

BANNER OF LIGHT.



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NO. 23.

Written for the Banner of Light.

DO THEY LIVE?

BY N. M. STONG.

Do they live? the friends of bygone days
Who walked earth's paths with me?
Who have culled sweet flowers in youthful plays,
And joined in childhood's glee?
Toll me, ye bright-winged seraphs of the spheres,
Do they still live and love, the friends of youthful years?

Do they live, those dear, departed souls
That passed death's river o'er;
Whose boats went down 'mid the hidden shoals
That gird earth's stormy shore?
Oh tell! has life, so bright, so pure and fair,
So full of thought and truth, vanished in viewless air?

Do they live? Oh tell me ere my heart
Beats its last pulse on earth;
Ere hope's sparkling joys and dreams depart
In a night of endless death;
And life sinks down beneath the midnight gloom,
Where sombre shadows close around the silent tomb.

They live! for I hear a whisper low—
The deathless angel's tone;
Be still, my soul, if thou wilt wouldst know
The light of worlds unknown;
That land where light and love in sweetness blend,
Where we shall meet and clasp, for aye, each cherished friend!
Fredericktown, Ohio.

The Lecture Boom.

"The True Revelation."

A LECTURE BY PROF. WILLIAM DENTON,
In Music Hall, Boston, Mass., Dec. 30th, 1868.

Reported for the Banner of Light.

"The time is ripe, and rotten-ripe for change;
Then let it come! I have no dread of what
Is called for by the instincts of mankind."
Nor think I that God's world will fall apart
Because we tear a parchment more or less!
Let us speak plain; there is more force in names
Than most men dream of, and a life may keep
Its throne a while ago longer, if it skulk
Behind the shield of some fair seeming name!"

Professor William Denton addressed a large audience at Music Hall, on the above subject. We give below a synoptical report of his remarks, which were prefaced by his reading of "The Times, the Manners and the Men," by James Russell Lowell.

With eternity before us, eternity behind us, infinity around us, and these thinking souls within us, how important, how glorious a position was ours. Had the Soul of the Universe ever whispered to the ears of a few life-giving words to be distributed to the many? Did this book (the Bible) contain the revelation of the Divine thus vouchsafed to many? These were questions which we should consider. Let us look at them in the light of reason, as became thinking men and women, and heed the answer we should obtain from the innermost depths of our Nature. It was not enough to say that our fathers received these teachings—that the generations gone had received them. No! We were to take care of ourselves; all had the right to interrogate Nature for themselves, and to listen to her reply.

It was very common for those who wrote upon the subject to assert that a revelation from the Divine was necessary for man. Paley said, in effect, that a revelation from God to man was essentially conducive to man's happiness. God must therefore have made such a revelation, and therefore he (Paley) said that the Christian revelation was a revelation from the Divine; for compared with all other systems it was like the full moon to the twinkling stars. These ideas were founded upon the principle that what was necessary for man's happiness would be given him. Well, he (the lecturer) was ready to accept this. Its truth was seen throughout every department of Nature's laws. Was man hungry? Behold the bread of the world moving in every breeze! Was it necessary that he should have drink? The very clouds distilled for him the beverage of heaven—limpid springs leaped from the mountains and descended with tinkling fountains into the valleys, saying to all, "Lo, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters." How well Nature had provided for these necessities in man. Was it necessary that he should breathe? There was the vast ocean of air which spread around the globe, permeating all things, and our highest art could not make a machine which would wholly exclude it. Was it necessary for man to have light and heat? Behold the sun in the sky. Now, if a revelation to man was as necessary as food, drink or air, it would be as easily obtained, and be as free and plentiful as the air and water. When we took that ground we proclaimed the Christian revelation to be a sham and delusion. For if we assumed these facts to be true concerning the material body which should depart in a day; if all these provisions were made for it, should the soul, which was to live forever, have so slight a provision for its welfare that not one man in a hundred to-day possessed a knowledge of it? And when a man took the ground that a revelation from God was necessary, he also took the ground at once that the Bible was not a divine revelation. How many people possessed this wondrous revelation till Jesus came to earth? From the stone men of France to the original shepherds of Judea, how many millions of men came and went, with no word of counsel or caution from God! Human beings existed, as we now know, for at least a hundred thousand years, and yet no revelation came to them. And when the revelation did come, to whom did it come? To the Jews, a semi-barbarous people, living in a country smaller than the State of Ohio! It came to them as a blessing, but to the rest of mankind as a curse. By its divine command the heathen were slain, and their lands seized as an heritage forever. And when Christ came proclaiming: "Goye into

all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature," how many people obtained this revelation then? Not one in a thousand! The British and Foreign Bible Society had printed fifty million copies of the Bible and parts of the Bible; all other sources put together had not in all probability exceeded the number, making a total of one hundred million Bibles for one thousand millions of inhabitants on this planet, provided all these Bibles were yet in existence, which of course was not the case, as a very large proportion of them were likely to be destroyed, and probably not more than a tenth part of them remained. And these Bibles were printed in two hundred different languages, instead of fifteen hundred which were in existence in the world. If a penny loaf were given to an hundred starving men, what kind of a meal could they make? And in about the same proportion this Bible, the only revelation, the bread of life, was given to the great world. When he (the lecturer) looked fully at the matter, he was often led to consider it a piece of imposition and impudence to attempt to palm off this book on thinking men and women as the direct word from God to man.

Were we then left without any revelation, when we took away the Bible? Not at all! There was a revelation which came to every human being on this planet. It came to the Hottentot in his corral; to the black boy as he worked in the cotton fields of the South; to the yellow boy, as he spun silk in China; to the wild savage of Pango as he hunted for muscles on the seabeach, and the equally wild savage of New Holland as with his club he prowled amid primeval woods seeking the game with which he must satisfy his hunger. That revelation which came when man came upon this planet, and which should remain as long as man remained—that revelation spoke to all, free as the air, all-embracing as the sunshine. But some one might say, "Where is this revelation? I never saw it—I never read it." No! because it wasn't a book! If it was a book it would depend for its existence on perishable materials, and fallible mortals to construct it. Men could not copy even without making mistakes. In an edition of the Bible, printed at Oxford, the commandment forbidding adultery was rendered of none effect by the omission of the word *not*; being printed, "Thou shalt commit adultery." In another edition published in Cambridge, the passage reading, "There is one God, even the Father," was rendered, "There is one God, even the Father," thus changing a Unitarian passage into a decidedly Trinitarian one. The oftener the Scriptures were copied, the more mistakes were made, and no one would be able to tell, by-and-by, which was the original and which the blunder. A fly speck placed in the right position might change the vowel marks of the ancient Hebrew, and alter the whole face of affairs, making a great difference in the word of God.

If it was not a book, what then was this true revelation? Nature within man, and Nature without man. This grand volume contained the sum of wisdom and goodness; everything men have learned they have learned from that glorious page. That was the mine where men might dig deeper and deeper, and still exhaust not its priceless treasure. Where was the man who had not learned from Nature? It was the truths of Nature which happened to be put in the Bible which had embalmed it and kept it from decay. It was Nature which taught the primitive savage to make the first club the world ever saw, with which to battle with the enemies surrounding him; it was this same Nature which taught man to shape out with his rude stone axe the wooden spade with which to turn over the soil and plant the germs of a future harvest. It was Nature which taught the inhabitants of the Nile valley tens of thousands of years before the first chapter of Genesis was written, and should teach them when the last relics of the Pentateuch were forgotten.

But some one might say, "You forget those wonderful prophecies which prove it to have come directly from God." No, he (the lecturer) did not forget or neglect the prophecies. He proposed in the present discourse to take time to consider them, as regarded their claims to being "miraculous" prophecies, foretelling events which no one could possibly guess. In order to prove a prophecy to be miraculous, five points were to be shown: 1st. It must be proven that the prophecy was uttered before the events which it professed to describe took place. If any one should rise in our day, and prophesy the late bloody war which should be between the North and South, we should say: "My friend, you are slightly behind the age—all these things have gone by." But suppose some one should write an account of it now, and date his book back one hundred years, and that work should be handed down to posterity for another hundred years, there would be danger that in the end the spurious prophecy would gain credence.

2d. It must be proven that the prophecy was of such a character that it could not be guessed, or appear likely to happen. As regarded the war he (the lecturer) had just referred to, he had himself, though not claiming to be either "a prophet or the son of a prophet," foretold its coming, both on the public rostrum and upon the printed page. Nor was he alone; for many of the great minds of our time beheld afar off the gigantic march of the destroyer. This was not the result of any special gift of prophecy, but only the outworking of that knowledge which could tell, from the past and the present, what the future should be.

3d. The prophecy should be fulfilled in every particular. It would be very easy to prophesy what would occur an hundred years hence, and perhaps fifty or sixty verses might be arranged in a plausible manner. And if out of all the number two or three happened to be fulfilled, if the others which were not could be hushed up, and crowded out of sight, the author might pass for a prophet.

4th. The prophecy must not fulfill itself. If

some one were to prophesy an event, and in order to prove the truth of it some friend should go and perform the deed or bring on the event, there was no prophecy in the case. Thus, in the New Testament were to be found many instances where certain things were performed in order that the prophecy might be fulfilled which was spoken; &c. And in these cases the prophecy fulfilled itself.

5th. The prophecy must be so clearly stated that its meaning could be understood by all. If we looked at the Bible prophecies in this light, we should not find one in a hundred which could be understood. Why were they not made plain to the perception of man? Why did they not say, for instance, "In such a year, month and day, in the United States, (a nation yet unborn, and in America, a country yet undiscovered,) a bloody war shall arise between the North and South"? No such direct language was to be found in any of these oracles. The vision of Daniel, concerning the beast with ten horns, representing either kings or kingdoms, had been discussed and written about till Bishop Newton had given seven different lists of kingdoms to each of which it was applicable; and it was quite possible that there was yet an eighth list which the Bishop had not discovered. Now a prophecy which was capable of having seven different significations attached to it was no prophecy at all. The same could be said of that remarkable passage in Isaiah, reading:

"In the same day shall the Lord shave with a razor that is hired, namely, by them beyond the river, by the king of Assyria, the head, and the hair of the feet; and it shall also consume the beard."
And it shall come to pass in that day, that a man shall nourish a young cow and two sheep;
And it shall come to pass, for the abundance of milk that they shall give, he shall eat butter; for butter and honey shall every one eat that is left in the land."

Now it was strange to think that the Lord shaved, and worse than that, with a borrowed razor, but where did the razor come from? We were very indefinitely told that it was hired by "them beyond the river," from some person or persons of whom we have no account. As for the passage referring to shaving the "hair of the feet," its significance must ever remain an impenetrable mystery. As regarded the nourishing by a man of a young cow and two sheep, and his living on the butter obtained from the milk they gave, the account was as unsatisfactory as the food, "butter and honey," which was to be the diet of the people who were left in the land; and if they had lived on butter and honey only, little would soon have been but a very few left.

Upon such wild statements and uncertain data the Christian world based its hopes, and set its bounds, and strove to keep on a long face as it read from the first chapter of Genesis to the last chapter of Revelations, declaring every word—fifty stories and all—to be the irrevocable word of God. It was time for us to look at the Bible, and to accept it for what it was worth—nothing more. Why should we receive as divine light, from the Bible, that which we should treat with contempt or derision if we met it anywhere else? Take, for instance, the twenty-eighth chapter of Deuteronomy, to which the Christian world triumphantly turns when questioned regarding the fulfillment of the prophecies, where reference is made to the fate of the Israelites, if they disobeyed the commands of God. Of the fulfillment of this passage Bishop Newton expressed himself astonished beyond measure; and Keith, after very carefully quoting such parts of the sixty-third and sixty-fourth verses as suited him, proceeded to state that they had been scattered among every people of the earth; there was not a country on the face of the globe where the Jew was not known—mountains and rivers, the boundaries of other nations, had not kept him in, or restrained his wanderings. Bishop Newton further said that the Jews had been scattered broadcast; where was there a people who had been so spread abroad as they? "What a standing miracle is this before the observation of the world!" But Keith and Newton did not read the rest! He (the lecturer) would read it, and the learned commentators would sink away, not daring to deny their duplicity.

"And the Lord shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone."

Ah! that was the reason; the concluding portion would spoil their prophecy concerning the Jews. If the record had said, instead of "wood and stone," the Jews should worship gods of gold and silver and paper, the fulfillment of the prophecy might have been admitted by us all without one dissenting voice! No! these lights in the Christian world knew that the prophecy had never been fulfilled, save as regarded a small fragment. No people under heaven clung to-day to the faith of their fathers with more tenacity than the Jewish nation. Why, it took twenty-seven thousand dollars to convert a Jew, and when he was converted he was not worth a penny more than before. Thus the prophecy failed, for the Jews did not worship gods of wood and stone. Let us follow it further:

"The Lord shall smite thee with a consumption, and with a fever, and with an inflammation, and with an extreme burning, and with the sword, and with blasting, and with mildew; and thou shalt pursue thine until thou perish."
The Lord will smite thee with the botch of Egypt, and with the emerods, and with the scab, and with the itch, whereof thou canst not be healed."

But the Jews were not pursued till they perished, for we had them with us to-day. Were they any more afflicted with consumption than others? When a Jew had the itch was it any different from that which others had, and was it really incurable in his case? Did our physicians find these things true in their practice? Not at all! But let us pursue the record still further:

"The stranger that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low; he shall tend to thee, and thou shalt not tend to him; he shall be the head and thou shalt be the tail."

Who ever heard of anybody tending to a Jew? The tending, whether of money or otherwise, was in our day at least confined to the Israelite. Who died not long since, in Europe, worth four hun-

dred million dollars? Rothschild, a Jew; the head of that great banking house to which the kings and emperors of the old world went to get money when they wished to go to war. So it was very evident that this money-lending prophecy had failed; and so on through all these records; there was not a prophecy in the Bible, which, considered in the light of science and religion, could be held to be a true prophecy; and he (the lecturer) was ready to meet any minister on the platform at Music Hall who chose to debate the question with him: "Look at the prophecy concerning Babylon: 'Therefore the wild beasts of the desert, with the wild beasts of the land, shall dwell there, and the owls shall dwell therein; and it shall be no more inhabited forever; neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation. And Babylon shall become heaps, a dwelling place for dragons, an astonishment, and a hissing, without an inhabitant.'"

Now there were many ministers of the Christian religion, who had, either by journeying Eastward themselves, or by reading, become perfectly aware that in the very centre of ancient Babylon was situated the town of Hillah, having ten thousand inhabitants; but for purposes which would be readily perceived, they kept quiet on the subject, as it would ruin their prophecy.

If we looked at the evidence presented by Christianity in the light of reason, we should be utterly astonished at its insufficiency. But where this revelation failed the revelation of Nature was most wondrously upheld and maintained. He did not claim for Nature anything miraculous, but he did claim that by our knowledge of her laws we could foretell their operations for centuries beforehand. As in the case of Halley's comet, which in 1682 he predicted would return sometime either in 1758 or 1759. Halley went to his grave and left his prediction to be verified, and about the end of 1758, while all the astronomers were sweeping the heavens with their glasses in vain, it was discovered by a peasant in the open field, by the aid of an eight foot telescope. Here was a prediction made seventy-six years in advance, and verified. The same comet had returned in 1835, and passed its nearest point to the sun within two days of the time predicted, although it had traveled in its course three thousand millions of miles, and all the retardations and attractions of surrounding planets had to be calculated. The astronomer was able to prophesy the eclipses years beforehand, and at the time specified the shadow would appear. Even our household altitudes told us of these wondrous phenomena of Nature. How unlike the prophecies of the Bible was the language of Nature, and of those who expounded to us her laws. In the Bible things were foretold us to occur in "A time, times and a division of a time"! What would be said of an astronomer who should predict a movement of the heavenly bodies to occur in "a clock, clocks and half a clock"? Would people consider him possessed of his reason—would they not rather take him to be insane? But when these statements appeared in the Bible, why, the Christian world called on us all to receive them without question.

But some one might say, "If the prophecies won't stand, look at the wonderful miracles recorded in the sacred book." To such he would say, "Where are these miracles? are they taking place to-day?" "Oh, no! they occurred ages ago, and have ceased to appear in our time; but they are all written down in the book." But did the fact of a book being filled with strange stories prove it to be a divine revelation? If such were the fact, the lecturer was ready to find revelations in our day as thick as blackberries. Did Moses strike the rock of Horeb, that water might flow for the thirsting Israelite? Where was that water now? We needed the evidence more than even did the Jew. The Bible did not tell us how many times Moses smote the rock before he found water, but if the river pouring from a boulder had flowed on to this day, the confirmation of the story would be plain. We could smite the rock with our boring machines, and bring up water from the depths of the earth. In Algeria and on the Desert of Sahara, where the artesian wells had been sunk, the Arabs were building their villages, and blessing the discoveries of science, which were causing the "desert to blossom as the rose." We strike the rock and bring oil up from the depths—a thing Moses never dreamed of—and send it all over the world to give light and heat to man. Why! if the old prophecy-mongers had only known what was to take place in our times, they would have thrown down their pens in despair! They would never have been able to get up a story half large enough! Did Jesus change water into wine? Our science could change old rags into sugar by the aid of a little sulphuric acid. Were the walls of Jericho blown down in eight days by blasts from ram's horns? Why! we with a little gunpowder would upset them in at least a much briefer period. Did David go into the lion's den and come out unharmed? Van Amburgh had done it a thousand times; and any man might do it, no matter how hungry or ferocious the beasts, if he would take with him a bottle of chloroform, and open it just before entering the presence of the animals. The wonderful balloon in which we sailed in the air of to-day, was more remarkable than the fiery chariot of Elijah! Little did the men of the past dream of what Nature would assist us to accomplish in the age in which we lived! By her divine revelation we had been brought out from under the dominion of the false into the dominion of the true.

But it might be urged that men had laid down their lives to prove the Bible to be a divine revelation, and it might be inquired where was the instance that one man had ever died to prove the truth of Nature's revelation? Why! she did not require anybody to lay down their life to prove her laws. Why should any man die to prove that the sun shone, or summer followed spring?

The thing was absolutely unnecessary! If a long list of martyrs were required to prove the divinity of a book, the Koran of Mahomet could show as many as the Christian Bible. If self-denying

efforts to spread a belief, in a creed could prove its divinity, the crescent was not far behind the cross. Into every country, and amid the most savage wildernesses, the followers of the Prophet had forced their way—nowhere being inferior in their zeal to the missionaries of Christianity.

But some one might say, "The Bible contains the truest ideas and conceptions of God." Dr. Dix said of it, in effect, that it was a revelation from God because it gave us the most just, rational, sublime and consistent views of the Divine character. But how did Dr. Dix know about the Divine character? He must have had some other knowledge besides that given in the Bible, in order to compare one with the other and thus judge of the merits of each. And if the doctor had such information, he got it from the divine revelation of Nature; he had gone to the lecturer's Bible in order to gain facts by which to test the Christian record.

It was perfectly astonishing to him (the lecturer) that any man should proclaim the views of God in the Bible to be consistent. For instance, John said: "No man hath seen God at any time." And Paul declared of him that he was the King of kings and Lord of lords; whom no man hath seen nor can see." But in Exodus we read that upon Mount Sinai, Moses and some of the elders saw the God of Israel—saw his feet and what was under his feet. And of course they died? Oh, no! They ate and drank, and came down from the mountain as hearty as ever.

Again, it was declared by the Bible that God was ever present. David said:

"Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?
If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there!
If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me."

But by reference to Genesis, we should find that the God of the Bible (or, at least, the God of that part of it) was not omnipresent, and did not know all things, for we find God using the following language:

"Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous, I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not I will know."
So, in the form of three men, he appeared among the cities of the plain, and, finding the stories true, he rained upon them the fire-shower of ruin. Thus God was too far off, according to Genesis; he could not see what was transpiring on earth; certain persons came to him and said: "They are frightfully wicked in Sodom and Gomorrah," and the Lord said: "Well, I must go down and see; perhaps these fellows are lying; one hears so many reports." So he went, and, in consequence of his subsequent discovery, destroyed all the people but Lot and his family, who, if the record of their after acts be true, deserved destruction just as much as any who perished in Sodom and Gomorrah.

Let us not allow the spells of early education—the glamour of the Bible—to stand between us and the light of reason, as we study its pages; let us receive this revelation upon its own merits—for just exactly what it was worth, and no more. We had had enough harping on the good in the Bible; it was time that some one pointed out its defects, and cut the speckled part out of the apple. We came in contact, every day, with the true revelation of God in the universe; let us not neglect it. The over-arching, all-permeating Spirit of the Universe was his (the lecturer's) God! The power which gave the seasons, the tides, the suns and stars of the mighty firmament—that was God. His voice was heard equally in the thunder, as it crashed through the trembling heavens, and the cheerful chirp of the cricket as he sang his evening hymn. His handiwork was no less displayed in the rainbow's triumphal arch than in the humblest dewdrop that glittered in the morning sun. God was in everything; never changing, never seen, save in his glorious works. The revelation of his mighty power was made to man, as the great laws of the universe went plowing on their destined way, turning not to right or left. How vain was the cry, the prayer, the attempt to change those laws! The man who, by prayer, could change God's laws, would be God of the gods themselves! The universe was as it was ordained, and we must take it as we found it.

Ah, but some might say, "How are we going to 'cease to do evil and learn to do well,' as we are commanded, without the Bible?" To such he would say, "How are you going to do so with the Bible?" Who taught the Greeks and Romans to prohibit, by statutes, adultery, murder and all the crimes which modern jurists condemned? The very same things which were crimes to-day were crimes then. Did they obtain this knowledge from the Bible? Most assuredly not! Among even the most barbaric nations of old these same laws existed; they might not have written them because they did not know how to write, but Nature had commanded them, in tones louder than the thunders of Sinai, "Thou shalt not do it!"

Lastly, he (the lecturer) might be told that we should reverence the Bible, because it taught man of immortality. Ah, but the Bible taught man also that he was not immortal, as had been proven in a previous discourse! It had two stories on the subject. But the grand revelation of Nature told but one tale. Nature taught us that we should live again. He (the lecturer) had demonstrated to his full satisfaction that his friends did live, and remember him, too, and knowing this, he was assured that he should live also.

Nature infinitely transcended, in her divine revelation, the speculations of the Jew, the Hebrew, the Greek. Let us come to her, as to a loving mother, and listen to her gentle words of admonition and guidance; then we should be crowned with blessings, both in this life and in that which was to come!

Common shellac, dissolved in alcohol, makes the strongest cement for wood; it will unite the fractured legs of your chairs and tables as firmly as if they had never been broken.

For the Banner of Light.

LINES.

FROM LITTLE LAURA MAY FREE, WRITTEN THROUGH MRS. J. M. FRIEND, BOSTON, FEB. 20, 1869.

When the manager-called Saviour,
In his purity and truth,
Dwelt with men, before the angels
Came to give him heavenly birth,
Loved and blest the little children,
As he held them on his knee,
Said he then with matchless sweetness,
"Suffer them to come to me."

Still he loves them, still he folds them
Close to his gentle breast,
Where, secure from sin and sorrow,
And from earthly pain, they rest.
Mourn not that he called your darling
Home to heaven with him to dwell,
For his ways are ways of wisdom,
And he doth all things well.

There will be a sweet reunion
When the day of life is o'er;
You will meet your angel Laura,
On that bright immortal shore,
Where no more shall sin and sorrow,
Pain and care and darkness come;
She will ready stand to greet you,
In her glorious spirit-home.

The Spirit-World.

Written for the Banner of Light.

SCENES, INCIDENTS, CONDITIONS, &c.,
OF REAL LIFE IN THE SPIRIT-LAND.

BY MRS. MARIA M. KING.

ARTICLE IV.

The Prison House of the Depraved! The Hell of the Spirit-World! What is it? Are there chains and darkness, flaming fires, and tormenting devils? Does the sun never shine through the dark atmosphere of the place of torment prepared for the wicked by the justice of the loving Father? I cannot these questions over and over in my mind, both before and after I became a spirit, free to search for the abodes of the condemned, before I was fully instructed as to the ultimate destiny of all mankind, and the ways of God toward erring men. I reflected, often, upon this text of Scripture: "He maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain upon the just and the unjust." I reflected that in earth-life the flowers bloom, the dewdrops glitter, the birds warble, and the brooks murmur for the wicked the same as for the good; and could see wisdom as well as benevolence in this, as I reflected that good gifts awaken the finer sentiments of the spirit, whereas curses provoke all that is evil in man's nature to more active exercise.

I scanned the glowing, lovely landscapes of this spirit-land, and my spirit uttered songs of gratitude and praise to the Divine Giver of such good gifts; and I knew in my inmost spirit that I should find no spot in this lovely sphere where living spirits dwelt, where there was not beauty—such divine harmony as might awaken such sentiments as I experienced. There is no vengeance in God's nature, thought I, and his justice prompts to the use of the best, the most merciful means to insure man's redemption from depravity. I was allowed to settle the question as to the existence of a real, local hell, in my own mind to my own satisfaction, before my teachers instructed me upon the subject. I gathered from their instructions many hints that were very useful to me in coming to the conclusion that the hell which individuals found was in their own natures rather than in the sphere as a place different from other places.

It needed not the wisdom of the philosopher to decide the question whether it was appropriate for all classes to intermingled; and the absence of gross minds or depraved spirits from the circle in which I found myself, did not surprise me. I knew there was poison in the sphere of a degraded individual, and that the natural repulsion that the good feel toward the depraved is a just provision of Nature for their protection from the influence of the depraved. Virtue is a panoply, truly; because it is so distinct from vice that it finds no affinity with it. No affinity, did I say? Who so virtuous but that there is in his nature some weak point, where some sharp arrow from the quiver of vice may not enter? Who so pure that some atoms of the magnetism of a depraved individual may not find their affinized atoms in his own, and work like a slow poison to gradually infect his nature?

"Vice is a monster of such frightful mien,
That to be hated needs but to be seen;
But seen too oft, with too familiar face,
We first endure, then pity, then embrace."

Familiarity with vice begets vice, inevitably, as one cannot always have his armor on, or be on his guard against vicious influences.

The time at length arrived when I was prepared to visit the first circle, in quest of knowledge in respect to the condition of the lowest class of mankind that enter the spirit-world. I visited a temple in this circle at first; the place of resort of all grades of individuals of the circle. It was a gorgeous pile. Its glittering domes and towers sparkled in the lovely light of the spiritual atmosphere, and created such emotions in the mind as always result from the sight of the most brilliantly beautiful objects that can be presented to the vision. The first view of such a temple would naturally excite strong emotions in the mind of any individual, however low in the scale of being. In my own mind, the first thought awakened by this sight was: it is sought to arouse the dormant feelings of the people who congregate here, by first presenting to them this dazzling vision of beauty. I entered the temple, and gazed upon the glittering roof, where diamonds and precious stones of every name commingled their rich rays to dazzle the sight, and I was assured that the mind that could withstand the effect of the outside and inside view of this temple without being deeply exercised, was indeed seared, or by nature incapable of feeling. My observations proved to me that very few entered the temple who were not, in a degree, overcome by the scene presented within. It was a vast structure, composed of numerous courts and apartments for the various uses it was to serve. Nothing of beauty and harmony was lacking in this temple, devoted to the instruction of the lowest class of humanity of the section where it was situated. It was for the use of a community composed entirely of individuals of the first circle. The teachers who congregated there to instruct this community were of neighboring communities of the second and third circles.

With what emotions did I gaze upon the crowd of people in that temple! They were all dark hued; their magnetism being deeply tinted with the dark colors—sure evidence of depravity. Some were careless, stupid, beastly. Others were thoughtful, but had the tiger in their natures, and raged inwardly, like tigers caged. No outward restraint was put upon them, but they felt the power of invisible teachers, who threw their psychological power over them to restrain them within proper bounds while in the public

assembly. Who in earth-life has hardly yet dreamed of the use of this great power in Nature? More potent than bolts and bars, it is the power which restrains unrecognized, guides unseen, to the more peaceful paths of righteousness, the slaves of vice.

I visited the homes of wretches steeped in crime, and acquainted myself with the experiences of such through themselves and teachers. I marked that their homes were, invariably, surrounded with attractive scenery, and adorned in a style that could not fail to be attractive to any that could appreciate beauty and harmony of arrangement. I knew that higher circles had the oversight of this, and devised the surroundings of these people, that they might have all the aids which could possibly be afforded them to promote their advancement. Notwithstanding this beauty, all the developments of benevolence exhibited in these homes, I found that within them vice was reaping its just reward, and being overcome by the means of imposed tortures of mind inflicted upon individuals by the psychological power of their helpers, as well as by the means of reading the past over and over again as memory spread before the mind the open book of life, and would not that it be closed.

"I have suffered the tortures of the damned," said one to me whose powers of mind made it possible for his teachers to hasten his development by means of imposed suffering. "In imagination, I have traversed arid deserts, gloomy forests and dismal swamps; I have climbed rugged mountains for a gleam of annihilation which might, perchance, greet me from the summit and help to thaw the ice that was freezing my spirit. I have encountered deadly miasms while traversing dismal swamps, which would rise up like demons before me, and encompass me like the deadly vapors of the Unas, threatening to destroy me at once. If death could have come to my release at such moments—yes, everlasting death, I should have rejoiced. Such experiences are like dreams or visions, and I dread their occurrence as I would dread the knout. I am sometimes in doubt as to what purpose is to be served by these experiences; but there are seasons when I am sure they are working for my good." This man had been "stepped in iniquity" from the period of early manhood till death in middle age. His parents were not of a class that bequeathed noble natures to their children, although they stood well in society. This man had intellect sufficient to have placed him high in the third circle, at his entrance into spirit-life, had it not been that this intellect was bedeviled with depravity—an inherited depravity, and which could only be eradicated by suffering; either intensely for a shorter season, or more moderately for a longer one. The ghosts of his former crimes haunted him as memory recalled them, and as they were painted upon his imagination in vivid colors by the over-present power, which was, by turns, his tormentor and comforter.

I visited the home of a harlot, recently added to the community from earth-life. She was in the home of a relative who had been of her own grade, but was emerging from her lowest condition, having become capable of appreciating her surroundings in some degree. Had I been ignorant of the fact that spirits do not die, I should have believed that the pitiable object I saw in this home was dying. She was reclining upon a couch, with attendants busily engaged about her, impelling into her system magnetic fluids, in the endeavor to restore consciousness; to awaken the dormant energies of her whole nature. She was as one in a deathly stupor. Her vocation in earth-life had so vitiated her nature that the substance composing her spiritual body was so rare that the body could not perform its natural functions with sufficient power or energy to permit the mind to act through it so that consciousness could result. She had been in this condition for several weeks, and months must pass before full consciousness would be restored. Hers was the condition of all of her class on being born into the spiritual state. Thought I, it is a terrible compensation for the degradation imposed upon the whole nature by such a life.

I visited a male debauchee, and learned that the penalty of lewdness is visited alike upon male and female. Unerring justice, as exhibited by Nature, points the shaft alike to the seducer and his victim when the crime of perverting the natural functions of the human system is punished; but there is a deadly shaft—a poisoned arrow, that stings the vital nature of him who has betrayed trusting innocence, and lured to the sure path of folly his helpless victim. This shaft is for him alone. Enough that she suffers equally with him for the sin against the body, as hers was the lesser crime, considering all circumstances.

The mental degradation of this class is outgrown by suffering, like that of every other class. Regeneration comes by repentance, and individual effort stimulated by repentance. The sufferings inflicted upon the low, are just according as their natures can bear, and are only for aiding them into the path of repentance and regeneration. Vengeance prompts not one single experience of the sort I have named, through which such pass, but pure benevolence. It is not the prerogative of those of the second sphere who are the appointed agents to assist this class into the path of progress, to appoint the punishments of men; but Nature has so arranged that crime punishes itself; or in other words, that the remorse of conscience that can be aroused in the mind of the criminal, is the means of eradicating from his nature the seeds of depravity, whose fruit was crime, and whose nature it is to continue to germinate and bring forth such fruit until they are eradicated. Benevolent teachers weep over the sufferings of their wards; yet stern necessity is laid upon them to help them, and they will not flinch. The surgeon may weep as he contemplates the sufferings he inflicts as his blade cuts into the vital flesh of some victim of disease or accident; yet he stays not his operations because he inflicts pain; he only hastens them to the extent his patient can bear, that the latter may be the sooner relieved. As the surgeon's knife is not the real cause of the suffering endured, but the disease or accident, so it is the nature of the depraved which causes their sufferings, be they ever so severe.

TEARS.

Would some kind angel give me tears—

It seems a little thing.

The child's first need—I would not ask

The gems that crown a king.

The glad peace-bringers after storm

And drops the sun smiles through;

The healer of the parching rose

Is but a bead of dew.

Yet what am I, an atom sole

In heaven's creative plan,

That I should ask the tenderest gift

God ever gave to man.—*Elizora L. Hervey.*

Charles Dickens says that "the first external revelation of the dry rot in men is a tendency to lurk and lounge; to be at street corners without intelligible reason; to be going anywhere without met; to be about many places rather than any; to do nothing tangible, or to have an intention of performing a number of tangible duties to-morrow or the day after."

Spiritual Phenomena.

HEALING MEDIUMS.—EXPERIENCES
OF AN AMERICAN MERCHANT.

BY WILLIAM HOWITT.

Being at work in my garden a few summers ago, one of my servants came to inform me that two gentlemen wished to speak with me. I turned and saw them standing near the house. One of these gentlemen was a healthy looking man, of middle age and middle stature, whom I shall designate Mr. Middlemass; the other was a tall and more elderly person, whom I will, therefore, style Mr. Long. Mr. Middlemass produced letters from two eminent Spiritualists of the United States, well known in England, recommending these gentlemen as reliable individuals of the highest faith. As Mr. Middlemass addressed me on the objects of their voyage to Europe, his companion, Mr. Long, stood tall, silent and motionless as an American Indian. Indeed, he had much of the physiognomical character of an Indian, and I imagined he must be somewhat of a red man's descendant. It is not my purpose here to enter further into the mission of these gentlemen than simply to say that it was of a spiritual character. Mr. Long stated, when he at length opened his lips, that he was directed by the spirits to go to a city, one of the chief ones of the States, where would be pointed out the person who was afflicted with a peculiar complaint, and that he had done so, and that Mr. Middlemass had been pointed out to him, at a spiritual circle of entire strangers, as the person destined to be the companion of his voyage. On this Mr. Middlemass took up the narrative, and in explanation of his part in the mission, gave me the following statement:

"I am one of a family with a strong tendency to consumption. My mother died of consumption, and nine of my brothers and sisters died of consumption also. I was myself attacked by it, and no efforts of the medical men could arrest its progress. My physician assured me that my lungs were so much wasted by it that I could not live more than a couple of months. I set about, therefore, to arrange my affairs so that my business could be carried on for my wife and daughter, or rather for my daughter, for my wife was confined to her bed, in the last stages of water on the chest, and it was a question whether myself or she would depart first. In a state of mind such as these circumstances were calculated to produce, aided by my own feelings of the depression of disease, I was sitting one day on my own doorstep, in a condition very low and melancholy, when a messenger came, and told me that my child, an only daughter, about to be left an orphan in the world in very tender years, made me exceedingly unhappy. My looks no doubt expressed my gloomy condition to the passers-by, for one of them, a man whom I had seen frequently, but of whom I knew nothing further, put a newspaper in my hand, and, looking at me, said, 'Neighbor, you seem low; read that; it may cheer you up a little.' I took the paper mechanically, for I had little interest in any affairs of the day. In running my eye over the advertisements on the first page, it was caught by one from a spiritual medium professing to cure diseases by inspiration, and the prospect of this, which no other what impudent quackery! I said to myself, 'Can people now-a-days believe in such bare-faced trickery?' I threw the paper down in disgust.

But, somehow, I found the profession of this woman, for such she was, hanging about my mind, and though I continually drove the thought away, it came back again and again, until I was maddened, and came again and again most vividly before me. I found myself saying internally, 'Well, now, suppose I went to this woman; she could do me no harm, if she did me no good. I have but two months to live, and what matters it? I have a good mind to go and see, for sheer curiosity, after that I saw in water on the chest, and to hold communication with spiritual beings.'

I went. The modern pythonesse was not an old or at all a witch-like person. She was a neat, bright-looking, modest and sensible seeming young woman, well educated, and of pleasing address. I told her the story of my life, and of my ailments, and wished to hear what she would say to me. She requested me to place a chair by the side of the one on which she sat; and, being seated, she took my hand and sat in silence. Presently she appeared to be in profound sleep, and, in this state, began speaking. She said, 'That she perceived that I was in a deep and rapid consumption; that my lungs had great ravages committed on them by the disease, and that, according to all human means, I had but a short time to live. Still there were hopes for me from spirit-land, and she should endeavor to give me a prescription for me. I said, hurriedly, 'Yes! yes! for I was strangely affected by her communication. 'It is a witch!' I said, and was anxious to escape from her presence. She took pen and paper, wrote a prescription, handed it to me, and thereupon awoke. In the greatest trepidation I gave her her address, and she took it, and, in a few minutes, pocketed, and rushed from the house.

The impression of this strange interview hung about me for days. I said, 'Shall I take this witch-nostrum? Certainly not; it would assuredly poison me! Yet, as before, I could not shake off the thought of the prescription. I took it out of my pocket, and, looking at it, it did not thrust it back again, saying, 'No, I am not so far gone in stupidity as to take that.' Yet eventually I did take it. As before, I reasoned with myself—I cannot live two months at best—and, if this stuff should poison me, what then? To my great surprise, I found that I was in a state of health, and that my lungs were better. My cough was diminishing; my profuse perspirations were decreasing; I was in better heart and more cheerful mood.

"What are these Spiritualists?" I asked myself; and resolved to know. I knew that they were a new sect, and that there were many of our private circle, and which strangers might enter without much observation if he pleased. I inquired for one such, and the next evening walked in, and sat down in a retired corner to observe what was passing. There were several groups of people, all of a respectable appearance, and all strangers to me, in the large room. One sat round a table with their hands upon it, and were repeating the alphabet, and appearing to receive communications through raps, which were loud and distinct. Another were putting questions to a lady who appeared in a trance, and who spoke in the same manner as the young doctors do, and the person was writing in reply to questions from different individuals, and after I had remained about half an hour watching this singular scene, a person brought me a slip of paper, with writing upon it, from the writing medium, as I heard her called, saying, 'I took the paper in some amazement, and in still more, read as follows: 'When that young woman prescribed for you the other day, it was not she who prescribed, but I, who did it through her. Your case is beyond all reach of the present medical knowledge of man, but I have consulted with some of the most eminent physicians here, and we are satisfied that we can not only cure you but your wife also. Proceed with the medicine already prescribed for you, and if at any time you feel desirous of my further advice, call on me and I will come.—Dr. RUSH.' 'Dr. Rush!' exclaimed to myself, 'why, he was a famous physician of Philadelphia, and has been dead this many a long year. And these people here, how do they know anything of my case, or of my consulting the advertising medium? I looked round—that young person was certainly not in this company, and I fled from the house in a state of mind indescribable. 'The folks are uncanny,' said I to myself; 'they have dealings with the devil.'

In a day or two, however, I came to the conclusion that there was somebody in that company who knew me, though I knew no one there, and that he or she had heard from the young person, and that he or she was determined to go to a very distant part of the city where no one would be likely to know me. I took an omnibus and proceeded to a distant quarter of it, and one in which I had not been for years. I entered and took a secluded seat as in the former circle. The same sort of things were going on as in the previous circle, and, looking at a considerable time, I saw a person taking a newspaper, saying, 'again, 'That is for you.' I read it, and started to see that it was again signed by Dr. Rush, assuring me of substantial improvement in myself and of ultimate cure; for the furtherance of which he

gave me a new and most extraordinary prescription. This put the climax to my astonishment. No one, I felt sure, could know me here, and yet there was a Dr. Rush, who was dead again, and surely by Dr. Rush. I was in an extraordinary state of mind, the circumstances were so utterly contrary to all my modes of belief for my whole life long, and yet the results were as amazing in their success as in their accompaniments. I had the new prescription carefully made up, though some of the ingredients were most singular, and not attainable without much difficulty and personal influence. Its effects were still more beneficial than those of the former one. I was rapidly regaining a state of sound health.

During the period of this satisfactory progress, another very startling thing occurred to me. In my business, I employ a considerable number of work-people, and amongst them some young women. One day, as I was giving some directions to a young woman about her work, she suddenly stepped back, and said in great surprise, 'What are you doing to me?' 'Nothing,' I replied; 'I am not aware that I touched you.' 'Yes, you have,' she said, 'and I feel it all over my body, and as suddenly dropped fast asleep. It was now my turn to be surprised; but as she seemed comfortably asleep, I thought she was over-fatigued from some cause, and said, 'Let her sleep, and I will not disturb her.'

I went on with my inspection of the work going on, and, at last, from time to time, I inquired how the young woman was. The answer was still the same—sound asleep! Two hours passed over—three—four! I then became alarmed, and went to her, and examined her. Great was my horror and alarm—she appeared not simply asleep, but dead! She was cold and rigid—no pulse, no heat, no action. I shook her again and again—called her name, no answer, no motion. 'She is dead!' I exclaimed; 'dead, dead, certainly! What a catastrophe! What is to be done? The work-people all came thronging about; it was a scene of the greatest terror. At this moment I recollected that in the second part of the prescription, Dr. Rush had said, 'I have made a mistake, if I ever you have need of me, call for me and I will come.' At once I burst out, 'Oh, Dr. Rush, if ever you can be of service to me, now is the time! Scarcely were the words uttered, when the young woman sprung from her chair, looked wildly round, rubbed her eyes, and said, 'What is all this? Where have I been?' 'You have been in a trance,' I said. 'No,' she replied, 'in a state of great excitement, I have been in heaven! I have seen my husband and my child!—she was a young widow. At the same moment she fell on her knees in the midst of the astonished people, and began praying—most earnestly, most eloquently. The whole scene was one of the most extraordinary that I had ever witnessed.

In the meantime my health was rapidly improving; I felt internally sound and full of a new life; but my wife was getting worse, of the water on the chest, and a fatal termination appeared approaching; but one day, as I was sitting sorrowfully by her, she said, 'I have been thinking of you, and of the drug-shop of the neighborhood, whom I knew by sight, but with whom I had never had any intercourse, announced himself, came in, sat down by me, and said, 'What I have come hither about I have no idea whatever; but I felt strongly impressed to come, whereupon he dropped asleep, and began speaking to me as from a distance. He said, 'I have heard that you physicians in the spiritual world had now arranged to cure my wife; that I was to devote myself for a week to that purpose; that I was not to quit my house for that time; that, as to my business, I was to take no thought about it, but leave it to the spirits to manage, and that all that would be cared for. Having said this, the man added, that now he must go up stairs and see my wife. We accordingly went up, and the man, seating himself by the bedside, took hold of my wife's hand, and dropped asleep, whereupon, presently, she fell into a profuse perspiration, which continued for some time, the water streaming from her pores till she was wet as if she had been dipped in a brook. The man then said that the young woman who had come into the trance, and whom he named, must come the next day and sit by my wife in the same manner; that he should come on the following day, and thus he and the young woman must give alternate attendance for a week. On saying this, the man awoke, and expressed much surprise to see himself in my wife's chamber under these circumstances.

In the week, however, he and the young woman, alternately, day by day attended, and on every occasion, the effect was the same, to the great relief of the patient, and in that time, my wife was perfectly freed from her complaint, and is now living and as sound and healthy as I am. The appearance of the narrator was, indeed, that of a person in robust health and middle life. But he went on: 'After this, I took much interest in the Spiritualists, and frequently attended their circles. At one of these, I heard a medium call out to a stranger sitting in a distant corner, saying, 'Come here, you stranger, with the mission to Europe.' But the stranger at first did not appear to be aware that it was he who was addressed. The call was repeated, and on this, my friend here, Mr. Long, rose up and went forward, saying that he was a perfect stranger to that city, did not know a single individual in it, and was surprised to find himself thus addressed; that he was, indeed, a Spiritualist, and had a particular mission to Europe, and had been told that he must come to this city, and the means and the man who was to accompany him would be pointed out.

'True,' said the medium, 'and there is the person,' pointing to me, 'who is to accompany you.' My surprise at this communication may be imagined. I had never had an intention of visiting Europe; my business demanded my constant attendance in my own city, and I was in an easy position; I was not ambitious of wealth, but I had not the means requisite for such an undertaking; and no such intimation had been made to me from a spiritual source. This command, however, being distinctly laid upon me, I said, 'Well, if I am to be a stranger, I must take him with me, and learn the nature of his views and expectations.' I accordingly did so. Having heard these, they appeared to me important and feasible, being of a mechanical rather than a spiritual nature, and the practical evidences which Mr. Long could give me appearing satisfactory, I said, 'I will go, if the spirits intend me to go, the means I will find, for I do not possess them, and shall not ruin myself on their account. They must also show me how my business can be satisfactorily superintended in my absence.' I was immediately assured by the spirits that all this would be done. To which I replied, 'Let it be done, and I will go—without that I won't.'

From that moment, however, I perceived a strange alteration in my temperament. I had never been in the least of a speculative turn; I followed my business with a quiet and unambitious uniformity; made a fair income, and desired no more. But now, I was full of speculative ideas. Things on which I had never bestowed a thought became extremely interesting to me. I wondered that I had not tried my luck in this and that; in shares, in public companies and projected works; in the new oil mania, and the like. I made a venture—it succeeded to a marvel. I tried again, and again, and it was the same. Everything I engaged in proved profitable. I did not make a single blunder. In about two months I found that I had cleared fifteen thousand dollars. The spirits asked whether I had enough. I said, no, I could not go on so extensive a journey and speculation under twice that sum, as, besides covering my own risks, I desired to found an institution for the benefit of poor children. The spirits said, Give away all you have thus got, and see whether at the end of three months from the time of our commands to you, you have not enough then.

I did not do that, but I found myself at the end of three months in possession of thirty thousand dollars, and of a safe person to manage my own affairs—and here I am.

Such was Mr. Middlemass's story. Having launched Mr. Long on the career of his undertaking, and accompanied him to several countries on the Continent, he has long since returned home, and is again pursuing his business as before, still intending to found his proposed institution for children. As to the success of the plans of Mr. Long, the prosecution of which has led him into very extraordinary circumstances, and into the presence of very excited persons, the time has not yet come for further details concerning them. So far, however, as Mr. Middlemass is concerned, taking his assurances as those of a respectable merchant, his narrative is a very extraordinary one—and especially those parts of it

regarding the cures of himself and his wife, are of a nature, though so marvelous, yet so active to be denied, except by denying him probity and sanity, for which his sober habits and successful career as a man of business furnish no plea. As they are here submitted to be recorded, and accordingly the power of the press.—*London Spiritual Magazine.*

Manifestations in Philadelphia.

EDITORS BANNER OF LIGHT—I am surprised that so few reports come to you from Philadelphia, where Spiritualism is in such a healthy condition; my object, therefore, in writing to you is to acquaint you, and the people generally, of the good tests we sometimes receive from the immortals through our various mediums.

I had the pleasure recently of attending a circle held at No. 736 Arch street, where a young man aged about twenty, called Eddy Kean, was the medium. I am not personally acquainted with this young man, but must say that the tests given through him were of the first order. Upon this occasion an audience of about one hundred were present. The hall where the circle was held being a small one, many had to stand; the medium was therefore unable to see more than one-third of the people present, making the tests for the skeptics all the better. Generally the spirits present themselves, give their names, and are described by the medium, before they take possession of his organism and converse with their friends.

The evening I was present about twenty tests were given. I will briefly relate a few. The medium, being entranced, with his eyes closed, said, 'I see a man who seems troubled; he says he committed suicide; and gives me his name as Thomas E.—. He wants to speak to his wife Sarah.' The lady was found in the audience at the rear of the hall, and was soon convinced of the presence of her husband's spirit.

The influence changed, and the medium said, 'There is a spirit here who says he was Rear Admiral C—, (giving the name of his vessel, which I have forgotten), and he wants to speak to his nephew Charles, who is present.' A conversation then took place, and interesting messages were sent to members of the family, all of whom were mentioned by name.

Again the medium said, 'I see the spirit of a man who was a minister. Oh! he was scalped by the Indians! He gives his name as I—, and wants to speak to his son Thomas.' After some effort, Thomas was found, when a most affecting conversation took place, the spirit counseling his dear son to abandon the bad associations he had formed, and not to spend the next money that was coming to him as he did the last. This was a good test, and the audience were much affected; and I hope the young man will be benefited by this heavenly counsel.

Then the medium sang some very beautiful lines relating to a sick and dying soldier. The spirit controlling gave his name as Frank P—, and taking the medium to a lady addressed her thus: 'Mother, those were the last lines I sent to you in a letter from Spotsylvania Court House, Virginia, before I passed away.' The test was recognized.

The medium, pointing to the rear of the room, said, 'I see a young lady, holding up a letter (in spirit), upon which is written the word "Tennessee"; she says her name is Easy M—, and she wants to speak to her sister Susie,' who proved to be in the room, and who had just come, as the spirit said, from Canada. Easy passed away in Tennessee while the family were in Canada. I assure you, dear Banner, the test was complete.

The medium said, 'There is in the room a stranger to these manifestations. He is a sea captain. I must go and see him.' The medium then approached a gentleman, and the spirit controlling said, 'I am J—, one of your old chums. Captain, I want you to leave the "Portugal"; she is in a dangerous condition. Do you remember what occurred in South America? This will teach you that our eyes are open.' The test was recognized, and called good.

These few, dear Banner, must suffice. The only regret I have is that I had to quote from memory, which with me is poor at best.

In conclusion I would say that with more such mediums as Wilson, of whom I read in your paper, and Eddy Kean, Old Theology would soon be revolutionized. I learn with regret, however, that Mr. Kean contemplates leaving the sphere of Spiritualism for the stage.

Yours truly, SAMUEL BALL.

Philadelphia, Jan. 24th, 1869.

THE GOSPEL NOT RETAINED IN BOSTON.—At one of our fashionable churches, where pews are eagerly snapped up at about a thousand dollars each, a young man and his newly married wife recently attended public worship for two or three Sabbaths, and were so well pleased with the preacher that they resolved to attend regularly. Accordingly, as they passed out one Sunday, the gentleman, calling the sexton aside, says patronizingly, 'See here, I think on the whole, I'll come here to church. Now I want to hire two seats—good seats, mind you—on the lower floor, and now let me see all that you have to let.' 'To let! did I understand you?' inquired the sexton. 'Yes; I don't mind paying four or five dollars extra for two choice, broad-aisle seats,' replied the applicant. 'Young man,' said the somewhat practical sexton, 'we have no seats to let; we do not do a retail business at this house.'—*Boston Herald, Jan. 23.*

Of course not. The gorgeously splendid and enormously expensive "houses of God," erected for the salvation of dear, precious souls, could never make enough to pay all bills and keep the concern in good running order, only by immense large sales with quick returns and huge profits, and that only with first-class customers. The old-fashioned method of saving souls, by letting a seat or two, has "played out." Nothing less than a lot of six, or a whole pew, can be thought of. For such establishments to transact a retail business, by peddling Jesus in small quantities, would be decidedly derogatory to the elevated dignity of genteel Gospel-mongers. The idea of any individual saving his soul, by hiring a single seat, is as preposterously absurd as if he attempted to hire a railroad express train for himself alone, on the same terms as a passage by the regular trip.

In order to avoid mistakes like the above, it would be well for the excessively genteel Gospel warehouses to hang up cards, in imitation of other dry goods dealers, such as "At wholesale only," or "No goods at retail." If the locality and class of purchasers required it, a minor department might be added in the vestry, with a sign, "Retail rooms down stairs." The varieties of Gospel commodities could be designated thus: "A recent importation of fresh grace of God, direct, at manufacturer prices, by the case or single piece." "Several cases of sinner's hopes, in lots to suit purchasers." "New stock of Divine Love, all sizes." "Closing out sale of shop-worn, heavenly riches, marked down to the lowest notch." "No goods exchanged," or any other commercial phrase applicable to the case.

This plan would be much less troublesome and cheaper than the usual verbal method.

The more perfect the medium the better will he or she subserve the uses of communication.

THE ERRATIC LOCOMOTIVE.

In the *Banner of Light* of November 14th, there is a communication from P. H. Rafter, headed "Singular Freaks," in which he gives some facts in connection with the performance of locomotives, instancing one in particular on the Erie Road, No. 61, which at times became almost unmanageable, shooting off the track at nearly every trip, causing delay and vexation so frequently that it was almost impossible to procure engineers to run it. Mr. Rafter says such things are not uncommon, and at the same time declares that the best mechanics cannot discover anything at fault, but that to all appearance the locomotive is in perfect order. Though I never heard of such facts before, I am not disposed to doubt them because they are so much out of the usual order of things, and with most persons would be declared impossible.

Mr. Rafter desires a solution. Without professing to be able to give one, for the time implies a logical deduction, or more correctly, a demonstration according to some formula like the resolution of a proposition in higher arithmetic, algebra or geometry, I will give my opinion, predicated upon observation partly, and partly intuition.

There are "times and seasons" in all the operations of Nature, and these are governed by mysterious influences, which our popular philosophy as yet has not been able to explain. As on the material, so on the sentient, as developed in man. Every object has its interior life or soul-principle; and though to our ordinary perceptions there is no cognition of it, still it is ever active, which any one sufficiently sensitive can recognize. Baron Reichenbach, a celebrated German investigator, conducted numerous experiments in this direction, with a variety of substances, and with his sensitive subjects made a positive demonstration of the fact.

Psychometry proves the fact also. The individual whose sensitiveness is sufficiently acute, whose interior is quickened, may take a pebble from the shore of the ocean, and there comes to him or her the story of old ocean in all its glory, majesty and vastness. So take a rock from a stratum deep buried in the earth and formed long ages since, and there will be revealed the history of the long ago; there will come up the panorama of its coeval activities and life.

Thus it is that all things have an essence of their own—one which is natural and one which is acquired. Facts on this point are so numerous and patent that I need not elaborate. If each pebble, each mineral, each stratum has its essence, it is almost a corollary that the aggregate, the globe itself, has its peculiar essence or soul-principle, which throws far out its influence. If the earth has this, then its kindred globes, wheeling with it in their eternal circles through space, may have theirs. That they do is a legitimate deduction. They make "times and seasons." As they sweep on in their courses the radial lines of their essences sweep around with them and over this mundane sphere, influencing it in the aggregate and in its individualities.

Thus have I reached the point of astrology, or artral influences, a science supposed to have been exploded long since, but which survives and is reviving to assume in time its due importance. In the principles of astrology, then, I find good reasons to believe we have a solution of the difficulty, the curious fact, the anomaly mentioned by Mr. Rafter. Engine No. 61, in the time of its construction, became thereby subjected to influences which were too subtle for the skill of the most proficient mechanic. It was constructed under such astral influences that the essences of more or less of its parts were interfered with under certain conjunctures of circumstances, and hence there was an irregularity in its action, causing its erratic movements. Let me cite a case somewhat parallel, related to me recently. A fine schooner, costing near fifty thousand dollars, has been on the water now a little more than two years, and in all this time she has not paid her owners anything worth mentioning. She was built under the direction of the captain who was to sail her, and as the launch was at hand, the event was discussed. The captain had set his time, but was advised to postpone it, inasmuch as the astral influences would then be unpropitious. He was headstrong, and against the advice of the astrologer made the launch. The prediction has been verified. Another schooner sailing from this city to a southern port, in little more than the period of the service of the above, has been managed astrologically, and has paid for herself three times over. Other vessels, similarly managed, have been in like manner prosperous.

We often see individuals who are constantly encountering cross currents, head winds and shoals. So far as can be discerned by outward vision, these untoward events are inexplicable. The men have talents, and assiduously strive to breast the obstacles they successfully encounter, but they never succeed. Again we see others, not so favorably circumstanced, who are always sailing before prospering gales. They have not half the talents of the first mentioned, and in other respects have apparently not half so many of the elements of success, yet they succeed. It happens so, says one, meaning thereby that the two courses of events are entirely fortuitous, chance affairs merely. But chance in this connection is a meaningless word, and is a term used to save acknowledging ignorance. It is unphilosophical.

I knew a man, when a boy in Brooklyn, Conn., a neighbor, Joseph Tyler, who probably met with more accidents than any other ten men in the town. No matter in what department of his business he might be engaged in, whether at work in his grist-mill, saw-mill, wheelwright shop, or elsewhere, he was meeting with accidents. Had he not possessed an iron constitution, he would have been killed or crippled inevitably; not one man in ten could have withstood such shocks and injuries. His line of life ran in the groove of accidents, and his horoscope would have shown the fact if it had been cast.

But I have written at greater length than I intended at the outset, and must close, remarking that I see no way to arrive at a solution of many of the anomalies we note in life, except as I have faintly shadowed above. Many will probably say, facts are stubborn things. Popular ideas are not necessarily authoritative, and if we would find truth, we must frequently go behind them.

W. FOSTER, JR.

Providence, Nov. 15, 1868.

Mr. Farrington, of Fryeburg, has called the attention of the Maine Legislature to the necessity of some enactment to protect baggage against the outrageous handling to which a large proportion of railroad employes so needlessly subject it.

"Is that marble?" said a gentleman, pointing to the busts of Kentucky's great statesmen, recently, in a New York store. "No, sir, that's clay," promptly replied the dealer.

CALIFORNIA.

Status of Spiritualism.

In despite of the hindrances thrown in the way of Spiritualism by its professing friends, it continues to move majestically along the even tenor of its way from conquering to conquer of the deep-rooted prejudices and ingrained bigotry of the worldly-wise of the metropolis of this western slope. Skepticism falls before its demonstrated facts like grass before the keen edge of the mower's scythe. From the observed facts occurring with us, scientific minds, often outside the spiritual ranks proper, are erecting a system of philosophy and ethics, slowly it may be, but surely, that shall outlive time and its petty baubles. All are "building better than they know." Even the camp-followers hanging upon the outskirts of the army of Progress, and seemingly intent upon retarding its onward march, are really advancing its columns. It is only in our worse moods, threatening the dark by-paths of the valleys of life, that we find ourselves warring against the spirit of strife, envy and malice; of fault-finding and of uncharitableness so rife; when, looking from the high mountain-peaks in our journeyings, we recognize all as aids and helpers, doing the best they know, and, in so far, performing the work laid out for them.

The Association of Spiritualists inaugurated hardly one year ago with a considerable flourish of trumpets has gone the way of all disorganized bodies, leaving few traces of its sudden but not unexpected demise. It died at last of what rendered it a weakly starving during its brief life, too much partisan and secular zeal; an attempt to put new wine into old bottles; to clothe the staid, stalwart form of Spiritualism in the cast-off garments of "old Jewry." All similar attempts here, and elsewhere, will end as this has, in a grand "burst up."

The *Spiritual Light*, a paper started for the seeming purpose of hunting down the *Banner of Progress*, after three or four "weakly" issues, (to use one of the editor's ponderous witticisms when speaking of his contemporary), followed its predecessor, accomplishing no part of its great mission, "that I can see, that to have fired a few shots at the already 'dead duck.' The spirit of the paper, it is true, was a long way from being an improvement upon its predecessor's spirit. It was narrow, shallow, bitter and malicious. We all feel that we should better spare those than better papers. This is a general rule, spiritual press, but it must be broad and deep, as is our glorious philosophy.

At the present, some of our zealous friends are making efforts to rally the scattered forces for the purpose of giving to the cause a chance to minister to the minds in our city, and not throw all the onus and responsibility upon his own shoulders. Their success, I hear, is indifferently good. The fear that they may get ahead and carry off more than their share of the honors and emoluments, deters many from doing what they should to forward the good work. "Dog in the manger" like, they may and shall at all who offer to do what they cannot or will not themselves do. "A mile for labor" is war for labor, to attempt to force that sort of pabulum upon full-grown men and women, to the exclusion of more substantial food, is not well; strong, vigorous souls (and bodies too) will shrivel and die on too much "milk and honey." The fact has constituted the staple provision noted out to us the past year. Smoothly-wrought sentences rounded off in graceful periods will do for show occasions when only the war of the fancy is to be tickled, but for the serious and earnest, those hungering for the bread of life will starve and perish on this fanciful "small talk," however "benighted" it may be.

Since the collapse of our organization, Miss Fuller has been "running the machine alone," holding meetings morning and evening, in a small hall, which have been tolerably well attended, especially in the evening. However much many of our people have been disappointed, they have been able to illustrate the philosophical side of Spiritualism, none doubt the goodness of her heart and the sincerity of her motives in laboring with us. She left last week for Sacramento, and Mrs. Cuny opened here, giving her first lecture last Sunday.

TESTS OF SPIRIT-RESENCE. However much pseudo Spiritualists may attempt to obstruct the progress of our angel-given "cause," they are powerless in their efforts to stop the coming of hordes of the spirit-world to our dark spheres of earth. Among the scores and hundreds of most perfect tests of spirit-presence received, I will mention a few as a fair specimen of all.

About the middle of last August a spirit came to us, through the medium of a woman who has been since called and made to give very excellent tests, and wrote the name of L. Matthews; said he was burned to death in a building at Los Angeles City, on the 5th of that month. With the purpose of verifying the statement, I immediately telegraphed to that city, and, falling to find any corroborations, there being no record of such a fire, I treated that and all subsequent visits made to our circle—which were frequent and of small importance, as there would have been a lingering doubt in our doubtful natures, whether by some means, had been made, or a willful deception practiced, when, in the month of October, a young man from "Angels," a mining town in the county of Calaveras, being present at one of our sittings, and on the announcement of a new test, he fully corroborated the entire statement in all its painful details, giving the name of a partner of his, cause of the fire, etc. I afterwards procured a copy of the local newspaper, in which I found a full and complete account of the fire, and the name of the victim and of his partner, as had been previously given to us by the chief sufferer himself, who lost his body in the presence of his fellow citizens, 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glion be explored, it will be found that their moral system is in all its grand features, the same as that of the Pentateuch. Max Muller enumerates, as some of the principal teachings of the early Vedas, the existence of a Supreme and Eternal Being, the distinction between right and wrong, the reward of virtue and the punishment of sin, the two ways of Divine life, the Divine forgiveness, the principle of faith in the Deity or Duties, personal immortality and responsibility after death, and this eminent student of the religions of the world concludes that there is hardly one religion which does not contain some truth, some important truth.

Correspondence in Brief.

MONTIC, ALA.—John A. French writes: "A medium (test) and lecturer would meet a warm reception here, and I think would not regret having visited us."

IAWA CENTER, N. Y.—T. J. Proshoe writes: "Our numbers are few in this locality, but we are doing all we can to advance the cause of Spiritualism, and I can say that it has begun to shine here. The church is a good one, and we are doing our best to make it a spiritual one. We have had for the past three weeks without a single addition to moral darkness. We have no more of the old-fashioned Spiritualists, but we have a new class of Spiritualists, and now, after nearly one year of weekly sittings, we begin to have 'traps' and 'tips.' You can judge of our patience and fidelity."

SMITHLAND, IOWA.—Mrs. S. Rice, in a note containing remittance for a renewal of her subscription and that of a new subscriber, says: "I have read your glorious paper for the past year, and truly say that it is food for the starving. In my bereavement it has brought light and consolation to my soul. My husband and six little ones have gone to the Summer-land, and I am left with but one little daughter of seven summers; but belief in the ministrations of angels supports the fainting heart."

SEASIDE, CALIF.—S. S. Nichols writes: "Spiritualism would advance here, but I fear I could not visit us."

BRISTOL, IOWA.—J. M. P. Dolts, Esq., informs us that Mrs. Warner lectured in Bristol a few times, on the subject of Spiritualism, and roused up the people very much, and they want to hear more of her. He says a good test medium is badly needed here, and no doubt would do well. There are many strong Spiritualists in the three villages there, which contain about two thousand inhabitants.

BINGHAM, ME.—S. Goodrich writes that several weeks ago Mrs. Jennie Lord Webb, the well-known musical medium, gave several sittings there, which were well attended, and the best of satisfaction given. A full account of these sittings, sent previously, did not reach our sanctum.

DURTON, ONT.—Harriet Dayton writes: "The dear old Banner of Light keeps up a bright light, and wherever it shines the darkness is driven away. I read it with much interest, and with much joy. I could read it in the Banner of Light a communication from some of my dear spirit friends. I am from the home of my communion, and wish to hear from loved ones gone before."

PAINEVILLE, OHIO.—A. G. Smith says: "Quite a number of copies of your paper are sold and taken here. The interest in Spiritualism is growing, and intense. I have been speaking of Dr. Fairchild this month, (January) and S. M. Johnson, last month. Although we have a large hall with gallery, there is scarcely room for the evolutions and exercises of our growing Lyceum."

TANNE HATTE, IND.—James Hook, Secretary of the Spiritual Association, sends us three new subscribers, and says: "These are new subscribers, who have lately espoused the cause of Spiritualism, having become fully convinced of its truth through the manifestations given through the medium of William T. Church, who has been with us for four months, holding sittings from one to three times per week, and scores of people, believers and unbelievers, have witnessed the manifestations, and no one has been able to detect any cheat or imposition on the part of the medium. The great change of the Orthodox friends, who are compelled to fall back on their old-fashioned dogma, is a father the whole matter. It is a convenient old chap; when everything else fails he is on hand. But he doesn't answer their purpose in the least. The old fellow has about all he can carry, and the attempt to add to his manifold sins this already overburdened individual is 'no go,' and the plaudits fall by the wayside and is choked by the briars and thorns of common sense and reason. Spiritualism is gaining a firm foothold in this place. We have engaged J. H. Powell to speak for us for a year. We have raised the funds and ordered the fixtures to establish a Children's Lyceum, have become a legal organization, and have the use of one of the best halls in the city, and expect in time to give a good account of Spiritualism in Terre Haute."

Extraordinary Phenomena.

EDITORS BANNER OF LIGHT.—Many of your readers are familiar with the manifestations by the Davenport Brothers, and also with those of Mr. Wm. Fay, who is associated with them.

There is in the city of Washington a lad of fourteen years, through whom manifestations are presented, which are, in many particulars, similar to those of both the Davenports and Mr. Fay.

Frankie Gunnell is the son of H. D. Gunnell, Esq., Commissioner of the Seventh Ward, and an old and highly respectable resident of our city. At a private audience on Friday evening last, there were about sixty ladies and gentlemen present, among whom were Hon. Thomas W. Ferry, member of Congress from Michigan, and other members of the United States Congress, the editors of city papers, half a dozen medical gentlemen, and other prominent citizens.

Frankie was seated in a small cabinet, in the door of which, near the top, a diamond-shaped hole was cut. The door was closed, and Frankie was tied by unseen hands. The Committee of Examination, consisting of Hon. Mr. Ferry and Dr. McWilliams, examined the cords and pronounced the lad securely tied; his hands being fastened together behind him, and secured to the back and bottom of the chair on which he was sitting. A guitar, tambourine, violin, drum, and a bell were placed in the cabinet. Immediately on closing the door, which was bolted by an unseen power inside—the clicking of the bolt being distinctly heard—music was heard from the instruments, as hands were exhibited and thrust through the aperture in the door, and holding the violin bow, and another the drumstick. The door was unbolted inside and instantly opened, when, on careful examination, the Committee pronounced Frankie to be tied precisely as he was when examined before. The door was again closed, and hands and arms were instantly presented through the hole in the door. The bell was rung, and continued ringing until the door was unbolted inside and opened when Frankie stepped out with the cords removed from his person.

He then took a seat in the front parlor, the audience being assembled in front of him and occupying the back parlor, the doors all being thrown open. The musical instruments were placed on a table by the side of the medium. The lights were then put out, and Frankie was immediately made fast by an unseen power, with his hands fastened together behind him and fastened to the chair. The lights were again put out, and Frankie was examined and pronounced to be securely tied. Again the lights were put out, and the musical instruments were seen flying through the room, distinctly recognized by the phosphorus that had been rubbed upon them a few minutes before. The lights were called for, and the medium was found to be bound as when last examined. The experiments were repeated with similar and varied results. The medium, then, with the lights out, asked some one to "request the spirits to take my (the medium's) coat off," which was done in an instant, the hands still tied together and to the chair. The request was made to have it put on, which was done in an instant. Mr. Ferry then, at the request of the medium, took his coat off and laid it upon a table. The room was no sooner darkened, and the request made, than the coat was put upon the medium, and, after examination, was taken off with equal dexterity. A request was made to show the hand by which this was done, when a hand was seen immediately on the bottle of phosphorus sitting on the mantel-shelf.

I am not a believer in spiritual manifestations, nor am I of those who would reject, without examination, such manifestations in evidence of spirit-communication, as are here presented. I am an earnest inquirer after truth. I have been on the committee and in the cabinet with the Davenport Brothers. I am satisfied there is no collusion on their part, and I am equally convinced that young Frankie Gunnell is not an impostor. I am yours,

DR. ADVOCATE OF HIGHEST INVESTIGATION.
Washington, D. C., Feb. 6th, 1899.

J. BURNS, PROGRESSIVE LIBRARY, 1 WELLINGTON ROAD, CAMBERWELL, LONDON, ENG.
KEEPS FOR SALE THE BANNER OF LIGHT AND OTHER SPIRITUAL PUBLICATIONS.

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Banner of Light.

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LUTHER COLBY, EDITOR. LEWIS B. WILSON, ASSISTANT EDITOR.

All business connected with the editorial department of this paper is under the exclusive control of LUTHER COLBY, to whom letters and communications should be addressed.

Respectability in Religion.

The Roman Church is far ahead of the Protestant on this fundamental point, that it tolerates no caste among the body of its worshippers. We discover some revelations on this subject in the columns of the Orthodox Journal—*The Advance*—published at Chicago, which is ready to give up the whole truth for the sake of creating a sensation for its issues. Something must certainly be done, if modern Orthodoxy expects to secure the mass of people to its own fold. We have no idea it can do such a thing any way, but we are perfectly sure that it will do it by following its present methods among the body of the population. The existing religious organizations are rapidly losing their hold on the minds of the people, and will not be able to get it back again. Sectarianism is the malicious thistle that has been sown broadcast in this field, and those who sow it have now their harvest all to themselves. They put up fervent prayers that their own Church may be blessed, but the limits are fixed there, and the world outside receives none of the loving care which they think they exercise.

New York illustrates, in the fullest and most striking manner, the evils of this sectarian spirit, in the decay of the churches. They are all growing more "respectable"—"nobody questions that; but respectability is not spiritual life, it is not action; it is not zeal, it is not labor and devotion, it is not success. Says the *New York Church Union* (newspaper), in reviewing the present depressing condition of things there, "Something is the matter with the Christianity of New York. It does not do the work for which it was established. True, it builds costly temples, and is clothed in purple and fine linen, and fares sumptuously every day. True, it numbers some three hundred congregations all told, and has two thousand clergymen as ministers in New York. True, it gives bountifully. Madison Square congregation gave over one hundred thousand dollars last year. True, there are many schools of the prophets supported by the Church in New York, and Sabbath schools abound. True, there is no lack of prayer. Fulton street pours forth its refreshing and never-failing fountain these eleven years, and there are sixty thousand enlisted soldiers in the army of the Church in New York. The Church in New York is a failure, because respectability is the God of the same Church. The aim of every young clergyman seems to be, to get as near to the most respectable point in the city, to get his Church on Fifth Avenue, if possible, or on some fashionable square, and not to rest day or night till it be accomplished. We do not deny that the ministers of the Church in New York have many an hour of enjoyment in humble duty among the poor, but the main thing seems to be to get as far from Water street and the Five Points as possible, and to cluster around Zion's Hill. One after the other of evangelical clergymen have prevailed upon their people to move up town, out of the miserable, infected districts. . . . 'The people in the lower wards are wretched enough. They are poor, blind and naked; they want Christianity in all its primitive, healing qualities badly enough, but they don't want the Christianity of Fifth Avenue or of up-town. Take two hundred such jail-birds as Tommy Hadden and Kit Burns, and empty them down in any up-town, fashionable Church, and lo! what a scamper there would be!'

The truth that is finally told in the paragraph above given, is significant of what is coming to Orthodoxy, and the whole role of combined Ecclesiasticism, as surely as to-morrow will succeed to-day. The worm is in the apple, to begin with. Sectarianism being essentially selfish, it breeds only selfish ends. It doubts, in time, on its respectability and riches; and when it arrives at this stage, the religion of it—such as it was—has utterly vanished. The world is not going to be "converted" from any of its errors and sins by witnessing these ambitious efforts of certain organizations, styling themselves religions, to become powerful, respectable and rich. It needs sympathy and help. There is more actual "prayer" in these than in all the tracts that were ever tucked under a patient community's doors. When a man or a society comes to think of its respectability, it is ossified, lifeless, without living power. Its soul is gone out. The simplest conditions of growth demand that the self and the ego shall be wholly forgotten; power flows in only when that door is left wide open; it will not knock for admission there, but goes elsewhere for hospitality. The Jews rejected the simple teachings of Christ for their Church, but the humble fishermen received them. With whom remained the power, and which are remembered to-day, centuries afterwards? Let Spiritualists heed the lesson taught in this walling confession of Orthodoxy, and continue to do their daily work, leaving respectability to take care of itself.

Horatio Eddy, the Medium.

The well-known and reliable medium for physical manifestations, Horatio G. Eddy, held a séance in Haverhill, Mass., Feb. 2d. The *Publisher*, of that town, says: "Music Hall was well filled and the entertainment highly appreciated. The medium's hands were tied by a committee selected by the audience, in apparently a very secure and effective manner, after which he seated himself in the cabinet, when his legs and feet were also as securely tied. The door of the cabinet was then closed, and almost immediately various musical instruments within the cabinet were played upon. The door was then opened and Mr. Eddy found secured, according to the evidence of the committee, in the same manner as when the door was closed. While thus secured Mr. Eddy's coat was taken off, hands were shown at the aperture in the door of the cabinet, sometimes two, and again three, at the same time while various sounds were heard from within the cabinet, which it would seem impossible for one person to produce, unassisted. If all this was the result of trickery, then all we have to say is that Mr. Eddy out-blitzed Blitz and the whole host of prestidigitators we ever saw or heard of."

The Banner of Light Seances.

[See Sixth Page.]

This department of our paper has been in operation nearly twelve years, and during that period several thousands of spirits have manifested to us; and to-day the *Banner* is sought for with more interest than ever, from the fact that a large majority of its readers have become fully convinced of the return of the spirit after—so to speak—its natural death, or the death of the physical body.

The invocations given at our seances are unsurpassed for beauty of thought and expression and devout fervor. They powerfully impress the analytic mind with the sublime truths of man's spiritual nature as well as the eternity of matter. Nov. 16th.—The seance opened on this occasion with an invocation every one should read, being the inspired utterances of Theodore Parker. The questions and answers are thus far interesting as any that have preceded them in this department of our paper.

The spirit who first individualized himself was Edward R. Tanney, who died (according to his own story) at the age of fourteen. He informs us that he was killed in battle, as was also his father, whom he was with, at Shiloh. There are points enough in this message—the one in regard to the watch, especially—by which to identify the party named, and we earnestly desire a response to it, whenever the mother or other friends perchance may read it. We have no earthly knowledge of the parties named or the facts mentioned in the message. The spirit says he has traced the watch to this city; that it is in a broker's office, etc. Who will volunteer to hunt it up?

James Brown next possessed the medium. He addressed himself to Mr. White (the Chairman of the seance) as an old acquaintance, and reminded him that they boarded together at the North End twenty years ago; naming the place, etc. Mr. W. informs us that he did board with Mrs. Wilson, at the time and place mentioned, hence the statements made by the spirit were vividly brought back to his mind, although he had entirely forgotten the circumstances alluded to, and should never probably have thought of them again, had not the spirit referred to them. In this connection it may be well to say that Mrs. Conant, the medium through whom the spirit communicated, had no knowledge whatever of the circumstances related, until the message was recorded by our scribe.

Nov. 17th.—This seance opened with the usual invocation, given by Dr. W. E. Channing; after which a series of questions were propounded, and duly answered. We call especial attention to our report of them, as they treat upon subjects of general interest. The answer to the last question has been the bone of contention for a long time between Spiritualists and Secularists; but it has only been a misinterpretation of words. *Spirit*, the invisible intelligence contends, and matter, are one and the same. The more refined matter becomes, the more subtle, the more powerful it is, and, for distinction, is called spirit.

Amos Elliott reports from Melchias, Me.; son of Capt. John Elliott. His remarks were lengthy, as will be seen by the report; said he was killed in battle. This spirit seems to enjoy his "lot" very well, judging from his jocose remarks. He knocks the Orthodox dead and "final-resurrection-at-the-last-day" theory into minute fragments, for he comes to us "alive and well."

Nellie Anderson Stevens, a spirit-child, next controlled. Hails from Memphis, Tenn. Wants to reach her father and mother.

"Belle Wide-Awake" a funny spirit, who presides at Annie Lord Chamberlain's seances, held private converse with Mrs. Chamberlain a few moments, when the circle closed.

A New Spiritual Temple.

SPECIAL MEETING.

We have repeatedly thrown out the suggestion in these columns that the Spiritualists of this city should have a temple of their own in which to hold public meetings, and not be subjected to the inconvenience of taking such halls as may be unoccupied by others. We are pleased to see that the subject is receiving the serious attention of our capitalists and business men. In compliance with the following Call, we hope there will be a large attendance of those interested in this important movement, and that some plan will be devised that will result in the erection of a suitable building in which the Spiritualists of our city and others can assemble and listen to the divine truths of Spiritualism. The auspicious time seems to have arrived when something should be done. Make one forward step, and success is sure.

The undersigned, believing that the interests of Spiritualism demand better accommodations than are at present enjoyed, invite the friends of the cause to meet them at the office of the *Banner of Light*, on Saturday evening, Feb. 20th, at 7 1/2 o'clock, to consider the expediency of erecting a suitable building to meet the growing wants of the movement.

DANIEL FARRAR, GEORGE W. MORRILL, PUNAR E. GAY, JONAS WETHERS, H. F. GARDNER, JAMES DICKSON, H. G. MAYNARD, A. C. CARY, LUTHER COLBY, H. POTTER, G. C. SNAW, G. M. MILLER, GEORGE HOSMER, SAMUEL CARTER, ISAAC B. RICH, WILLIAM WHITE, GEORGE W. SMITH, LEWIS B. WILSON, M. T. DOLE.

Music Hall Meetings.

Moses Hull, formerly a celebrated Advent minister, addressed a good audience at Music Hall, Boston, Sunday afternoon, February 7th, on the subject of "The True Believer and his Work." His remarks (a synopsis of which we shall print soon) were attentively listened to, and greeted with frequent applause. His discourse was diversified with many apt anecdotes, appropriate scriptural quotations, and a full endorsement of the theory of laying on of hands, as practiced by Dr. Newton and others.

The execution of *Qui Tollis*, (from Farmer's Mass in B flat), was highly creditable to the choir.

Hon. Warren Chase next Sunday.

February 21st, Warren Chase, of New York, well known as one of the oldest and ablest lecturers on Spiritualism, will occupy the platform in Music Hall, and speak on this subject: "The Search after God; or, The Religion of Manhood." He is sure to entertain and instruct his audience.

Dr. Newton in Boston.

The sick and suffering will bear in mind that the great healer, Dr. J. R. Newton, has opened an office at 23 Harrison avenue, near Beach street, in this city, for the purpose of treating the sick. He is already meeting with success. The thousands of cures effected by the Doctor in the past is sufficient evidence of his ability to help or cure the sick through spirit power.

Mrs. A. A. Currier, we regret to learn, has not sufficiently recovered her health as to enable her to speak in Music Hall next Sunday, as was expected. She had not lectured for the past six months. We trust so efficient a worker in the lecturing field will soon be able to resume her labors.

Dedication at Willimantic, Conn.

We learn from a correspondent at Willimantic that the dedication of the Spiritualists' house of worship was a splendid affair. The weather was so inclement that it was thought almost impossible for the people to get to the house; nevertheless, it was crowded to its utmost capacity.

The hall is a fine, large structure—a decided ornament to the village. It is well lighted with heaven's pure light, heated with a furnace, and well ventilated. On the first floor is a Lyceum room, which will comfortably seat four hundred people. If that was all there was to the building, it is so far superior to the majority of halls where our lecturers are compelled to speak, that one could almost wish it separated from the building and located in some other place, where there are "ears to hear." The lecture room, on the second floor, will compare favorably with a majority of churches. It is large, neat and tasty; will seat from six to eight hundred people. Then there is a large gallery, where the choir, and others, if necessary, may be seated.

C. C. Burleigh delivered the dedicatory address. Those who listened to his remarks on that occasion, can but congratulate the Willimantic people on being fortunate enough to secure his services half of the time for one year. He dedicated the hall to the cause of Freedom, Humanity and Progress. No pen-picture of his discourse can do it justice; such eloquence and logic are seldom heard. As the inspiration of the hour came upon the speaker, he so perfectly carried his audience with him that, with the exception of his voice, the stillness of death reigned.

In the afternoon Moses Hull discoursed on the "Mission of Spiritualism." The audience was larger than in the forenoon, and the speaker seemed especially inspired for the occasion. All who heard that discourse must have decided that Spiritualism is indeed a "big thing." At the conclusion of the discourse, when some one congratulated Mr. Hull upon the fortunate selection of a subject and his happy method of treating it, he remarked that he did not preach. "In such a house, with such an audience and such exquisite music, I can't preach. As the boy said by his whistling in school, it preached itself."

The "Spiritual Harp" was the music book used on the occasion. A good Cottage Organ and quartette string band and about twenty-five well trained voices, made more music than is often heard at one time.

The house, dedication and all, is a splendid success. If it only tends to spread the contagion until all the world is dotted with spiritual meeting-houses, the result will indeed be grand.

Uneven Scales.

Justice is represented as blind, and holding an evenly balanced pair of scales. Everybody comprehends the significance of the representation at once. Courts are instituted to dispense justice, and so protect the people and preserve public morality. But in the case of the clerical book thief in this city, named Isaac J. Stine, there has been a reversion of all the rules. Rev. James Freeman Clarke appeared on his behalf before the Court, and Mr. William Brigham, a lawyer in the ecclesiastical interest, who advised the prisoner to retract his former plea of "not guilty," and plead "guilty." Mr. Clarke made a pathetic appeal for his first offence—respectable connections—reduced circumstances—strong temptations—ruin him for future usefulness, and all that worn-out compendium of one-sided, canting argument for partiality, and so far prevailed with it, as to move the District Attorney to decline prosecuting the case any further. The book-dealers, too, from whom the said "Reverend" had abstracted several hundred dollars worth of property, were persuaded by similar personal appeals to relax their grasp, and let the fellow off on probation. Judge Lord, who held the court, expressed himself as willing to be officially guided in the case by the judgment of the District Attorney; but he could not dismiss it altogether without making the protest that he had often sentenced a "poor ragamuffin" for six months to prison for stealing a loaf of bread, whereas this clerical delinquent was in no such starving condition, he had been educated, and he was bound to set a better example. Judge Lord did not see the justice of punishing the ragamuffin but releasing the minister. Nor do we.

A Spent Winter.

We can almost say with the singer of old, "the winter is over and gone, and the singing of birds is heard in the land." Here we are, at the close of February. Most persons have to admit that this has been a remarkable season. There have been a few storms, enough to convince us that the grim power of Winter was resident hereabouts, and could be brought out on a pinch; but the rule has been an even run of temperature, smooth and easy travel, and, interspersed here and there, some of the divinest days that ever sparkled and shone out at this ice-bound season. Spring will soon be here now. One by one, we begin almost by instinct to make our preparations for its approach. The farmer and gardener are awake and watching for the early symptoms in the bud and root and leaf, but the sewing-girl who cultivates her few plants in the window is equally eager and excited. The new Spring frosts floods of fresh magnetism into every heart, brain and limb. It is the annual resurrection of all things. Let us be ready and glad to meet it.

A New Book.

We have just issued a new and very interesting and instructive work entitled, "The Future Life; as described and portrayed by spirits, through Mrs. Elizabeth Sweet," with an introduction by Judge Edmonds, of New York. We hardly need assure our readers that this book is well worth possessing. The fact that these messages receive the endorsement of Judge Edmonds, as coming through one of the best mediums of the day, gives character and value to the work.

Movements of Lecturers and Mediums.

W. F. Wentworth's address is Vineland, N. J., during February. He has no engagements for March.

Moses Hull lectures in Milford, N. H., Feb. 21, and 28.

Warren Chase lectured to a large audience in New York, Feb. 7th, in place of Mrs. Bronson, who was sick.

Texas.

Dr. Persons is still very active healing the sick in Texas. He is gaining fame there rapidly in consequence of the many cures he has performed. Even regular allopathic physicians give him the credit of healing those whom their skill could not reach. Dr. P. is now in Jefferson, where he will remain until the middle of March.

Miss Lizzie Doten lectured before the Children's Lyceum Association in Cleveland, on Sunday evening, Feb. 7th, to a large audience as could gain admission.

New Subscribers.

Our old subscribers are working in good earnest to add one or more new names to our subscription list, and thus aid in placing the *Banner of Light* on a firmer basis than ever. Friends, everywhere, we tender you our grateful thanks, and we know the spirit-world joins with us and will ever bless you. Below we continue the list of those who have been exerting themselves for the above purposes. It shows what effort can do. If all our friends would do the same, our circulation would be trebled in a short time.

O. A. Morrill sends us, from Maine, a list of fourteen new subscribers, for one year, accompanied with the money. Bro. Morrill, you have our especial thanks. From Yolo County, California, came \$15.00, with the name of John Hollingworth and four others. James Hook sends \$10.00, with three new subscribers. H. M. Joy sends \$21.00 to renew his club, and adds two new names. A. T. Robinson, \$27.00 for the renewal of his club, and adds two new names. S. S. Nichols renews and sends a new subscriber. Mrs. H. B. Emery does the same. Mrs. S. Price, \$6.00. C. Crockett, \$6.00. Dr. A. B. Randall, \$6.00. Cyrus Brown, \$3.00 for a new subscriber. Dr. H. P. Fairfield sends us a new name, and promises more. Samuel Houston, \$3.00 and a new name. Morgan Phillips sends \$3.00 for a new subscriber, and says he obtained it from the first person he asked. He promises to obtain more. Mrs. E. W. Barnes, \$6.00, for a renewal and a new subscriber. T. J. Preshee sends \$3.00 and a new subscriber. John Fuller sends \$3.00, with the following sensible remarks:

In the line of my duty I wish to do right—
With an eye to my neighbor and pleasure—
So I thought I would send for the *Banner of Light*,
Knowing it to be a rich treasure."

Test of Spirit Power.

The following incident will be read with interest, and can be relied on as correct:

EDITORS BANNER OF LIGHT.—In justice to the unseen, I wish to add one more fact as proof of spirit power, with which your paper abounds. A recognition of this power, with a knowledge of its laws, will save suffering humanity from thousands of ills which now beset their pathway.

We have in our village a lady medium, who is controlled by an Indian spirit, and is known as "White Wing." While entranced, this spirit stated that her medium was suffering from a decayed tooth, and requested me to extract it, saying that she could control the mind, numb the sense of feeling, and unbeknown to the medium perform the operation. As I am no dentist, I doubted my ability, and was fearful of consequences in case of accident. However, I agreed to do my part, if the spirit could control, after being assured that I should receive aid from an expert, who long since knew of the "New Birth."

Arrangements were made as to time, place, etc., and the strictest secrecy observed. Dr. Wm. L. Johnson, of Boston, kindly loaned his instruments for the occasion; and I can only say that they were used by me, with all the power present, with perfect success. While totally unconscious, a large molar tooth was extracted, without pain of course, or the use of ether or chloroform.

You are at liberty to make such use of this fact as you please.

Yours for the Truth and Right,
BRAINARD CUSHING.

N. B.—Any parties wishing for corroborative testimony, can apply personally or by letter to me, and I will cheerfully answer all. B. C.

East Abington, Feb. 10, 1899.

Cleveland, Ohio.

Spiritualism appears to be in a healthy condition in Cleveland. Edward S. Wheeler continues to administer to the spiritual needs of the people. We find the following statement in the *Spiritualist*, which shows a good state of affairs: "The First Society and Lyceum of Spiritualists and Liberals has recently elected officers for the present year, and has made some changes in the conduct of its affairs. Instead of two lectures, the meetings are devoted to Lyceum and Conference. The Constitution was so amended as to make a fee at the door, instead of collections, one source of income. Ten cents is admission fee fixed upon. Monthly family tickets are issued, for one dollar and ten cents according to the liberality and ability of the purchaser. Those who are unprepared to pay are not refused entrance to meetings. The change from contributions to a fee has long been urged by a few of the older members, as the only legitimate and really business-like method of raising funds at the meetings. Though the prejudice was strong against it, in many minds, present appearances favor the continuance of the new plan. The audiences have not materially diminished. We appoint the Report of the Executive, whose efficiency, strict honesty and watchful care have done much to further the interests of the Cleveland Society."

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT.
Under State Charter, of the First Society and Progressive Lyceum of Spiritualists, of Cleveland, O.
Total receipts from March 1, 1898, to Jan. 10, 1899, \$2,602.48
Disbursements, 2,572.07
Overdrawn, 60.00
Society to Cash, Dr. furnishing Hall, 1,700.00
By yearly subscription to Society, 173.00
"Contingent Fund, 372.88
Total dues, 645.88
The condition of the Society one year ago showed a debt of \$417.00, with about \$200.00 worth of property to meet it. To-day we owe \$1,769.69, with dues to the amount of \$548.88, and an increase of \$2,000.00 worth of property to meet the liabilities.
T. LEAS, Secy.

Justice is Slow, but Sure.

We clip the following paragraph from a long and able article in the *Dansville* (N. Y.) *Advertiser* on "Modern Spiritualism." Coming as it does from the secular press, it conclusively shows that public opinion has changed wonderfully, within a few years, in regard to the Philosophy of Spiritualism, notwithstanding Old Theology has thrown all the stumbling-blocks in our path possible for bigotry to do. The editor of the *Advertiser* truthfully remarks:

Modern Spiritualism was pool-poled by the Orthodox sect while it was in its infancy, but after it came to have such a wide-spread influence, and to embrace in its communion many men and women of note, scientific men felt called upon to give some mention to it, and to investigate its claims to be what it asserted itself to be, viz., a system of communication with and from the souls of those who had once tenanted earthly tabernacles here below, but were now ligatures of the "Summer-land," as they term it."

Debate on Spiritualism.

The debate between Elder Miles Grant (Second Adventist) and Mr. E. W. Wilson (Spiritualist), previously announced, took place in Union Hall, Dansville, N. Y., on the evenings of Jan. 26th, 27th, 28th and 29th. Great interest was manifested by the citizens, says the *Advertiser* of that place, to hear the discussion, and it was the theme of conversation all over town for a week afterwards. The report makes over two columns of leaded type in the *Advertiser*; but nothing new was elicited, save that Bro. Wilson's arguments seemed to be fully appreciated, while the Elder's were not.

The Cultivator's Guide.

Washburne & Co. are out with their elegant Amateur Cultivator's Guide for 1899, which is a worthy following on its predecessor. It contains a descriptive list of two thousand varieties of flower and vegetable seeds, as well as some of French hybrid gladioli. All who would become fully possessed of the sweet lore of flower and kitchen gardening, should procure a copy of a manual that empies into their mind at once the whole of the knowledge they so eagerly covet. The Guide is published in handsome form, illustrated, and with a good-working index.

Spirit Message Tested.

EDS. BANNER OF LIGHT—I find in your last issue a communication given at the Circle on the 12th of November, 1868, from Hiram Marble, who says that he was aided to come back by Mr. Wilder.

Many of your readers will be interested to know that the day previous, being the next after he left the material body, he did come to me through a well-known medium, (Mrs. Hardy,) and then promised that he would, if possible, make himself known at the *Banner Circle* the next day.

I think he did gain some strength, as he says, by coming to me, as it seems he was able to accomplish his purpose.

D. WILDER.
[Mr. Wilder has our sincere thanks for his kindness in responding to this message. Oh, that many others whom we hear have received satisfactory tests of the return of the spirit after death, would but waive their sensitiveness or fear of public opinion, and respond to the messages of their loved ones through the *Banner of Light*, that the public may know beyond doubt, as we do, that these things are true.]

Notice to Subscribers.

As the present volume of the *BANNER* is nearing its close, we desire those of our patrons whose term of subscription then expires, to renew at once. By so doing they will confer a great favor.

The Spiritual Temple in Boston.
Funds pledged us toward its erection \$110.00
Additional 100.00
Total \$210.00

ALL SORTS OF PARAGRAPHS.

In our next issue we shall print a synoptical report of Mrs. Cora L. Y. Daniels's lectures in Music Hall, in this city, on the subject of " Clairvoyance; or, Clear Thinking or Wishing." These lectures were of unusual interest.

The article under the head of "Spiritual Phenomena," written by William Howitt, of London, will be found exceedingly interesting.

See the third page for our "Western Department." The reason of this temporary change of locality is obvious. Business must be attended to.

NEWSPAPER LICENSE, NEWSPAPER DUTY.—These observations of the *New York Commercial Advertiser* are especially timely, forcible, and just: "It is undeniably true that unprincipled men prostitute a noble profession to gratify personal aims, and commit great wrongs upon individuals and society with their barbed pens. They are, however, the exception, and are looked upon by their fellow journalists in the same light that the legal profession regard the Toombs slyster, or the medical school a quack." Spiritualists, of all other people, should be the last to prostitute the press to gratify their personal spite. Yet many do this. Our Philosophy teaches the reverse.

A correspondent of the *World's Crisis* says he wants a minister of the Gospel (Second Advent, of course), to visit Sparta, O., "who is pure and holy, who does not conform to the maxims, customs and fashions of the day, such as festivals, oyster suppers, picnics, and all gatherings of mirth and pleasure." So it seems the Second Advent preachers do go in for oyster suppers and rollicking. What next? Well, we suppose they act upon the principle that as their time is so short here below, they might as well have all the fun they can ere they "go up."

WILL CASE.—The Rhode Island Pabolle will case, where an estate amounting to several hundred thousand dollars was left by the testator to a female Spiritualist or clairvoyant physician, who attended him in his last sickness, and at whose house he died, has been settled with the contesting heirs by a compromise.

New Yorkers smoke forty million cigars a year. A developing circle is held at the residence of Dr. J. C. Chesley, eclectic and magnetic physician, 16 Salem street, Boston.

Why is J. Theodore Child, surgeon dentist, 50 School street, like Job? Because he has an abundance of patients (patience).

It will be seen, by our Washington correspondence, that a new medium has been developed there, and that the physical manifestations of spirit-power, in his presence, are highly satisfactory.

SUNDRIES.

Let us gather up the sunbeams,
Lying all around our path;
Let us keep the wheat and roses,
Casting out the thorns and chaff;
Let us find our sweetest comfort
In the blessings of to-day,
With a patient heart removing
All the briars from our way.

Louis Napoleon will enter upon his sixty-second year next month, and the Empress in August will celebrate her forty-third birthday.

Let all men avoid rash-speaking. They that speak without care often remember their own words afterwards with sorrow. Those who expect peace and safety should restrain their tongues with a bridle.

Purchasers of Dry Goods will find that Jordan, Marsh & Co. have made such arrangements that they are enabled to offer superior inducements to all who require such articles. Their stock is large and well selected. It comprises every variety and style. Their facilities in purchasing direct from the manufacturer enable them to sell to their customers at the advance of one profit only. Call and see them.

There is no denying that Spiritualism is rapidly adding to the number of its adherents and increasing in respectability in San Francisco—Cor. San José Mercury.

Alvin Adams, Esq., has purchased one of Bierstadt's latest paintings, paying twenty thousand dollars in gold for the same.

Last year Michigan spent \$2,482,074 for educational purposes, employed ten thousand teachers, and has school property to the value of \$4,285,632.

Gov. Claflin has filled one of the two vacancies on the Superior Court by appointing Henry A. Souder, of Dorchester, in the place of the late Judge Vose.

The vicar of Erlabheim, in Wurtemberg, has become a miraculous healer of diseases, and the sick and lame flock to him in crowds from all parts of Germany. Sometimes as many as twelve hundred visit the vestry in a single day. The accounts say that the patients are truly cured. The vicar has been threatened with removal by the ecclesiastical authorities, but still continues his cures, which he says are produced by faith.

Dora D'Arta, the Wallachian Princess, is spoken of as the most learned woman of our times. She reads and speaks fifteen languages, writes novels and profound essays, has a thorough knowledge of the most intricate positions of the Oriental question, is a brilliant conversationalist, and, at the same time, very handsome and graceful.

New York Department.

BANNER OF LIGHT BRANCH OFFICE,
644 BROADWAY.

WARREN CHASE, LOCAL EDITOR AND AGENT.

FOR NEW YORK ADVERTISEMENTS SEE SEVENTH PAGE.

Large Assortment of Spiritual and Liberal Books.

Complete works of A. J. Davis, comprising twenty-two volumes, all neatly and substantially bound in cloth: *Nature's Divine Revelations*, 13th edition. Great Harmonia, in five volumes, each complete—*Physician, Teacher, Seer, Reformer, and Thinker*. Magic Staff, an Autobiography of the author. Penetration, Harbinger of Health, Answers to Ever-Recurring Questions. Morning Lectures (20 volumes), History and Philosophy of Evil, Philosophy of Spirit Intercourse, Philosophy of Special Providences and Free Thoughts Concerning Religion, Death and After Life, Children's Progressive Lyceum Manual, Arabus, or Divine Quest, Stellar Key to the Summer Land, Harmonical Man, Spirit Mysteries Explained, Inner Life, Truth versus Theology, and Memorabilia. Whole set (twenty-two volumes) \$25; a most valuable present for a library public or private.

Four books by Warren Chase—*Life Line: Fugitive Wife; American Crisis; and Gist of Spiritualism*—can be had for \$2. Complete works of Thomas Paine, in three volumes, price \$1; postage 50 cts.

Persons sending us \$10 in one order can order the full amount, and we will pay the postage where it does not exceed book rates. Send postage on each convenient order. They are always safe, as are registered letters under the new law.

London Spiritual Magazine, a most valuable monthly, mailed on receipt of price, 30 cents. Human Nature, also a London monthly of rare merit; price 25 cents. The Rostrian, a monthly of rare merit, price 25 cents. The Rostrian, a monthly of rare merit, price 25 cents.

Also the Radical, the ablest monthly published in our country on religious subjects, and fully up to its name.

Call and see our assortment, which now comprises nearly all the books and papers in print on our wide spread and fast spreading philosophy of Spiritualism.

Our Cause in New York.

At no time since the advent of Spiritualism has it been as prosperous as at the present time. The meetings, though few in number, have been well attended and well supported by a most intelligent and appreciative and steady audience. The First Society of Progressive Spiritualists, which holds its meetings in the Everett Rooms, has secured the ablest speakers in the field, as far as possible, and been amply repaid and well sustained; and Mr. P. E. Farnsworth, the very popular and universally esteemed manager of the meetings and the Lyceum, has the thanks of the whole body of Spiritualists who attend the meetings, whether voted or not, for his most successful and efficient services.

The sale and circulation of the *Banner of Light*, and of our large and most excellent assortment of books, steadily increases, and new faces appear constantly at our counter, inquiring for light, for advice, for mediums, for facts. The city papers have changed their tone, and treat us with decency if not with respect, except the *Herald*, which gets on both sides and blows hot and cold out of the same mouth, and its praise and abuse are about alike to us—both worthless.

The pulpit, with few liberal exceptions, of course does not notice us much yet, but its outstretched arms in holy horror are powerless to keep people longer in ignorance on this subject.

Mediums who are permanent, honest, reliable, and attend promptly and faithfully to their business, are well sustained by both worlds; and we are blessed with many excellent mediums in the city, although many of them avoid rather than seek notoriety, and have all the business or company they desire.

Marvelous and astonishing phenomena have not ceased, but have mainly ceased to excite the wonder or arouse the public curiosity as formerly; but we often hear of new features of manifestation, and additional evidence furnished by our spirit-friends of their presence and power among us, although they do not catch thieves nor choke drunkards. Among the most noticeable feature in the movement, of late, is the developing of musical mediums and the intrusion of spirits among the teachers and masters of this delightful department of education.

The picture gallery has also its share, and the large and magnificent pictures of Mr. Anderson are admired by every one. One of them, we understand, has been sent to Washington, for the society there, to be placed on public exhibition, and where it will no doubt gain the attention it deserves. Mr. Milson, too, who is about to leave for the West, has made some most remarkable pictures, under spirit-guidance, on which we cannot give complimentary judgment, as we do not see the appropriate adaptation to progress in them; but they are curious, at least. Shadows on the plates from the photograph gallery also appear occasionally, but we have not yet examined them.

Reading the Bible.

The *Advent Review* refers to a person said to have read the Bible through by course five times in the year 1868. But the writer in the *Review* thinks it would be better to read it in portions, and not by course, and not so fast. We read it through once, many years ago, and have never found time to repeat it; at least, time we did not think could be more profitably employed, and we are of opinion that the individual who read it through five times last year, was neither better nor wiser for more than one reading, and we are quite sure the world and human race were neither better nor richer for his waste of time on the book on which no two persons in the world who form opinions on its contents exactly agree, except perhaps those who consider it worthless throughout. No class of people read it more, quote it more, and refer to it more, than the dissipated and criminal part of community. Perhaps they are better for accepting its authority. Yes, cannot say they are not; but if they are, we are glad to have it retained for them. While its terrible God and devil and hell are needed for the wicked, we would be among the last to set its authority over them aside. Such as can be made better by it, should read once slowly, and obey it.

Crime.

During the last few weeks the press has recorded several of the most cruel and revolting murders of wives by husbands and women by lovers or relatives, beside the large list arising from fights and robberies. Unfortunately for the pulpit and press, and more especially for the self-styled guardians of Christian virtue, none of them have been connected with Spiritualism, nor could they be laid at its door as a cause, although several of the guilty parties were connected with churches, and nearly or quite all were believers in the Bible, or pretended to be, and, of course, expected to be tried by its standard and punished or forgiven by its teachings. We have ever contended, and firmly believe, the Bible and Christian religion are not well calculated to prevent crime, and we as firmly believe Spiritualism is so calculated, and that we are already beginning to feel the good effect in the community, and that we shall realize it more and more. We also believe it will greatly reduce insanity, and has already done so to a limited extent.

Another Witness for Dr. Newton.

Isabella Munsel, of Green Point, has called at our office several times to inquire for Dr. Newton. She had lost her voice, could not make a loud noise or utter a word except in a low whisper. On Saturday, Feb. 6th, she came in, not expecting the Doctor was in the city, but he had left our office but a few minutes before, and we

sent her to inquire of his son, at Ira Chase's store, and he told her the only chance to see him would be to go to the boat and wait till he came on board, as he was going that night to Boston. She did so, and met him, was cured and returned to our office, and surprised us by talking as loudly and easily as any of her sisters or other girls. It is a humbug, it is a valuable one, and worth catching and keeping. Wish we had more such. No charge was made for the above, but the glad heart and thanks of friends pay a thousand times in blessings.

God no Respector of Persons.

Our Christian brethren often quote, as authority, from the Bible, the sentence that God is no respecter of persons. "If so, what is to be gained by repenting and serving him, on which they place so much value? If he is no respecter of persons, surely those whose hearts are changed will fare no better than other sinners, and the converted sinner who prides him under his galleys will fare no better than the one who dies impenitent. How he can be angry with the wicked every day and not with the righteous, also, is more than we can make consistent with the other attribute of his character. The whole subject of Christian teaching about God and his dealings with man is, and ever was, to us, a mass of inconsistent absurdities, and yet it has let in some facts to sustain its theories, as, for instance, to give eternal life, or God-life, to Jesus, it was compelled to admit his preexistence, a fact as necessary for each of us, if we have eternal life, as for Jesus. The fact of his being a God would not, of course, give his body eternal life, for it was a mortal growth, subject, like ours, to changes and decay. If he was a person, of course God had no more respect for him than for any other, if the text is true.

New Style of Music.

Hitchcock's half-dime series of popular music for the million, is a novel, popular and successful method of spreading cheap and yet beautiful specimens of songs among the families all over the country. Sent by mail, at five cents per copy, in numbers of five or ten to one address. We will forward it on receipt of price. It is nearly got up, printed on the inside of the two thick covers, which are neatly and tastefully colored. Mr. Hitchcock, the inventor, is the author of that popular book, "Every Man His Own Lawyer," and belongs to the practical reformers of our day.

Spiritualists visiting New York, can be accommodated with rooms, in a private family, on more reasonable terms than at the hotels, at No. 140 East 15th street.

Mrs. Katy Fox, we are pleased to learn, holds séances every Tuesday and Saturday evening in this city. See her card in another column.

Vineland, N. J.

The Trustees of the Society of "The Friends of Progress" of Vineland, N. J., respectfully represent, that in behalf of the Society we tender our thanks to C. Fannie Allen, trance speaker, for her very able and instructive lectures and poems during her brief sojourn with us; and notwithstanding the great revival in the churches, which has been in progress for several weeks, she has drawn crowded houses and has been listened to with marked respect. We therefore cheerfully recommend her to other progressive societies as a lecturer worthy of their confidence and support.

C. B. CAMPBELL, President of Society.

WILLIAM BRIDGES,
INA S. THOMSON,
H. D. FIELDS,
A. W. ALLEN,
S. G. SYLVESTER, Trustees.

Particular Notice.

Subscribers who may have occasion to change the address of their papers, should invariably name the town, county and State to which they are sent, as well as the town, county and State to which they desire them forwarded, when they change their localities; otherwise, we must wait until they do so. A little care in this particular will save us a deal of perplexity in endeavoring to hunt up the names in our mailing machine, besides lessening the annoyance such subscribers subject themselves to in consequence of the non-receipt of their papers at the places they desire them sent, through negligence to conform to the necessities of the case.

A very handsomely printed card, done in colors and bronze, large size, of the *Banner of Light*, giving price, etc., will be sent free to any address where the paper is sold, on application to William White & Co., 138 Washington street, Boston. Societies should have this card in their respective halls, and lecturers should call attention to it. Now is the time to use every effort possible to get the *Banner of Light* before the public. We hope our friends everywhere will bear this in mind.

To Correspondents.

[We cannot engage to return rejected manuscripts.]
A. W. CHESLEY, CRY.—The contribution has been received. Thanks. We had not had time to read it as yet; but shall soon. Then we can better answer your query.

Boston Music Hall Spiritual Meetings.

Services are held in this elegant and spacious hall every SUNDAY AFTERNOON, AT 2 1/2 O'CLOCK, and will continue until next May, under the management of Mr. L. B. Wilson. Engagements have been made with able normal, trance and inspirational speakers. Boston tickets (securing a reserved seat), \$2.00; single admission, ten cents. Tickets obtained at the Music Hall office, day or evening, and at the *Banner of Light* office, 138 Washington street.
Hon. Warren Chase will lecture Feb. 21.

Spiritual Periodicals for Sale at this Office:

THE LONDON SPIRITUAL MAGAZINE. Price 30 cts. per copy.
HUMAN NATURE: A Monthly Journal of Zoistic Science and Intelligence. Published in London. Price 25 cents.
THE ROSTRIAN: A Monthly Journal Devoted to Spiritualism. Published in Chicago, Ill., by S. B. Jones, Esq. Single copies can be procured at our counters in Boston and New York. Price 5 cents.

Business Matters.

Mrs. E. D. MURPHY, Clairvoyant and Magnetic Physician, 1162 Broadway, New York. 4w Feb.

JAMES V. MANSFIELD, TEST MEDIUM, answers sealed letters, at 102 West 15th street, New York. Terms, \$5 and four three-cent stamps.

Dr. L. K. OONLEY, healing medium. Will examine by letter or look of hair from persons at a distance. Address, Vineland, N. J.

ANSWERS TO SEALED LETTERS, by R. W. Flint, 105 East 12th street—second door from 4th avenue—New York. Inclose \$2 and 3 stamps. Feb. 20.

THE BOND OF PEACE.—The only Radical Peace Paper in America. Published monthly by E. James & Daughter, No. 600 Arch street, Philadelphia. \$1.00 per annum.

THE BEST PLACE.—THE CITY HALL DINING ROOMS for ladies and gentlemen, Nos. 10, 12 and 14 City Hall Avenue, Boston. Open Sundays. Feb. 20.

Special Notices.

MATHILDA A. McCORM, 933 Brooklyn street, St. Louis, Mo. keeps on hand a full assortment of *Spiritual and Liberal Books*, Pamphlets and Periodicals. *Banner of Light* always to be found upon the counter. Aug. 1.

Agents wanted for Mrs. SPENCE'S POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE POWERS. Printed terms sent free, postpaid. For address and other particulars, see advertisement in another column. Jan. 2.

Spiritual and Reform Books.
MRS. H. F. BROWN, AND MRS. LOU, E. KIMBALL, 137 MADISON STREET, CHICAGO, ILL.
Keep constantly for sale all kinds of Spiritualist and Reform books, at Publishers' prices. July 18.

Herman Snow, at 410 Kearney street, San Francisco, Cal., keeps for sale a general variety of *Spiritualist and Reform Books* at Eastern prices. Also *Planchettes*, *Spence's Positive and Negative Powers*, etc. Catalogues and Circulars mailed free. Feb. 18.

BE YE HEALED. of whatever Disease ye have by the GREAT SPIRITUAL REMEDY, MR. SPENCE'S POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE POWERS. Send a brief description of your ailment to PROF. FAYTON SPENCE, M. D., Box 5517, New York City, and those mysterious wonder-working Powers will be mailed to you, post paid. 1 box \$1. 6 boxes \$5. Jan. 2.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Our terms are, for each line in *Agate* type, twenty cents for the first, and fifteen cents per line for every subsequent insertion. Payment invariably in advance.

For all Advertisements printed on the 5th page, 20 cents per line for each insertion will be charged.

Advertisements to be Renewed must be left at our Office before 12 M. on Thursdays.

A NEW BOOK.

THE FUTURE LIFE:
As Described and Portrayed by Spirits.
Through Mrs. Elizabeth Sweet.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
JUDGE J. W. EDMONDS.

CONTENTS.
Chapter I.—The Hazy City.
Chapter II.—Spiritual Messages.
Chapter III.—The Spirit Life.
Chapter IV.—Towers and Responsibilities of Mind.
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Appendix.

Price \$1.50; postage 20 cents.
For sale at the BANNER OF LIGHT BOOKSTORES, 138 Washington street, Boston, and 544 Broadway, New York.

LESSONS

FROM THE WORLD OF MATTER

AND

THE WORLD OF MAN.

BY THEODORE PARKER.

WITH SPLENDID PORTRAIT OF MR. PARKER.

SELECTED FROM NOTES OF UNPUBLISHED SERMONS, by Rufus Leighton. Price \$1.50; postage 20 cents.

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AMATEUR CULTIVATOR'S GUIDE

To the Kitchen and Flower Garden.

THE 23d edition of this popular and useful work, which has met with as great a success in the past, much enlarged and improved, contains all the latest and best information on the subject of vegetable culture, embracing over 2500 varieties; to which is added all the novelties in Flowers and Vegetables for 1869; also 200 varieties of the choicest French Hybrid Cabbages.

[C. Robbins, M. D., Madison, Wis., Pres. State Hort. Soc., and Cor. Man. of the Hort. Soc. of Ind.]

"Please accept my thanks for your 'Guide.' I think you ought to call it 'The Garden Companion.' It is at once very useful and conveniently arranged; a sort of ready reference book, which you have put in one of those few books I find fitted for any table; often wanted and always handy."

The above work comprises 150 pages. Tastefully bound in cloth, with two colored plates—one steel—illustrations of one hundred other engravings. Price 50 cents, postpaid. Paper cover, one colored plate, one hundred engravings, and delivered free to any part of Boston or vicinity.

For 1869, also 200 varieties of the choicest French Hybrid Cabbages. Boston, Mass. 4w—Feb. 20.

AN IMPORTANT CARD.

TO the friends of Tolerance, Religious Liberty, Truth and Progress, throughout the United States:

Emphasize in view of the strenuous and persistent efforts made to engraft upon the Constitution of the United States an amendment which may be used to overthrow Religious Liberty in this country, and inaugurate in one form or other the direct rule of Church and State, and to suppress all their concomitant abuses and oppressions, the subscriber, in behalf of himself and many friends, earnestly solicits correspondence and cooperation in the formation of a grand popular organization, to prevent the execution of such a mistaken and inhuman purpose. Sincerely yours,

JOHN A. HANLON, 63 Second street, Baltimore, Md.

All Liberal and other papers please copy. Feb. 20.

COMPARE PRICES.

THE MASON & HANLON ORGAN CO., whose Organs are acknowledged to be the best, have this season introduced very important improvements and new styles of Organs, and have materially reduced prices. Four Octave Organs, \$50 each; Five Octave, Double Reed Organs, Five Rows, \$125.

Every one having any idea of purchasing an Organ should at least obtain one of our circulars (which will be sent free), and compare prices. Address the MASON & HANLON ORGAN CO., 596 Broadway, New York, or 154 Tremont street, Boston.

\$5000 a year can be made by live agents, selling my new and valuable invention. Address,

J. A. HANLON, 63 Second street, Baltimore, Md. Feb. 20—4w

MAPLEWOOD YOUNG LADIES' INSTITUTE.

Principal, Mrs. Rev. G. V. BROWN, 171 Broadway, New York. Fifty-sixth semi-annual Term opens March 4th, 1869. Facilities and Location unsurpassed. 4w—Feb. 20.

LEGAL DIVORCES.

R. W. PEABODY, Attorney and Counselor at Law, 19 Merchants' Exchange, 55 State street, Boston, procures divorces in Massachusetts and other States for any good cause. No publicity. Consultation free. Valid everywhere. Feb. 20—1w

Grammar Taught in Seven Hours.
By PROF. HOWE, Revere Institute, No. 7 Green street, opposite City Hall, Boston. Public Lecture every Monday evening at 8 o'clock. 1w—Feb. 20.

MRS. HATTIE PARSONS, Clairvoyant and Test Medium. Examine by look of hair. Terms \$1.00. Address 188 Walnut street, Newark, N. J. Feb. 20—4w

MISS KATY FOX, Rapping, Writing and Test Medium. Lectures every Tuesday and Saturday evening at the rooms of D. Doubleday, 551 Sixth Avenue, corner 33d street, New York. 3w—Feb. 20.

JEANIE WATERMAN DANFORTH, Trance and Magnetic Physician, 315 East 53d street, New York, gives diagnoses and cures the most intricate cases in trance state. 4w—Feb. 20.

WANTED.—A Middle-aged Woman for General Housework in a small family, where the comfort of a home can be obtained. A Spiritualist, and one from the country preferred. Address, A. B. CLARK, at this office. 1w—Feb. 20.

1869.

THE
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MAGNETIC HEALING INSTITUTE AND CONSERVATORY

OF
METAPHYSICAL, MENTAL
AND
SPIRITUAL SCIENCE,

17 GREAT JONES STREET,

(Near Broadway.)

NEW YORK CITY.

PROF. C. H. WOODHULL, M. D.,

Medical Director.

MRS. DR. WOODHULL,

AND

MISS TENNESSEE.

(Formerly known as the Wonderful Child.)

Professors of Magnetic, Mental and Spirit-
ual Science.

This Institute is conducted upon the combined
principles of

MEDICINE AND MAGNETISM,

FOR THE CURE OF

CANCER,

CONSUMPTION,

RHEUMATISM,

DYSPEPSIA.

ASTHMA

AND

PARALYSIS,

AND ALL OTHER CHRONIC DISEASES,

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Upon all subjects of general interest,

POLITICAL, FINANCIAL, COMMERCIAL
AND INTERNATIONAL.

THE

Spiritual, Mental and Magnetic Sciences

To become the basis of the

ART OF HEALING.

Even now, in the infancy of this art, there are hundreds of thousands of the most enlightened people—those of the greatest observation and experience—who will employ no other than a Magnetic Physician; from the east, west, north, south—from Oregon, California, Cuba and Canada, these people are daily applying at our Institute for the relief they have in vain sought at the hands of the Medical Profession, knowing that the principles upon which it is founded are the only ones from which they can expect it.

Mesmerism, Psychology, Psychometry, Clairvoyance, Magnetism, are all demonstrated facts; these, with the Spirit Healing Power, constitute the foundation of a practice that, combined with the use of Medicine, to change the chemical conditions of diseased parts of the system, will take the place of all other systems of curing disease. Fifteen years' practice, upon the principles announced above, during which more than ten thousand cases have been successfully treated, has demonstrated the truth of the following conclusions:

1. DISEASE can be cured by the combined use of Medicine and Magnetism, when either relied upon alone would fail.
2. NO DISEASE can be treated with the positive certainty of a cure being effected, unless the magnetic system is properly controlled by magnetic treatment at the same time that the physical system is undergoing medical treatment.
3. All diseases that have not already destroyed vital organs necessary to continue life, can be cured by a judicious medical treatment, using vegetable remedies and a scientific application of the Magnetic healing power.

All cases treated at the Institute, or elsewhere, are examined, received for treatment, and

CURES GUARANTEED

Upon the basis formed by the above conclusions.

CANCER AND CONSUMPTION

Are the great specialties; while

PARALYSIS, RHEUMATISM, DYSPEPSIA,

ASTHMA, HEART DISEASE, ST. VITUS

DANCE, FITS, NEURALGIA, ALL

DISEASES OF THE HEAD, EYES,

EARS, THROAT, LUNGS, LIVER,

KIDNEYS, SPLEEN, BOWELS, LIMBS,

ALL SCROFULOUS AND OTHER SORES,

Are treated with reliable and certain results.

A WORD TO FEMALES.

The physical health and beauty of the coming generation depend upon you. Have you any of that terrible list of complaints peculiar to your sex? And do you know how soon they will undermine the entire physical system and totally unfit you for a wife and mother?

The important bearing this class of diseases has upon the welfare of the human family, has induced the most earnest and searching inquiry as to the best means of cure. A system has been adopted at the Institute, radical and effectual, to which the most sensitive cannot object, as this department has been placed under the charge of competent educated persons of your own sex.

BRIEF SKETCHES from the Autobiography of the **Clairvoyant Sisters, Victoria** (Mrs. Dr. Woodhull) and **Tennessee Claflin**, formerly known as the Wonderful Child, showing some of the incidents that have attended the development and practice of that remarkable SPIRIT SIGHT and HEALING POWER, that have so often convinced the inquiring and confounded the skeptical.

VICTORIA CLAYLIN was born in September, 1840, and TENNESSEE CLAYLIN in October, 1846. At the age of a few months, it began to be observed that they were subject to sudden and singular "sleeps," which evidently were independent of and in addition to their natural rest; these continued, with more or less frequency, until they began to talk, when it was observed that they were conversing with some unseen persons. At about the age of five they commenced relating what they had seen and heard during these singular trances—would say "they had been to see their sisters, who lived in such a beautiful place among the flowers, and who were so good and kind to them that they wanted to go and see them very often." They would often wander to unfrequented spots, and there remain alone for hours, "to learn from their sisters," as they said. At night, when all else were asleep, they would often get up and go to the windows "to see the beautiful people who were out of nights." They would go anywhere at any hour, fear being unknown to them.

DEVELOPMENT OF CLAIRVOYANCE OR SPIRIT SIGHT.

At about the age of seven, an important advancement was made in their development; from the unconscious trance in which they had "seen and heard," they came into full, independent Clairvoyance, or that condition in which spirit-sight and hearing are obtained, when in the conscious, normal state. In this condition, when their minds are called to any particular subject or matter, all the circumstances connected therewith instantaneously come within the sphere of their sight and comprehension, and are related to the inquirer.

A LIFE SAVED.

While Mrs. Dr. Woodhull was making a trip from New York to New Orleans, a gentleman, Hon. B. F. A., fell in company with her. At Cairo, Ill., he was going to proceed on his journey by the Steamboat Platte Valley. She said to him: "Do not go on that boat, for there will be a serious accident occur to her." He did not go on her, and the boat was lost the first night out of Cairo; many lives were lost also. Some months after, Mr. A. called on her and acknowledged that her spirit-sight had undoubtedly saved his life at that time. This gentleman's name will be furnished on application.

ANOTHER.

On September 7th, 1868, the Propeller Hippocampus was lost on Lake Michigan; my business partners, Coolidge, Bailey and Maple, were on her. Supposing them lost, I called on Miss Tennessee to consult about arranging our business. When I told her the boat and all on board were lost, she said: "No, all are not lost; quite a number are saved and will be here in two days; two of your men are among them." She described them so that I recognized Coolidge and Bailey. The 11th the saved arrived, Coolidge and Bailey among them. No news of the boat had come previously.

JAMES KIRBY.

Sworn to before me this 24th of September, 1868, DAN'L POMEROY, Notary Public, City and County of New York; Office 533 Broadway.

Beside the above special selections, hundreds of general public facts have been predicted by them, such as the loss of Ships, Ocean and Lake Steamers and Boats, by Shipwreck or Fire, the result of Elections and Battles, the death of Prominent Men and Women, and especially the assassination of Lincoln, which was predicted at the time of his passing through Pittsburgh, on his way to Washington, first. As his carriage passed the window of the hotel where Miss Tennessee was stopping, she fell over and said: "Lincoln is going to be shot in the head; he will never leave the Presidential Chair alive." The same prediction was repeated several times afterwards, and six weeks before it did actually occur; it was constantly before her, and was told to many persons who can be personally referred to.

A complete history of all the prophecies that have been made by them—and their complete fulfillment is conscientiously asserted—forms one of the most remarkable records in existence.

No person comes before them for consultation without receiving one or more wonderful tests of spirit-sight and power, or information of great importance.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE HEALING POWER.

Gradually this greatest of all gifts began to develop in the Wonderful Children, as they were

then known; they would accurately and minutely describe all the symptoms of disease in every person, giving the cause and the probable result, and propose to cure the same, either by magnetism, by prescribing remedies, or by the use of both combined. Their success was most singularly successful from the very beginning. Thus commenced the most remarkable career of success that has ever fallen to the history of any two persons. No disease seems too insidious to remove, nor patient too far gone to be restored.

BROOKLYN, Nov. 9th, 1868.

I take great pleasure by informing the public that while residing in Chicago, Ill., in 1856, during a spell of sickness, I was poisoned through the mistake of a druggist in putting up a prescription. I immediately sent for three physicians—the best in Chicago—but they all gave me up and said I must die. It so happened that Miss Tennessee, then a mere child of nine years, was in the house. She got on the bed and began to operate with her hands upon my stomach and bowels. I was in the most terrible agony, and expected to die every moment. I gradually got easy, and finally fell into a sweet sleep. I awoke in six hours, and, to my surprise, I was free from all pain; in one week from that time I was able to be up. I have no hesitation in saying that Miss Tennessee saved my life.

MRS. GEORGE LORD.

No. 78 Congress street.

NEW YORK CITY, Nov. 3d, 1868.

Eight years ago I was taken with bleeding from the kidneys, which has continued at intervals ever since. All the best Physicians did me no good, and finally gave me up as an incurable case of Bright's Disease of the Kidneys. My friends had all lost hope, and I had also given up, as I had become so weak I could scarcely walk a block. A friend advised me to go to the Magnetic Healing Institute, 17 Great Jones street, and see what could be done for me there. I went, and after being examined was told I could be cured only by the strictest Magnetic treatment. The first operation affected me strangely, sending piercing pains through my back and kidneys; but I began to improve at once, and now, after one month's treatment, I have returned to my employment, and can walk several miles without fatigue. I can be seen at 172 Adams street, Brooklyn, or at 23 South street, New York.

T. P. RICHARDSON.

A Wonderful Case.

JANESVILLE, WIS., June 10th, 1867.

Three years ago I was taken with Lung Fever, then Pleurisy set in, and six weeks from that time a tumor formed on my left lung, which had to be lance twice, and in two different places. It commenced discharging at times, as much as a pint a day, and continued until within the last four weeks. My strength was gone; the discharge was so great and smelled so bad that no one could stay in the room with me; my feet swelled, my appetite failed; was troubled with a hacking cough, with fever and chills, and the least exercise took my breath away. My friends had given up all hopes of my recovery. I had tried the best Physician in the East, who failed to give me any relief. I had almost given up hopes myself, until I read a card of the Magnetic Healing Institute in the Janesville Gazette, which induced me to try its treatment. I was promised a cure in six months. I commenced rapid improvement at once, and in three months the sore had healed up, and I was able to attend to my regular business, feeling as well and sound as I ever did. I live in Janesville, and am employed on the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad.

JNO. H. NICHOLS.

[From Janesville Gazette.]

Letter from a Patient of Mrs. Woodhull, who declares that his life was saved by her timely treatment.

BOSTON, January 10th, 1869.

MRS. DR. WOODHULL, 17 Great Jones street, New York:

Dear Madam—I feel impelled by a sense of justice, mingled with the deepest gratitude of soul, to write you this letter. In it I wish to state, as distinctly as I can, my belief in your amazing and, I may well say, miraculous powers or gift you are endowed with, viz: to drive out disease and death from the bodies and souls of poor and suffering humanity.

But, through your agency and the blessing of God, I am able to utter more than my simple belief in your wondrous ability to extirpate the terrible malady which preys upon this human constitution, carrying men and women down to the chambers of gloom and despair; often to the suicide's grave—the abyss of woe—but I am here to make known to so much my faith as my absolute knowledge of your singular skill and ability in changing the entire current and forces of mind and body, as exemplified in my own person. And do not, dear Madam, look upon this simple act of justice, in any light, as a stroke of flattery, for I hold that flattery is base coin and a cheat, while at the same time fair praise is sterling gold.

About a month since, being in New York, I was induced to visit your Institute; not that I believed any of you could do me any good, for I had long ago given up my case as a hopeless one. I knew it could not be long before the tomb must be my resting place, for able practitioners had declared me incurable—the disease hereditary, and, as I have little doubt, derived from both my parents; and it has been a source of extraordinary affliction for nearly forty years.

Although there are in your Healing Institute several sisters of you, possessing very extraordinary power, yet it seemed ordained that I should fall into your hands for treatment. In a single word, then, I am cured, and all in one short month. Let me now say, with proper solemnity, you are my saviour! You have saved my life.

It is impossible for me to tell how this thing has been done, unless by the sublime purity of your life and the ruling passion of your soul, which is to do your fellow creatures good and save them from ruin. Philosophers of a certain grade may sneer at this phenomenon and method of treating disease, but it will be accepted very soon, and found to be in the most beautiful harmony with refined forces of matter, with which gross and sensual natures are totally unacquainted.

You are at liberty to make this letter public, and as I shall be in your city more than half the time for some months to come, if any feel sufficient interest in my case, I will meet them at your house for personal conversation, and tell them a thousand times more than I can here write.

Yours truly,

BARTLETT.

Cancer Cured.

I hereby testify that I have been suffering from a cancer in the forehead, right above the eye, for the last seven or eight years. At first it was not very painful, but afterward became so excruciating that I consulted a number of Physicians, among whom were the first authorities of this metropolis. All the advice they gave me and all the medicine I swallowed proved without avail. The last three or four months these pains became almost intolerable, when I heard of the Magnetic Healing Institute, 17 Great Jones street. Like a drowning man I grasped this Straw of Hope, as I considered it, thinking that, all the best Physicians having given me up as hopeless, at last I would not merit the reproach of having neglected anything, if really I should not derive any benefit from this last experiment.

And thank I am to my Maker for this happy inspiration. Five or six days of treatment produced a remarkable change, and seven weeks sufficed for an entire cure. Since the first of December last I have not felt the least inconvenience, and to-day is the 15th of January, an interval of six weeks. The motive which prompts me to make this statement is to benefit, by this information, other fellow sufferers, and to do justice to the establishment which has produced this marvelous cure.

JAMES E. DOW,

118 West 45th street, New York City.

New York, January 15, 1869.

Triumph of Magnetic Treatment.

PLEASANT PLAIN, WARREN CO., O.,

May 15th, 1867.

Last November I placed myself under the treatment of the Magnetic Healing Institute. I had tried all the different Medical practices, and only grew worse. At that time I was greatly reduced in flesh and had no strength—was suffering terribly from Spinal Complaint, Kidney Disease, and in other ways as women only suffer. I had been a Dyspeptic for years, and then could eat nothing but the very lightest food, and that even caused me the greatest distress; in short, I was considered beyond all hope. I had not been under treatment a week before I could eat a respectable meal without distress following it; and since then my difficulties have disappeared one by one, until I now can walk ten miles without fatigue, and really feel better than ever before. My friends all say I look better than for five years.

MISS JENNIE GREGORY.

Paralysis Cured in One Week.

PLEASANT PLAIN, OHIO, June 25th, 1867.

On the first day of April last, I was taken to the Magnetic Healing Institute, from my home in Ohio, on a pallet, having been unable to walk for the past three years. In one week from the time of my arrival, I was able to walk down stairs; the next day I walked two miles, and the next day much further. I am now fully recovered from all my difficulties and sickness, being as well as ever.

MISS ELLA INGLE.

To the Public.

NEENAH, WINNEBAGO CO., WIS.,

June 20th, 1867.

Some twelve years ago I was attacked by a severe pain in my stomach, which gradually assumed all the symptoms of confirmed Dyspepsia; my whole system became very weak and debilitated. I employed the best doctors, but received no benefit; I knew I could not live long unless I got immediate relief. Having heard of some remarkable cures made at the Magnetic Healing Institute, New York, I concluded to let them try my case. I arrived there in an exhausted condition. One of the Clairvoyant Sisters examined my case, and told me when and how it originated, and that it could be cured. I began to feel better after the first operation, and in one week was well enough to return home, taking medicine to complete my recovery.

EBENEZER E. PATTERSON.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9th of July, 1867.

C. C. TOWNSEND,

Justice of the Peace.

Neenah, Winnebago Co., Wis.

Catarrah Cured.

NEW YORK CITY, Dec. 7th, 1868.

I hereby certify that my wife has been afflicted by Catarrah for the last seven years, gradually growing worse and worse. She has treated with the best physicians in New York; all last year with Dr. Fitch, but got no help. About a month ago I persuaded her to take treatment at the Magnetic Healing Institute, 17 Great Jones street. She began to improve from the first, and is now cured. I live at No. 23 Third street, South Brooklyn, where the above facts will cheerfully be given to any inquirer.

JAMES CALER.

Extract from the New York Sunday Dispatch, Jan. 10th, 1869.

They say there is a great revolution rapidly going on in the minds of the people, upon many points of political and social economy, all tending to the one point of Justice and Equal Rights to all, irrespective of nationality, color or sex.

Passing from general to specific things, they say

Grant is the last President that will ever be elected in this country by the votes of the people, as heretofore; that clairvoyance, spirit-mediumship, and all their collaterals, will be laid under a ban of proscription, fine and imprisonment; that patent medicines will be interdicted; that it will finally culminate in a religious war, with conservatism of all kinds arrayed against liberalism; that it will not be confined to this country alone, but will spread to all countries where progressive ideas are seeking root; that liberalism will eventually overcome all opposition, and will then be inaugurated a complete system of government founded on justice and equality, in all respects, which system will be furnished by the great and good of all past times and nations now in spirit-life, whose acknowledged leader is Demosthenes, who already has a complete code of laws framed for the world; these will be given in such a way as to leave no doubt as to their origin.

Extract from the Boston Daily Traveller.

Healing diseases is not their only vocation, nor, indeed, is it the chief thing, though it is an important specialty. And in this they are singular in soliciting such cases only that have baffled the skill of the entire medical fraternity. Grappling, from choice, with such helpless cases, they show numerous instances when terrible disease and suffering has fled at their magic touch.

But I must hasten to tell you of the more astonishing qualities these people claim to possess, and which must needs make a severe draft upon the credulity of the public. They lay claim to the knowledge of future events! Startle if you must; say 'tis invading the province which belongs to God only, if you will; yet they stand ready to prove they possess the gift of prescience. And their argument is that they are no more censurable for exercising such gift than any other persons of any other time. These reformers want to see a government of complete justice, and their faith to this end is absolutely surprising. In the words of a noble reformer, we can say, strong be the heart, abiding the purpose, brave, modest and gentle the spirit of those who toll in their task of the centuries! Free from petulance, from captiousness, from polemic disposition, from schismatic irritability, without controversy and without compromise; sincere as gravitation and sunshine, simple as truth, tolerant as charity, let them work from the whole past and for the whole future, and in a spirit which, transcending all limits of time, makes this fleeting present, in the heart of it, eternal!

Extract from the New York Sunday News, Jan. 24th, 1869.

THE COMING WOMAN.—There are quite a number of noted women attending the National Female Suffrage Convention, who have not heretofore appeared as advocates of the cause. This indicates its growing importance, and shows the intentions are to obtain for it such strength as not only to demand but command the attention of legislation. Its advocates are sanguine of ultimate success. Among those referred to above, we notice Mrs. Victoria C. Woodhull, who has for many years prophesied the coming of great and fundamental reforms in the Constitution and Government of this country, and who now believes these changes are near at hand, and the result to be attained, a system based upon equal rights to all, irrespective of nationality, color, sex, and administered in sternest justice, securing freedom of body, mind and soul to every living being. Mrs. W. possesses a commanding intellect, refinement, and remarkable executive ability, and will undoubtedly play a conspicuous part in such changes, should they come. That she is creating an impression, is apparent from the fact that several leading papers contain articles regarding her. If those our attention has been called to indicate her peculiar talents, she will certainly form a prominent character in coming years. She is also deeply interested in several great public enterprises, such as the removal of the dangerous obstructions to navigation known as Hell Gate, elevated railways, the pneumatic dispatch, and a new system for piers and warehouses adapted to the "tides." She intends remaining here during the present session of Congress in the interest of these enterprises. Possessing the acknowledged talent for it, she may appropriately be called "The Coming Woman."

The above from the Evening Star, Washington, D. C., is not only a well-deserved tribute to the talent and capacity of Mrs. Woodhull, but also a certain prophecy of her future career.

Mrs. Woodhull and her sister, Miss Tennessee Claflin, are professors of Spiritual Science at the Magnetic Healing Institute, No. 17 Great Jones street, this city.

Extract from the New York Daily World, Jan. 28th, 1869.

To cure the ills that afflict society by a new process, woman can do what man cannot, and when she shall employ her psychometric power, and in a scientific direction, as she is destined to before long, some of our learned great men may tremble for their laurels. While man is toiling up the rugged steep by slow and painful steps, with laboring breath and sweating brow, woman instantly flies to the summit, and wonders that man should be so "obtuse" and so slow.

In closing, let me say that I hail as the harbinger of a brighter day for the race this movement for more freedom for woman. It has been estimated that women are much more susceptible of psychometric impression than men, probably in the proportion of five to one; and this is the reason why they are quicker-witted, and arrive at correct conclusions easier, and sooner, and frequently are unable to give the reason for their conclusions; or only a "woman's reason," as it has been styled, "Because it is."

We shall believe in women by-and-by, when, by their keen impressionable natures, we shall have a system of telegraphy outdoing the electric flash, or the fabled post-boy of the gods with wings at his shoes and cap; when Psychometry will be used for the discovery and prevention of crime; for in its presence—and it is omnipresent—the faintest whisper may be audible as the crashing thunder, and no cunning may hide villainy from its eye, and it will no longer be true that "dead men tell no tales." May God and good men hasten the day, never before possible, when bad government, disease and crime shall be banished, and appropriate laurels crown "The Coming Women."

The very best city references given to all who desire them. Consultation hours from 9 A. M. to 9 P. M. Invalids who cannot visit the Institute in person, can apply by letter, which will receive prompt attention. Medicine sent by Express to all parts of the World. All letters should be addressed,

Magnetic Healing Institute,

17 Great Jones Street, New York City