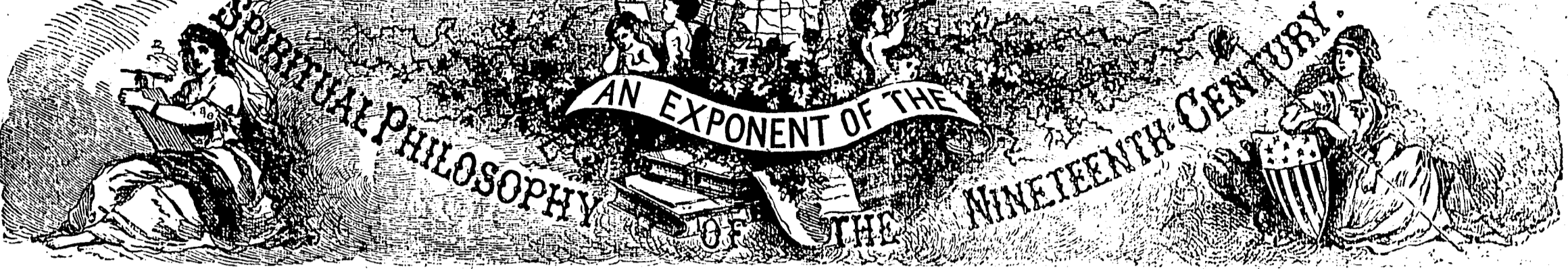


BANNER OF LIGHT.



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NO. 1.

Spiritual Phenomena.

ELEVEN DAYS AT MORAVIA.

BY THOMAS R. HAZARD.

On the 26th of December, 1871, I took an evening train on the New York Central Railroad, at Albany, for Syracuse. Next morning at six took the cars on the same road some twenty-six miles, to the depot at Auburn; thence by omnibus one-half mile, to the depot of the Southern Central Railroad; thence some seventeen miles to Moravia, where carriages were in waiting to take passengers to the far-famed "spirit-house" of Morris Keeler, three-quarters of a mile, for fifty cents each—the whole cost of railroad fare from Boston, omnibus and hack hire included, being less than eleven dollars.

Moravia is a pretty, cozy looking village of some twelve or fifteen hundred inhabitants, pleasantly situated on the southwestern declivity and base of a range of hills running along the easterly side of the rich alluvial Owasco valley, which is several miles long and half a mile or more wide. Fortunately, I found a lodging-room vacant at Mr. Keeler's, there being less of a rush of visitors than usual, owing probably to the domestic festivities of the season. As a general rule, more or less new comers are necessitated to lodge at the village. Though not on the summit, Mr. Keeler's house stands high on the hill. It is nearly new, of two stories, and larger and more commodious and tastily finished than most farmhouses. On its western side or end is a slight projection or alcove, forming in part the base of a tower or cupola of moderate height, commanding a fine view of the surrounding country. An apartment of convenient dimensions in the second story, situated beneath this tower, is set apart exclusively for the "spirit-room." Like the rest of the house, this room is neatly finished and very prettily papered, with the exception I shall presently mention. Its furniture, all included, consists of an air-tight stove, a sofa, a kerosene lamp and candlestick, a small paper screen, a piano and some dozen chairs—a large part of which are broken, rickety or disfigured, in consequence of an ill-bred habit to which some spirits in the form are addicted of tipping back, grubs, to the injury of both chairs and carpets. The alcove, on which the cupola partly rests, is partitioned off with rough boards, rudely and scantily papered, thus making a cabinet some ten feet by four or five in size—an aperture about twelve by thirteen inches being made in the centre of the partition, some four feet above the floor. A piece of black broadcloth some fourteen inches square, fastened at the top only, on the inside of this aperture, excludes or admits the light, the spirits in attendance raising or dropping it themselves to suit their purposes. Four windows in the alcove within the cabinet are tightly boarded up, and rudely fastened over with old newspapers. A movable door, without hinges or latches, some seven feet high by two and a half wide, which, with the aid of list and buttons, it is rather difficult to adjust so as to exclude the light entirely from the interior of the cabinet, completes the meagre arrangement of a tiny room, in which more denizens of the angel-spheres have probably shown themselves to material eyes, within the last few years, than have ever made themselves visible in all the splendid cathedrals and costly churches of Christendom. The whole movable furniture or articles of any kind within the cabinet, consists of one common wooden chair and one battered tin trumpet. Except when sances are being actually conducted, the cabinet stands open at all times for inspection.

The medium, Mrs. Mary Andrews, by the aid of whose occult powers the spirits are enabled to make themselves visible to material eyes, is a rather stout, well-formed married woman, of medium height, apparently from twenty-five to thirty years of age. She is the mother of three nice little girls, the eldest of whom has been adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Keeler. Her husband owns a small house, where they reside, about half a mile away. Mrs. Andrews is comely in face and person, and bright-looking; and if Nature meant to add the stamp of dishonesty or trickery to her features, it made a most transparent mistake. She is very amiable and conversable with those who approach her with respect and kindness, but cannot give any explanation of the why and wherefore of the wonderful phenomena that occur in her presence. Her antecedents are rather remarkable, and I regret that I neglected to obtain a full knowledge of the incidents that attended her early youth and mediumistic development. I understood in brief, however, that her parents are Irish, and that she went in early girlhood to live with an American family not far from Moravia, to whom she became much attached, but was removed by her Catholic parents by direction of their priest, who suspected that her religious faith might be shaken by living in contact with her Protestant friends. Mary, however, was not satisfied with the new arrangement, and suspecting that her parents meditated consigning her to a conventual prison, she absconded from home, and was seen some days after, bare-footed and half-naked, wandering on the shores of the adjacent lake. She finally found employment in a family in Moravia, from whence she went to live as a domestic with Mrs. Keeler, under whose motherly care Mary's extraordinary medium powers were gradually developed.

Mrs. Keeler (as well as her husband) was born and bred in Connecticut, and is one of those modest, unassuming, pale-faced American women, who move about their houses with noiseless and apparently feeble step, and yet manage to accomplish more work, in the same time, than half a dozen of ordinary "help" could be hired to do. She always rises before day, and together with Hannah, her cook, (a remarkably handsome and efficient specimen of the Celtic race,) does the

whole indoor work of the establishment, although there are generally some dozen or more lodgers in the house to be provided for, besides her own family. I marvelled how our hostess was enabled to accomplish so much, until I accidentally learned that her spirit-mother uniformly assists in performing the mundane duties of her daughter, without charge for wages or expense of board.

Mr. Morris Keeler, our host, is a candid, hearty, honest, outspoken specimen of the Yankee farmer of the old "Putnam" stamp, who has (with help of his wife) earned his well-deserved and well-earned broad acres, and something considerable besides, by honest thrift and hard work. He is a pretty tall, large, rough-looking man, who always hangs up his coat when he enters the house, and sits in his shirt-sleeves, though the thermometer may be at zero. Though troubled with asthma, he is pretty fat and jolly, too, and fond of giving and taking a good-natured joke. He accommodates boarders in plain but substantial farmer's style, at one dollar per day, evidently more to please them and the spirits than from any pecuniary motives. [I understand that he did so without charge, until his hospitality was too much taxed for his means.] At first my impressions were not strikingly in Mr. Keeler's favor, but he wonderfully improved upon acquaintance. I soon discovered that whatever might have been his weaknesses or peccadilloes in by-gone days, his intimate relation and intercourse with the spirit-world (or something else) had wonderfully softened and developed his better and higher nature. The heart of the old man seems as big as an elephant's, and filled with love and kindness for all mankind; including even his ignorant and bigoted neighbors; some of whom, I learned, have threatened him with private injury, because of his spiritual proclivities. There is, too, a peculiar softness and tenderness of expression in his eye, rendered more striking by the roughness of his facial setting. When I regarded these fine traits, and listened to the noble though uncouth utterances that often fell unconsciously from his lips, and heard him speak of calling instead of driving his cows to and from pasture, I began to love the uncultured, unlearned man, and ceased to marvel why the angels from heaven had passed by the monarch on his throne, the priest at his altar, and the parson in his pulpit, to come and dwell with plain and rough, but true and spiritual-minded farmer Keeler, in the house that stands on the magnetic hill, overlooking the lovely valley and fair village of Moravia. There is something undefinable in the atmosphere of the place. Everybody under the roof seems cheerful, happy and contented. I think there may have been some sixty arrivals whilst I remained, and each and all, with scarce an exception, seemed to feel at home the moment they entered the door. Nor did I witness more than one unpleasant circumstance whilst under the roof, (and that was satisfactorily explained away.) During the eleven days I stayed, I never left the house but once, further than the adjoining yard, and then only for an hour or two. Terribly contrary to my disposition and usual wont, I always got up in the morning, in a cold room in January, by candle-light, and lived on the plainest food; and yet can truly say that I never experienced a moment's ennui or depression of spirit at Moravia.

With the exception of an occasional private circle, Mary (as Mrs. Andrews is commonly called) generally holds a sance every forenoon and afternoon, including Sundays, at fifty cents for each person. If only four or less sit in private, her charge is two dollars for the whole. The sances begin with what is called a dark circle, the visitors, to the number of eight or ten, ranging themselves in a semi-circle some eight or ten feet from the cabinet (which is not used then) on the outside of the partition, of which, directly under the aperture; Mary sits facing the circle. Sometimes the number of visitors requires the making of two circles, one within the other. The chairs should be arranged in exact order, the feet of all the sitters kept flat on the floor, and the knees as nearly in a semi-circular line as practicable. The hands are then joined, and the light (a very primitive tallow candle) is extinguished. Harmony in the circle is indispensable to secure good manifestations, and this is greatly promoted by singing, in which it is better that all or a large portion of the circle should join. It seems to matter but little what the words are, provided they will admit, like "Old John Brown's Body," of being pronounced with a vim. This is probably because they receive closer attention from the members of the circle, and in that way promote harmony by concentrating the thoughts of all present at one point. Old-fashioned waltzes (probably without knowing why) used to produce a like effect by causing their votaries to look steadily at grounds of tea in a cup. It may be, too, that there is some element that goes forth from the organs of the singers, that is utilized by the spirits and made to contribute to the production of occult voices. In these dark circles the phenomena that occur are quite varied. The floor sometimes assumes a tremulous motion, or the partition of the cabinet is shaken, sometimes violently. Questions are answered by spirit-lights—three appearing as an affirmative—keys of the piano are occasionally struck—water is sprinkled in the faces of the sitters—cold breezes pass around the circle—stars or lights appear in various parts of the room, and sometimes engage in playful exhibitions, as if mingling in a dance. The flapping of something like the wings of a large bird is heard as if close by, and on two occasions I and some others were sprinkled with something that felt cold but not moist. Besides these manifestations, spirit voices (sometimes very distinct) generally join in the singing. The hands and persons of sitters are patted by spirit-friends, and generally some of these manifest themselves by speaking audibly or in distinct whispers, sometimes at considerable length. Once while I was present the tin trumpet was thrown out of the aperture in the cabinet on to the floor

picked up and spoken through by a spirit, then dropped on the floor, and again taken up and thrown back into the cabinet. After some thirty or more minutes have expired, a spirit voice in a cheerful or jocose tone (and generally with a German or Indian accent, though not always) asks that a light may be struck—and the dark sance closes.

Mary now takes her seat in the cabinet opposite the door, which is closed so as to exclude the light. The kerosene lamp is next lighted and set on the piano, turned partly down, the candle extinguished and the lamp so adjusted by an exceedingly primitive screen as to reflect directly on the aperture in the cabinet. [If some visitor would present Mrs. Keeler with a score of wax or spermaceti candles it might be the means of improving the atmosphere of the room]. The members of the circle should sit as before, and again join in singing. Before the faces, arms or hands appear, the curtain is lifted by the spirits, sometimes in part, at other times in whole. At times the tin trumpet is used by them to speak through the aperture—their faces not always being visible (though sometimes) on such occasions; more generally, however, they speak audibly without the aid of the trumpet, their faces being visible, and even the motion of the lips plainly discernible. After the light sance has continued some thirty minutes or more, a finger generally announces its close by pointing toward the door from the corner of the aperture; at other times, raps or shaking of the cabinet infirm to that the medium should be let out. Perhaps this clumsy description may convey to uninitiated readers some idea of the mode that is pursued in obtaining spirit manifestations at Moravia, and of the phenomena that occur more or less at every sance, so that they can better comprehend what follows, as well as much that has before been published on the subject.

Upon my arrival on the 27th of December at Mr. Keeler's, I found but three or four visitors there, including a Mr. Livingston, who resided not many miles away, and Mrs. Kate Gibbs of Utica, N.Y., both of them highly mediumistic and friends of the family, and familiar with the phenomena that usually occur. At the first sance, held on the afternoon of the 27th inst., the manifestations were weak and unsatisfactory. In the dark and light circles, as the latter two male faces appeared at the same time, but were too indistinct to be recognized or described. I was told by those present that for several weeks past the power had been daily decreasing and apparently dying out. Mr. Keeler himself told me that he was not expecting the usual manifestations to continue, as the spirits were about making a change. Mary, the medium, seemed also downhearted and discouraged, and I began to fear that the object of my visit to Moravia would prove a failure. Before leaving New York I had two sittings with Mrs. Staats, 53 East 20th street, at which my wife and two daughters came among others, and reiterated their intention (as before conveyed through the mediumship of Mrs. Keokwood, 11 East Springfield street, Boston) of showing themselves to me at Moravia. My daughter Anna (who passed away in early womanhood) told me that she meant to hand me a lily (her favorite flower when in earth-life). The communications made through Mrs. Staats were in writing, which I read and put in my valise, not knowing that I should ever refer to them again; but on learning the state of things at Moravia, I re-read them and was surprised to find how nearly some of the statements they contained tallied with what I found existing there; especially two communications purporting to emanate from the spirit of Theodore Parker, extracts from which I give below, word for word, exactly as written by the hand of Mrs. Staats, Dec. 14th and 21st, 1871.

"My friend, I promise you, if you will remain to join the circle which will gather, to add another crowning proof to your faith. We know that you have the attracting power, and all we ask is the time. There are so many going there, that as you are well aware, the place requires some change of magnetism, and the medium some instruction. Men and women who go entirely out of curiosity are very apt to carry with them an adulterated magnetism, which leaves sometimes an odor and a sphere very disagreeable to a more advanced spirit. The wonder is, that it has run so long as it has without an entire break-up. The medium seldom has a person sit down with her who regards her with the slightest degree of humanity. Indeed, they hold her responsible for all disappointments that may arise, and expect from her the greater manifestation, from the fact of their unbelief. We desire to have you give her some encouragement; and we ask also that you remain as long as possible, making some suggestions, which we will give you, to improve the condition of affairs there. The fact is, the medium is already in a transition state, and the control are undecided whether to remove or increase the manifestations. I want the cabinet simplified and made more convenient; for, as these manifestations increase there, they will spread everywhere, and the result will be, spirits talking face to face with man. I see great advancement and earnest investigation everywhere. One thing is certain: nothing else can make man a law to himself and a light to others, and there is but one thing to look for progress in, namely: individual reform—learning to think and act for one's self. I will not interfere with your family circle, but will show myself, if possible, to you. I await any question you may see fit to ask." [I will here just say that Mr. Keeler assured me before I left Moravia that he would rebuild the cabinet.]

At a second sitting, Dec. 21st, the same spirit said: "I come with you, my friend, to night, and will pleased to meet you. I come to offer our congratulations, and ask you to go forward in the path of progress, being bold in the truth. The time has arrived when all material things point to a verification of what was told you so

long ago. The great struggles for truth are still going on, the conflict still being waged; and heaven and earth are acting in concert to produce to man the proper evidences of life immortal. Your articles have made a better basis for mediums, and opened the way for us to do our work better. We ask that you go to Moravia. We promise to meet you there, and will talk face to face with you. Do not allow anything to interfere with you. Go alone, and be prepared to wait a few days, at least. Do not be hastened away, nor let those come in with you who are any way disengaged. We shall advise you, going in what we call the holiday week, for the season that most persons will be at home at that time, and there will be less confusion there. In finishing this, we will give you a list of who will meet you there; and we ask that you throw off all external care, and wait patiently until we come. We promise, and will perform. Daniel Webster, Theodore Parker, your mother, wife and two daughters, plain."

Here the control was suddenly broken by an interruption. Both before going and whilst at Moravia, I frequently stated that I had seen and heard enough to satisfy my beyond doubt of a future state of existence, and that the object of my visit was not so much to obtain any new light for my own satisfaction as for that of others, believing that if I could see a spirit face so clearly as to be willing to affirm to its identity, it might be the means of causing some others to break away from the trammels of early education and habit, and investigate the subject for themselves. I was therefore careful to say nothing to compromise my object, and further than the bestowal of a few words of encouragement and sympathy upon the medium. I said nothing until several days after my arrival at Moravia in connection with the foregoing spirit communications. On the next day, the 28th, the manifestations were somewhat better, both in the dark and light circles, than they had been, as was said, for some weeks. A daughter of Mr. Livingston—who died in very early infancy—came and delivered quite a lengthy and highly instructive discourse. Several hands and arms were plainly exhibited, both outside and immediately within the cabinet, some of which were acknowledged as my wife's and daughters'. What purported to be my own mother, showed herself so that I could clearly see her plain Quaker bonnet, with cap beneath, but not her face distinctly enough to recognize it. Others present—whose eyesight was stronger than mine—described the features, however, as very much resembling hers. She also spoke for a minute or two very sensibly and characteristically—but not in her natural voice—like one speaking through a trumpet, which might have been the case, as her face was not visible whilst speaking. Although I felt no doubt of her identity, and so expressed myself, she seemed disappointed that I could not see her more plainly, and made repeated efforts to bring her face further forward into the light. [I regretted that I had not brought an opera-glass with me, which might have assisted my vision.]

On the forenoon of the next day, the 29th, my mother showed herself again in the same bonnet and cap, but I was still unable to distinguish her features so as to recognize them, although I had no doubt, as before, of her identity. Several new comers had joined this morning circle, and among them G. E. Hoyt of Chicago, who seemed to possess a magnetism wonderfully attractive to spirits. At this sance, several of his deceased relatives and friends showed themselves plainly, and conversed intelligently with him. I question whether there were any persons present who doubted their individual identity, though it would require a volume to describe the various shades and characters of phenomena that occur at only one of these sittings, so as to make them intelligible to readers who have never witnessed the manifestations. The following account, given me by a highly intelligent gentleman from Watkins, Schuyler Co., N.Y., who was present, will convey probably as good an idea of what generally occurs at one sance as can be given in equal space:

MORAVIA, N.Y., Dec. 30th, 1871.
MR. THOMAS R. HAZARD, Sir: I consider it a pleasant duty to give my testimony as to what I saw at Mr. Morris Keeler's, Friday morning, Dec. 29th. The first face shown at the aperture was so indistinct I could not describe what it was, but upon the spirit being requested to make an effort to give us something we could recognize, the face was shown several times, each time a little more distinct than at former efforts, until we were convinced that it was a colored woman's face. The next face was rather indistinct, but I think some one recognized it. The third face was so plain that a gentleman at once, without any hesitation or equivocation, positively asserted it to be his mother, to which the old lady bowed assent, and seemed rejoiced that her son so promptly recognized her. The fourth face was that of my own dear sister Emily, every lineament of which was shown with the utmost and unmistakable distinctness. When young, she fell against the stove and cut quite a gash in her cheek; (and always carried the scar) the scar was now shown as plain as in the earth-life. I asked several questions, and in every instance got perfectly satisfactory and truthful answers, either by the nod of her head, or by the motion of the hands that were shown through the aperture in the partition. In spite of my best efforts to control my emotions, tears of joy and gratitude flowed, as I knew it was a reality. I felt as though heaven was very near earth. If I could see their friends as distinctly as I saw my sister, there would be no doubt of immortality. The fifth face was very distinct, and I should think thoroughly materialized; it was projected through the aperture far enough so all could see the motions of the lips as he spoke in an audible voice in answer to questions propounded to him by a lady from Utica; there was a natural recognition between the lady and the spirit. In answer to one question, he said, "Thank God, it will be all right yet." The lady seemed pleased, and in fact quite overcome with joy. Audible voices were frequently heard during the sance. Arms and hands were shown plainly, distinctly too exhibiting arms above the elbow. Four hands were shown at one time. I have given a truthful statement of a portion of the wonders shown to myself and ten others. I presume the others present saw as plainly as I did. If any portion of the above hastily drawn de-

scription is of use to you, you are welcome to it. Yours respectfully,
W. L. VESSELUS, M.D.

At the afternoon sance no faces or hands were exhibited, one of the controlling spirits assigning as a reason that they were endeavoring to arrange to make the faces more distinct, so that those whose eyesight was not strong might see them plainer. This the spirits succeeded in doing, and for the remainder of the time that I attended the circles I could see the features of many of the faces that were exhibited, as clearly as if I had met them on the street at noonday. Still, greatly to my annoyance, my own mother never sufficiently succeeded in materializing her features so as to make them plain and absolutely recognizable to me, although at my request she would move her face from one side of the aperture to the other, and place it in other different points of view. On one occasion I remarked that although I could not distinctly see her features, I felt entirely sure it was my own mother! To which she replied in a distinct whisper, "Yes, Thomas, it is as true as that the sun rises." [I think this manifestation occurred at a private sance on Jan. 1st.] Besides showing her face in the light, my mother came several times in the dark circles and manifested her presence by patting my head or hand with hers, or by speaking sometimes at considerable length in an audible, though not her natural earth-voice. At one time she seemed to stand close by in front of where I was sitting, and with a mother's affectionate partiality said in a distinct whisper, "Thomas, my son, I am with you in all your good works." It would take too much space to describe even a moiety of the manifestations I witnessed at the sances and more sances I attended at Moravia; I will therefore just refer to a few of the incidents that occurred, and hasten to conclude with the narrative of some that more particularly related to my own spirit family.

As before remarked, Mr. Hoyt (who was a most earnest and outspoken "Spiritualist," and, I should think, in every sense of the word, "a live man") seemed endowed with an organism or magnetism singularly adapted to intercommune with the denizens of the "spirit world." He passed through New York, on his way to Moravia, where he had sittings with Charles H. Foster and Dr. Slade—before one or the other, or both of which mediums, I understood him to say, every individual friend who subsequently appeared at Moravia had announced their intention of so doing, and among these, Orestes, an attendant Indian guide of Dr. Slade's. It seems that Mr. Hoyt has three wives in the spirit-world, each and all of whom showed themselves to him unmistakably at Moravia. One of these, who had died of consumption, appeared in her night-dress, holding a handkerchief close to her chin. She anticipated Mr. Hoyt in giving an explanation, by putting it to her mouth, as with a feeble cough she expiratorily upon it, and folded it up in her hand, precisely as Mr. Hoyt said who had been accustomed to do for some weeks or months before her death. After this, another of Mr. Hoyt's wives, with two of her children, were successively passed by the inside of the aperture in the cabinet, in reclining attitudes, bunched up in what looked like bed-clothes, including, in the instance of one of the children, a red blanket. These manifestations seemed rather mysterious, until Mr. Hoyt stated that his wife and two children died of the small pox, and to avoid spreading the infection, were wrapped up in their beds, and so buried. Several other of Mr. Hoyt's friends showed themselves distinctly, and conversed with him; and among these was the Indian, Orestes, who said he came to fulfill his promise, made to Mr. Hoyt at the map Slade's. In answer to queries, Orestes said he came through the power of a magnetism he brought from Dr. Slade's, and should return to Dr. S. on the strength of what he would obtain from the circle at which he was then present.

One of the most active and efficient controlling spirits of both the dark and light circles at Moravia, is an Indian squaw called Honto. She frequently spoke very sensibly, though characteristically, of her Indian origin. "On one occasion, while delivering quite a lengthy discourse in clear and forcible language, she took pride in exhibiting a beautiful scarlet blanket that was richly trimmed and ornamented with beads more brilliant than glass or even diamonds. Parts of the blanket were occasionally pushed some inches outside of the aperture, where they would remain for a minute or more, and then be drawn in (probably to re-materialize), and again put forth. In depth and richness of color I think the scarlet equaled anything I have ever seen, and, with the addition of the dazzling beads, produced a most pleasing and striking effect.

Mrs. Kate Gibbs (before alluded to) has a very intelligent and interesting angel-guide, whose spirit name is Rosa. She has been thoroughly identified as the spirit of a young Indian girl named Sikpey, who passed from earth-life some years ago in the neighborhood of Utica. It is customary to hold circles on almost every evening in the spirit-room at Moravia, apart from those for the usual manifestations, there generally being more or less mediums from a distance present. On these occasions the bright and ever cheerful little Rosa occupied a prominent position. Mr. Keeler seemed mischievously fond of teasing her, and on one occasion twitted her with not having so pretty a blanket as Honto's. This brought out the childlike earth feelings of Rosa, who pettishly replied, "Yes Honto—Honto; nobody is anything but Honto; me got blanket as pretty as Honto's." At a subsequent cabinet sance Rosa came and talked for some minutes, mostly with her meek, low she called Mrs. Gibbs (as Honto had done) she pushed her red blanket (as Honto had done) out of the aperture for us to admire. It was very pretty, but not as deep a scarlet color as Honto's, nor was it ornamented with beads. In answer to a query trenching on theology, Rosa

re | Glendening, England.

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Banner of Light.

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Volume Thirty-One.

Fifteen years have elapsed since we sent out to a skeptical world the first number of the BANNER OF LIGHT. What mighty changes in theological beliefs! How many struggles have occurred since then! At that time we were ostracized by seven-eighths of the community, persecuted in various ways, and our motives impugned by many good people who—instead of—saw through a glass darkly, but, with aid from the higher life, which we fully acknowledge with the deepest gratitude, we from year to year surmounted all obstacles—though their number was legion—and today we are blessed with the knowledge that the mighty truths we have sent out to the world of mind have borne ample fruit; for Spiritualism has become a fixed fact. Therefore we have great reason to rejoice that the efforts we have put forth in behalf of truth have been, in so great a degree, crowned with success. There is opening up, in the immediate future, a larger field of operations, wherein Spiritualists will be called to labor; all the great reform subjects demand our attention and cooperation, to the end that humanity may in time rise out of its present degraded condition and stand upon a more spiritual plane, and to that end our efforts will be untiringly directed.

We are happy to state to our tens of thousands of readers that the BANNER is established on a firm basis; but, notwithstanding, we urgently appeal to all our friends to continue to exert themselves in our behalf. More than ever, a paper like ours should circulate in every household of the land. Those who would avail themselves, therefore, of an established organ of the broadest liberalism and of regular spirit intercourse, may subscribe to the BANNER with a perfect certainty that they are working with high spirit power, not merely for their own personal exaltation and advancement, but for the building up and spreading wider and wider of the noble cause of Spiritualism.

With this brief review, we open Volume Thirty-one of the BANNER OF LIGHT.

The Portents of the Hour.

Those who have endeavored by observation to render themselves at all conversant with events as they are daily transpiring among men, must be fully satisfied that, in the world of political life, as well as that of theological speculation, great changes are impending, whose magnitude may not at this early stage be grasped, but whose forecast shadows are as threatening to "established" things of a fossiliferous order, as was the mystic "Apocalypse" to the trembling Babelian. Signs of uneasiness at and active inquiry as to the justice of their state, are perceptible everywhere among the great, toiling masses, who give their lives but for a pittance which is to support (2) or, rather, keep from starvation their beloved families; signs of distrust for the future by the capitalist, who guards his treasures with a jealous eye; signs of fraudulent dealing and gigantic "ring" speculations, and soulless corporate operations, are about on every hand, and the hour of change must come, the guard on the dial of time is even now to the quick, present ear—clicking its warning of the last step of the stroke shall sound!

While we have not turned our attention to treading the crooked paths of political canvases, or joining the exciting struggle of current election campaigns, yet, in common with all lovers of humanity, our prayer is, and ever has been, for the sustenance of a free government, unhindered by creed, unbound by any privileged order on this continent of North America; and as we belong to a class whose prayers are measured by their works, rather than their words, we have ever tried to match our deeds with our professions. And holding such views, it is with a feeling of melancholy that we look across the seething bosom of the land to-day, and mark everywhere the outcroppings of disintegration, which will, if not curbed, precipitate all that has yet been gained for political freedom in the New World either into the arms of a military despotism, or the ranks of that fratricidal strife typified by Mexico and the South American republics.

What are the necessities of the hour? It is comparatively easy to enumerate them—but where are the unselfish, patriotic souls who are ready to sacrifice all in their attainment? We want undisturbed guarantees of religious liberty, the enactment and enforcement of just laws, the purity of the ballot-box, proper qualifications in candidates for office, popular education in its most all-embracing sense, an impartial Executive, an incorruptible Congress, a fearless Judiciary, and a steadfast opposition to all sorts of corruption and evil practices in politics or social life, no matter among what people or in what party.

No one, not blinded by animosity or culpable ignorance, can deny these propositions—in fact, the various rallying cries of the party organizations express a determination—not, however, coupled, we are sorry to say, with execution when they are successful—to inaugurate in a broader degree the reign of these much-desired principles, which are the crowning nimbus of the republic.

There are also many writers and speakers who, from individual standpoints, are teaching what they believe to be panaceas for all political wrongs, and their ideas and plans, as well as those of the dominant party, must be received and considered by every one who desires to take in the range of the great questions which time seems at last, Sphinx-like, to propound to the statesmen of America.

Mrs. Victoria C. Woodhull, who through her able journal, as well as by her eloquent utterances, has done brave work for truth, and whose course, in all good acts, we have ever commended, has set on foot, in common with other earnest workers, a project for a grand Combination Convention, to be held in New York City about the first of the coming month of May, where all

branches of radicalism and reform may meet together to discuss plans of union against a common outside pressure. Its overt intent to construct a platform and nominate candidates for President and Vice President—the first so broad as to be susceptible of including every human right, and the latter the best possible exponents of every branch of reform.

With regard to this enterprise, we have, as before stated, an anxiety to perceive the line of operations in which it will be founded, as the problem to be dealt with is one of more than usual magnitude, calling for its treatment cool heads and steady hands. Mrs. Woodhull, in the course of her editorial in her Weekly of March 23, has succinctly given the history of the rise of the present dominant party, in the following words:

"The Republican party grew into power, not because it was the representative of freedom as an abstract principle, but because freedom was right, and its application demanded to cure an existing ill. It sprang into existence, boldly undertook its task and as gracefully accomplished it."

But she impeaches that party as having simply ceased its labors for human advancement, when its first great work was done, and declares that:

"The recent actions and avowals of the leaders of the Republican party make it impossible for any citizen of liberal tendencies to any longer maintain or affiliate with it. In its self-consciousness of the power of position, and having the control of all the patronage of the Government, it ignores the demands of a large body of its adherents. It imagines it can stand and defy them. It thinks they will desert from its folds. It does not believe there can be another party organized of sufficient strength to endanger its success in the next election."

Looking at the case from her position, she maintains that the people cannot remain in a state of quiescent lassitude; that other needed reforms are coming to the surface demanding attention, and that those who defend and promulgate these lies to human amelioration, though ostracized and down-trodden by the party in power, even as its friends were sneered at and opposed in the days preceding the late civil war, will, when properly concentrated, move on to certain victory:

"The Republican party was the consolidation of all the more radical elements of the country. It conquered political power and the defeated party rebelled, from which followed a terrible conflict, such as was never before known. The new party, whose organization is now under consideration, has the same elements of success for its foundation, and the same promise of triumph that the Republican party had."

Upon this view of the case she issues the call for the several reformatory elements of the country to co-operate determinedly together—the great laboring class, the uneducated masses, the people of every kind and character; the people of progressive tendencies, whose hearts entertain liberal and expansive sentiments, that they may organize their forces for successful operation, under the broad designation of a "Human Rights Party." The issue of this call has already attracted wide attention. The Boston Daily Advertiser, as one of the advocates of the present order of things, in a lugubrious editorial article, commencing with the name of Mrs. Woodhull, practically confesses, before the close of it, that the threatening combination of parties and people for reform and progress and liberal government presents initial characteristics not to be contemplated with perfect satisfaction. The Woodhull banner is inscribed with what the Advertiser and its hunkerish class do not relish the reading of. This year is to witness a pretty thorough shaking up of the dry bones of old fossilism, and the more sagacious of that side of the house begin to scent out the fact already.

We shall watch the development of the new party movement with great interest, hoping that its adherents on coming together will clearly state the views entertained and the ground occupied by themselves, that no ambiguity may mislead the general public as to their intention, and no reformer of any shade be left in doubt and uncertainty as to the course he should pursue concerning it. As we have frequently said, the forward movement is inevitable—the only question arising is the practicability of the plans now and then presented for the furtherance of the ends desired.

The Great Anniversary.

The twenty-fourth anniversary of the dawn of modern Spiritualism will occur on the 31st of March, and the event will be properly observed by the Spiritualists of Boston, New York, Chicago, and various other cities and towns in the United States.

The Executive Committee which has in charge the Boston Spiritualist Free Meetings at Music Hall, announce that, as the 31st of March occurs on Sunday, the anniversary will be celebrated on Monday evening, April 1st. The exercises, which will take place at Music Hall, will consist of brief addresses from some of the best speakers in our ranks, interspersed with singing by competent artists, till nine o'clock, when the hall will be cleared for dancing, which will commence at ten, and continue till one o'clock.

The first part of the exercises will probably be presided over by Daniel Farrar, Esq., a well-known prominent merchant and highly respected citizen, and one of the early investigators of the Spiritual Philosophy, who since has ever been among the most liberal contributors to sustain financially our public meetings and the cause generally.

The entire proceeds of the celebration, over the expenses, are to be appropriated to defray the costs of the free spiritual meetings in Music Hall, Sunday afternoons. Of the thousands who attend these meetings, probably all feel an interest in having them continued, and will be willing to contribute a small fee to help them on, especially when they are to regale so rich a return for the outlay. We shall be able to give further particulars in our next issue.

Within the limit of a quarter of a century what a vast work of emancipation has been accomplished for the human mind by the blessed influences of our holy faith! No man can begin to compute the value of this New Dispensation as the freedom-giving agent of this wonderful age. It has done more, by its silent, steady and irresistible testimonies of fact, to dissolve the fabric of iron-bound bigotry in which the common mind has so long been incarcerated by Old Theology, than could have been done by mere logic and persuasion in a whole century—yes, or in several centuries; for here is its secret: that it has divulged the facts about which the priests have made such a mystery, and brought people to see and know for themselves that which it was before denied them to be familiar with. We could not employ a better or more expressive word to embody the work of modern Spiritualism than EMANCIPATION; and let the twenty-fourth anniversary of its appearance on earth be celebrated by all with such evidences of joy and brotherly feeling as the contemplation of so great an event ought to excite.

The National Commissioner of Education gives information that there are in this country 5,669,074 persons over ten years of age who can neither read nor write.

Liberal Thought at Horticultural Hall.

On Sunday afternoon, March 31, Col. T. W. Higginson delivered the ninth lecture in the regular course at this hall, his theme being "The Life and Character of Buddha." A larger audience than has heretofore attended this course of lectures was present, and the speaker was listened to with profound attention by all.

After explaining the sources from which his information was drawn, the lecturer gave a long and highly interesting sketch of the life of Siddhartha the Buddha, or Sakya-Muni, who died more than two thousand years ago. No religion, he said, had done so much for the Asiatic races as Buddhism.

It has always been a question whether it is a nobler thing for a reformer to rise from the common people to his work, than for a man in lofty station to descend and lay aside the advantage of his position. The author of Christianity was of the former, the author of Buddhism of the latter class.

Buddha was the son of an Indian king, and for the first sixteen years of his life was reared in all the luxury of a palace, special care being taken to keep every disagreeable object from his sight. At that age he was made prince royal and married. He then began to show a great aptitude for study, and, although still quartered in the palace, happened on three occasions, according to the stories, to meet first an aged man, then a sick man, then a corpse, neither of which objects had ever met his eye before. By these he was induced to reflect, and determined to give up his life of luxury, and in spite of the power of caste, to assume the yellow robe, the shaven head, and the life of the mendicant monk. An enthusiastic seeker after spiritual truth, he begged his bread in strange cities, going to Brahmin after Brahmin in his search, but never finding it. He then joined a band of ardent religious enthusiasts, practicing their austerities for six years, leaving them so suddenly as to be deemed an apostate by them, and, after passing through an experience symbolized under the form of a contest with demons, who shook the mountains but not him, and whose weapons turned to garlands of flowers when they touched him, while the whole universe rejoiced at his victory, he at last resolved to teach the doctrine which had been revealed to him, although half fearful that men would not strive to understand it.

He commenced preaching at the age of thirty-five, and died peacefully after forty-five years of preaching self-denial and forbearance among all classes, bidding his followers not to be concerned about his remains after his death should have entered Nirvana, but rather to be solicitous to practice the virtues which lead men to perfection.

Various particulars of Buddhist doctrine tending to more clearly show the character of the founder of the sect were stated at some length, by Colonel Higginson. The four principal points of the Buddhist doctrine, those which constitute "The Wheel of the Law," as it is called, are the existence of pain, the source of pain in unregulated desires, the destruction of pain by destroying these desires, and the means of effecting this work. Upon these four points, around this wheel, revolves the whole system of Buddhism. When first beginning to teach, Sakya-Muni found that not only spiritual, but moral forces were arrayed against him; the doctrine of caste was deeply rooted in all life. Public execution or the direct torture was a trifling penalty compared to that which he incurred who violated caste, for he condemned himself to eternal degradation, from which no form of transmigration could raise him. This Buddha destroyed, not by saying anything against it, but simply crushing it by the force of his example, and to-day, in all the East, Hindostan is the only country where caste remains in force. Buddhism, wherever it goes, elevates the condition of women; its founder declared at first about admitting them to be his disciples, lest they should impair the stability of those institutions which have, after all, endured for two thousand two hundred years.

Christianity presents love and reconciliation, while Buddhism presents renunciation and love. Both fail in the Greek elements of beauty. The human race, the speaker thought, had got beyond the point where any single channel of religious belief would satisfy it. One great teacher was not enough for all the world. All must exist, and all, though unequal, must be accepted. Buddha is but one man, and must be taken for what he is worth, while we are only careful to give him all the credit which is his due.

Spirit Rapping vs. "Roman Firmness."

It is frequently our lot to meet, in the columns of the secular press, well-defined specimens of spirit manifestations, just as clearly cut as are the polished sides of the crystal by Nature's lapidary; the tale is told with earnestness—the conclusion is irresistibly arrived at in the mind of the reader, but for "respectability's" sake a saving clause is inserted, either by the narrator, the writer or the editor, lest somebody's sanity should be held at a discount "in our set." When will the truth—whatever form it may take—be welcome to the hearts of men, unopposed by benumbing bigotry or the stupefying spell of early education? Read this paragraph—(a test case)—from a late issue of the Boston Herald—the italics are our own:

"SINGULAR MANIFESTATIONS.—The New Haven Palladium relates the following:

A gentleman was recently called to this city on account of the imminent death of a child of his brother. The evening of his arrival the child was found to be very low, but it was expected that she would live through the night. The gentleman was to spend the night at another brother's, and, not apprehending the death of the child before morning, retired. He was awakened in the night by a tapping at the window, which continued long enough to annoy him. Thinking that it was caused by the wind blowing a branch against the window pane, he arose and opened the window, intending to break off the branch. He was surprised to find nothing which could in any way touch the window, and retired. The tapping was continued, however, and with such regularity as to suggest some one's doing it. The gentleman, who was not a believer in supernatural manifestations, but merely for experiment, said: 'Is that a spirit tapping? if yes, tap twice; if no, three times.' To his surprise two taps followed. He then named his former acquaintances who were dead, and asked if it was any of them. Three taps followed until he mentioned the name of a relative, and then he was answered by two taps. He asked if the little child was dead, and three taps followed, and on asking if she was dying, two taps. Only a few moments after a messenger came from the house where the little girl lay, to announce that she was dying. The gentleman went just in time to be present at the last moments. The gentleman is an honored resident of another town in Connecticut, and, moreover, a man of high character and principle. He regards the event as singular, but refuses still to believe that it was the work of any supernatural agency."

A portion of the secular press of this city contained, on Wednesday last, a strange account of spiritual manifestations at the South End. We shall ascertain whether the printed statements are correct before giving them currency through our columns.

Mr. Voysey and the Unitarians.

We find the following mention of the Rev. Charles Voysey in a letter in the Transcript, from a Brookfield, Mass., correspondent, signed B., whose true place no doubt should be with the "Orthodox," though, we suppose, he would style himself a "liberal Christian":

"I heard Voysey preach in the beautiful Unitarian Church in Liverpool, and I do not wonder that he was not acceptable in the English Church. He would not be in the better class of Unitarian pulpits. I am sorry to say that he showed the same weakness too many others reveal when they go over from one faith to another, owing to the opposite extreme. He is a slender, mild, youngish man, quiet in manner, hardly interesting or attractive; but full of bitter sarcasm and unfair statements, and denunciations of his former Orthodox associates and tenets; he repels you, and you pity his weakness, and feel for the cause which, in trying to advocate, he casts reproach upon."

Mr. Voysey will find himself among the radicals, who fall at least in this, that in tearing down the theological shelter under which people make out to live comfortably if not in perfect ease, they forget to erect any kind of covering, but leave all to the wide prairie of free thought, and the cold embrace of reason and naturalism. The middle ground in theology is always the safest, and true liberal thought will lead one to embrace every truth from every source, in every age, and while conservative enough to cling to the good and true in the past, and in all creeds, will be progressive enough to move with the progress of the age, and welcome all truth and light that the future has in reserve. Thus shall we hasten the time when all churches shall be reckoned as branches of the one true church, with one faith, one Christ, one destiny."

"The middle ground in theology is always the safest." That phrase gives the writer's measure better than could any comments of our own; as if safety, not truth, were the main consideration! As for Mr. Voysey, he is one of the noblest plain-speakers of the day in theology; and it is for uttering such sentiments as the following that he offends those conservative Unitarians who go in for a "safe middle course":

"If there is one thing more than another that ought always to set you on your guard against a teacher of religion, it is when he comes to you with the assertion of his own spiritual authority, and either brags you with promises of eternal happiness, or threatens you with the penalties of eternal misery in order to persuade you to think as he does. No man has a right to be listened to for a moment who dares to set himself up as the spokesman of God, as having the right to dictate to you what you shall or shall not believe. If any minister, or any church, or any book should presume to make this arrogant claim over your mind and consciences, you are bound to reject it as men. Your loyalty to God in heaven, and your fealty to his voice in your consciences, command you to resist and to reject the insolent usurper of the divine throne in your hearts."

This may not suit Unitarians, but it will suit Spiritualists very well, we believe. We have read every printed sermon of Mr. Voysey's that has come into our hands, and, though we find much in them to scare such weak brothers as the correspondent of the Transcript, we find nothing that will not be welcomed by every free, sincere and devoted thinker, whose mind is not cabined and hemmed in by the upholstery of the thirty-nine articles, and similar musty rubbish. Mr. Voysey is a noble and gifted writer, and we heartily bid him God speed.

The Rarity of Christian Charity.

The account given below, which we copy from the secular press, records to our mind one of the legitimate fruits of that system of theological education which places faith above works, and loud-mouthed pretensions above the interior promptings of the heart. The story has the true ring in it:

"It is with a grim smile that the 'Table Talker' chronicles the worldly wisdom of a preacher at Elmira, N. Y., one of whose congregations marked a four dollar dollar twelve dollars, and sought to secure eight dollars worth of praise for his liberality, on the last of the year. The shepherd then found down to his sheep's store next day, and found the sheep with his foot on the scale on which he was weighing some salt fish for a poor widow. The shepherd said that he was plain and humble, and modified his flesh by avoiding valinglorious display. So, if the sheep had no objection, he would return the twelve dollar pastor, and take away the eight dollar worth of assorted groceries. The sheep couldn't help him, and submitted with a good grace, and his customers must expect short weight and scant measure until he has made up the eight dollars."

We are forcibly reminded, by the above, of that ancient store-keeper in Maine, who is represented as having a customer—a deacon—on a certain occasion, who purchased from him a quantity of wool at forty-five cents per pound. While he was apparently engaged in looking another way, the sharp (?) buyer caught up a skim-milk cheese of solid dimensions and dropped it in the sack containing the wool. The shop-keeper, who had perceived the whole transaction, suddenly remarked:

"Why, I neglected to put down the amount which that wool weighed; I shall be obliged to try it again," and, to the discomfiture of his patron, he dumped it on the scale. Consequence: the paying of forty-five cents per pound for the cheese, which could have honestly been purchased for perhaps seven cents—as the deacon dare not make mention of the cause for the added weight, and settled the bill without a murmur.

How do such examples of worldly wisdom among the saints compare with the following, which is told, also by the secular press, concerning a man whom the clergy at his death denounced as an "unbeliever," etc., etc.:

A MOURNER INDEED.—"For six months he has kept me and my child from starvation, and I have never seen his face," said a weeping woman, holding a little girl by the hand, as she pushed through the throng on to James Fisk's coffin, in the vestibule of the Grand Opera House. "Keep us from starvation," she repeated; "and I want to look upon my benefactor!"

"The evil that men do lives after them; The good is oft interred with their bones," is not always the fact, for when a "bad man" dies, whose good deeds have been many, Time often plays the role of Justice, and by degrees makes them perceptible through the dark and thick clouds of oblivion, even as we behold the slowly kindling flame within some darkened vase.

The Atlantic and Spiritualism.

It is amusing to read a metaphysical argument against Spiritualism, even though written by so clear a thinker as Henry James, and deemed worthy of a place in the Atlantic, when the people are studying placidly the best arguments that can be offered of its truth, the undeniable facts and phenomena of spirit production. Harmless amusement it may be for these scholarly gentlemen, who like nothing so well as evolving metaphysical problems, but when they imagine that any real obstacle is presented by them to the progress of truth based upon and illustrated by demonstrated facts, they entirely overestimate the importance of their employment.

Dean Clark.

This worthy worker in the vineyard of Spiritualism is doing good service in a new field, namely, Columbus, Ga. He is making quite a sensation in the South. The "ministers" snarl at him, but the people applaud the fresh thought given through this excellent inspirational medium. We shall publish a letter from Mr. Clark in our next issue.

The Constitutional Amendment Dogma.

We have forwarded thousands of protesting signatures to Washington against the bigoted religious movement for revolutionizing our free Constitution by making it an ecclesiastical machine; and Congress has been already made aware of the deep and steady ground-swell of popular sentiment that is setting in more and more strongly against it. Senator Sumner has presented one of these popular protests, cast in the form of a petition; and although he stated that it was his habitual custom to present every sort of petition that was forwarded to him by the sovereign people for that purpose, yet he offered this one to Congress with undisguised feelings of pleasure and sympathy. No man could have expressed that a statesman of the large and comprehensive views and broad and healthy sympathies of Mr. Sumner was likely to take position on any other side in relation to this question. Different things were to have been looked for, of course, in the case of Gov. Washburne, who follows the old rut of dogma where those who dig it traveled on before him. He is narrow of view, and therefore constitutionally bigoted. Unlike Sumner, he wants religion all tightly walled in, while the Senator courts the free air and sunshine of heaven, in which all healthy growths of the spirit thrive and do their best. The Governor's record on this matter will by no means be forgotten or misinterpreted.

Music Hall Free Spiritual Meetings.

On Sunday afternoon, March 31, a good audience, notwithstanding the severe snow storm of Saturday, greeted the reappearance of Miss Lizzie Doten at this hall. Her lecture was devoted to the treatment of "Human Possibilities." In the course of it she referred to the tunneling of Mt. Conis, and the Atlantic Ocean telegraph, and compared with them the grander avenue, opened by spirit-communication, from one side to the other of the ridge of physical change—the sublimer messages which flash from the supernal to the material side of life. She spoke of the inevitable development of the race to higher aims and powers; and closed her eloquent and pertinent remarks with a brief inspirational poem. Good music was furnished by the quartette. She speaks at the same hall, Sunday afternoon, March 10th, upon "A New Revelation, or a Religion for Spiritualists."

Spirit Photography.

We learn from the Boston Herald of a recent date, that there is a gentleman living at the Commonwealth Hotel, who is a believer in spirit intercourse, and who has frequently received communications from some intelligence representing itself to be the spirit of Franklin. The account further goes on to state:

"At one of these interviews, the gentleman in the flesh asked for some manifestation tending to prove the identity of the spirit, and was directed to go to Mr. Mumler, spiritual photographer, sit for a picture, and the spirit of Franklin, bearing an image of the key with which he drew electricity from the clouds, would appear upon the plate, in company with the sitter. The gentleman did as directed, and the promise was fulfilled. The picture has been seen by scores, including the writer of this paragraph, and we have the assurance of the photographic artist that he had no knowledge of the contract between the gentleman and the shade of the great philosopher."

"Mediumship" "Blasphemy" "Moravia."

We desire to call the attention of our readers to the first page of the present number, where will be found the opening installment of Thos. R. Hazard's experiences in Moravia. At the conclusion of its publication it will be issued in pamphlet form, when it will be sold, together with that on "Mediumship" and "Who are the Blasphemers?" (by the same author) at the low price of 25 cts. for the three. Here is an opportunity to purchase for a small sum as much information on spiritual matters, as can be obtained in some other quarters for \$25.

Notice to Subscribers.

We mail this issue—No. 1 of our new volume (31)—to those of our patrons whose subscription expired with No. 26, Vol. 30, hoping that they will renew on receipt of it. The names of those who do not will of course be taken from the mail list (under the rule of payment in advance, from which we never deviate), and the paper discontinued. Names forwarded to us should be clearly written, giving town, State, county; and if change in location is desired, in addition to the new direction, the one to which the paper was previously mailed should be given.

Philadelphia.

D. S. Cadwallader has removed his Temple of Light bookstore and periodical depot from Race street to 21 North Eleventh street (cor. of Morgan street), where all radical and spiritualistic books and periodicals can be obtained. In connection with the bookstore will be opened a Spiritualists' Home, where media, lecturers and Spiritualists generally may find a pleasant and congenial home, either permanently or transiently.

J. M. Peebles.

We have on hand, and shall print in our next issue, a lengthy letter from this enterprising brother, giving an account of his New Orleans experiences. Bro. Peebles is now in Troy, N. Y., astonishing the bigots of that locality by the trenchant "sword of the spirit" which is ever within his mental grasp. Rev. Dr. Baldwin, of "Witch of Endor" notoriety, for one, has cause to know to his cost that "the Pilgrim" is in Troy.

A worthy correspondent writes: "I shall be glad to procure as many subscribers as I can for the glorious old Banner. You would have three times as many subscribers as you have, if the Spiritualists were true to the beautiful faith they believe in. Many of them take two or three local papers, and neglect to subscribe to the spiritual papers, which have within their folds the real food for the soul." There is too much truth in the above remarks. There are thousands of well-to-do Spiritualists in this country who had rather, it would seem, patronize the secular press than their own organs. Our fifteen years' experience has taught us that the most really liberal-minded people in our ranks are those of the poorer classes—those not possessed of a superabundance of this world's goods. The rich Spiritualists—with now and then a few blessed exceptions—generally hoard the "almighty dollar," and are satisfied to let the workers in the vineyard toil on in poverty, unmindful of the glorious harvest that they might reap were they ready and willing to aid financially in building up and strengthening the glorious scientific religion of the nineteenth century—SPIRITUALISM.

Geo. W. Smith, wife, and daughter Ida, who have been spending some time in Europe, arrived at this port in the steamship "Siberia," last Monday.

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Being a Reply to the Rev. Dr. Austin Phelps

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Austin Phelps, D. D., to meet the wants of those who
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1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

Banner of Light.

THE WEST.

Warren Chase, Corresponding Editor.

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DESERTERS.

There are deserters in every cause in religion as well as politics, in social as well as military organizations; and why should we expect to make an exception of Spiritualism? We have less than most other causes, and good reasons for those we have. There are two departments recognized in man by all metaphysical writers: the head, representing the intellect, and the heart, representing the passions or feelings. If a person is only half convinced of the truth of our philosophy, or has only engaged in it from the feelings, he or she can be easily made to desert. It is by a counter-irritant, however zealous he or she may have been in the cause. Most of the deserters from our ranks have been from this class—persons who had no intellectual appreciation of its truth or importance, and could give it up as they would give up any project in which they had been engaged, under an excitement of the feelings. A variety of passionate attractions have served to lead people into Spiritualism, and out of it also; and the same is true of the churches. Religious revivals and social revivals have brought them in, and a relapse has taken them out.

A few have been converted in the head, and not the heart, and may have been drawn out of it by the passions or social relations, which had not been enlisted in the cause; but these are few, compared to those who came in only with the heart, and went out by the same door, because the head was not brought into the cause. No person with ordinary intellect ever deserts our range, if he or she has been wholly converted, or has both head and heart in the work. One who knows the truth, and feels it, cannot leave it, nor desert the ranks of those who defend it. We have not been mistaken in our judgment upon those who would not desert us; but some are yet with us whom we have considered liable to leave at any time.

A thorough Spiritualist is one who has the rational philosophy in the head and the soul, stirring truth in the heart—one who reasons with his philosophy, and sympathizes with the partakers of the blessed messages of love and devotion that come so frequently and so sweetly to the suffering and afflicted, lifting them as the gentle showers do the plants in the parched earth. If the heart is fully enlisted in this, and the head clear in the rational philosophy of spiritual life, there is no gateway for desertion. To such, the cause is paramount to all others; and we could not desert it, even if we wished or wished to do so. Converted all over, all through, both the head and heart are in the work. We could name at least a thousand such, known more or less to the public, but refrain from naming even one, to avoid any distinctions; and we could also name some few who, if not suitably sustained, as they feel that they deserve, would desert us on a leader call to other fields of labor, and some who might leave, as others have, out of sheer spite and ill-will. Occasionally, one falls back into the deep spots of sectarianism; but such were only heart-converted to us, as to the church which required no other conversion, having no time for the head and its reasoning powers in Christianity. A few have gone off with a Christian attraction, like Bro. T. L. Harris, who had a special calling to be a "special messenger of the Lord"—his Lord, not ours. We bid such good-by and God-speed. We have no use for them in a rational Spiritualism which has its God incarnate now in the whole race of man. Those Spiritualists who never get beyond the phenomena, and care nothing for its literature or lectures, are in the heart-sphere, and liable to desert after having scores of the best tests, because the head has not the philosophy of their causes and origin. All should make themselves acquainted with the philosophy of spiritual life as well as its phenomena, and feed the head as well as heart with food appropriate to a growth and permanence in the good cause.

A WICKED PRACTICE.

Amid the evils of our social system is one that has seldom been attacked, and yet has a wide range of injurious effects. Young men are often afflicted with diseases which unfit them for enjoying social life, and especially unfit them for husbands that can make a wife happy. Such diseases are not few nor are such cases rare, and in nine cases out of ten such persons are recommended to marry as the best remedy, and to marry the purest and healthiest girl they can get, and take her of course as a medicine. The girls who are trained only for marriage are numerous, and society is so constituted that they can scarcely get food and clothes to be decent by industry, and hence they are ever ready to be duped and kept ignorant by our shallow system of education, which is, in the main, only to fit them for bookkeeping, or for parlor ornaments if rich. The hundreds of poor ignorant victims annually sacrificed in this way, (as medicine) for the men who are not fit for husbands, shows the need of a better education for females, and of such change that girls shall not be driven to such resort for subsistence. The physician cannot be blamed, as his patient is his client, and he must do the best he can for him regardless of the sufferings of others, but we never find one of these physicians recommending his own daughter or niece for the subject. He would as soon see her body go to the grave; but there are plenty of others to be found. In most of these cases where men take a wife for medicine to cure a disease, the wife soon finds it out and regrets the bargain, and if she does not leave him and seek divorce, leads a miserable life, and perhaps gives painful birth to children that are diseased and unfit to live even if they escape an early death. The extent of the wretchedness arising from this evil is very great, and runs into nearly every avenue of our social system. Our attention is called to it at this time by a letter from one of those suffering young men who cannot marry the woman he loves and is advised to marry or do what he considers worse, and he asks to know if he shall marry, and if over the time comes that he can marry the one he loves, get a divorce and marry? The very nature of the question shows the wrong estimation placed on females, but it is the common one that they are only for man's convenience. The theological history is, that woman was made of a man's rib, and for a "help-meet to him," so of course she may be made into a medicine to cure his diseases at the expense of her life. To us this seems the most sacrilegious use of marriage and of woman, and not much less reprehensible than burning wives on the funeral pile of their husbands. We hope the day is near when females will constitute a

part of society equal in every respect to men, and when marriage will be sacred, mutual and voluntary on both sides without deception.

MURDER POLITICS.

We do not often read the political speeches—not even those made in the United States Senate—because they are latterly almost entirely devoted to personal or party abuse. It is, indeed, a pity to see men with such talents and position as Senators Conkling, Morton and Schurz prostituting their powers and position almost entirely to party purposes and personal attacks, instead of looking after the interests and welfare of the country. It would seem by some of the speeches that our national welfare, or even existence, depended on the continued control of the republic by one party and the support of the present administration; and by others, as if one, or both, depended on their defeat. There are intelligent people in this country who would be glad to see men, when elevated to a seat in the Senate, rise above personal and party demagogues, and above all political parties and intrigues, and look only after our country and its interests, its honor and its welfare; but it seems, unfortunately, to be the case that most men get to the Senate by personal bribes, party obligations and political intrigues—and of course we cannot expect such men—elevated by such means and under such obligations as they are—to look less after the personal and party interests than those of the country at large. If all the intelligent citizens of our country would discountenance this kind of legislation, and use their influence to prevent such kind of gambling operations as are carried on in legislatures to elect Senators, we might have a political reform and more dignity in the Senate; but as it now is, it seems to us fast sinking into a petty political arena for scheming politicians.

ST. LOUIS THAWING OUT.

We have had a severe winter, and river choked up with ice an unusually long time, but it is at last thawing out, and the streets are almost unrecognizable for the accumulations of the winter. Our streets are rarely cleaned even in summer, and never in winter, consequently St. Louis has the name of being the dirtiest of the large cities of our nation, a name which it richly deserves. As an evidence of this, a man was drowned in the mud of the streets a few days ago, and the inquest held over his body found by testimony that he was not drunk but weak from sickness, and while walking alone fell into a mud hole in the street, and up one feeling him, and being unable to get out, he perished there. Some years ago we heard of a child drowning in the mud and water of a street in Fond du Lac, Wis., in attempting to cross, but the above is the first instance we ever heard of a man perishing in the mud of a city street; but there is plenty of mud to drown a regiment in our streets.

If any one doubts St. Louis being the "future great city" of this country, however slowly it grows, he or she can have it proved by sending us twenty-five cents for a book of 214 pages, well filled with statistical and other information about the city, the State and the West generally, the resources of which are as yet mainly untouched by human hands. Those who want information about the West will find this work of I. U. Reavis is the best and by far the most comprehensive work in print, and if dependent on sales for its cost would sell at least for one dollar. Address Warren Chase, No. 61 North 3d street.

The reader must bear in mind that this book cannot be had at the office in Boston, but at Mr. Chase's store, in St. Louis. Mistakes are often made in this particular, hence we allude to it thus pointedly.—Ed. B. or L.

CHEAP MONEY.

H. H. Day, of New York, sends us a circular on the subject of money, and urging political action to secure the issue of a large amount of long bonds bearing low rate of interest, between three and four per cent., and the redemption of all our national bonds with them; and thus cutting off the enormous interest and the immense speculations of those who bank on the nation's debts. Perhaps this is the most direct way to provide cheap money, but whether it is or not we are sure the demand of the people for cheaper capital to work with, not to speculate on, must soon be met by some policy. If the credit of the nation is to be used for bankers, stock-jobbers and gold-rings exclusively, it is time we had a change and the great mass of the laborers had some share in the benefits of our government and its credit. If ten men can open a bank and make money with the bonds of the government, we do not see why ten working-men cannot open a shop and make shoes or hats profitably on the same kind of capital, and if there is a special law for banking we would have it a general law to allow of manufacturing and farming on the credit of the nation as a capital. Let us have a national currency on which we pay no interest, and low rates for all.

TEMPERANCE.

By special invitation we enjoyed a pleasant and profitable meeting with the friends of temperance, who crowded Avenue Hall on the evening of Feb. 20th, at the crowning of the king and queen and installing of officers of the Mt. Vernon Chapter of the Temple of Honor, by the officers of the State Organization, and had an opportunity to say some words of encouragement and hope for the faithful workers in this noble and important cause. The ceremonies and speeches, with the music of the evening, were of the choicest quality, and the large meeting composed of some of the most earnest and faithful workers in the cause.

If there is a city in our country where the work is needed, it is St. Louis, where well dressed young men can be found drunk in the streets at any hour of the day or night, and many of them belonging to wealthy families who keep these dissipated youth in good standing socially, although morally and physically broken down. We hope ere long to see all the friends of temperance unite in an effort to put the distillation and sale of alcohol into the hands of the Government, and prohibit all else.

GOOD NEWS FOR EXPRESS COMPANIES.

We had a case of books shipped in Boston, Feb. 23rd, through to St. Louis, by Fast Freight, and up to time of writing (March 2nd), it has not been heard from at this end of the route; while we have never had an express package over five days (and seldom over four) in reaching our store from Boston. St. Louis citizens complain that the railroads switch off the goods and cars marked for our city, to make way for freight destined to other towns and cities in the West, and there is not enterprise enough here to correct it.

The Emperor Francis Joseph has issued an imperial decree declining to recognize old Catholic bishops or opponents of the dogma of infallibility as a part of the Roman Catholic ecclesiastical hierarchy of Austria.

WESTERN LOCALS, Etc.

REPORTED FOR THE BANNER OF LIGHT.

Spiritual Fellowship—What the Battle Creek (Mich.) Spiritualists Believe—Miscellaneous Matters.

The true Spiritualist has fellowship with every one who, in the least degree, protests against supernaturalism; and this unity of the spirit, now gradually dawning upon liberals, will, in a few years, progress into such sterling activity that the so-called spiritual fellowship of the sectarian world shall fade into insignificance before its divine light.

These are troublous times. It takes brains to comprehend the situation. Superficial observers stand aghast at the destruction of old idols—images that have been revered for ages. Giddy clergymen, disturbed in their Rip Van Winkle sleep, declare that the morality of society is undermined, just because their pet plan of salvation is rejected by modern thinkers. But the world still jogs on; and those who are truly awake see that all this discord but leads the way to a grander unity in the coming time.

How thankful we should be for that system of thought which indicates us into the holy of holies, and reveals to us the splendors of progress!

Spiritualism does this very thing. It takes one to the sphere of causation. We see the processes involved in the law of evolution as applied to theological change. Herein lies the secret of the contentment of the Spiritualist. Though tumultuous jangling reigns without, he is undisturbed. He gets this idea of unity; his spirit senses the strains of a divine melody; he is conscious that his sympathies are enlarging the circumference of their activities; he realizes that, by some mystic influence, his whole inner being is undergoing the sublime changes of a spiritual transfiguration, and he becomes supremely happy.

But what is the peculiar feature of this coming unity? It is this: a spiritual fellowship on the basis of principle.

The sects have made the dogma stand as the basis of fellowship. That is contrary to the modern idea. Spiritualists deserve the commendation of the world for the reason they are pursuing. While they possess a dogma that is dear to them, a dogma that is susceptible of scientific demonstration, yet in their efforts for organization, they set above the methods of the past, and absolutely make their cardinal idea, the special element of their system, a matter of secondary consideration. The main question with the Spiritualist is not, "What is the dogma?" but "What is the principle?"

This reader, is the basis of principle; this is the ground of our fellowship. Is it not a glorious one? Do you not find inspiration in it? Within its folds all can come.

WHAT THEY THINK ABOUT IT.

Battle Creek, Mich., is a centre of rationalism. J. M. Peabody preached the progressive gospel here for many years. This was the home of E. C. Dunn, who, under the kind guidance of Bro. Peabody, has become such an eloquent speaker and effective laborer for humanity. Not long ago the First Spiritualist Society adopted the following statements:

"As members of the First Society of Spiritualists of Battle Creek, we declare, as our object in organization, a desire to all each other in outgrowing the errors and advancing in the moral excellencies of human brotherhood, and to watchful care over each other, and to labor for advancement in truth, harmony and moral purity, thus to become fitted for happy and useful lives here, and be prepared for more perfect happiness in the coming future. We accept, as embracing in part our declaration of principles:

"1st—God as an infinite Father.

"2nd—That man as great brotherhood, not divided by death, but occupying two conditions of being, in one clothed with corporeality, in the other with spiritual bodies.

"3rd—The communion between the two parts of this great family of man.

"4th—The unlimited possibilities of the human soul, developed by culture and education.

"5th—The natural purity and nobleness of human nature.

"6th—The capacity of progress here and hereafter.

"7th—In the law of compensation or the principle of justice, by which all are made happy or unhappy according to deeds done or characters formed.

"8th—That ignorance and vice necessarily cause unhappiness and misery, while knowledge and virtue bring harmony and happiness to the soul.

"We declare our determination to strive to live in harmony with these principles, with the avowed purpose of keeping open on all sides for the discovery and acceptance of new truths, and to so adjust our organization to the growing needs of the age, and so become an ever-increasing power in the world."

NOTES.

April 20th the Davenport Brothers intend to elevate their cabinet in Surgis, Mich.

J. K. Bailey lectured in Broadsville, Mich., Feb. 18th. He had a large audience. His theme was, "What I know about Phenomenal Spiritualism."

The American Spiritualist, dated Feb. 24th, comes out in a new dress, which is a sign of enterprise on the part of the editors of that independent and radical sheet. We are sorry to learn that Mr. Wheelock, the managing editor, has been sick. He has hosts of friends all over the West, who with us, rejoice in his successes, and sorrow over his setbacks when he has any.

Matthie Hulet, Barry, Bolot, Wis., is busily engaged in the lecture field. Her appointments are in this wise: East Delavan, Wis., March 10th; Spring Prairie, March 17th; McHenry, March 24th; Richmond, March 31st; in Chicago during April. She will receive calls from Eastern societies. We most cheerfully recommend her to lecture committees as an attractive and earnest speaker.

The Troy Times of Feb. 19th contains a synopsis of a discourse by the Rev. Dr. Baldwin, (Baptist), upon "Saul and the Witch." It was a base sermon. Mr. Peabody is to publicly review it. The lash will sting. Though Bro. P. is usually very mild, yet, when aroused, there is a lion inside, somewhere. Mr. Peabody's friends—and they are legion—will rejoice to know that a second edition of "The Pilgrim" will soon appear.

F. E. Abbot, of The Index, talks to the point, always. The effort now is being made, on the part of liberal Christians, to divest the term Christianity of its old-time special significance, and make it synonymous with goodness, truth, love and progress, wherever found. There is, this class of Christians accuse radicals and Spiritualists of a willful disregard of facts, when the old definition is insisted on by these modern heretics. Can Christianity adapt itself to the progressive demands of the times?—It is an open question. Mr. Abbot says No! And in saying that word he adds several others. Here they are:

"He who cannot discern in the history of modern times the gradual crumbling to pieces of the great Christian system, ecclesiastical, and doctrinal, and religious, and the contemporary growth of a greater secular system, scientific, industrial, social, political, and moral, is blind to what future historians will unanimously declare to be the one dominant and overshadowing characteristic of the entire epoch in which we live. It is the bewildering complexity of these two simultaneous and unimpeded processes, one of decay, the other of development, and the difficulty which most minds experience in reaching a point of view high enough to command a comprehensive prospect of a field so vast, that must be taken as the explanation of the delusion we have referred to."

ing! It is true, we do not. We yield the credit of such supreme perception to Unitarianism.

"Meanwhile it is absolutely necessary to recognize the fact that Christianity is necessarily 'Orthodox,' and loses all right to call itself Christian in the exact proportion that it surrenders 'Orthodoxy.' The great body of the Christian Church clings to its old formulae with desperate tenacity; and sooner than yield them, it will desperately fight. The religious border or ragged fringe of the Christian Church, which is the freely 'Liberal Christianity,' because it has nearly abandoned 'Orthodoxy,' has no claim to be considered at all in this connection, on account of its numerical and doctrinal insignificance. It has no future."

Ever Saginaw, Mich.: Advice from this thriving city informs us that N. Frank White is giving excellent lectures to the Spiritualist Society, which is very pleasant, though not at all uncommon fact to record. Frank is doing that same thing most of the time. In May he edifies the Port Huron liberals and Spiritualists.

Chicago: Susie M. Johnson is addressing the Spiritualists of this famous city. Her discourses are much admired by the people. The latest Chicago weekly has been the visit of the Japanese Embassy, and the defeat of the Chicago gambling fraternity by a delegation of the "swallow-mob" of St. Louis. This last is hard to bear. Chicagoans never will forget it. Robert Collyer will undoubtedly preach in relation to the matter. Each grade of society has its resources in time of trouble. Collyer is comforted, as he pursues the chosen path, by sympathizing friends; the merchants grow happy as "orders" come rolling in, and so on through the list. But alas! the poor gambler! He seeks comfort in playing a little game of "stand off" at some favorite bar, for frequent doses of invigorating punch, or delightful draughts of that delectable beverage, the artistic Bourbon-sour. [Copyright secured by law.]

OPHAS.

New York Matters.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

TAMMANY AND THE CHURCH.

DEAR BANNER—The overthrow of Tammany revealed to the astonished gaze of our people a mass of corruption fearful to contemplate, a vile system of bribery and expenditure that if it had continued longer, would have involved our great city in bankruptcy and irretrievable ruin. "The Lords of the Ring" made themselves strong by involving all they could, especially the several religious denominations, as partners in their crime; also some members of the opposite party, Republicans, were sought out, and interested in their infernal scheme of plunder, all for a price. The churches had some shrewdness in managing their affairs, which they did very adroitly, for the reason that they had a minority who objected and protested against the entire proceedings. For instance, a majority of the church would plan a campaign against the City Treasury, and it now appears that in nearly all of the Protestant churches implicated, a small minority protested, but to no avail. Then the dark, damp and dismal cellars of their "places of worship," full of poisonous vapors, only fit for the habitation of vermin that can subsist upon foul air, would be fitted up with what they called "school-rooms," badly lighted and not properly ventilated. Into these pest holes the children of the poor would be gathered in the "sacred name of the Lord," and instructed after the manner of the church, for which the city corporation was charged enormously for rent of room, pay of teachers, fuel, etc., etc. Then again, some real estate belonging to the city would be envied, some eligible lots worth thousands of dollars, and to get them it was necessary for the church members to meet and organize a "benevolent society for the benefit of the church," ostensibly for the needy and destitute, and the entire proceeds memorialized to donate the land, which was generally done, providing the parties making the request had or represented sufficient influence. In this and other ways, the tax-payers have been robbed of nearly two millions of dollars, and we know not how much real estate, during the last three years, and as stated in my article, a small way, but nevertheless as great as Dexter Hawking, a lawyer of this city, member and one of the trustees of the church of the Messiah—formerly Mr. Heyworth's—has taken a leading part in this exposure, and says of the Baptists in answer to a question, "Yes, they got ten lots valued at one hundred thousand dollars, for the use of the Ladies' Home Society of the Baptist church, and it was done in a peculiar way. A committee was formed in the Brick church to raise subscriptions for the erection of this Home, a corporate society was formed, and none allowed to be shareholders who did not subscribe. Some of the members said, 'Let us get some land from the city; the Catholics are getting a good deal, and we ought to have some.' Other members objected and said, 'No, that will not do; don't let us do it ourselves; the Catholics are in, and we want to get them out.' The decent men," continues Mr. Hawkins, "were overruled, and the Baptists took the land."

Mr. Hawkins also accuses his own church, the Unitarians, of evil designs and practices upon the city treasury, even against the protest of a minority. So, it seems, that both the Catholics and the Unitarians, all of whom are now arrayed before the public with unclean hands. They each had a protesting minority, but the crime was consummated notwithstanding. Take this whole matter into contemplation, bad and infamous as it is, the most humiliating spectacle is that of the protesting minority still remaining members of churches guilty of these crimes, not one having the courage and manhood to leave them in the frauds and corruptions, but consenting to remain, frauds into the support of the majority, no matter what they may do. This sort of negative honesty is a farce, degrading to human nature; better be a thief and done with it. Voltaire said, "The great difficulty with honest people is, they are so timid"—too timid to have any self-respect, and so contemptible as to become the ready dupes of the bold and unscrupulous—a convenient cover for the commission of great crimes. It is evident that the city of New York has been robbed of its money, of its credit and of its land, and the guilty parties exposed to the scorn and contempt of the world. Now let us watch the "protesting minority," and see what they will do about it. Let us hear what answer the "overruling majorities" may make to these authentic charges. Let us hope that they will repent of their evil deeds, and make restitution of their ill gotten gains to the legitimate owners, the people of New York; if "the lords of the ring" are made to suffer, that they all may be made to suffer with them; if Sing Sing prison opens to one, it may be opened to all. Let the law take its course, and the guilty be made to suffer, whoever they may be. Let us prove that, if corporations have no souls to be saved, they have bodies to be kicked, and in a measure, reverse the truth of the old maxim; and, above all, let us earnestly and persistently protest against any organization, cosmopolitan, national or State, upon the basis of a religious belief.

The world has had too many already. These "protesting minorities" will avoid the charges, crimes and disgrace of "overruling majorities," and then will religion become a matter of the individual instead of corporations, and of the person instead of the church-member.

That great and good man, the Socrates of this age, the heroic and devoted teacher, Theodore Parker, was content to express his best thought against the highest authority, do his work and pass on, without promulgating a creed or establishing a church, to hang like a mill stone about the necks of any who should survive or come after him. His noble example is worthy of commendation and imitation by every one who desires the freedom of humanity and the highest good of all. Let each one, if they wish, make affirmation of their belief, and each one, if they see fit, also make affirmation of their approval or condemnation of the thought, and there let the matter rest.

without further controversy. Let our religion be one of affirmation instead of negation, of progression instead of limitation, and of a larger growth, instead of crystallization into a dead institution; and, above all, entire freedom from "overruling majorities," and of protesting minorities as well.

"The many forms of thought, Religion, faith, belief, Are but the grains of sand Broken from truth's great rock." From *Hesperia*.

"THE INFERNO."

Reading Dante's great poem, and, in spirit, wandering with him through Hell, Purgatory and Paradise, and conversing with those whom he met, and whose sayings, joys and sorrows he has so faithfully reported, we are forced to the conclusion that he did not get far away from earth to find the Hell and Purgatory he so graphically describes, and that here, if we get in sympathy with those who suffer in spirit, the inmates of our prison-houses, asylums, mans of trade, court-rooms, and, in fact, with every phase of human life, we shall find exact counterparts to all the artist has painted. Ay, and even here, among men and women, all the delights and wisdom of Paradise. The poet, in making his senses conscious of what he had seen and heard in spirit, often imagined that he had been far away from earth to another sphere, instead of among the children of men here on the earth. As one of our well and popularly known writers, a learned judge, who, in spirit, came in "report" or sympathy with a woman at the wash-tub, it may have been in his own kitchen, on a waking to consciousness, consumed by the heat and heat of such an extent as to believe that, in the spirit-world, they had dirty linen and all the appliances of a laundry, excepting the modern improvements for washing. The senses often make such mistakes in attempting to understand the great over-soul, and comprehend it too literally. The poet Dante talked with those who were then in possession of earthly bodies, and some who had laid them aside, and with some who were conscious of having inhabited more than one mortal temple, and expected to possess, sooner or later, others before completing their earth-life. One spirit confronted him with the words:

"Cesar I was, And am Justinian; destined by the will Of that prime love, whose influence I feel:— From vain excess to clear the cumbered laws!"

who in the first had enough of war, and in the second was content that his Lieutenant Balthazar should command the army, gain conquests and the glory of victory, while he had a more sublime mission, a greater work to perform in the simplification and codification of the laws of his realm, proving of more endurance and service to mankind than anything the mere conflict of arms could bring.

It is easy to imagine Cesar, dissatisfied with his earth-life, untimely cut off by "Brutus and the rest," as he had taken the sword and perished by it, and of his having an earnest and intense desire to return again to earth to complete his work, consummate his dream of the tinkers of law instead of mere force, and make amend for what he had done and what he had failed to do, and benefit himself by serving his kind—a desire that Nature has certainly provided a way to gratify. Our own army, during the war, furnished examples of officers high in rank, as indifferent to the glare, glitter and mere glory of military service, as a full-grown man is of the tinkers of law in infancy, evidently if not manifested at some time with each thing, while others did not seem to care for anything else. The former were content to do their duty, indifferent to praise or blame, while the latter were uneasy if their names and deeds did not constantly fill the public ear. One was as natural a sentiment as the other, only one had outgrown, as Cesar had, such things, while the other had not. Such contrasts are presented in every condition of human life, and furnished the ancients with the evidence of their belief in pre-existence or re-incarnation, neither of which words fully express the idea. The ultimate of every soul is completeness, only gained by actual personal experience, and not by proxy, and if Cesar is not to go to war could give, he needed that which could only be obtained in another and different condition of human life and human activity, and must return to earth in another physical organization to get it. This doctrine is rejected by the materialist, who assumes and maintains that the soul is the outgrowth of matter, the creation of human flesh, and this single life is all that there is of the contrary, the soul is absolute and eternal—without beginning and without end. Matter is simply its means of outward expression, and each earth-life only a series of one of the steps in its unfolding into perfection, the ultimate of every human soul. If it is less, it is nothing.

"And the divine stability of heaven, (That assuredly, when I have seen death,) Is but a transient cloud, displayed no far To cherish virtuous souls, and for our need Flutters the essence, and folds our honest faith, Vanishing in a lie." New York, March 3d, 1872.

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