnambulism—many of the mental faculties are greatly quickened. I make a distinction between insanity and spiritual manifestations, and place somnambulism as the connecting link between the two. Yet I believe there are many cases of obsession which physicians call insanity, and that there are others wherein the mind becomes partially deranged, and these rendered receptive to spirit-influence, when some mischievous spirit, finding the door ajar, walks

into the temple, overturns the tottering reason, and drives the intellectual machinery according to his own whimsical caprices.

To me this is the most interesting and important subject we have ever discussed. By making ourselves familiar with the causes and cure for insanity, we may not only do much toward alleviating the anguish of the unfortunate insane, but be enabled to guard ourselves and our friends against the insidious approaches of the destroyer of human reason. It has not been long since the insane were treated more like criminals than objects of sympathy, and even now I believe that much remains to be learned and practiced in their behalf, which can come only through the channels of kindness and love.

## The Kingdom of Heaven.

The Kingdom of Heaven, or the Golden Age, by E. W. Loveland, is, in many respects, a remarkable book. The author illustrates several chapters of the teachings and miracles of Jesus Christ, in an original manner, giving them a spiritual or philosophical bearing. Subjoined to these are several essays: the Ages of Iron, Silver and Gold, one Family in Heaven and Earth, Spirit Impression, Guardian Spirits, Consulting God, Progression, Solifid Loves and Appetites, Prophecy, etc. The whole work is neatly printed in large type, on stout, durable paper, and for sale at the BANNER OF LIGHT OFFICE. Price thirty-seven cents. When sent by mail, 10 cents additional for postage.

## The Spiritual Reformer.

This work by E. W. Lewis, M. D., of Watkins, N. Y., is a record of journal of spirit-teachings, communications, and conversations, in the years 1861, 1862, and 1863, through N. S. Gardner, medium. These conversations are held between a band of intellectual investigators, and the spirit of John Locke, Lorenzo Dow, Osceola, etc. Many interesting queries were put to the higher intelligences by this little band of inquirers, and the answers are pregnant with thought. The volume is for sale at the Banner of Light office, Boston, at thirty-seven cents a copy. When sent by mail, 10 cents additional for postage.

## The Arcana of Nature.

This volume, by Hudson Tuttle, Esq., is one of the best scientific books of the present age. Did the reading public understand this fact fully, they would have the work without delay. By reference to the seventh page of this paper, last column, the reader will find an enumeration of its contents. This work has found its way into Germany, been translated into the German language by a gentleman well known to the scientific world, and has been extensively sold in that country. We will send the book by mail to any part of the United States, on the receipt of \$1.00.

## American Steel Pens.

We have been using these pens for some time, and find they are not only better, but cheaper than foreign manufacture. We also learn that *Steele's Pens* have been adopted by the Board of Education of the City of New York. All persons who want good pens at low prices, will consult their own interest by addressing a line to J. P. Skow, Hartford, Conn., or 335 Broadway, New York, and getting terms, prices, &c. By enclosing \$1, you will get one hundred and forty-four samples, by return of mail.

## A Child's Book.

Scripture Illustrated by Moral and Religious Stories for Little Children. By Mrs. L. M. Willis. Mrs. Willis's pen has frequently added attractions to our columns, and she is well known to the little ones. This volume of 64 pages, contains twelve stories and poems, arranged, and in a beautiful little gift book for the young. It is especially adapted for the use of spiritual and liberal Sunday Schools. For sale at the Banner of Light office. Price 10 cents.

## AMUSEMENTS IN BOSTON.

**BOSTON MUSEUM**—Tremont, between Court & School streets. Admission 25 cents; Orchestra and Reserved seats, 50 cents. Performances commence in the evening at 7 1/2 o'clock, and Wednesday and Saturday afternoons at 3 o'clock.  
**AQUARIUM AND ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS**—Central Court, Living Whales, Animals, Reptiles, &c. Open from 9 A. M. to 10 P. M. Admission 25 cents; Children under 10 years, 10 cents.  
**MORRIS BROTHERS, PELL AND TROWBRIDGE'S OPERA HOUSE**—Nearly opposite the Old South Church. Tickets, 25 cents.  
**BOSTON ATHENAEUM**—Beacon street, near State House. Thirty-seventh Exhibition of Paintings and Statuary. Admission, 25 cents.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

As this paper circulates largely in all parts of the country, it is a capital medium for those who wish to reach customers. Our terms are moderate.

MRS. M. W. HERRICK, Clairvoyant and Trance Medium at No. 17, Bennett street. Hours from 10 to 12 and 2 to 6; Wednesdays excepted. Terms, \$1. 8m Jan. 11.

History of the Council of Nice. A World's Convention, A. D. 325. By Dean Dudley, Attorney at Law and Member of various Historical Societies. This valuable book, bound in cloth, is for sale at this office. Price seventy-five cents. When ordered by mail, fifteen cents must be added to prepay postage.

## HAMMONTON SETTLEMENT.

LANDS FOR SALE IN THIS BEAUTIFUL AND THRIVING SETTLEMENT.

THE soil is a fine, sandy loam, adapted to the growth of Wheat, Clover, Corn, Potatoes, Grapes, &c. It is the best fruit soil in the Union. The climate is mild, healthy and agreeable; the markets are the best, and all facilities are now at hand. This Settlement was started three years ago, and the land sold to none but actual settlers, and the result has been, five hundred houses, two mills, five stores, and four public schools have been erected, and a population of three thousand industrious, liberal, enterprising and moral settlers, from New England and the western States, making a very desirable and thrifty community.

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To visit Hammonton—leave Vine street wharf, Philadelphia at 7 1/2 A. M. and 3 1/2 P. M. direct for Hammonton. Inquire of R. J. BYRNES, Hammonton Land office, near the station. Letters, including a stamp, will be answered. R. J. BYRNES.

Hammonton, Atlantic Co., N. J., Jan. 1862. 5w Jan. 4.

**WANTED**—BY MRS. J. H. CONANT—One or a suit of Boots, and this office. The charges must be moderate, and the pay will be prompt. For full particulars inquire at this office, or of Mr. J. H. Conant, at White Brothers, 88 Tremont street. Jan. 6.

**DR. L. L. FARNSWORTH,** PSYCHOMETRIST AND PHYSICIAN, is permanently located at No. 62 HUDSON STREET, Boston. Persons sending autograph and \$1, will receive a full delineation of character. Dr. F. also examines disease and prescribes by a look of hair, terms, \$1—in each case two 5 cent postage stamps must be enclosed. References can be given from persons of high standing, in Boston and vicinity, who have received great benefit by means of his magnetic powers. Medical consultation free. Office hours from 2 to 6 P. M. Nov. 9.

**TO BOOK PEDDLERS,** AND PERSONS OUT OF EMPLOYMENT

**WANTED**—Active and industrious men and women to sell *The Farmer's Manual and Ready Reckoner*, (see advertisement.) Will sell wherever there are Farmers or Lumbermen. This work will sell to traveling agents at a low figure. This is an excellent opportunity to persons thrown out of employment by the rebellion. Send for a circular, which gives prices and terms. 266 Canal Street, New York. N. B.—Circulars furnished to agents to assist them in selling. Dec. 31.

# New Books.

## A B C OF LIFE.

BY A. B. CHILD, M. D.

IS NOW READY, and will be sent, post-paid, to any part of the country for \$3 each.  
This book, of three hundred Aphorisms, on thirty-six printed pages, contains more valuable matter than is ordinarily found in hundreds of printed pages of popular reading matter. The work is a rich treat to all thinking minds.  
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By LEO MILLER, ESQ., delivered at Pratt's Hall, Providence, R. I., on the evening of Sunday, Dec. 8, 1861, and repeated by universal request, at the same place, on Tuesday evening of the following week.  
Single copies 12 cents; ten copies \$1, mailed free; one hundred copies \$8.  
All orders addressed to BURLA MARRIS, 14 Bromfield st., Boston, BANNER OF LIGHT OFFICE, or ROSS & TOUSEY, 121 Nassau street, New York, will be promptly supplied. Dec. 28.

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**THE NIGHT-SIDE OF NATURE;** Or, GHOSTS AND GHOSTSTORIES. By Catherine Crowe. For sale at the Banner of Light Office. Price 80 cents.

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MY EXPERIENCES IN SPIRITUALISM. By Mrs. Newton Crossland. Illustrated with about twenty plain and colored engravings. For sale at the Banner of Light Office. Price \$1.00. Dec. 31.

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How to repel disease, regain health, live as one ought, treat disease of every conceivable kind, recuperate the energies, recruit the worn and exhausted system, go through the world with the least wear and tear and in the truest conditions of harmony—this is what is distinctly taught in this volume, both by prescriptions and principles.

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Those who have known the former volumes of the author, will be rejoiced to know that in the latest one Mr. DAVIS REACHES THE WHOLE RACE, and is freely lending himself to a work of the largest value to the human family.

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## JUST PUBLISHED.

## "AMERICA AND HER DESTINY."

INSPIRATIONAL DISCOURSE, given extemporaneously, at Dufur's Hall, New York, on Sunday Evening, Aug. 25, 1861, before EMMA HARRINGTON, by THE SPIRITS. Price, \$3 per hundred, or 5 cents single copy; when sent by mail, one cent additional.

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## A NEW BOOK.

A extraordinary book has made its appearance, published at Indianapolis, Ind. The following is the title:

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Containing—"Doubts of Infidels," embodying thirty important Questions to the Clergy; also, forty Questions to the Doctors of Divinity, by ZERA; a curious and interesting work, entitled, *La Bruyere*, and much other matter, both amusing and instructive.

This book will cause a greater excitement than anything of the kind ever printed in the English language. When the "Eye-Opener" first appeared, its effects were so unprecedentedly electric and astounding, that the Clergy, in consultation, proposed buying the copyright and first edition for the purpose of suppressing this extraordinary production. The work was finally submitted to the Rev. Mr. West, for his opinion, who returned for answer, that the Book submitted for his examination, threatened, it was true, the demolition of all creeds, nevertheless, in his opinion, nothing would be gained by its suppression. Said he, let truth and error grapple.

The "Eye-Opener" should be in the hands of all who desire to free their thoughts. Price, 40 cents, postpaid. The trade furnished on liberal terms. For sale at the BANNER OF LIGHT OFFICE, No. 168 Washington st., Boston. If Sept. 14.

## Essays on Various Subjects.

INTENDED to elucidate the Causes of the Changes coming upon all the Earth at the present time; and the Nature of the Calamities that are so rapidly approaching, &c., by Joshua, Quiver,



## The Messenger.

Each message in this department of the BANNER we claim to be spoken by the spirit whose name it bears, through the medium of a person who is in a condition called the Trance. They are not published for the purpose of literary merit, but as a means of spiritual communion to those friends who may recognize them.

We hope to show that spirits carry the characteristics of their earth-life; and that they are not mere disembodied souls, but that they are more or less human. We believe the public should know of the spirit-world as it is—should learn that there is evil as well as good in it.

We ask the reader to receive no doctrine put forth by spirits in these columns that does not comport with his reason. Each expresses so much of truth as he perceives—no more.

**Our Circle.**—The circle at which these communications are given, are held at the Bazaar or Lion's Office, No. 158 Washington Street, Room No. 3 (up stairs) every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, and are free to the public. The doors are closed precisely at three o'clock, and none are admitted after that time.

## MESSAGES TO BE PUBLISHED.

The communications given by the following named spirits will be published in regular course:

**Monday, Nov. 12.**—Invocation: "Visitation of Law." Death and Immortality. George Vail, Charlestown, Mass.; Horace Plimston, Walker Street, New York; Alice Kennington, Fall River, Mass.; Mary Murphy, Cross Street, Boston.

**Thursday, Nov. 14.**—Invocation: "Mortal Disease." Frank Garmon, actor, Dr. John Thayer, Dedham, Mass.; Amelia Davis, St. Charles, Texas; Hiram Dudley, New York City; Andrew C. Lincoln.

**Monday, Nov. 18.**—Invocation: "Why are Spirits unable to manifest before the Professors of Harvard College and their friends?" Andrew R. Murray, Halifax, N. S.; Mendum Javril, Portsmouth, N. H.; Frances Cecilia Babbitt, New Haven, Conn.

**Thursday, Nov. 19.**—Invocation: "The Redemption of Souls from the desire for Stimulants." William M. Coste, C. B. A., Gaston, Greenbush Co., Ala.; John Lee, Taunton Insane Asylum; George Barnard; Eva S. Walker, Salem, Mass.; "Irene."

**Tuesday, Nov. 20.**—Invocation: "Development of Animals and of Man." Thomas P. Hopewell, Bentonville, Ohio; William T. Sands, New York City; Mary Jane Lovjoy, Concord, N. H.; Jonathan Ladd.

**Thursday, Nov. 23.**—Invocation: Joy H. Fairchild, to a friend in Dedham; Matilda Mason, Lumburg, Pa.; James Flynn, New York; Geo. M. Hildwell; Archibald De Witt, to his son.

**Monday, Dec. 2.**—Invocation: "First Manifestation of God to Man's Physical Senses." Geo. W. McFarland, Trenton, Mo.; Henry Wright; Charlotte K. Tapley, Brookfield, N. Y.; Lily Knox.

**Tuesday, Dec. 3.**—Invocation: "Is the Progress of the Spirit Immediate or is it by little degrees?" Will Electricity ever be in the movement of large material Substances? Reuben Price, Johnson, Vt.; Patrick Smith, New York; Charles Pettes Anderson, Georgetown, D. C.; Maria, to Louise Moore.

**Thursday, Dec. 5.**—Invocation: "What is a Miracle?" Her Schenckel, New Orleans; Elizabeth Perkins, to her father, Herbert Langdon, Chippewa City, N. J.; Lizzy Porter.

**Monday, Dec. 9.**—Invocation: "Was there ever a Universal Deluge?" James Rafferty, Moon Street, New York; Bigelow, to her mother, Frances Ryder; John M. Whitmore, Cambridge; Isaac T. Hopper (published in No. 13).

**Thursday, Dec. 10.**—Invocation: "What is Life?" A Conclusion to an Ongoing Guide? Samuel P. Jacobs, Oberlin, Mich.; Hannah Connolly, New York; Patrick O'Brien, Dublin, Ireland; James Morgan, to Margaret Ellwood; Wm. Stone, to his wife.

**Thursday, Dec. 19.**—Invocation: "The purport of the messages from England." Theodore Jackson; Catherine Perkins; Joseph Wilkey; Nellie Olason.

**Tuesday, Dec. 24.**—Invocation: "The Celebration of Christmas." Dennis Sullivan; Rhoda Watkins; George S. Moore, Cambridge; Alice Maria Buckley.

**Thursday, Dec. 26.**—Invocation: "Do the Spirits come at the call of mortals?" Louis May, Rhode Island; Alexander Peter Bazar; Mary Ann Powers; Harriet Sewall; Capt. Israel Hall.

**Monday, Dec. 30.**—Invocation: "Is the Soul's Progression Endless?" William Watson; Elizabeth Perkins; Freddy Davis; Josiah Copeland.

**Thursday, Dec. 31.**—Dr. Wm. Clark, Boston (printed in No. 16); Catherine Boyce, Princeton, N. S.; Charles P. Young, San Francisco, Cal.; Thomas Gould, Orleans, Mass.

## Dr. William Clark.

"Will the spirits give us the true method of cure in cases of eruptive fever?"

This question the attendant spirits of this circle have this day received from one of the disciples of Esculapius—one who is, at all events, in all material points, thoroughly antagonistic to the new found light that is being shed this hour upon the earth. We care not how many intelligent minds on earth or in worldly degrees of life, declare that they do not believe in the existence of the spiritual plane. They may declare they have no belief in the communion of disembodied spirits, but to us it is only a declaration from the external. There is something in the temple of each nature that declares a probable or real belief in Modern Spiritualism. But according to the material standard of life, we will say that our good brother who has questioned us at this time, has no belief in Modern Spiritualism.

He asks this question when alone, as he supposes—alone; and he says, while communing with his own thoughts, "If the desire of my soul is answered at yonder assemblage of spirits and mortals, I will believe." Here seems to be a contradiction between the internal and the external. He sends his question to this assembly of spirits and mortals, and desires it to be answered by them. Does this desire come from the external or the internal nature of our brother? For the time being it seems to us he has laid aside the external, and come to us in the spirit of truth and simplicity.

But to the question: "Can the spirits give us the true method of cure in cases of eruptive fever?" In answering this question, we can only give that which seems the greatest truth to us. There are as many degrees of truth as there are degrees of mind. Each and all are acceptable to God—none are excluded. I have my truth; the friend questioning has his. So has each individual mind. Now, then, he is to understand that, as an individual, give that which is the truth to me. If it satisfies him, it is well; if not, it is equally as well.

The old mode of treating cases of eruptive fever is fast falling into disrepute, because the spirit-land is being too rapidly peopled by those who have been sent forward because of ignorance of true remedies on the part of the medical faculty. We know our brother clings very closely to the old. He believes, honestly, too, that the old truth has served the races well in the past, and he does not know of any new thing that will serve it as well; therefore he says, I am satisfied there is truth in the old theories, and I am resolved to comply with them. All right, good brother—do so; but when satisfied that there is something better, study it in the name of truth, and you do well.

It may be well to state here that our good brother, has at the present time two severe cases of eruptive fever, and he has a fear that their spirits will pass from their mortal bodies while under his treatment. He desires extremely to save them. He says, when alone with his own spirit: "I have tried all the remedies I know of, and they have all proved good for nothing in these two cases;" and while he stands thus folded around with the mantle of death, he sees coming before him only that which he has tried, and which has proved unsatisfactory to him, because he does not see that he has acted contrary to nature in the treatment of his patients. Now nature has offered him a solution to the mystery before him, and which will produce the desired result if he will but follow it. There are in the future glorious views of the boons man must yet receive from the hand of the angel-messengers. They were vailed from us once, but now are plain to the favored sight—and in particular one that we have to give you, that will apply to the cases in question.

Purgings, low diet, and poison that may and may not prove adequate to the disease, which is itself a poison, introduced into the system, have been the method of medical practice in the past; but the present has a more pleasing view, and a more natural method of cure.

We recommend that our questioner, in the first place, sponge the subjects entirely, with warm water, then see that they are well-manipulated with the hands of some one who has been a victim to but recovered from the same disease. The patients should be kept in a warm room, with about seventy-five degrees of temperature. After this, prepare some nourishing food for them, for this is one of Nature's remedies. The old forms of treatment deprive the body of nourishment, and expect it to live, at the same time. Now the material forces need assistance to regain their lost healthy action, which cannot be

gained unless the body is the recipient of a proper amount of nourishment. Begin with well-bolled rice, or oat-meal or rye-meal pudding, or mutton broth made very plain. Give this to the subject in quantities from a tablespoonful up to a tumbler full containing half a pint. Never fear, our questioner, for Nature demands these remedies, and we know they can be applied with no detriment to the weakened system.

After that, if the tendency is not too great to the brain, give to the patient from a teaspoonful to a wineglassful of Santa Cruz Rum. Do not fear to do it. If you have let the mortal fires burn so low by the use of your medicines, we know of no better stimulant to keep up a healthy action. Do not forget to keep the room as dark as possible. Negative conditions are required. Light is positive, and so is the atmosphere, and you will be careful to admit no more of either than is necessary. The patient should be kept warm—the thermometer being at about seventy to seventy-five degrees—neither below nor above. Observe these simple conditions of heat, and other surroundings, as we have stated, and your patients are saved. Neglect these, and they come to us.

We would here add, that the advice which is designed for these two cases, may answer for the million; and where there are thousands who now enter the spirit-world through the agency of such diseases, there need be only hundreds, at most. If you would always act in harmony with Nature, in the administration of remedial agents, fewer lives would be sacrificed by disease, and the actual pain of disease be greatly lessened.

My good brother may ask who has answered his questions. Tell him Dr. William Clark, formerly of Boston, has responded to his call to-day, and stands ready to answer any other questions he may feel like asking. We trust, in this, he will be at least honest and true with his own soul, if not with us.

Dec. 31.

## Invocation.

Oh, thou glorious life of the world, who breathest in the soft evening zephyrs, and in the terrific tornado—who art everywhere moving upon the waters of Eternity, and in whom is all wisdom embodied—thou who art our Father and our Mother, and who ever regardeth us with a fond parent's care; we come at this time in at the portals of thy holy temple. Oh, our Father again we beseech of thee to bless us, and not only us, but all spirit in the flesh. Oh Lord our God, we behold thee ruling among thy children everywhere, and we feel the consciousness of thy loving presence in every phenomenon of Nature and manifestation of life. And oh, Father, for the great blessing of modern days, we thank thee, and in behalf of those who are still in the confines of error, do we thank thee for the glorious future of freedom awaiting them. Oh, our Father, for all the blessings of the past, present, and great eternal future, we lift up our spirits in praise and thanksgiving unto thee.

Nov. 11.

## Forgetfulness—Remorse—Fear.

Have the friends a question to propose to us? If so, we are ready to hear and answer.

"Does the spirit in its higher condition forget the circumstances of a former or lower condition—lose the memory of its former state?"

Memory, with the spirit, is eternal. The spirit of man may fly ever so high, may go far beyond the scenes of humanity; but however high the spirit soars, it forever retains a memory of all the past. There may be times when the scenes of the present may obscure those of the past, but they can never sweep the past from memory's receptacle; and under certain conditions it is re-illumined to the gaze of the soul. Nothing can wash it out, or make it less than it was in the beginning. Memory is Eternal, as the great author of Memory is Eternal.

"Is Remorse to be endless, then?"

The Memory of Remorse is to be Eternal, but when that condition of the mind which is equivalent to Hell, has accomplished its work of purification the spirit of Remorse will pass away, for it is not immortal—not eternal.

A friend from one of the sister States desires to know something concerning the record of Annanias and Sapphira; desires to know if it is indeed true that sudden death visited them in consequence of their telling lies?

We must here say that the record is entirely false—that no such event ever took place—that they are disposed to disbelieve that these persons died in consequence of telling an untruth, the death of the human never being, according to Divine Providence, the result of a lie, imposition, or whatever you may choose to term it. The record informs us that those two persons not only lied to man, but to God. It was a sin committed against the Holy Ghost, and as such, the thought struck terror to their souls. Now, that these persons might have passed on, or died, through the agency of Fear, we do not doubt. We are aware that it might have occurred from this cause, for there are many such instances upon modern record, and no doubt, many such are known to some of you. But if our friend believes that God himself stepped out of the natural course of his law, and by means of a Divine Providence deprived Annanias and Sapphira of earthly existence, and deprived them of their immortality, in consequence of their deception, he is greatly mistaken. We desire here to state that we do not doubt the record of the old and new testaments, but question the cause of the event as therein stated. Many travelers have stranded upon this rock. But the time is come when hidden things are made plain, and the mysterious things of the past are read and interpreted under the light of a newer power, and subtler wisdom. The laws of God have changed not, but are the same now as they were in the Apostolic age. Those two persons, if they died at all, as represented, gave up their mortality, not because God smote them for their falsehood, but through the influence of fear.

Nov. 11.

## Bill Sewall.

Humph! If God should strike everybody dead that's guilty of lying, I reckon he'd have his hands full about all the time. That's my way of thinking.

My name is Bill Sewall. In the first place, I hailed from Bradford, Vermont—that is, I's born there; but the last place I hailed from was Brownsville, Missouri. I lived there, but didn't die there. I'm in a sort of a do n't know state. I can tell the truth, but do n't know how to dress it up very well. Some folks can dress up what they say, and make it sound very well; but I can't.

Well, stranger, I am here to get a chance to square up things, if I can. I don't like this way of dressing up a fellow, but I suppose I must put up with things I don't like, hain't I? Well, I can't spread, that's the amount of it. This medium seems too small for me. I hardly know myself. I am myself inside, but somebody else outside.

I want to send a word to a brother of mine, if I can. I'm Union—I want you to remember that! I don't want you to class me with the cursed rebels; for I ain't of 'em. I am Union—yes sir, and I belonged to the Second Indiana Regiment. I was a private in Capt. Phillips's company, and I was killed—killed in a private brush of my own, with a d—d rascal. I ventured a little too far from the quarters, and got surprised and killed.

Now I don't want my brother Ben to come to me yet; and if I can warn him, I will. In the first place, I want him to stop drinking whiskey. I should have been a good deal better off, and I should n't have been here now but for whiskey. I had n't been right for two or three days, and if I had n't been too drunk, I should n't have gone off and got killed. I'm hard enough off on account of it; but I want Ben to know what the matter was. Write it down, stranger, and if he or my wife Eliza wants to know how I happened to be killed when I was, tell them whiskey did it—was just what did it. It's no use trying to keep the truth out of sight.

Another thing: I want my brother to fix up my business matters and other traps right and straight as he can, for the good of my wife and little ones. He's somewhere in Indiana—somewhere. I do n't know where. Send my letter to her, and tell her to

send it to my brother. She can find out where he is. All you have got to do is tell her to send it to him. I've got money, but can't get it. I'd give a good deal to be cured of drinking—that is, if I's always going to want and never get it.

I'd give my note, but who the hell would take it? You'll say? Well, then, I'll give you as many as you want. I would n't object to a glass of whiskey, now. Will you send that to Eliza Sewall, Brownsville, Mo? How about this erysipelas I had before I died? I thought I had got rid of it when I died. Do I feel it because I think of it? Well, I'll be pretty sure not to think of it again, then. Well stranger, I'm going now.

Nov. 11.

## Marian Lester.

It's been a dreary way to me—dreary, because I know not how fortunate I shall be when I arrive at the end of my journey. I have been here some three years, striving to return; but when I thought of success, something would take place to prevent my coming. I promised, if this Spiritual religion be true, to return within three months after my death. I thought I could do so, but I found so many obstacles in the way, that months unfolded into years; and this is the first time I have controlled a mortal body since I lost my own.

My name was Marian Lester. I died on Oak Street, Philadelphia. If the friends I promised to return to are not weary with watching, I shall now be glad to do all I may be able to, to convince them of the truth of the new light.

I was twenty-one years of age. I had one sister and two brothers. My mother passed to the spirit-world when I was about eleven years of age. My father has entered the new life since I left him.

I well know my delay in coming will make it all the harder for me to find entrance to the hearts of those I loved on earth, but I feel disposed to try and do all I can to convince my friends of the reality of spiritual communication.

There are some incidents that may serve to identify me to my friends. A few hours before death, I asked my sister to read Christ's Sermon on the Mount to me. She commenced it, but was so overcome with sorrow, that she was obliged to desist. But some one else, whom I had not seen, finished the chapter, in a very clear, distinct voice. I desire to convince my sister that the chapter was finished by one of my guardian spirits.

Circumstances led me to believe there was truth in Modern Spiritualism; consequently I promised to return, if it was true, within three months, bringing them knowledge they never had found in all their researches through the Scriptures and the Church. I was unable to fulfill my promise, and my friends may deny me a hearing. But I would say to my brothers and sisters, that the spirit world is not as they suppose it is. In many respects I am strangely and happily disappointed. I would ask for the privilege of giving to them privately many things it is impossible for me to give here.

I have seen my mother since I came here. She is far in advance of me, having been in the spirit-life many more years. She died when I was eleven years old. She comes to me, but I do not know that I can go to her. Perhaps I can, but I never made the effort, my thoughts being so much upon the earth, and the memory of my loved ones being ever uppermost.

Circumstances connected with my father's death are such as prevent his returning immediately. We do not always count the impediments when we make our promises to return.

Nov. 11.

## Horace Cameron.

Surely, surely may you ask of death where are the terrors that were once his, and where is the victory of the grave. I should like to know. It seems to me the grave claims only that which belongs to it, and it is only the entrance door into a kingdom where men truly live.

This is the first time I have used a mortal body since death. My name was Horace Cameron, of Queenstown, Penn. This spiritual light was shown me before death. I received certain messages from friends in the spirit-world, that called my attention to the subject and interested me in it. Before I died, I promised to come to this place and give my name and age—which was fifty-one—my place of residence, manner of death, term of sickness, etc. I suppose my disease was dropsy of the chest. I was sick something like four months, and died suddenly, while sitting in my chair. I only give this that I may be identified, to my friends. I must express a desire to come into closer communication with my friends. Let them put themselves in a condition that I may approach them, and I'll do all I may be able to convince them of the return of spirits and of an immortality beyond the grave. Farewell, sir.

Nov. 11.

## An Invalid of Twenty-five Years Standing, Cured in Six Days.

EDITOR BANNER OF LIGHT.—For a period of more than twenty-five years I had been an invalid. Some twenty-eight years ago, a small tumor, resembling an ordinary "push ball," appeared on my body near the base of the spinal column. In three years' time it had attained to the size of a pigeon's egg, and began to cause me some alarm. I consulted several physicians, those who were considered as standing in the front ranks of the medical profession, and to whom the faculty looked for the highest expression of medical skill; but I was told by them that the removal of the tumor would endanger my life. For a period of twenty-five years after this time, it kept gradually increasing in bulk and elongation, until the first of July, 1860, when it had attained to a size of about seven inches in length, and ten in circumference. The peculiar location of the tumor rendered it exceedingly uncomfortable. It prevented my sitting or riding. During the twenty-five years, my health gradually failed, ultimately becoming very poor. I was about my business most of the time, but with very little comfort to myself. In my distress I sometimes thought I would remove the tumor myself in some desperate manner, but was dissuaded from the attempt through fear of the consequences.

During the July of 1860, I applied to Dr. Charles Main. I had no faith in Spiritualism, but I had heard of so many cures performed by him on parties with whom I was intimately acquainted, that I could not doubt his skill. I was astonished at the complete accuracy with which he translated my feelings and located the disease. He describes the collection as being a soft tumor, comprising a collection or concentration of humors drawn from the system. This he said could be removed under his care, with no risk to my life, while my health subsequently would be greatly improved. I received a little preliminary treatment from him at first, which helped me very much, and the doctor's assurances that the tumor could be successfully removed, were of so positive a character—involving the forfeiture of hundreds of dollars in the event of failure—that I went to his house, at No. 7 Davis Street, for the purpose of having the operation performed. On the third day I left this house in a carriage, a comparatively well man. At the end of six days I was about my business, entirely cured, and with hardly a scar to mark the place where the tumor had formerly been located. The sensation of relief which I experienced, it is impossible to describe. A period of fifteen months has elapsed since the operation was performed, and I am now in the enjoyment of excellent health, better than I had ever known before.

I remain truthfully, your friend,

Boston, October 26, 1861.

## A BUDGET OF CRITICISMS.

MRS. SPENCE, A. J. DAVIS, PAUL PRY, CH. EMPE, DOCTORS CHILD, COONLEY, BOWKER, L. JUDD FARRER, AND LIZZIE DORRIS, ALL DULY NOTICED; WITH A SLIGHT TOUCH AT THAT PROPOSED NEW AMERICAN FLAG, WITH "BLUE STRIPES."

We are now, in serious times, approaching serious subjects; yet, as even the most momentous occasion may be benefited by a little of the festive spirit, so here, as heretofore, I send to the "BANNER OF LIGHT" one more communication, having something of the merry thought about it, yet reaching out after solid results in the improvement of diverse philosophies, anticipations, &c. This may be the last, in the peculiar touch and tinkle style which, for various reasons, I have adopted in the brief hints I have from time to time thrown out; for I am now about coming into closer contact with certain portions of the public than I have yet done; and the relation may be far more genial and pleasing than at present, providing others are willing it should be so; though, under any circumstances, it will continue to be quite striking all round, so far as every description of human perversion is concerned.

Mrs. SPENCE, in a number of her public addresses, has represented herself as having "seceded from God," as well as from other relations—a circumstance which is abundantly evident from the general tenor of her published writings; or rather that such is her feeling on the subject, is thus apparent. This being the case, there is nothing more important for her than to heed that good, sound, old maxim, to "seek and ye shall find." Persons of far less intellectual polish than she is, have been able through their God, Faith, to hold on upon and to improve upon holy ties, when Mrs. S., by her own account, and, evidently by rude influences, has been imelled—say, compelled—to snuff them asunder. Hence her estimate of "Spirit Cultivators," and other topics, is yet more of a mere intellectual perception than it is a well-balanced, religious idea; and she evidently loses sight of the fact, that the "Workers," (or rough-handlers,) have quite as much of a mission (to earth) to be tried, taught and influenced themselves, as they have to try others. And it will be quite as well for sister S. to be just a "little" less positive in some of her negative expressions; for instance, to the effect that great numbers are yet to be turned aside from their matrimonial connections; for the "brakes" are to be put upon a good deal of that down hill business, and the steam pressure to the uphill work, which has for so long been going on in such an unbalanced fashion, so that the car of human progress won't be so much broken, and scattered in detached fragments from the track, as has heretofore been the case, while the people draw nearer to one another, rather than rush further apart in their onward movement. And here let me say that Mrs. SPENCE has my warmest and best wishes for success in her proposed enterprise in behalf of the mentally diseased; but here, too, it will, beyond any question, be a most effective aid for her to "seek and find"—GOD.

Speaking of the fact that "undeveloped spirits" have quite as much of a mission to be themselves influenced, as they have to influence others, puts me in mind of the controversy that has been raised on the "Harmonial" side of the house against the statements of sirs COONLEY, PAUL PRY, etc. A. J. DAVIS and his friends do not seem to think much of the idea that "spirits" produce any form of what we call "evil," in the earth, and are not at all given to patronizing spirit medication, claiming that however much the "consequences" of earth-life may go into spirit-land, the "causes and conditions" of evil do not. But the "Harmonial" friends should remember that the connection with earth is not broken by the departure of the spirit, and, in many cases, may not be purified. Then, too, the "Harmonial" philosophy relates more distinctively to the progress of the human spirit, while other points may be the legitimate sphere of others. Indeed, the faculty denominated "spirituality" is decidedly small in A. J. DAVIS, which, in addition to some other considerations, would naturally prevent him from being so accurate in respect to spiritual "conditions," &c., as others might be—the which fact I have often had occasion to specify and illustrate in my lectures.

Yet friends COONLEY and PAUL PRY ought to be aware that exaggerations might easily occur on their side of the question. PAUL P., especially, should consider that it is very easy to get up a representative pantomime through an impulsive medium. Such is very apparently the case in much, if not all that P. P. publishes of his experiments. Dr. Webster's voluntary communications to me have never indicated any such state of things between him and Dr. Parkman as that specified in the "Pry" communications; and, indeed, the changes or cures alleged are too much like the shifts of a drama—too methodically sudden and mechanically alike to be genuine. There is evidently, however, a spiritual principle involved in these affairs, which should be spiritually, rather than spirituously treated. I have no reason to believe that undeveloped spirits need to throw so much of their burden on mediums as is commonly alleged among Spiritualists; but rather the contrary. And, certainly, if the logic or *modus operandi* of "Paul Pry" holds good, then many other classes besides departed "topers" ought to be relieved with a little of that same which consumed them while in the earth; and mediums would have to be doctored, over and over again with almost every kind of trash under heaven, to check the time-accustomed craving of some disembodied unfortunate. How is it that tobacco, as well as liquor, is not in demand? What does PAUL PRY say to titillating the nose of the medium with snuff, to regulate the prostrate energies of some "gone" snuff-taker in the spirit-land?—or are "the spirits" up to snuff?

Dr. A. B. C.'s "spirits, however, are evidently up to snuff" and more too, decidedly, however it may be with others; for with him, snuff and smooth of every description are as pretty as pink—"all right." Does friend CHAS realize what a gross Phariseism he exhibits, when he conveys the idea, as he has repeatedly done, that the person who believes in no evil, no wrong, can do none? How unlike is such a philosophy to that of the humble man of the parable, who cried, "Lord, be merciful to me a sinner," and was justified rather than the other, who conceived himself guilty of no sin! And in all conscience, by what right does Dr. C. on his standpoint, talk, as he has, in a late article, about the "different colors" among the human race; pronouncing one man "white" another "copper colored," another "black." If there are no moral distinctions in life and action, and if, as he has said, "evil is good, and good evil, discord, harmony and the crooked straight," why, then, there can be no discrimination of colors as well; white is black, and black is white, &c. Does not friend CHAS know that there are those who can't tell

one color from another, or who cannot distinguish discord from harmony; and that in each case, there is a mental faculty wanting? And this being so, what mental faculty is lacking in those who cannot see the difference between right and wrong?

L. JUD PARKER seems to hold quite a consistent attitude on the question of "good and evil," nor is he lacking in various well balanced estimates of truth on various other subjects. He has, of late, simplified his style, and freed it from a redundancy of words, which, in his earlier essays, somewhat disfigured it. He is one of those whom we must, ere long, call more widely into the field of public labor and appreciation.

So also of Dr. H. L. BOWKER. None have done better than he, laboring as he originally did, under several unfavorable conditions. And he has succeeded thus well, because he has, to a certain degree, sifted his spirit connection, taking as his counsellors those whom he finds to be possessed of a true integrity—a course which many mediums would find it for their advantage to pattern after; always premising that it is their sacred privilege to be themselves, counsellors and correctors of the untrue.

Miss CARLEY, some little time ago, in Boston, broached a prophetic idea relative to our National Flag, to the effect that the "stripes" are to be banished from it; an idea which was previously and probably for the first time, thrown out by me, years ago, at a Democratic Caucus, in Connecticut, just previous to the election of President PIERCE. The idea has since then been reiterated but two or three times within my knowledge, and one of these was from my own lips, on some emphatic statements at the Convention at Worcester, last Spring. And here, it should be understood, that these points are within a range of subjects, which are not entrusted in full detail, to merely mediocrity speakers. Hence Miss C. will probably find her pictorial embellishment of "blue stars" not quite so reliable as the idea of the wiped-off "stripes." The "flag" itself may be blue; but the heavenly orbs do not shine with a sky-color—and "blue lights" would be far more befitting to the British Ensign than for the American Banner. All about our National Flag, will be a good subject for by-and-by. There is, already, much suggested, and two grand odes or anthems are preparative—the other distinctive—adapted to the times and occasions yet to come. More anon.

Appropos to this subject, LIZZIE DORRIS has lately talked up, that (by some) supposed to be phantom, called "the Coming Man." Her propositions are considerably above the average of much that has been said in this direction; yet shows a little too much of the every-day, prevalent, spiritual aura, for the clear truth. Thus when she says, "there are three Grand Masters—Moses, Jesus, and another yet to be revealed," she places the CHRIST too much on the same plane with those who are his mere assistants. Hence the phrases "new Jesus" &c., which we sometimes see in mediumistic expressions, are grossly at fault. Lizzie's lips tell us what has been substantially stated before, that the new "builder" will show "his credentials." Please treat them as well as you would a servant girl's "recommend." And here let me state that the projected "Church" will be a real, genuine, vital and true BRASS CHURCH, in spite of the tendency of certain parties to ridicule and set aside the good old Book. D. J. MAXWELL.

Abol. Depot, Mass., Dec. 14, 1861.

Written for the Banner of Light.

"MADONNA."

BY MRS. A. L. CARSON.

She came to me, the fair unknown,  
Onward passed, like a bird that's flown,  
With scarce one breath of trembling song,  
To tell her native note and clime.  
And that so low, so sad, so sweet,  
No echo heard—but when the heart  
Is still, like pulse of throbbing world  
Asleep, and wakeful mind own soul  
To dream of beauty. "Stars of night,"  
Not more than eyes divine with light—  
Proud with the pride of Castle fire,  
Flamed with the flame of fond desire,  
Soft with the lay of lyric love—  
Something of worlds beyond to prove—  
Unurped by mortal gear one hour  
To waste on "dust," a golden shower  
Of pearls inlaid—for prouder soul  
That tells its tale to heartless worlds  
Each night, where panic holds her breath.  
To list the living play of death;  
Then hies away to dream of what?  
Of glittering morn and new found hearts,  
Plucked from the jostling, jilting mass,  
That scent of "hawthorn," as they pass—  
Some odor for life's solitude.  
At eve, or midnight's deeper shade,  
Where ghosts and dreams, alike the art  
Of sternest play, to make a "farce,"  
From out the woof of yesterday—  
Some thread of love and mystery.  
So subtle woven that every ill  
Dissolves in bliss, and only chills  
With grey of dawn, proclaim the light  
To cure the morn and bless the night!  
For who that's wandered dreamland o'er—  
Ay, who that's swam the happy shore  
Of some foul sorrow harshly blent,  
With triple sunshine haughty spent,  
As lightning chains unlock the clouds  
To swell the swollen rage of floods,  
And make more proud the giant calm,  
Where mighty hordes outride the storm,  
And learn to woo, then spurn each grief,  
Behugged like infant dreams of peace,  
For cause no dearer than to show  
Virtue in monarchy below.  
In that that man lets reason rule,  
The knave may hap but ne'er the fool.  
The first, the slave of passion dire—  
The last, the fiend of no desire—  
But altern-like, lives out his day,  
Till winding sheets wind up the play—  
Since nothing won, then no fame lost,  
When fools and idlers turn to dust.  
Ay, who that's dreamed the summer nights  
Away in love and wild delight,  
Where elfins dance, the sparkling wine,  
Of neared bliss and ruddy grape;  
And daggars shap'd to fencer's steel,  
Bewhapper Cupid's blushing weal,  
And victory proud in flashing eyes,  
When slaughtered knight in death expires  
From sabre stroke of skillful hand,  
Well dealt to serve the lord and man,  
And purchase dearest life than pride;  
Hope where faintest love may feed.  
Ay, who that's seen the vision pass  
And trailing near the ghastly face  
Of phantom-morning, cold and dim,  
Ah! has not cursed all daylight time,  
And prayed for dark Egyptian night,  
To dwell with Love and Love's delight?  
Plymouth, N. H., Nov. 1861.



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## Pearls.

"...elegies  
And quoted often, and jewels five words long.  
That on the stretched-for-figer of all times  
Sparkle forever."

## NO TIME NOW FOR COMPROMISE.

Once, to every man and nation, comes the moment to decide,  
In the strife of Truth with Falsehood, for the good or evil side;  
Some great cause, God's new Messiah, offering each the bloom or blight,  
Parts the goats upon the left hand, and the sheep upon the right,  
And the choice goes by forever, 'twixt that Darkness and that light.

Hast thou chosen, O my people, on whose party thou shalt stand,  
Ere the Doom from its worn sandals shake the dust against our land?  
Though the cause of Evil prosper, yet 'tis Truth alone is strong;  
And albeit she wander outcast now, I see around her throng  
Troops of beautiful, tall angels, to enshroud her from all wrong.

We see dimly, in the Present, what is small and what is great;  
Slow of faith how weak an arm may turn the iron helm of Fate;  
But the soul is still oracular—amid the market's din,  
List the ominous stern whisper from the Delphic cave within!

"They enslave their children's children, who make compromise with Sin!"

Slavery, the earth-born Cyclops, fellest of the giant brood,  
Bears of British Force and Darkness, who have drenched the earth with blood,  
Famished in his self-made desert, blinded by our purer day,  
Gropes in yet unblasted regions for his miserable prey;  
Shall we guide his gory fingers when our helpless children pray?—*James Russell Lowell.*

Duties are ours: events are God's. This removes an infinite burden from the shoulders of a miserable, tempted, dying creature. On this consideration only, can he securely lay down his head and close his eyes.

## WOMAN.

Her might is gentleness, she winneth away  
By a soft word and a sober look;  
Where she the gentle loving one, hath failed  
The proud or stern might never yet succeed.  
Strength, power and majesty belong to man;  
They make the glory native to his life;  
But sweetness is a woman's attribute,  
By that she has reigned, and by that will reign.  
There might have been some who, with a mightier mind,  
Have won dominion, but they never won  
The dearer empire of the beautiful,  
Sweet sovereigns in their natural loveliness.

*(From the German of Schiller.)*

The idle man is the devil's hireling, whose livery is rage, whose diet and wages are famine and disgrace.

## THE BARK.

In Bertha's fragrant bosom lay asleep  
The sweetest babe that ever mother blest—  
A helpless thing, omnipotently weak;  
Naked, yet stronger than a man in mail—  
That, with its new-born struggling sob and cry,  
Softened the childless palace, and unsealed  
Fountains of love undreamed of.—*Alce. Smith.*

Danger should be feared when distant, and braved when present.

## TRUTH.

No power can die that ever wrought for Truth;  
Thereby a law of Nature it became,  
And lives unwithered in its sleny youth,  
When he who called it forth is but a name.

The criticism of enemies is often more valuable than the advice of friends.

## EXPOSITION OF SPIRITUALISTS.

BY A. D. CHILDS, M. D.

Does Spiritualism have a good or bad effect upon the lives and actions of those who profess to be its believers? Judas professed to be a Christian. Was he a Christian? Many profess to be Spiritualists. Are they Spiritualists? Christianity furnished garments to cover treachery and deception, and so does Spiritualism. Professions have little to do with real things. The profession of Christianity is one thing, and the Christianity of Jesus Christ is altogether another thing. A professed belief in Spiritualism is one thing, and a real belief in Spiritualism may be altogether another thing.

An experience of nine years in Spiritualism has shown to me that the influence of Spiritualism is to make men and women more just, more kind, more humane, more forgiving, more humble, more honest, more generous, less deceitful, and less self-righteous. The effect of Spiritualism upon those who honestly seek it, is to draw the thoughts and affections from earthly to spiritual things; from "things below to things above;" from the transitory things of this perishing, falling world, to the world we hope and believe has more enduring realities. Spiritualism calls our attention to a tangible consciousness of life after death. Christianity has done the same thing, but with a less amount of testimony. We cannot well and justly say that to hear about, talk about, and think about life after death has a bad influence upon our lives and actions. If there be a life after death—and we all hope there is if we do not believe there is—it is a better and a longer life than this is, so it is of consequence to us, and it is not a bad thing to consider it.

The great prominent feature of Spiritualism thus far, has been the consideration of life after death. The belief and study of Spiritualism is but the studying of the chart of our future; of the stream that is to bear us on forever. It is lawful and right that we should catch fore-glimpses of our future existence. It is lawful and right that we should learn about spiritual things, and talk with angels. Christ talked with angels, with the spirits of dead men, and he talked with his friends and followers after he died. Why may not we? Wherein does it have a bad influence upon us? I cannot see that it does.

A Spiritualist will bear reproach without retort, from those who can ill afford to reproach any one save themselves. It is not evil to bear reproach or to be calumniated. Spiritualists are very merciful and forgiving. There is no sect whose hands I would sooner fall into for the exercise of mercy than into the hands of Spiritualists. A good and faithful Spiritualist will turn the other cheek when one is smitten; he will give his coat when his cloak is

stolen, rather than recriminate; he will forgive seventy times seven rather than reproduce the offense by condemning and punishing the offender, which punishment is never the cure of the criminal.

Spiritualists are generous and hospitable, almost to a fault. I know a medium who gave the only cloak she had to a poor thinny dressed woman who had to pick up her feet from street dirt; barrels through all the cold winter. I have known many Spiritualists who have given their last dollar away to hungry women and children, and have suffered want themselves in consequence. Spiritualists are very sympathetic. Mediums cannot bear to see animals abused. I have seen them, in a number of instances, beg with men who whipped their horses, not to do so, manifesting a great aversion to the infliction of pain, even on animals. Mediums sympathize with those who suffer pain; they help to drink the cup of bitterness that others may not drink so much. In some inexplicable way, they even take the pains of others upon themselves, and are like Christ, compassionate.

Spiritualists are humble. They are, without pride or fear, associates of the degraded and the suffering; they sit and eat with publicans and sinners, and sometimes, too, eat "with unwashed hands." They do not reject the word of God because it comes through the mediumship of a fisherman, a factory girl, a gambler, or a prostitute. They do not think that the poor suffering criminal will go to a heaven that is beneath the one that they shall go to; they do not think that the poor tolling man and the unfortunate ignorant man are any less under the guardianship of angels and are children of God less than the rich idle man or the fortunate wise man.

Real Spiritualists are not deceitful; they act natural, without disguise; they seem impelled to do so. So they appear worse sometimes before the world than they really are, worse than those who are very deceitful in their appearance, and really are no better than these Spiritualists that they condemn. Spiritualists make signal efforts to mitigate the sufferings of confined criminals, by carrying a word of consolation and comfort to them. They try to invite the debauchee and the courtesan to a happier and better life, by showing them the pleasures that flow from temperance and honest industry, and that come from angel communion. It is not Spiritualism that invites to debauchery and licentiousness, but materialism. People who say that Spiritualism leads to licentiousness and debauchery, do not know what it is, or what its influences are; they mistake the love of earthly things for the love of spiritual things.

I do fearlessly aver that within the limits of my knowledge, Spiritualism has had an effect upon its followers to make them truer men and women—more virtuous, more useful, more trustworthy, more charitable and more Christ like. And already these facts are beginning to be acknowledged by those who are best acquainted with real believers in Spiritualism—by those who see and know what Spiritualism and its influences are.

We might now make a picture of a great many disagreeable things that are made manifest by those who profess to believe in Spiritualism, but we unhesitatingly declare that these disagreeable things are not of Spiritualism, but are of materialism. In spirit everything is pure, true, beautiful; in matter, and its affection, only, is conflict, corruption, fever, decay and dissolution, fault-finding, accusation, hell and suffering. So the more our affections and thoughts are carried above matter to spirit, the purer and the better we become in consequence. And the conclusion to those who know the fact, is plain that Spiritualism does not have a bad but a good effect upon the lives and actions of its real believers.

## 1861.

The year has gone to its place in the historic pages, with its events, as the ancient animals have gone to the fossil rock. It has been a most remarkable year to our country, opening a wide chasm across it from East to West, in which stand two enormous armies confronting and threatening each other, as if America was soon to meet America in a trial of strength in a sort of prize-fight, the stakes being the Constitution, National Institutions, and Civil Liberty.

During the year, immense armies and a great navy have sprung into existence, and the people of most of the States have proved their patriotism, loyalty, and ability, both physical and pecuniary, to rescue and maintain the Government. The only question to be settled by the incoming year, is the ability, honesty and integrity of the chosen leaders. If there is no failure in them, before 1862 goes to record, the rebellion will be subdued, and the national power sustained and administered over all its territory, and we shall be turned into a military and naval nation, ready and able to maintain American principles against any power on earth.

In a review of the social progress for the year, we have little change. There have been many petty domestic earthquakes, volcanoes, irruptions and dissolutions, but as a Nation, as States, or as Societies, we have done little to prevent or cure them. However, the discussion is going on, and will, in good time, result in action and modifications of institutions, and thence an advance of the people to better and higher conditions.

In looking up the politics that were so prominent in 1860, we find the old parties gone out, or the life of them absorbed in devotion to the country, or carried off in rebellion, and their history gone to record, like an executed deed.

This is a great and good progress, and gives room for us to divide again on new issues, as soon as the rebellion is subdued, and then the friends of human rights and equal rights, will have a chance to act together against aristocracy and exclusive privileges.

In religion, (or sectarianism) the churches have been in rapid decay from a heart-rot, but still keep up a show and form of life, like an old tree whose outer covering has a little sap and life from which it shoots out numerous little sprouts.

The Sunday school children are about all the converts or life the churches now show. It is true they have made a show of Chaplains and Bibles and tracts in the army—both in the loyal and rebel armies about alike, as their God is on both sides; for Jeff Davis says he recognizes his hand on their side, and our Chaplains, if not our President, recognize it on ours. But this farce of trying to make a Sunday school of the army, and teachers of the chaplains, does not take, nor will it be less or more than a farce, however much sustained by the chief military officers.

From members of my family in the army, I learn that copies of the BANNER OF LIGHT, Herald of Progress and Investigator, are seized eagerly, and worn out in being read, while religious papers are often

unopened, save to kindle fires. It is not probable that the war will advance the churches at all, but they will rot down in spite of war, or Sunday schools, for they have nearly filled their mission and ushered in the new era of spirit-intercourse, which, without organization, is less than twenty years old, is more powerful to-day as an element in the hearts of the people, than any sect of Christians in the nation.

During the year whose departure I record, I have been constantly engaged in speaking and writing, partly on the political and military conditions and prospects, and partly on the social and religious. I have lectured on every Sunday, always twice, sometimes three times, and enough during the week to make up one hundred and seventy lectures in the year.

Spent the first month of the year in Maryland, and the last in Massachusetts. Have traveled much, always found good friends, had good audiences, been well paid, and treated with every kindness and attention that I could expect, and many a kind word and act is recorded on the tablets of my heart, not soon to be effaced.

My services for most of the ensuing year, are already engaged, and in places wide apart, but between the Mississippi and Penobscot, and my pen will aid my tongue in the cause of my country, and of humanity, and of Spiritualism, as superior to any form of sectarianism and partial Christianity.

To my many friends to whom I have not time to write my thanks and wishes, here comes from the heart a wish of a Happy New Year; to my enemies, my hearty forgiveness, and a hope they will be better and happier in the coming year than in the past, and continue to grow "better and wiser, as life wears away."

WARREN CHASE.

Providence, R. I., January 1, 1862.

## Some Suggestions from Willimantic.

Perhaps some of your readers, Mr. Editor, would be glad to know how we get along in Willimantic. It is this: we hold meetings about half of the time, and our lecturer is Bro. J. S. Loveland, who has made this place his home for more than a year, his companion, a very amiable lady, and two children, compose his family. Sickens having prevailed to considerable extent, Bro. Loveland has necessarily been provident, and stayed at home most of the time. And as no report often goes from this place to the papers, the work he is able to do and has performed of course no general notice has been given to the public. What has he done? He has erected a foundation in the minds of his hearers for the superstructure of Spiritualism, which is as solid as the rock of ages, and can no more be broken up than the natural processes of nature will cease to bring about their evolutions which are always the result of a given law; at the same time burying the trashy ideas which illegitimate teachings have produced so deep below the ocean of common sense that their hydra heads will no more be able to rise to an appreciation of worth than will the ground upon which we tread assume to clap hands with the celestial bodies which float in unlimited space.

Bro. L. is able to associate himself with children, by simplifying his ideas to their sphere of understanding, or rising in language, dissecting subjects belonging to maturer minds, with as much ease and dignity as though the lesson had been committed to memory, not leaving the subject until it has been fatigued and muddled, and all its dimensions given elaborately; then again rising far above this train of reasoning, being eliminated, as it were, by the illuminated light of Heaven profusely showering eloquence upon his audience, causing complete absorption of mind, and spell-bound condition of body. Let me say here that I am not unmindful of the ability of New York salaried clergymen, neither am I alone in the opinion that they are not superior to some others in the qualifications which become a true lecturer, the trouble in coming to the same conclusion with the prejudiced observer is, "your faith is not my faith."

But when I speak in this strain of Bro. L., I do not do it to the disparagement of any one else, whether "Jew or Gentile," for we have many speakers in the field working untiringly for the blessed faith of Spiritualism, who are ever receiving, and deservedly, too, the highest encomiums from true friends of reform; thus without defining our condition more particularly, the world may be able to judge by the character of our instructor, what we ought to be with our privileges improved, and what we deserve to be if neglected. But another topic induces me more particularly to correspond with you at this time, and that is with reference to the children of Spiritualists, or any other children who may come under the influence of Spiritualism.

The old maxim is, "train up a child in the way he should go," &c., and I think there is much truth in it. If we teach our children truth, there is no danger of their renouncing it when matured. Why the maxim has not always proved true to the understanding of the tutor, is because he or she was at fault in their instructions. If we, as men and women, have a spiritual faith that is good for us, may it not be good for our children? Spiritualism has many seeming peculiarities about it, which become less so as we better understand it. What is considered the best mode of informing ourselves relative to it? Is it not in pursuing the experiences of others, together with the philosophical explanations of those who are able for the task?—and where can we find it so fully portrayed, as in our spiritual papers? But when I say that the BANNER OF LIGHT or the Herald of Progress are both altogether too prosy for children, I would not attempt to deter one atom from their general, acknowledged worth, being satisfied that they have their mission, and that that mission is being duly cared for. Their columns we joyously greet as often as they appear. But we want a child's paper. We need to have our doctrines simplified on paper, so that a child can understand what children should know by this manner of instruction, and then they will be as much, or more interested in matters pertaining to their body and soul, as they would in the study of any branch of education of which they are to learn.

Pictorial illustrations should accompany the sheet, and fifty cents per year, I would suggest as a price. To be issued semi-monthly. Of course, the size of the sheet must correspond with the price, and why is not the BANNER OF LIGHT office the very place from whence it should issue? Is any one else so well situated to give the public the worth of their money? If properly conducted, I think it would certainly meet the wants of a large and intelligent class of children, and, at the same time, intelligently pay the undertaker, and put Spiritualism upon a basis it has never acquired, in having our children grow up understandingly in regard to what is false and true theories are, so they may know for themselves, and not

be obliged to take the say so of our would-be worshipped, while craved, so called "ambassadors of the Lord."

When a change in regard to the instruction of our children can be had, then something will be gained, and not until then "shall we see of the travail of our soul, and be satisfied."

"So let each faithful child  
Drink of this fountain mild,  
From early youth,  
Then shall the song we raise  
Be heard in future days:  
Ours be the pleasant ways  
Of peace and truth."

Willimantic, Ct.

G. W. BURNHAM.

## SPIRITUALISM IN AUGUSTA, ME.

FRIEND BANNER—As Augusta Spiritualism possesses one at least of the elements for which American Spiritualism is so restlessly craving, to wit: something new, a few lines of notice on this said novelty may not be unacceptable to your readers.

Last Tuesday, Dec. 24th, 1861, I went, by the invitation of certain of "the deluded" in that official and legislative city, to deliver some lectures in Augusta. Arriving at quarter to eight, instead of four, p. m., the snow and ice being made my apologies for that night, left me free during Christmas day, to make observations.

The chief field of view was engrossed by the mental changes in Augustan opinions, outwrought by the spirits, through the mediumship of Miss S. Jenny Lord, a well known physical medium from Portland, Maine. The manifestations through this young lady consist of the playing on musical instruments, the movement of bodies, some trance speaking, and a good deal of intelligence displayed by the invisibles in the responses through sounds and movements of the instruments; and although these phenomena are performed of necessity in the dark, the arrangements of the sittings are such as to entirely preclude the possibility of deception; one condition only being insisted on by the gentle, patient medium, and "when found, please to make a note of it," good friends, the scandal-mongers; Miss Lord insists that her right and left hand neighbors in the dark circle shall be females. I learned that Miss L. had sat for four weeks, giving circles every night; and, although the sitters were some of the hardest of skeptics and keenest of scrutinizers, not one failure had been charged on her—not one sifter dissatisfied with the result.

At the Christmas night circle, kindly arranged with a view to my gratification, the manifestations were highly interesting, and more remarkable than a few hasty lines of description could portray. In a word, I was as much pleased with Miss Lord's powers of mediumship and truthfulness, as I was sorry to find so little demand made upon her services; and whilst hundreds of eager inquirers are hungering for evidence, the post-office stands idle, waiting for cold mortality to apply for news from loving immortality. Miss Lord returned with me to Portland, lacking the energy, which few such mediums possess, to arrange or provide for her own circles, and yet, though willing, patient and untiring in her own gentle way, to serve the world, she remains with her splendid gift, doing nothing, because no man has hired the services that a few short years ago no man could hire, with a king's ransom. As I am not much accustomed to ask any one's leave for speaking the truth, I make these comments solely on my own responsibility, and, on similar authority, and none other, state that Miss Lord's address is box 673, Portland, Maine.

For my own part of the Augusta programme, I must say but little, except that it has never been my fortunate lot to speak to a more intellectual, appreciative and candid audience. Both the private circles and my own lectures were supported by gentlemen occupying the highest official positions in the Maine Legislature. They declined not to officiate as my escort and committee in the lectures, and my visitors at home; and although no one more fully than myself in my European life, has experienced the hollowiness of merely aristocratical distinctions, no one more than myself in my mediumistic career, has realized the worth of an intelligent and educated audience.

Those who by painful drudgery in books have attained to knowledge in one or more departments of science, never fail to appreciate the marvel by which the unstudied utterances of mediums, combining fragments from almost endless varieties of sources, are poured forth after a fashion which modern orators alone can understand the wonder of. Hence mediumistic oratory, which falls so coldly on uncultivated ears, never fails to excite the wonder and respect of the truly learned; and to this circumstance am I indebted to the generous and profuse testimony which my Augusta audiences rendered me, of praise and wonder at addresses which my Spiritualist friends most commonly estimate by the numbers that listen to them.

Compelled to return to Portland in time to fulfill my Sunday's engagement, I left Augusta with the conviction that the sublime truths and blessed uses of Spiritualism need but to be heard, but to be known to the truly wise and good, to be hailed as what they are: the world's saviour from mental, spiritual and physical slavery, and the John Baptist of the glorious kingdom of peace and good will which must ultimate from a correct knowledge of life and its issues. Thanks to the unwearied and unselfish efforts of three gentlemen who felt that Spiritualism had been vouchsafed to them for wider and nobler uses than to be looked up in the cabinet of their own private enjoyments, and who, unlike a large portion of the earliest Spiritualists on this Continent, think they honor the spirits enough and fully perform their duties to them, if they narrow down their communion to the seclusion of their very private circles, forgetful that they got their Spiritualism in the world, and in the world will its uses be demanded. Unlike these, however, our generous Augusta trio concluded that Spiritualism had made them happier and better men, and with the hope of sharing their blessings with others, they have borne such living crucifixion as only pioneers in an unpopular and misunderstood cause can appreciate. To some extent, however, the scene has changed, and the tables have, in more senses than one, been turned completely round, and Spiritualism in Augusta is now respected and respectable, and only waits the busy hands of laborious harvesters to yield good fruit in abundance.

As for Portland, though the generally chill atmosphere has been crystallized almost to a spiritual frost by the national war fever, yet the meetings still live, and I advise all visitors to their pleasant little hall on a fine Sunday evening to carry portable seats with them, or else defer their visit till the weather renders pedestrianism almost impossible.

This latter condition is the most favorable for obtaining room and seats at the Spiritualists' Sunday evening meetings in Portland—at least as I saw them on the last two Sabbaths.

Advising my friends in New York, Connecticut, &c., &c., that my next three months will be spent in those and adjoining States, and that my address for that period will be to the care of Mrs. E. J. French, 8 Fourth Avenue, New York City, I am, dear friend BANNER, yours for the truth, EMMA HARDING.

## Obituary Notices.

Departed to Spirit-Life on the morning of the 5th of December, LUCRETIA ANN, only daughter of T. F. and Susannah Burch, of Smith's Mills, N. Y., aged 18 years the 4th day July last.

After two weeks suffering from typhus fever, in which she proved the noble strength and purity of her soul, the angels reaped the harvest of her life, and bore the glad treasure home. Her mind was unclouded by false theology, and death to her had no false gloom, she made several brief communications, within a few days, which soothed and cheered the bereaved ones. Her only brother was at Washington, and knew not of her departure till after the burial. The strength of Spiritualism was tested, and we all felt that while it is beautiful to live by, it is all glorious in the hour of death.

The discourse, inspired by the unseen messengers, was predicated upon the words: "In the midst of life, behold! we are in death! And in the midst of death blooms the bud of immortal life."

In the gloom-giving hour that borders the tomb, And measures our faith in the light of the spheres, Few hearts are too strong for the conquest of gloom, Though rainbows arise in the soul-cloud of tears.

But O, the soft light of angelhood lent, To this bleak vale of shadows where Error beguiles, We trust, and acknowledge the messenger sent, To soften her pain to the Eden of smiles.

Lucretia! thou soul-star that lighted our home, We miss thee, O sadly, in every place; But we know the right light of thy Spirit will come, To our hearts with a love that death cannot efface.

The outward may weep while the Spirits rejoice; Thy presence will crown every shadow with light, If we follow the lead of the heavenly voice, Our star will return to illumine the night!

New Abidon, Dec. 23, 1861. LYMAN C. HOWE.

Passed to a Higher Life, at St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 24, 1861, after a long and painful illness, MARY H. wife of EDWARD UNDERHILL, aged 49 years. Her remains were sent east for interment.

## NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

LYONHALL, TRINITY STREET, (opposite head of School street).—The regular course of lectures will continue through the winter, and services will commence at 2:45 and 7:15 o'clock, p. m. Admission Free. Lecturers engaged:—Mrs. Fannie Davis Smith, Jan. 12; Miss Lizzie Doten, Jan. 19 and 26.

CONGREGATIONAL HALL, No. 14 BROADWAY STREET, BOSTON.—Spiritual meetings are held every Sunday at 10:15 A. M. Conference meetings at 8 and 7:15 P. M. P. Clark, Chairman. The Boston Spiritual Conference meets every Wednesday evening at 7:15 o'clock. (The proceedings are reported for the Banner.) The subject of the Wednesday evening is—"The Tendencies of Spiritualism."

CHARLESTOWN.—Sunday meetings are held at Central Hall, at 3 and 7 o'clock, afternoon and evening. Speakers engaged: Warren Chase, Jan. 12; Mrs. M. A. Ricker, Jan. 19; N. Greenleaf, Jan. 26; Clarence Butler, February 2.

MARLBOROUGH.—Meetings are held in Bassett's new Hall. Speakers engaged:—E. L. Wadsworth, last three Sundays in June.

LOWELL.—The Spiritualists of this city hold regular meetings on Sundays, forenoon and afternoon, in Wells's Hall. Speakers engaged:—Prof. Clarence Butler, Jan. 12; Miss Fannie Davis, two last Sundays in Jan.; S. J. Finney, Esq., during February; Belle Scougall, during March.

NEW BEDFORD.—Music Hall has been hired by the Spiritualists. Conference Meetings held Sunday mornings, and speaking by mediums, afternoon and evening.

LAURENS, ME.—The Spiritualists of Laurens hold regular meetings on Sunday, at the Town Hall. Services commence at 1:15 and 7:15 P. M.

NAUSETT.—Regular meetings are held every Sunday at 1:15 and 7:15 P. M. at Essex Hall. PORTLAND, ME.—The Spiritualists of this city hold regular meetings every Sunday in Sons of Temperance Hall, on Congress, between Oak and Green streets. Conference in the forenoon. Lectures afternoon and evening, at 2:15 and 7 o'clock. Speakers engaged:—G. B. Stebbins, during January; Belle Scougall, during February; W. C. Ripley for the three first Sundays in March; Miss Emma Harding, two last Sabbaths in April; Miss Fannie Davis for May; Mrs. M. Macomber for June.

FAVINGHAM.—Speakers engaged:—Mrs. A. M. Spence, in Jan.; Mrs. M. Macomber in Feb.; Frank L. Wadsworth in May.

NEW YORK.—At Lamartine Hall, corner 8th Avenue and 28th street, meetings are held every Sunday at 10:15 A. M., P. M., 7:15 P. M. Dr. H. Dresser is Chairman of the Association.

At Dedworth's Hall 806 Broadway, Mrs. Cora L. V. Hatch will lecture every Sunday, morning and evening.

CLEVELAND, OHIO.—Speakers who wish to make appointments at Cleveland, are requested to address Mrs. H. F. Brown, who is authorized to confer with them. St. Louis, Mo.—Meetings are held in Mercantile Library hall every Sunday at 10:15 o'clock A. M., and 7:15 P. M.

## THE BANNER OF LIGHT,

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