

To accommodate him, not myself, the way was opened, and an appointment made, but the time

for perfecting arrangements was too short, and it was postponed at his request. A second appointment was made for him, but for some reason his party was abandoned; but this gentleman said he and another person would become two of a party, if I would get up another, rather than have the engagement cancelled. This labor for accommodation was cheerfully performed, and the party arranged. After arriving at Rochester, and just before going to Mrs. Pickering's, this gentleman, for the first time, informed me that he wished to apply a test to Mrs. Pickering, which was to enclose her in a piece of mosquito netting. I told him that the test I had nothing to do with, and that I also had one to propose, but did not feel sure of presenting it. I further said the matter could be considered after reaching Mrs. Pickering's, and promised him I would mention it to her. When we arrived there, Mrs. Pickering at once said she had decided to apply the silk string test, by putting it through her ear and sealing the ends to the side of the room. This, she said, had been mentioned by some Rochester people as desirable, and for that reason she had concluded to apply it that night. The test was not one at all times so well suited to my wishes as would have been her sitting outside of the curtain, but no objection was offered to it, and the gentleman interested was informed of the situation. He was at once quite offended, which made communication with him rather unpleasant. Mrs. Pickering soon came forward and asked me to take the wax and seal her to the side of the room. I did so, inviting the critical gentleman to stand by and see that it was properly done. The séance went on, and at the close, being requested to examine the sealing, I invited the gentleman up to assist in the inspection, in which he had all the opportunity possessed by myself for critical examination, and as freely exercised it. The whole arrangement of this test in its selection and the manner of its application was not agreeable to the circle, and the direction of Mrs. Pickering, and I was in no way responsible for anything connected with it. Notwithstanding this was so, the gentleman made things very unpleasant after returning to the hotel, both that night and the following morning, charging me with forestalling things. Subsequently he repeated his statements, charged Mrs. Pickering with being a fraud, and said the forms were only personations by her in her "skirts."

The affair at Rochester is undoubtedly what the paragraph herein quoted refers to, but it has no application to me whatever, for there was never an instance of interference with anybody's tests at Mrs. Pickering's séances on my part, or anything done in relation thereto except to occasionally ask for their application. The falsity of that assertion is clearly shown by the facts here set forth.

My entrance upon the observance of these séances was as a journalist and investigator, and not for indulgence in unnecessary controversy. My aim has been to secure proofs of the genuineness of the manifestations, if possible, and it is fairly due to Mrs. Pickering to say that no reluctance was ever discovered on her part to submitting to any test proposed by me; but their application was not agreeable to the circle, and hence at times my reluctance to propose them. It was at my earnest recommendation that she first sat outside of the cabinet, and not long after that she chieftly abandoned its use, substituting for it the curtain across a corner of the room. By request of J. Merrill Ordway, of Haverhill, I went prepared to apply the tying test on the 21st of February, yet with no strong expectation of asking for it, but on arriving at Rochester it was found that Wm. B. Tice, of Brooklyn, N. Y., had on the day previously applied the rope-tying test, and that opened the way for asking the privilege of applying a similar and very strong one in presence of the Lowell party.

The situation of things rapidly changed at Rochester from about that time. New parties began to make their appearance, and the necessities of the séances, and as advisers and counsellors of Mrs. Pickering. Mediums began to flock thither on important missions, being impressed with the idea that they had the power to magnetically strengthen Mrs. Pickering in various ways for the more perfect exercise of her supposed powers of materialization. If I mistake not, it was said that some of the parties would advise into her ear in the shape of suggestions of a higher price for séances.

On the 11th, 12th, and 13th of March, three important séances were held, the first before a party from Georgetown, the second before what was called the "Banner of Light party," (the first visit, as there were two made,) and the third before the Lowell party on their second visit. There I was present at all three séances, and am the only person, except Mr. Pickering, the members of the circle and the pianist, who witnessed them all. The string test was applied by myself before the Georgetown party, Mrs. Pickering then sitting outside of the curtain. I thought then that she did not move out of her chair or become discomposed by the string, and think to still, and yet fourteen or fifteen forms made their appearance without the possible aid of confederates.

Knowing that much importance would be attached to the observation and judgment of the "Banner of Light party," Mrs. Pickering appeared to be quite anxious as to the result. She anticipated the proposed test of the string, and on the day preceding the evening of that séance she advised with me as to what she had better do. My recommendation was to submit to anything not torturing or unreasonable, and she appeared to have made up her mind to comply with any requirement such a party would be expected to suggest. When the hour arrived, the party had not decided what the test conditions should be, if any, and while the matter was being debated, Mrs. Pickering took her seat outside of the curtain, appearing, as I thought, quite as willing to sit there, in clear view of the witnesses, as elsewhere. The party finally decided that she should sit inside of the curtain and without the application of any test, and Mrs. Pickering, as I then thought, rather reluctantly surrendered the seat she had already taken outside of the curtain. On that evening the manifestations were rather weak; supposed to have been so from overtaxing the medium, yet there was on that occasion at one time a show of two forms beside that of the Lowell party, and was also unattended by tests. This was rather weak and unsatisfactory in some particulars, and was supposed to be so on account of the exhaustion of the medium. During this remarkable week of séances there was a thorough scrutiny of the premises and the medium, but no vestige discovered of anything which had been or could be used for the perpetration of a fraud like the one on record as occurring at Lowell. From this time the interest in the medium much increased, and it is said, counsel as to the future still continued to pour in freely. This was noticeable and led to the prediction by close observers that the medium would be injured by it. After it was settled that Mrs. Pickering was to enter upon a public career, a gentleman who believes in the phenomenon, and is inclined to think this lady a genuine medium, predicted her exposure at no distant day. My opinion, however, was the reverse of that, then, fully believing in her integrity, and that her powers were such as not to require a resort to fraud to fill her bill of expectations. The exposure proves that I was mistaken as to a certain result, though the matter is yet to be settled before the real situation can be known. It is certain that something singular and damaging to the medium occurred.

My early and first question after witnessing these manifestations, was, "What is it?" and that is still the unanswered one. If the materials used and discovered at Lowell were trappings brought together by Mrs. Pickering, she, most likely, had confederates in the business, and the thing takes the appearance of a most gigantic and disgraceful fraud. If it is true, as some suggest, that these materials are supplied for the occasion by a "low order of spirits," and that seizing the medium while engaged in the personations left them in her possession, the matter is placed in a different light. In this connection it is of interest to know if the search of Mrs. Pickering at Lowell was really thorough. If so, how

could she have easily got the materials again, being, or necessarily, rather, those supplied for the personations? Mr. Fletcher's on the following Wednesday? Fleeing from there to Laconia, N. H., and with no expectation of being immediately followed by Mr. Hazard, how could she have so suddenly replenished her wardrobe as to be able to personate twenty or more forms on the evenings of July 1st and 2nd, as Mr. Hazard says was the case? There is something in this connection still calling for an explanation. At the present moment the position of Mrs. Pickering is one of acknowledged weakness, being branded by Mr. Fletcher and the Lowell people as a fraudulent medium. Some of her immediate friends have insisted that she should not be tested, and generally exerted themselves to prevent it. That fact undoubtedly tended to encourage the practice of fraud if it was a scheme of her own. If, as some think, it was the work of "low spirits," might not the disposition to thus protect the manifestations from the application of tests have had a tendency to encourage the practice of fraud by the "invisibles"? These interrogatories cover the two theories, and in the investigations which must come, Mrs. Pickering drops entirely out of sight, the real facts as to what is true and what is false in her mediumship will be shown. When Mrs. Pickering started out for the purpose of giving public séances, it appears to have been with the intention of not having any tests applied. Mr. Pickering, in all his correspondence, was accustomed to mention that the séances were *admirable*, and no tests were asked for. The plan adopted appeared to be not to subject her to any more tests, and this seemed to be favored by Dr. Barron when she was at Salem. At one of the séances there, a recognized form was on the point of being embraced, but the meeting was prevented by the interposition of Dr. Barron. My impression then was, and is so still, that the form was not a personation by Mrs. Pickering; there appeared to be a mutual inclination between the form and the "apparition" to meet, and it would have been of much interest to witness the result. As things now are, Mrs. Pickering must give unmistakable assurance of the genuineness of her powers, or no interest will surround her.

It is still her declared purpose to re-establish herself by showing the genuineness of her powers in Lowell, the locality of her alleged fall. It is due to her to say that in the expression of this purpose she manifests a coolness, determination and sincerity of purpose very telling in her favor. It is the hope of all that she may accomplish what she proposes. She also believes it possible to obtain photographs of the forms, and an attempt to do that may be made before this communication meets the eye. Mrs. Pickering makes a strong point when she says "if she is a fraud scores of other trance mediums are," for they have repeatedly borne mediumistic testimony to the genuineness of her materializing séances, and clairvoyants present on those occasions have claimed to see the spirits and to witness the materializing process.

In some respects she still has collateral elements of great strength, and these have been gathering about her in spite of the opposition and policy of the developing circle. She has been subjected to close tests by the examination of her person and her clothing for concealed articles. She has been tested in netting sacks, by tying in various ways, and by the weighing of the forms, and herself as well. These tests have been witnessed by highly intelligent and critical parties, and to my mind they supply undoubted evidence of what is termed mediumistic power of a remarkable character; but everything is now unsettled as to its extent, by the events at Lowell and Westford, and critical tests are again called for to verify that which is claimed as genuine in the past, and to demonstrate the present profession of materialization or transfiguration.

What has been witnessed in the past cannot be all fraud and sham, if any has been, for the manifestations belong to the class of phenomena occurring in various quarters of the world, of the reality and genuineness of which there is an immense volume of undoubted evidence; but, if it were all fraud, what has occurred places Mrs. Pickering before the world as a more powerful woman, fully justifying the assertion before made, that she is a first class prestidigitateur, rivaling in these feats Casseville, Heller and Hartz. I do not, with things thus unsettled, accept the whole as a sham; it is with chagrin of spirit and sorrow of heart that the overwhelming evidence of very suspicious appearances at Lowell comes to my eyes, and the qualified admission of as much as that. The event is an unfortunate one to Mrs. Pickering, and the burden she has thus thrown upon the shoulders of her endorser is a heavy one. No reliable journalist, however, will for a moment hang around a fraud, or a seeming one, especially in so momentous a question as this; no investigator of science, or of mystery, or a developer of unexplained forces, will be found triggering up his observations with a sham; and no spiritualist, who is ruled by wise deliberation, will yield a quasi-endorsement to a trick in a matter involving the question of immortality, or in any criticism associated with that question, the most important which man was ever called to consider.

An Orthodox gentleman, who witnessed a séance at Salem, said of what he saw: "It is astounding." Not many days after, and just previous to the exposure, he said, "If I could be sure that was not Mrs. Pickering, a thousand dollars would be of no consequence, because of the assurance and comfort it would bring." So palpable to him was what was seen on that occasion that to-day, the fact of the alleged fraud, the apparitions still linger in his mind as a matter to be given over to the category of shams. My expectation and hope is that Mrs. Pickering will yet redeem herself; but, regarding her last public exhibitions as very unsatisfactory, and knowing the inevitable tendency with men to trample under foot dethroned integrity, a former statement that "if she has any true mediumship she has it yet to show for all of the past is now broken down and destroyed," is still the proper one to make. Confidence is gone, everything genuine in the past must be verified, and the superstructure of her fame is yet to be built. Everything uncertain is to be trampled under foot, while all that is honest and genuine is to be carefully preserved.

E. P. HILL.

Verification of Ann Small's Message.

To the Editor of the Banner of Light:

I find in the message department of the *Banner of Light*, July 6th, a communication from Ann Small, which I readily recognize as from my wife, who, in a feeble state of health, left her home here to attend her aged mother in what was then supposed to be her last sickness, when my wife's earthly tenement gave way under the pressure of long accumulating diseases, and her spirit passed on quietly and peacefully to its higher life, from South-Catamount, Mass., Oct. 7th, 1876, "a year ago last October, going on two years ago," as she says.

The message, though literally correct and characteristic of her as far as it goes, is but an atom when compared with the overwhelming evidence of her continued conscious and individualized existence, and unabated love and care for her depleted family left behind, which I have repeatedly received from her in my private sittings with other test mediums, (to whom I have been without an exception an entire stranger,) and more especially with Mrs. Susie Nickerson White. Such evidence leaves me no alternative but to accept it as "proof palpable of immortality," and of the capacity of our loved ones gone before to communicate with us, or to utterly ignore the evidence of sense.

P. B. SMALL.

Long Island (Boston Harbor), Aug. 18th, 1878.

Referees at a boxing exhibition notice the fall of a sparrer.

Written for the Banner of Light.

FRET NOT THYSELF.

Why should we fret and worry,
And meet half way all trouble?
Thus we each evil hurry,
And thus we make it double.
Pleasure and pain,
Sunshine and rain,
And joy and sorrow,
Come each in turn;
Say one to-day,
Its opposite to-morrow;
Then why not learn
"Amen" to say?
May I expect to see
Constant prosperity?
Must I not eat
Bitter with sweet,
While others meet
With sore mishaps?
I know not any reason
Why, in my season,
I should not fare like other chaps.
Then will I trust to fate,
Without anxiety,
And patiently await,
With due propriety,
My destiny,
Whatever it be,
Or blessing or calamity;
And idle curiosity
Shall never get rank hold of me
To make me suffer needlessly.
Wise men do say:
Sufficient is the evil for the day.

THE LEGAL ASPECT OF THE BLISS IMBUROLOGIO.

(Continued.)

In the *Times*, McGargue merely asserts that he saw a copy of the *Banner of Light* in the partitioned closet in Bliss's cellar.

In his testimony he swears he not only saw the *Banner*, but that he "took it away" with him. Surely an indelible offence this, for a "demoralized rough" to clandestinely enter a man's house and purloin his papers.

In the *Times*, McGargue says: "This second apartment was hung around with black curtains. A little step-ladder, lying in one corner, did its duty as usual in the black. Upon a table was a small, soft cushion."

In his sworn affidavit McGargue says nothing about seeing the table, but swears that he saw a "pedestal and ladder standing against the wall."

Capt. Harrison, it will be seen, swears that the "pedestal was formed by driving stakes into the cellar and putting boards on top." A rather inconvenient piece of furniture to "stand up against the wall!"

Again, Capt. Harrison swears there was but one chair on the floor, whilst McGargue avers there were two.

In the *Times*, McGargue found two apartments in the cellar. When under oath he appears to have known of but one. Capt. Harrison, who confesses he assisted in making the trap and fixings, nowhere alleges there was more than one apartment.

In the *Times*, McGargue states that when he "lifted down the iron plate the door fell in." A singular expression to apply to a door opening on hinges.

Diesinger says in his testimony before the Court: "Capt. Harrison first showed me the trap-door; did not measure it. In descending the ladder, I did not observe a door to the trap; did not notice a joint sticking out."

In his testimony before Court, he (McGargue) says: "I let the trap-door down. I called on Mr. Buschner, and he took a peep, and then Frick took a peep. The trap-door fell in. I got down again. The plumbers didn't see the trap. Stockings lapped over the hinges."

In the *Times*, McGargue says: "The hinges of the trap-door are concealed under the base of the boards forming the front of the cabinet."

Again: "I know" (swore McGargue), "from the confession of Miss Snyder and Harrison, that the key rested upon the joist." (That is, he knew by hearsay.) Again says the *Times* after its stifying its readers with a confused description of the trap that no living man can unravel or understand, further than that it must have been in some way hung on two pairs of hinges, one pair on the trap-door and another pair on the two supports, McGargue says in the *Times*: "His clap-trap arrangements were again placed in position and left by the *Times* representative as he found them, and as any of his many dupes can find them, this morning."

When this same voracious reporter was placed on the witness-stand, we find his testimony slightly varying from what he so gallantly told the readers of the *Times*. Says he: "I got down again. The plumbers did not see the trap. Stockings lapped over a great deal of trouble, and did not fix the trap."

What was the real purpose of the partitioned apartment in the cellar it is hard to determine. What follows may throw some light on the matter.

James A. Bliss

testified that Capt. W. O. Harrison called Miss Snyder, Nellie. He boarded with us at \$4.50 per week. Came to board while we were in Vienna street, October, 1876.

"I rented him the cellar, and he chained he was getting up a room or patient on a loom. He said it was an important invention, and he did not want other people to know it. He kept the key of the cellar and kept the door locked; he brought up the coal (for family use)."

"I had a quarrel with Capt. Harrison on the step, about finding Miss Snyder in his room. Harrison pulled off his coat and said he would whip me. Had no other quarrel. I ordered him out."

"I helped Capt. Harrison put up the partition (in the cellar) for the loom." Went to camp-meeting Aug. 18th, 1876, returned Aug. 21st.

Testimony of Mrs. Bliss.

"Capt. Harrison and Miss Helen Snyder (first) came to our house in Vienna street together; Harrison stayed there once four days in liquor. I did not call it, but I pitied him. Miss Snyder used to call every evening, and she would give him drunken powders. We took Capt. Harrison to board with us at \$4.50 per week at Ogden street. Soon after he came he said he had a grand invention, and wanted it done in time for the Centennial, and wanted the cellar to work at it in. Harrison held the key. At first he did not object to our going down for coal, but afterwards he would let no one go down, and when he was away I would have to buy coal at the corner grocery. One day he put me out when I was going for coal. I found the key in the door (at the time). He said he paid for the cellar and I had no business there. After that I slipped down with a lady friend and found the partition for the first time. I saw nothing of any account—bottles, matting, straw that Dr. Detman left."

Miss DeHollan sworn.

"Capt. Harrison had charge of cellar and kept it locked. I was in the cellar about seven months ago. (This was in the winter of 1877, when the Bliss séances were in their zenith). Capt. Harrison caught me by the shoulder rudely, and said he wouldn't allow even his mother to go down under the table. He told me to throw the bottle under the table. Afterwards he kept the door himself. Once, when he left the key in the door, Mrs. Bliss and I went down (cellar). We went into the little room, and I saw something like a rocking-chair, or horse. We saw bottles, and I said, 'This is the

mystery of the cellar.' She said, 'No, this is some spring water that was sent to me.' (Capt. Harrison, it has been told me, drank much of this water, hence, probably, the bottles in the mysterious room.) I searched around the little room and saw a shelf in middle and at bottom. I saw no clothing, nor paint, nor steps, nor curtains.' Again: "About two weeks before camp-meeting I dropped in to the Blissés and heard Capt. H. say, 'If you can't get anything better than rum, I don't want anything.' Mr. Bliss told him to pay board. Capt. Harrison said, 'I will settle with you yet, you Bliss!'"

Cross-examination.
"I am boarding with Col. Kase's family. I have a regular income from my father, and am independent of the world."

Charles Fields (Meter Inspector) sworn.
"Have been in house 1027 Ogden street; have been going there ever since Bliss lived there. Would go down into the cellar from the dining-room; door was always locked."

Mr. Buckner (employee in gas office) sworn.
"Have been in Bliss's house every six weeks. Some time in the winter would let me down cellar through the dining-room. Mr. Bliss or Harrison would let me in. Never saw anything but the meter. Saw a partition; don't know whether it was a room or not. Mr. Bliss asked me to give him a statement of the meter, and went down with me once."

Francis E. Fisher sworn.

"Harrison told him he was making a bedstead in the cellar."
Mr. Jona. Hitchcock (blacksmith) sworn.
"Mr. Harrison came to my place to have a ring altered; brought one and took it away; told me it was to be used as a part of a loom."

Henry L. Lippard, sworn.

"Capt. Harrison and Mr. Bliss had a ring made at their works, Oct. 18th, 1876. Harrison paid for it."
Wm. P. Fogg (carpenter, 114 Thirteenth street) sworn.
"On May 29th, Harrison came and engaged lumber for 1027 Ogden street: one joist, thirteen feet long, three by eight; five floor—eight feet long, three by eight; five floor-boards, eight feet long, five and one-half inches wide. They must be old, to be delivered at once. They were not sent. Harrison came down again. I could send him new. I did not send new, I sent a load of kindling boards; sent a load of old boards, flooring boards. Cut off the joist, but don't know whether the joist was sent or not. Sent a large load of old boards. Harrison paid for the lumber."

Wm. Harrison testified in Court.
"Mr. Bliss furnished me with diagram of width and length of boards to shut trap-door. I ordered old boards, as if for kindling wood, and they forgot to send the real lumber we wanted." (Query. Is this the lumber ordered from Mr. Fogg May 29th, three months before the exposure?)

Mr. Griffith sworn.
"(Lived with Blissés.) I know Harrison; he was working on a patent shuttle. He was working in the cellar. Mr. Harrison was the only person I saw go into the cellar. I had access to all parts of the house but the cellar. I can't say I saw Miss Snyder at Bliss's. I was in the house but not in the parlor; never saw persons passing out or in the yard, nor going into the cellar. He was working on a shuttle."

In a narrative of what I witnessed at the Bliss séances on the sixth of June, 1877, as printed in the *Banner of Light* of the 30th of June, 1877, it is recorded: "By actual measurement I found the point (in part of the circle) to which the Prince of Blue Flower, Billy the boot-black, and some other of the spirits walked out, was exactly fourteen and one-half feet from the cabinet."

The *Times* reporter, he may be seen, states that the wooden structure he found below was "in the centre of the cellar."

At the time I made my measurement, I had been sitting in the front row of the audience, there being several rows of chairs back of me, so that the length of the room, from the front of the cabinet, could not, probably, have been short of twenty-five feet. As the trap opened the Prince of Blue Flower, Billy the boot-black, and some other of the spirits walked out, was exactly fourteen and one-half feet from the cabinet."

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man or law. She would take me outside, and not allow me to talk in presence of the girls. All about the trap-door is false; I never saw a trap-door in the house. I was expecting to be sick with child, and at the time Harrison mentioned, and could not get through such a hole. Miss Snyder had not been in my house since February" (which was six months before the alleged exposure occurred).

Anthony Brayborne sworn.
"The hole was fifteen by fifteen and a half inches. The cellar-door was locked, and I broke it open. The model (then in Court) is the size of the hole as I found it. I put the cabinet up in the same position as it was originally, in the same nail-holes. Saturday, before the plumbers came, Harrison was anxious to have my wife and myself go to the exhibition. We were the only ones in the house. I heard Harrison say that he would put a job up on Bliss, and Philadelphia would be so hot that it would not hold him. I am not a Spiritualist. I have examined the joist, and can't say whether the joist was cut away. Just about the time the plumbers came Harrison was anxious to learn whether we heard a noise in the cellar at night; have seen him carrying boards into the cellar."

Cross-examined.
"The hole was fifteen by fifteen and a half inches. If there was a door there it would reduce the hole one inch, and step-ladder would reduce it further. Bliss had no confidence in me, and I made no statement. I was living in Ogden street, next door to Bliss; I spent my evenings on the steps; I have noticed Captain Harrison; I have frequently seen him walk down Ogden street before the séance began, and come back an hour afterwards. I proceeded to repair the hole that I made in the cellar after the committee came to examine the place, and I nailed the same boards in the same places."

In commenting on Brayborne's testimony, Harrison said, under oath: "I told Mr. Brayborne if he (Bliss) did not stop talking about Miss Snyder's character, I would make it hot for him. I did not say that I could get \$500 for putting up a job on him. I did say that a party told me that if he could be got back to Boston, they would give from three to five hundred dollars to put him through; that he had left a wife and three children there. The joist was cut sawn. The morning the Blissés' child was buried, he called me everything but a gentleman. I then said he had trod on me for the last time."

Elizabeth Page sworn.
Mrs. Bliss was sick, and I took care of her and child till the baby died. I left them at camp-meeting. I had free access to all the house but cellar. Captain Harrison carried the key to that. . . . I sometimes waited on door. I would have seen people if they had gone in and out of the cellar."

Thomas Evans sworn.
I came to Philadelphia during the Centennial, and rented the sky-light at Circle Hall as a place to take photographs. I attended séances at Bliss's, and was introduced to Capt. Harrison. I was much dissatisfied with Mr. Bliss, and said I would leave my business. Captain Harrison said, You need not leave; we can make a large sum of money out of exposing the materialization frauds. I don't know whether Bliss has any trap or not; but I will fix that. I will have some one to represent the thing, and if you will help me I will give you half of all I make. The Young Men's Christian Association will give me five hundred dollars for doing it. Harrison said he had a friend, he called Nellie, who would assist, and who could make from ten to thirty spirits a night."

Mrs. Emma D. Brayborne sworn.
"I finally moved into the Blissés' house. Captain Harrison was living there. He had charge of the cellar. Capt. H. always went down for coal. He said he had a loom in the cellar. I was there when Mr. Bliss went to camp-meeting. He (Harrison) wanted me to go to the (Centennial) exhibition very badly. Mr. H. was always complaining that Mr. Bliss didn't treat him right. He said, one day, that the Blissés shall see this, and said, I can put up a job on them that I will get five hundred dollars for. I saw him take bundles into the cellar. When plumbers were there he took a bundle and a small parcel and a large bundle I saw him carry out. He was down cellar very early one morning, with a candle. He was in stocking-feet. He came out of cellar quickly and went up stairs. He said, one morning, Did you hear a noise last night? Harrison took his trunk away in a cart the day the plumbers came."

In commenting on Mrs. Brayborne's testimony, Harrison said, when under oath before the Court: "I didn't ask Mrs. Brayborne if she heard a noise in the cellar at night. One morning I asked her if she heard a noise, and she said she did. The first quarrel with Bliss I have no day or date for. He ordered me to leave the house, December, 1876. We had several quarrels after that. He never ordered me to leave, or to leave my knowledge. He never made any complaint against her."

Does it not seem very strange that Bliss should be constantly ordering Harrison out of his house for non-payment of board and other cause, on whom (if Harrison's story is true) he was dependent for the support of his family, through the fraudulent practices of himself and Miss Helen Snyder, to whom Harrison was engaged to be married, and whom he did marry, apparently, as soon as he acquired a moderate competence, which happened just after the trial of the Blissés? A singular coincidence! How surpassing strange, too, beyond all precedent, that Bliss should be constantly irritating this man Harrison beyond all endurance at the very time he must have known he held in his power the means to cast him and his wife into prison for an indefinite term of years, by simply turning State's evidence and exposing the villainous practices they had all been engaged in for nearly a twelvemonth!

"The morning Mr. Bliss's child was buried," continues Harrison, "he called me everything but a gentleman. I then told him he had trod on me for the last time."

This quarrel seems to have been the "last feather that broke the camel's back," and from that moment Harrison probably resolved to embrace the favorable opportunity, now that the Blissés were absent at the camp-meeting, to "put up (or complete) the job" against Bliss he had been so long meditating, and perhaps preparing for. As has been before stated, the child was buried some five days before the Blissés' final return from camp-meeting.

It would seem that after vainly trying to persuade Mr. and Mrs. Brayborne to go to the Centennial, and thus leave him alone in the house, Harrison resolved to go to work at night, with hammer and saw, and make the hole in the floor. His being compelled, under the circumstances, to do this in haste and in partial darkness, must account for the inconceivable snipe in which he left the joist, which was the very worst possible, considering the end had in view, and which men working deliberately cannot be supposed to have done. Hence, too, his inquiry on the morning after the hole was sawed out, of the Braybornes, established by both his own and their testimony, whether they heard a noise in the night?

The voracious *Times* informs us that "Mr. Philip Diesinger, a commission merchant and hardware dealer, doing business in Sixth street, above Market, attended a Bliss séance about three months since, and although he detected no trickery, yet he was thoroughly convinced that a fraud was being perpetrated upon many very worthy people, and he resolved to ferret it out. Since that time he has consistently attended the Blissés, and grew so rapidly in favor that he was appointed a director of the Spiritual camp-meeting that ended on Sunday last, the day before the exposure, he it remarked. A

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times representative also started out (ah, hal the irrepressible McGargree!) to solve the mystery, and worked with Mr. Diesinger. What strange coincidences! Let's see.

"On Friday," says Harrison, "Mr. Bliss's child was buried." This, he it remembered, was the Friday preceding Monday, the 20th of August, on which day Diesinger, Harrison and the "demoralized rough" consummated the exposure. That Friday was the day on the morning of which Bliss and his son (as usual, Harrison says) were lying in bed together, and then told him everything but a gentleman, and then told him to get up and on me for the last time." Let's count. Friday night, one! Saturday night, two! Sunday night, three! Three nights, to say nothing of days, before Monday, the day of the exposure, on which to put the "last time" threat into execution, and notify the *Times* of the completion of the job. But here the hero of the plot is, as usual, a little at variance with the "demoralized rough." I mean in respect to the manner in which Mr. Diesinger was brought into the plot. The *Times* says he had been working in connection with the case for three or four days before the exposure. But Harrison states that it was not until after he had threatened Bliss on Friday morning that he had "trod on him for the last time," that his bowels of compassion yearned in his (Diesinger's) behalf! Hear him under oath. "On Wednesday night Bliss's child died. On Friday the baby was buried, and he returned to camp-meeting. On Saturday, which was the 18th, Mrs. Bliss and Miss Page went to camp-meeting and left myself and Mrs. Brayborne. She (Mrs. Bliss) took away traps to carry on services at camp-meeting. The last I saw of her was on the 20th. Mr. Diesinger was not at all about this case, and the whole thing was about a fraud." Again, "I told Mr. Diesinger, after I had taken him into my confidence, *I saw he was going near, crazy on the subject; I told him I would tell him all about it, provided he wouldn't tell a living soul.* I acquiesced in statement of Diesinger to McGargree. It was after McGargree had been into the cellar. He went as a plumber. I knew plumbers were coming to the house; Mrs. Smiley said they would have to come. I was there when the plumbers came. I recognized Mr. McGargree, who was with them. I let them take the cellar."

How lucky for Mr. Diesinger, whom the *Times* alleges had been seeking occasion against Bliss for full three months, that just at the critical moment, Harrison should have taken pity on the poor half-crazed man and received him into his confidence. What a striking coincidence, again! And that this, too, should have all happened on the very day or the day after that on which Harrison had told their mutual enemy, J. A. Bliss, that "he had trod on him for the last time." Mysterions, indeed, are the ways of Providence, and past finding out!

As McGargree, McGargree, McGargree, indeed, that the "demoralized rough" should just at that moment, through some mysterious prompting, have "started out to resolve the mystery, and work with (his Jesuit colleague) Mr. Diesinger, with the same end in view."

It was at this time Mrs. Brayborne avers Captain Harrison took a trunk away with him. This question has often been mooted as to what became of the iron ring and the mystic paraphernalia described by McGargree in the *Times*. From all I can learn, most of the latter remains to this day in the voracious reporter's fanciful regions. The padding of the trunk, however, rather slatternly garments were exhibited in Court. A pair of the trousers may have been taken away by Harrison in his trunk, including the soldier's cap and Indian hat, which, as well as the coat, were, most probably his own individual property. "But," swears Harrison, "I took my clothing away, but not any of the paraphernalia!" And yet it was produced (as alleged) in court! Who did take it? Not Bliss certainly! And yet, Bliss is accused of burning it, somewhere in the enclosure, if I mistake not! I have heard Mr. Bliss say that he was going to burn it, but he paid for the iron ring (\$175, which he lent to Harrison at the time) who afterwards refunded him the money. So Harrison could have taken the ring, too, with him when he left, without being guilty of either burglary or petit larceny, as his brother-in-law, the beer-swilling "rough" seems to have been in the matter of the BANNER OF LIGHT!

"I believed," continued Harrison, "McGargree came to see. I told Diesinger about plumbers. I presume he told McGargree. McGargree and Diesinger found out who the landlady was at the house, and went to her. Both on August 20, at various places. I think that McGargree was at Diesinger's store occasionally. We talked over what they had found. The arrangement for getting up model was made day before yesterday. Mr. Heverin said he would pay for it. The model was made all from my instructions. It is it accurate except that the test condition is no quite long enough."

Q. "When did you come to house?"
A. "On the 20th August."
Q. "When had you seen McGargree?"
A. "The day before. Was in company with Diesinger. We walked down Ogden street. Diesinger asked me to go to the store and get the rough around; talked on general topics." (Of course, a "peep" into those topics.) "Went into a beer saloon on Poplar street; called for a glass of beer. McGargree made the thing known. I think I met Diesinger by appointment. He came to the house. Had been together several days before, and wanted to be together this day. I did not meet Mr. McGargree by appointment. Can't say whether I met Diesinger by appointment; was on Nineteenth street the day after McGargree was at the house. The affair was published in the *Times* paper."

"I met Mr. Diesinger at Sixth and Market on Monday morning. He had returned from camp-meeting. He could not believe it was possible. On Tuesday we met again, and we continued to meet until Friday. At four o'clock Mr. Diesinger called at the house, and I took him down in the cellar and showed him the whole thing; showed him trap, clothing and all; took him in my room and showed him Princess's dress. There has not been a day from that day to this but we have been together. I took no one else. The plumbers came there and (here are four unrecusable words) water pipes. Mrs. Smiley was at the landlady. On Monday Mr. Diesinger called to see me. Took us together. He was not at camp-meeting. Louis McGargree never knew it before. After talking with him, found that I knew more about the matter than I thought he did. He then finally told me that Diesinger told him all about it. We parted, and on Monday morning Mr. McGargree was there with the plumbers, and knew all about plumbing. We talked some time, and I finally unlocked the cellar-door and let them go in. I let them in. Did not go in. Gave them a shove! Left the house on Monday afternoon of that day for good."

I now come to the crucial test, viz., the witness's own hole, that is, the hole in the wall, which he called the test condition of the abnity. Although the reporter of the *Times* alleges that Harrison made a diagram of the trap-door, plan of which was printed in the *Times* of the 21st of August, 1877, nothing therein is said as to its size. Afterwards Harrison swore in Court that the hole was twenty-two by about three inches, thus indicating that he did not accurately measure it with a rule.

William Higgins, another witness, said "the space was seventeen or nineteen inches long; in no rule, and I guessed at it."

Charles S. Ford swore that "from the outer edge of the cabin wall fifteen and three-quarters inches in the clear, and seventeen and three-quarters inches in length."

Anthony Brayborne, carpenter, was the first man to see the hole after the plumbers (including the "demoralized rough") and Diesinger had left the premises, made an exact model of the trap, which was exhibited and sworn to by him in Court. It measures, by this model, fifteen and a half inches by fifteen, which was, beyond reasonable doubt, the size of the aperture

though Mr. Wm. Winner, a most reliable man, and by no means a personal friend of Bliss, assured me that owing to the discussion that was prevailing in and about the Court on that point, he had measured the hole more than once, and never made it above seventeen inches east and west, and fifteen inches north and south. This apparent difference of measurement may be readily accounted for, as will be shown hereinafter.

Mr. Winner also told me that there were no marks of nail or screw holes to be seen for the hinges, nor any door, except a roughly-hewn door which did not fit the hole, it being probably made for a blind. As the floor-joist runs east and west, as is shown in the evidence, it may be at once seen that had there been a door hanging on hinges it must have been hung on the east side of the hole and opened downward, as it could not have been shut at all, unless it was hung on the side from which projected the diagonal cut joist. The door being opened, must then have rested on the slanting end of the joist, which would have increased the size of the opening, to the extent of the thickness of the door (from one to two inches), besides the further diminution made by its slantwise-position on the diagonal cut joist. Mr. Winner assured me that he had made a diagram of the whole thing, and found that if the door had been actually hung in conformity with Harrison's sworn statement there could not have been an open space wherein to have gone to and from the cabinet above, exceeding *nine and a half* by fifteen inches.

Seeing the importance of this point in the alleged forgery, I endeavored to obtain admittance into the cellar at 1027 Ogden street, that I might examine the width of the floor-joists; their distances apart, and the exact angle of the cut joist. With these items in my possession, together with the position occupied by the cabinet on the floor above, I could obtain a pretty near approximation to the size of the hole without further evidence, as it could in no wise exceed in length the space between three joists in the cellar, subject to such diminution as was presented above by the position of the cabinet, and the obstructions presented by the two sides of the test opening, to which it would necessarily be obliged to conform, as well as with the floor-joists below. Much to my chagrin, however, the occupant of the house when he learned my object refused me admittance into the cellar, for the alleged reason that enough had been said and written about the affair already.

The Times states, as may be seen by what goes before, that "The portion of a joist having been removed beneath the trap, a heavy iron plate had been inserted in two joists, at right angles to them, about *six inches* beneath the top of the test opening. If this statement is correct, it shows that the floor-joist would be much less than usual, if any, than eight inches in width—so that a very obtuse diagonal cut or angle followed in a line, by a door fifteen or seventeen, or it might be even twenty-two inches in width, would have left space sufficient for an ordinary-sized person to pass through, clothed in ordinary habiliments, to say nothing of the magnificent and gossamer-like robes characteristic of the Bliss séances. Any person, with the least ingenuity, may satisfy himself beyond question of this fact by actual experiment, as I have done partially. They will find that even with a dilapidated aperture of fifteen to fifteen and a half inches, placed in a convenient position, it is only with difficulty an ordinary-sized man or woman can pass through. Place this aloft, some eight or more feet, and ascend to it by first getting on a table or pedestal, on which is to be placed a little tottering stepladder of some fourteen inches at the foot and twelve at the top (as Harrison swears), reaching within "one step" of the hole, and an ordinary person of any size will probably find him or herself falling to the ground, as often as they will get out of the aperture of the "trap"; and when they have to meet a swinging door in the way shutting towards them like a mouse-trap, with an aperture nine and a half inches, or even twelve or more inches to pass through, a child will find it difficult, if not impossible to pass. To be certified of this fact needs but an experiment, which almost all are competent to make, and thus prove for themselves that the Bliss exposure was founded on a transparent falsity got up doubtless for the occasion. There evidently never was a door hung on hinges in connection with the trap, as Mr. Bliss describes; nor can I find that any other than the "demoralized rough," just come from a bar saloon (most probably), ever saw one. He probably saw double, and hence two pair of hinges presented themselves to his disordered vision, the one hidden by old stockings, and the other out of sight under the mop-board of the "test condition" partition above, as he stated in the Times, when in reality there were none.

(Concluded in our next.)

SEASIDE MUSINGS.

BY OLIVER E. VAIL.

One summer day, beside the sea,
Removed from each oppressing care,
From the dull hum of industry
To rest, to breathe the ocean air;
To loiter on the glistening strand,
To listen if perchance the sea,
In swelling monotonous so grand
With notes of woe and gladness, say
That swell the rolling waves expend
Their force upon the shelving sand,
Each wave-line track to apprehend
Dim characters for which they stand.
Where grasses, pebbles, tiny shell
All shap'd and hu'd within the sea,
Arranged as if they fain would tell
The tales of olden days and years;
What master workman shap'd and dyed
The fragile form, the polished face?
What hand upon the ocean tide
Conveyed to land, leaving no trace
Of human footsteps on the shore,
No form half hidden by the sea,
No voice, save the loud breaker's roar
To solve the deep sea mystery?

Here rousing every dormant sense,
To gather from the darkness shade,
Whence strand and deep, My friends intense
The strand so beautiful and rare,
Yet are these number'd with such care,
Each grain of sand beside the sea,
Pebble and shell and grasses rare,
Hand work of a divinity.

Yet told the sea roar loud and long,
Baleful as one who meets a foe,
Calling the Furies, fierce and strong,
From the dark caverns deep below,
Battalion'd at the outer bar,
White-plumed infantry advance,
With wings raised, and feet far
On tented fields of vast expanse
Onward they press toward the land,
They come as conquering heroes come,
With waving plumes and banners grand
Glistening beneath a summer sun.

Along the line sharp cannonade
And dazling gleam of spear and lance,
Yet the white cliffs stand undismay'd,
The shining strand heeds not th' advance.
Column on column rise and fall,
Barr'd beneath an angry sea,
While the dark death angel's pall
Cover their dead in mystery.

Who rules the waves and stills the sea
What set the winds upon the strand,
The fiat of Infinity,
Is written on the sea's sand.

Disconsol.—Mrs. Tippet remarked to a friend about a certain Mrs. Doe, who had suddenly become very fashionable:—"Fa! I remember when Mrs. Doe was below me; but now, la, she's above me!"

Has gone clear up to the top of the scale!"

Banner Correspondence.

California.

(Some months since we received from Mrs. H. F. Brown, under date of National City, the article of which appended formed the main portion. The residue, regarding the whereabouts and doings of Hon. Warren Chase, and also the intentions of Mrs. Brown, was unnecessary editorially. We have not seen a line up to date wherein the subject takes any other than the main avowed course. As one of the earnest workers, which reach us from various quarters of the country, to which the fearless itinerant workers for Spiritualism are all activity, and are possessors of hearts which fear no danger, it need be, for the advancement of the truth, *Id., Banner of Light.*)

All aboard! These two west sea feet are crying and the thews in them are shaking links of good-byes, hasty kisses, and good separations. Eyes meet tearful eyes, and God bend and bring you back in health," are like a sweet benediction upon souls who are seeking health in Southern California. Will these consumptive and the boon they seek? Maybe; but there is mistake in waiting till disease gets fast hold before taking refuge in the "land of the living." Father and the good ship Orizaba steamed out of San Francisco Bay. The finding of interest in Seal Rocks, a group of small rocky islands close to the Golden Gate. The name is well chosen—the only occupants are seals. These grotesque creatures, with soft eyes and harsh voices, jerk and flop and hitch out the water for a sun-bath among the rocks. They are not afraid of the presence of the great islands. Land and water pillagers look on longling eyes upon these splendid fellows, and calculate the price of oil and skins; but the handsome hands are holden. So let it be evermore some of these sea-lions are lionized, and counted among the mighty of the land. "Ben Bacon" and "General Grant," the purely fellow-travelers, are the only ones who have been among the rocks and settled down for a rest. The common herd gather about, to bask in the shade of their beautiful eyes; or, it may be, they, like some men, have schemes they desire championed, and so flop and roar about to enfold the old lions into service. Wonder if seals have souls, and if they are marketable? Some say they are, and that the water is full of the souls of sea-lions. It was said of a well-known seal twelve hundred pounds. He flopped out of the water and hitched high among the rocks, where he rolled and roared "like some old prophet" moaning in his sleep. Presently two scores of smaller seals gathered about the splendid fellow. Then there was straightway the sound of many voices. The business of the meeting was somewhat confused. It was a council of war, not a concert; but the general opinion was that the old patriarch was the "Brigham Young" of the island, and that he was holding conference with his sealed consorts.

Who was in the right we may never know; as was for the Orizaba passengers, we had all to do to look after ourselves. But at sea the waters were calm, and the waves had a long game of "lups and slaps." How suddenly, with what jerks and bounds, we returned into the berth! There we tumbled about the seals in unusual quavers. But were not without comfort. Capt. Johnson, the master of his ship. If he may not bid the waves still, he commands the craft and she obeys. "I am not afraid of the water," said the captain. "You know where to find him, and what to expect, he knows where to find himself. Who does not turn his head nor his feet. There is, on Orizaba, another man in whom we trust. I have faith in his strong arm years ago, one storm night, when a little craft was taking me landward, and my faith was not in vain. This man is the John. He is black as midnight; his hair and eyes are white; and he is a good fellow. The morning. The call was, ever and ever, "Orizaba! Orizaba! I want this and that," and John's was "Yes, yes," was ever full of hope and health. A frail little woman to whom he was attentive said, "Dear old John! how white he will be when heaven!" John looked in upon Mrs. C. and said, "I am not afraid of the water, and I am not afraid of the sea. Just get your mind some where else." This was logic in his words.

I brought out one of Mrs. Richmond's lectures "Metempsychosis." We soon forgot our sorrows in the wonder if the soul must return to sin, suffer, stumble, and, perhaps, to rejoice in new scenes and associations. Just then, life on the stage presented the most charming side. Let us forget that was the thought. But may it not be true that

"Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting:
The soul that rises in us, our life's star,
Has had elsewhere a setting,
And cometh from another sphere!"

By-and-by we shall know how it is. At midnight the second day after our embarkation, near Santa Barbara, 280 miles south of San Francisco. The Orizaba saluted the fair "And the sea answered with a lamentation."

The late storms had demoralized one who had taken fifty hundred feet from the sea and was now a hundred feet from the sea. The flash of lights soon assured us that the gates of the beautiful city were not closed. Warren Chase, his wife and daughter, were lowered into boats and went safely ashore. At noon the day we reached Santa Monica, a handsome little town two years old. We next halted at Wilmington, the Los Angeles port, then Anaheim. I did not see either of these towns, the wind, the darkness, and the noise of the night. On the fourth day the Orizaba rounded Point Loma and cast anchor in San Diego Bay, five hundred miles southeast of San Francisco. By some far-away place is regarded the land of promise. Col. Thomas Scott promised to make this western terminus of the Texas and Pacific Railroad. The invalid looks this way for health. Endure promises to make all Southern California the garden of the United States, and the land needed for growing tropical fruits, cotton, tea, and tea, is capital and energy. San Diego, the southwest county of California. On the Mexican mountains are visible; on the west we have the sea; on the east mountains; just now the air is sweet with the many-colored birds, and the breath of fruit-blossoms; and the earth is green with the many-colored flowers.

And so the consumptive goes forth, glad and strong, full of hope that length of days and rich heritage of health are in store for him. May it be ever so!"

Massachusetts.

CHELSEA.—A. C. Cunningham writes we have read with interest the late discussion of your paper growing out of the lecture by Warren Richmond concerning the relation of Spiritualism to the Harmonical Philosophy and the strictures upon it by Mr. C. O. P. together with the notice of his treatment by several of the awake correspondents. It troubles you with my conclusions, but in this letter let me say that I think the several assertions Mr. Poole—animated as they seem to me to a reprehensible spirit—do him no credit. With me one who loves to read both sides of all questions, I am also one who admires fairness gentlemanly courtesy wherever found—and the which is seldom found in his treatment of the to be conspicuous by their absence. In my opinion, if Mr. Poole is ironclad even—in view of what has been said in reply to his assumptions by Messrs. Peebles, Warren Bacon, "H." and other able correspondents your columns—to continue what thus far proved a forlorn hope, he will have to offer fields and fields of new ground to the earnest seekers who already have to be beaten at every point. I wonder many of your readers think as I do, that Poole makes these occasions a pretext to late some particular and cherished view of his own? His object at times appears to be specially to write up Mr. Davis, who does need it, than to repair his own waste place seriously exposed by his disputants.

BOSTON.—"A. F. E." writes: "Men of letters, poetry, art, history and literature less scientifically than they do what are the natural sciences, because the ethics and philosophy of the past have been dogmatized

the present or a superstition, and the liberals of the creed are not organized enough to afford a solution of the difficulty. It must come sometime. The world hears the whispers of future years as they approach; when they arrive, and the tones are heard clearly, they will tell a grand story of people who know what are the proper means for producing that first essential of heaven, orderly, harmonious action. They will then see that a divine nature is everywhere—that only the misunderstanding of obtuse ignorance prompts men to construe this creation and its inhabitants into fargon and devils, by supposing all manner of evil things when they should ascribe to all manner of good things. Who would be so shallow as to demand of God to send a traitor? Then why, because damage has been done by short-sighted people, should everybody be put through the straight-jacket of suspicion, and submitted to the torture of the cold shoulder? Hail to the coming day of confidence and faith in humanity, when deception shall be over and harmony begun."

Iowa.

OSCEOLA.—Dr. L. Perkins writes: "May I request you—once more to place my name upon your subscription list? I hope that in the future no unfavorable circumstance will alienate my recognition of the value of the *Banner of Light*. The maintenance of the exalted character of this valued publication (commencing nearly at the advent of Modern Spiritualism) is indeed a genuine source of congratulation to the millions of votaries at the shrine of our cherished principles—the firm and inflexible support extended to the cause of Spiritualism, characterized by its faith to all and malice to none, is indeed a characteristic, at this time, in great demand. It has in an eminent degree been guided by these principles."

The late attacks made upon the materializing mediums of our country (in my estimation) afford evidence that our spirit-friends are more rapidly developing their close relation to us than the denizens of this mundane sphere can reciprocate. Though there may have been isolated instances of fraud, my confidence in these *pretended* exposures is greatly weakened since Mott, of Memphis, Mo., has been included in the list. I think I am fully justified in making the statement that he is a genuine and honest medium, and that he has subjected to the old *Banner of Light* his senses under the most strict post-conditions; the number is very large who are willing to corroborate this statement. It is sincerely desired that this sensitive class of mediums may not be intimidated by the apparent unkind treatment of which they have been made the recipients; let all sincere Spiritualists manifest a willingness to help and support the claims of honest mediums, and lend every effort possible to bear the burden so heavily resting upon them. The spirit of intolerance toward this class derives its origin in a primitive period of our race; the most distinguished and purest medium that ever lived was subjected to the penalty of bearing the burden of his own cross upon which he was crucified, his body being consumed by a cruel and unmerciful land of the pilgrims, classic New England, mediums have been required to yield their lives to the caprice of that fanaticism which has ever been unrelenting. The law of progress now gives security to life. May we not trust that the indications of the present are prophetic of an increase in growth of fraternal feeling, and that the day is near when the close relation to spirit will realize the spiritual presence of every one and be animated with the principles of charity and love?"

Vermont.

SOUTH ROYALTON.—Stuart L. Rogers writes: "I have been among the hills of Vermont since the first of May, and have seen some of the mediums of note. I attended the Convention at Plymouth, and got some fine tests through Mrs. Pratt and Mrs. Weston; both ladies I considered very reliable mediums. I have had the good luck to meet a young man from Mount Holyoke, Vt., whom I think is an extra good test, and a very decided one. He is a student of Miss Jennie Huang, the child medium, is at present sick, but slowly recovering. She has been speaking at West Randolph regularly for four months, to good houses, and spreading the glorious news to the people. She gave an inspirational poem on the 4th of July at a grove-meeting at Royaton Centre, subject, 'Liberty.' I never saw a more beautiful and eloquent woman, and spellbound by the eloquence she used. It was one of the finest poems I ever heard from her. She will not attend any of the camp-meetings this year, as her health will not permit. I wish to say to my friends in Ohio I have improved physically as well as spiritually since I came here."

British Columbia.

VANCOUVER'S ISLAND.—James Devine writing from "Uplands, Victoria," says in the course of a business letter: "I take the liberty to say a few words concerning a message which appeared in the *Banner of Light* for March 23 given by the late poetess, Henry Blacknell. I know him well, and thousands beside me. In the message you see the man as he lived. I was a native of Boston; in which I am informed he has a sister still living. He, as he says, was long connected with the fur-trade, first on our own account, next in the Northwest Company (Astor's), and lastly with the Hudson's Bay Company, in whose service I might almost say I have been for the last thirty years. He was, I prize, running between Victoria and New Westminster on the mainland. Some one cut the message out of the *Banner*, and pasted it on Frank Canipbell's bulletin board. In the most conspicuous corner in this town, where it was read and commented on by hundreds."

Connecticut.

GLASTONBURY.—Marcia M. T. Hale writes: "In a recent number of your paper I noticed a message from Miss Catherine Draper's. In the year 1810 I was a pupil in the seminary in Hartford known as the Misses Draper's. Miss C. was my favorite teacher, and I recognize in the communication the same characteristic and peculiar to her individuality."

New York.

REDWOOD.—Mrs. S. C. Sardam writes: "The Message Department of the *Banner of Light* of June 8th, 1878, I recognized a message purporting to come from WILLIAM B. HINMAN. I was intimately acquainted with Mr. Hinman a family, and, as you are, I should be glad to have me directed. He was only believed in Spiritualism, but lived it in his every day life."

Michigan.

GRAND RAPIDS.—Mrs. Sarah Graves writes: "I have been holding meetings, since my return from California, in places near this city, and, after 40, and desiring to keep the work. My address is 40 Hastings street, I hope this will be of some use to you. I like the position. I am glad to stand by the mediums. I do not like fraud, but I want fair play."

☞ The following paper, clearly showing Mr. Johnson's belief in Spiritualism, occurs among his "Prayers and Meditations." It was written on the death of his wife in 1752; "Oh, Lord, Governor of heaven and earth, in whose hands are embodied and departed spirits, if thou hast ordained the souls of the dead to minister to the living, and appointing me, Jesus Christ, our Father, to be the Father of the living, I may enjoy the good fruits of thy attention and ministrations, which, exercised by appearance, impulses, dreams, in any other manner agreeable to thy government. Forgive my presumption, enlighten my ignorance, and, however meaner agents are employed, grant me the blessed Influences of thy Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Father, and Mary, the Virgin, through St. Anthony, D. D., Prelate of Rochester and Vicar of Islington, the advertisement to the fourth edition of "Prayers and Meditations," inserts an elaborate apology for the credibility of apparitions, "The Lord Edition of Johnson's Works," vol. ix., 1702 to 1822.

[illegible]

This image shows a vertical strip of a document page. The left edge is a dark, textured binding. The page surface is white but heavily stained with dark spots and streaks. The right edge is dark and irregular.

Autumn, judging by the regnant weather, I about to put in a claim for attention, in advance of the season, and peeping over his shoulder comes Winter, the time for cold feet, rheumatism, and the like. To the person who has been addicted to frigid extremities, preserve the following advice for reference when the "time of his trial cometh." Put the feet in hot water—painfully hot—and as it cools add more hot water to keep up the temperature. Half an hour's immersion, especially if aided by the addition of the water of red pepper and mustard, is the best remedy. The quicker the feet are thus kept taking cold, attends the application of this simple remedy.

Astrology.
To the Editor of the Banner of Light:
Sir: I have contemplated addressing a few lines to

of this written for some time. It now seems that you editorially, and the message department of the paper, have taken advantage of being ahead of me.

I am glad to hear that you are getting along well. I let Barrell, in which he says that he always likes, and still does, believe in astrology; that certain events happen, and always with certain phases and latitudes of the moon, and in your paper you have an editorial comment on the subject, expressing exactly my ideas, and referring incidentally to Azañel, who appears generously enough, it seems to me, as a person whose opinions are not at all similar to those of the mortal coil. In the same issue the controlling influence of Mrs. Rudd's message séance says in reply to a question "There are some born with a peculiar fate. The astrological world always speaks the truth." So you see both you and the spirits have got a head of me.

You will observe that this spirit "uses very apt and logical language. He does not say that *astrologers* always speak the truth, but that the *astrological world* always does.

In your city there is an astrologer, Prof. Jenkins, if you will allow me to use his name, to whom I sent the date of birth of two friends. He never has seen them, yet he described them exactly, and gave a delineation of their characters that was as correct as it was wonderful. He told them of their travels, sicknesses, troubles and good fortunes.

time, and also what was to happen, all coming true as he gave it. To one he said that at a certain time there would

be a great desire for change, or offers of a change, and much travel. At the exact time the person had an offer to go to a far distant clime, and felt too the desire to accept it. To the other, whose chief trouble had been domestic, he spoke as if he had been with him throughout it all. Now he only interpreted the language of this astrological world, to which the controlling spirit referred as always speaking the truth.

whatever it is, and it seems to me that more attention should be given it than it now has. Yours truly,

71 Broadway, New York City. WILLIAM Q. JUDGE.

PUBLIC MEETINGS, ETC.

[illegible]

Good vocal and instrumental music secured. The dining-room will be under the supervision of a competent com-

mities, the benefactors of the season, with the substantial
 D. J. C. PHILLIPS, *Secretary*. S. M. BROWN, *President*.
 Omro, Wis., Aug. 7, 1878.

Friends of Human Progress.
 The Twenty-third Annual Meeting of the Friends of
 Human Progress, of the State of Wisconsin, will be held at Hom-
 ick Hall, Grant, Erie County, N. Y., commencing on the
 30th day of August, and closing on the 1st day of Septem-
 ber, 1878. A large number of friends of fifteen out of a soci-
 ety of friends of the cause, from the State of Wisconsin, and
 friends of Michigan, Mrs. E. L. Watson, of Titusville,
 and others will be present as speakers. Good music will
 be in attendance.
 A. M. HAWLEY, *Committee*.
 Mrs. W. WOOD, }

Michigan Spiritualists and Liberalists.
 The Semi-Annual Meeting of the Michigan State Asso-

will be held at Grand Rapids, commencing on Thursday, August 29th, and closing Sunday, Sept. 1st. The arrange-

ments that are being made it is hoped will make the material for the large Mass Meeting, to be held at the State House, some of the best speakers in the Spiritualist and Liberal ranks will be present. S. B. MURKACKE, *Secretary*.

Banket Meeting.

There will be a Banket Meeting at Brown's Hall, in Georgetown, Madison Co., N. Y., Sat., 21st and 22d, commencing at 1 P. M. on the 21st day. Good speakers will be in attendance, and a social evening will be enjoyed, and we trust great advancement in spiritual truths.

Committee.
L. P. HOWAN,
T. BROWN.

Maine Camp-Meeting.

The Spiritualists will hold their Camp-Meeting at Bona, Penobscot Co., Maine, in J. W. Baswell's Grove, commencing Aug. 28th, and holding five days. Good speakers are engaged, and there are cordial invitations to all.

ing Daniel Buswell, of Ettna. Come one and all for a good time. *Per order Committee.*

Passed to Spirit-Life:
From Lake Pleasant camp-ground, Sunday evening, Aug. 8th, of consumption, Alma A. Underwood, eldest daughter of S. T. and Amoret L. Underwood, of Athol, Mass., in her 22d year.

Her recovery was over, she desired to be taken to Lake Pleasant, where she could breathe the fresh air beneath the pines, and once more be surrounded by friends who were so dear to her. Her mother's religious philosophy. Her request was granted, and accompanied by her beloved parents, friends, and her physician (Dr. H. C. Smith), she was taken to the lake. Her mother's influences surrounding her for a time she appeared to be gaining strength. She took delight in listening to the fine music which came from the organ in the church.

"Nearer, my God, to Thee," a favorite of hers. But dis- tinctly she had sensed the vicinity of angelic youth and beautiful music, and she peacefully passed to the home of the angels.

to the remains being taken to Athol for interment. Mrs. Anna M. Middlebrook delivered a most touching and appropriate discourse which will long be remembered.

Mr. A. has been well known for years as an investigator and fearless advocate of the truth of Spiritualism, and has been the writer of several well understood tracts. His last publication, "The Valley," was there no "shadow of death," for the "valley of the shadow of death" is the "valley of knowledge," in the hearts of angels and men. It is a work of knowledge and guide him safely home. A wife and several children are his. He is a confirmed Spiritualist, and is well assured that free from earth-hells he will come to them in spirit. The Spiritualists in his town will miss an

C. FANNIE ALLYN.

From Ithaca, N. Y., July 18th, after an illness of only three days.) Minnie T., aged 10 months 15 days, daughter of Eugene W. and Sarah W. Davies, of Athens, Bradford Co., Pa., where her remains were taken for interment.

[Obituary Notices not exceeding twenty lines published gratuitously. When they exceed this number, twenty cents for each additional line is required. A line of equal space averages ten words.]

THIRD THOUSAND—REVISED.

The Golden Melodies.

A NEW COLLECTION OF

WORDS AND MUSIC
FOR THE NEW OR

LYCEUMS, CIRCLES AND CAMP-MEETINGS.

BY S. W. TUCKER.

This book is not a collection of old music re-published, but the contents are mostly original, and have been prepared to meet a want that has long been felt all over the country for a fresh supply of words and music.

ORIGINAL PIECES—Beautiful Angels are Waiting
As I Stand by a Land; Fareless Beauty: Oh, show me
The Spirit's Inland Home; The Spirit's Inland Home:
My Father's House; My Father's House: Longing
For Home; My Arbor of Love; Moving Homeward;
The Shepherd's Fold; The Shepherd's Fold: There
Is a Fountain Filled with Blood; There Is a Fountain
Filled with Blood: Beautiful Land of Life; Home of Rest; Trust in God: An-
gel Visitants; Sweet Recollections; Looking Over: Gathered
in the Valley; What is the Name of Him? No! Not He: Look-
ing Beyond; Let Men Love One Another: Strike all your

ices from the better than, chant—Come to me, re-
oration Chant: A Little While Longer; They're Calling
over the Sea; (Over There: Beautiful Land

SELECTED.—We shall Meet on the Bright Celestial
 Shore; Angel Cars:—We'll Welcome Home; Welcome
 Angels: Gode, Gentle Spirit; Repose; Sweet Hour of
 Prayer; Chant, Mying Homeward; Come up Higher;
 Only Waiting; Evergreen Shore; Gode Return
 Again—G and EP; Shall we Know Each Other There?
 My Friends; Gentle Words; My Home beyond the River;
 How in the Aorn; My Seed.
 Bound in boards, 33 cents, postage free; paper, 25 cents.
 Postage free; 12 copies, paper, \$2.50; 25 copies and up,
 postage to one address at the rate of 20 cents per copy.
 Sent by mail, and return by the publisher, G. L. & J. B. RICH, at No. 9 Montgomery Place, corner of Province
 Street (lower floor), Boston, Mass.

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