

THE SPIRITUAL PHILOSOPHY
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CATHERINE ELIZABETH BRITTAN.
—
BY NELSON CROSS.

To the Editor of the Banner of Light:

On the afternoon of Wednesday, the 26th of February, Catherine Elizabeth Brittan, wife of Professor Samuel B. Brittan, passed to the higher life.

It is not expected that to the general public the foregoing announcement will elicit more than a passing notice, but to many, and especially those of the spiritual faith, it will be received with regretful interest, and we feel assured that not a few will experience an earnest desire to learn something of the inner life and home surroundings of this estimable lady, who for more than forty years of varying fortune formed the revered centre of a family circle whose parental head was among the earliest to proclaim the sublime and beautiful truth of the communion of spirits with mortals.

It was in the early springtime of her life that the subject of our brief sketch was led to the altar by the young schoolmaster, who at that period of his career could have scarcely perceived with any degree of clearness the course of his future labors. Ardent and hopeful as were both groom and bride, the day of their union was at once a happy and a solemn occasion, for neither the one nor the other was unmindful of the manifold duties and responsibilities which it thereforward enjoined. In this connection, it is not too much to say that never for one moment of after-time had either of them cause to regret their mutual choice. Of the bride we can truly say that from that eventful day to her latest of earth her life was an exemplification of all that is highest and holiest in the marriage relation. To her, the home and the family were of all earthly things the most sacred. She had no sympathy whatever and very little patience with any system of morals which countenanced or even excused the slightest disturbance of the harmonies of the domestic state, to which, more than all, she attributed the happiness of her life.

As a wife, she was ever patiently affectionate, trusting and dutiful; as a mother, she was all tenderness and love; as a friend, she was constant and self-sacrificing to the last,

—“A faithful stay
In all the world's mischances.”

Lying as she desired to live, a life of comparative seclusion, that life was consecrated to those kindly and affectional offices upon which the happiness and well-being of those nearest to her so largely depended. Nor did the domesticity of her nature undergo any moderation, in the rapid advancement to public favor of her life-companion. She watched with lively interest the development of his powers as teacher and guide in the more elevated field of morals and philosophy, but shrank from the conspicuousness to which his after-years' fame subjected her.

Let it not be inferred from what has been said that our departed friend and sister was indifferent to the opinions of others, or lacking in appreciation of the high distinction which her husband had achieved. Those who were so fortunate as to know her in the more intimate relation of friend and counsellor, will bear witness with the writer that she was not only highly gifted intellectually, but exquisitely cultured in the classical literature of the age. The well-grounded education acquired in her girlish days had been gracefully built upon, and she had continued to progress, step by step and side by side, with him whom she had chosen to lead her through the rugged ways of this life, so that in all things exalted and enduring theirs was an even and an equal companionship to the end. In a word, *theirs* was the true married state, with its singleness of purpose and mutuality of endearments.

Mrs. Brittan was an extensive and discriminating reader. Her insight into the "liberal philosophy," which she had heartily espoused, was remarkably comprehensive, for of this she was not only a reader but a student.

The polemical writings of her husband had served to increase her fondness to examine all sides of a question, and it was only after such examination that her judgment can be said to have been formed; hence it is not surprising that, in a natural course, she grew to be the chosen critic and monitor of the Professor's literary productions, and we feel confident that we shall be pardoned any seeming encroachment upon the inner circle of their domestic life in stating that it was to her calm, unbiassed judgment, that the author in question was accustomed to submit his writings before giving

them to the public; and oftentimes a timely and considerate suggestion from her has tended to change an objectional passage, or moderate the severity of a controversial discourse.

Notwithstanding the generally even course of events in which Mrs. Brittan shared, there fell to her lot a full measure of the hardship and suffering incident to this life, and it was when the hand of misfortune pressed most heavily upon her that she evinced that fortitude and energy which transformed the retiring matron into a saintly heroine. Neither adversity of circumstances nor personal affliction were sufficient to destroy or materially diminish her vital forces. A serious accident had deprived her of the free use of a limb, and for upwards of a third of a century the use of an artificial support was indispensable to her movements even from room to room, yet no word of complaint escaped her lips, and no customary household duty was neglected. She had borne nine children, six of whom preceded her to the world of spirits. Of these, three had died in infancy, and three had perished in youth's summer days; one, a fair and gifted maid, had faded away in the bloom of maidenly beauty; another in early manhood had passed to the life beyond; and still another had offered up his young life in the carnage of battle, far from his childhood home and the ministrations of love, that his country might live.

Amid these afflictions, the severity of which only a mother's heart can understand, the ever-watchful guardian was marvelously sustained by that abiding faith in things unseen which the liberal philosophy had inculcated. It was indeed during these bitter experiences that the veil which obscures from view the invisible world had been lifted to her eyes, and she was permitted to realize in no small degree "the substance of things hoped for." Then it was indeed that her sublime faith became to her a living reality, and from that time forward the precious gift never forsook her. In her last days even, it was vivified in a remarkable degree, and the spiritualized sufferer was able to see and hold sweet converse with the immortal spirits that gathered at her bedside, and called her *mother*. It is comforting to know that during the period of her last illness she was constantly attended by those who were nearest and dearest to her heart. Every attainable wish to which she gave expression was gratified, every temporal want anticipated, and in her latest moments she passed away in a calm sleep, broken only by the gradual dying out of respiration, as gentle and undisturbed as the unconscious slumber of infants.

We append the following lines descriptive of the last illness of our valued friend, written only a few days before the spirit forsook its feeblebed tenement :

Upon her weary couch she lies,
From slarry morn to eventide,
And loving hands and tearful eyes
Are watching, waiting by her side.

The angel of the house is she,
Whose life to other lives hath given
The fullness of its love; but see!
She 's looking now far into heaven.

Oh, visions of Immortal life !
Bright glories of the world to be !
The veil is rent ; friend, mother, wife,
Celestial honors wait for thee.

Sequel to the Alfred James Brooklyn Expose.

To the Editor of the Banner of Light :

In the *Banner of Light* issue of Feb. 1st, 1873, was published a reply to the charges made on me by John Roberts and Robert C. Matthews in their paper, *The Liberator and Mator*, for Jan. 18th, 1873. I made three propositions to show the sincerity of my purpose and my lack of confidence concerning Alfred James. The first proposition was that of giving him one hundred dollars in the event that under test conditions I named (such as his being divested of his own clothing and others substituted) there should come out of the cabinet full forms (not faces at the aperture) clad in other clothing than that he entered with. I stated that under those circumstances I would gladly forfeit the money and give my testimony in writing to that effect. Mr. James promptly accepted my challenge, and named the evening of Tuesday, Feb. 18th, 1873, for the same. The following gentlemen were accepted by the committee: Messrs. Wm. H. B. Chapman, Col. Cass, Mr. Wm. and Mr. Shumway, all of Philadelphia, and Room No. 23, Lincoln Hall, was secured to hold the séance in. At about 8 o'clock there were present the above-named gentlemen and their wives, also Jonathan Roberts and my friend, Mr. W. Winner, several ladies, myself and my friend, R. B. Westbrook—in all about twelve persons. The cabinet was one that had been used frequently at Col. Cass's residence, and was placed in the centre of one end of the room. The retiring room was improvised by hanging curtains in one corner. I handed the committee the one hundred dollars stipulated, and they retired with the medium behind the curtain. When Mr. James was divested of his own clothing, I handed in the clothing I had provided for the occasion, consisting of a pair of dark pants, a dark cardigan jacket, and a pair of white and blue socks, and a pair of slippers with which he clothed himself. I had supplied needles and thread, and requested that the pants should be sewed to the jacket at the waist, and the bottom of the pants be sewed to the top of the socks, which was done, but to which Mr. James made some objections, but however consented.

All being ready, the medium emerged from the enclosure and entered the cabinet. The committee had been provided with a kerosene lamp, which was placed on a table near by; the lights in the hall were turned down very low; the light was increased or diminished at the request of the control, "Wild Cat," as he is called. After the usual singing, and a delay of ten or fifteen minutes, there appeared at the aperture a face for a moment, and soon after the face appeared again for a moment, and then a figure appeared at the aperture, and at the bottom of a curtain covering the entrance to the cabinet) and a figure, crouched down, was seen for an instant only. Some said they saw something white, others said it was only James's flesh, but *James* sure. No other manifestations occurred, and after a little the control said the power was exhausted and nothing more could be done. Thus ended the test seance, and my

one hundred dollars were immediately handed back to me by the committee.

In the *Banner of Light* issue of Feb. 15th, 1879, I made a further proposition (fearing it would be said if no manifestations occurred, as required, that the conditions were not right; that I would remain in Philadelphia for other successive nights, so long as he or his defenders would forfeit ten dollars each night in which no manifestations occurred under the same strict test conditions: 1) to forfeit the one hundred dollars as before; the money, if any, forfeited on their part to be given to some charitable object. When Wild Cat had said the power was exhausted, I then asked if the control wanted the test scenes continued, as stated above. The answer was, "We leave that to the medium." Mr. James came out and went behind the curtains, and I appeared soon in his own clothes. Mr. Roberts had expressed his willingness to put up the ten dollars, but Mr. James positively refused him to make another trial. Mr. Roberts became indignant, and told Mr. James never to show his face to him again, or something to that effect.

One of the gentlemen of the committee thinking it would be best to have the refusal made to them personally, these gentlemen determined to wait on Mr. James, and two of them arranged to meet the next day which they did. I was at the residence of Mr. H. B. Champion, when Alfred James and Mr. W. Winner, the then conductor of Mr. James's car, came in, and at a short conference it was determined to call on Mr. James, to this effect: "Would I be willing to withdraw the money-forefeit on both sides, but Mr. James be subjected to the same test conditions as before, except no sewing to be done to the clothing?" I replied I would, with the understanding, as before, that full forms were to come out dressed in other clothing than that worn by the medium—no figures at curtains or faces at the aperture to be considered; or I would remain for six months under the original conditions and the forfeiture on both sides. Mr. James and Mr. Winner both left, and I was left alone with Mr. Alfred James. Mr. W. Winner soon returned and said they could not find Mr. Roberts, but that Mr. James had declined not to have any more trials under either of the propositions,

I had a long talk with Mr. Winner on his return, and showed him the silk garments and other articles taken from Mr. James's coat in Brooklyn—the supplying of which I had been accused of. To my surprise, Mr. Winner said he thought I was a sincere man, and that I had acted very fairly, and that he did not think I had been guilty as charged, but might not Mr. Oakley have been the guilty party? I was glad to learn I was being exonerated, but told Mr. Winner I thought the charges against Mr. Oakley would be far-fetched, and gave him my reasons for thinking so. I then produced the evidence in Mr. James's coat, and the evidence in Mr. Oakley's coat, and mentioned the mud-spots, and said, if I could see such manifestations as we had seen, I would also be convinced. I said I would like to be corrected if I was in error, and if the theory that the clothes had been supplied by Mr. Oakley and placed in Mr. James's coat unknown to him was correct, I should like to do justice to Mr. James. I then said to Mr. Winner, "I suppose if I should present myself at one of Mr. James's séances, he would object to my being admitted." Mr. Winner then replied, if Mr. James rejected me, he, Mr. W., would not remain to conduct his sittings. During the talk I asked Mr. Winner what was the reason for the supplying of the clothing that appeared, and what disposition was made of it; he said he thought the forms brought their own clothing, and took it away again, or de-materialized it. He also said he thought sometimes spirits brought clothing and put it on Mr. James while he was unconscious, and that if a form should be seized, it would be found to be Mr. James himself with the clothes still on him, as the spirits under such circumstances would not have the opportunity of taking them away again. I asked him if Mr. James was searched after a successful seance when various forms had appeared, and clothing such as the forms had shown themselves in was ever secreted on him? Mr. Winner said that he had never heard that Mr. James was a fraud? I said, "Yes, such a circumstance would be sufficient proof." I then urged that he would intercept Mr. James after a seance, and insist on his being searched, but Mr. W. did not say he would.

After Mr. Wlener had left, and as I was about leaving Mr. Champlon's home to return to Brooklyn by the four o'clock P. M. train, I said to Mr. and Mrs. Champlon I would sometime return to Philadelphia and endeavor to bring about the searching of Mr. James after what was termed a successful seance. I returned to Brooklyn Wednesday, Feb. 10th, and again visited Philadelphia

ply, Wednesday, Feb. 19th, and again visited Philadelphia on the following Friday, Feb. 21st, on account of the mystery of the case. I was very desirous to put this matter to a thorough test, and was fully convinced that Mr. James was deceiving honest and sincere men and women, and if such was the case it should be made evident. So to put the matter in the hands of the authorities, if possible, I called on our Superintendent of Police of Brooklyn, Mr. Campbell, and obtained a letter of introduction to Mr. Jones, Chief of Police of Philadelphia. On my way there, in the same car with me, I saw Mr. Howard Strymser, of No. 31 Lafayette street, avenue, Brooklyn, with his sister. I told Mr. Strymser I would like to go with me to Philadelphia, and he said he would like to go along to the séance. It was impossible for Mr. S. to go with me or be there on that Friday evening, so I wrote a note to him to go to Philadelphia, and to let him know by leaving a note at the hotel where we would stop—the Bingham House, corner Eleventh and Market streets—when arrangements were made. I arrived in Philadelphia about half-past six o'clock Friday evening, and after supper repaired to Mr. James's residence, rear of No. 635 Marshall street, to attend if possible his advertised séance—Friday, Sunday and Monday being his public nights. On my arrival at the house I knocked at the door and was admitted; I expected to see Mr. Winner there, but was disappointed. In that particular, I supposed I would be recognized by Mrs. James, the mother of the medium, as she had seen me before, but she did not seem to know me, and I was very much surprised to find that they were talking about the *ghost* and the test séance, and that Mr. James said Mr. Oakley had acted strangely—that he used to keep writing to Mr. Miller, and that Mr. James did not want to have the notoriety that had been given to him, but that Mr. Oakley had not been seen (I think since his return from Brooklyn, or that he had taken away from them altogether, while he used to be there on all the time. She thought Mr. Oakley had injured Mr. James's séances while he was manager, as he was not arbitrary. I thought it would be right to let them know who I was, and told them I was the Mr. Rice referred to, and explained that I had expected to find Mr. Winner there, but that I was not congenial I would have to do so. Mr. James said my presence was not necessary, so Mr. James's mother left the room, and I went up the stairs, but returned immediately—I suppose to tell my story, or my presence. When he came down I told him I had expected to meet Mr. Winner, and that Mr. W. had said I would be made welcome. Mr. James asked me how long I intended to remain in the city; he evidently supposed I had not returned to Brooklyn since

The first sentence, "I told him it was uncertain, possibly I should not be here before the next day," was not so good. Soon after I had entered, a lady, Mrs. Cora Syms, came in; she took charge of the séance in the absence of Mr. Winner, who had been expected. On this occasion several forms came out, to each of which Mrs. Syms gave names, or obtained their names from "Wild Cat," among others one appeared representing a female, the Lady Countess of Gordon, they called her; I said to this form I was glad she had appeared, as I had a message to deliver to her from Mr. Miller, to the effect that I was glad to hear she was well, and that I had given her previous sances, and that he sent his highest and kindest regards for her. I suppose that these and other remarks made by me, such as "What a wonderful supply of drapery they bring," etc., gave the impression that I was satisfied with the manifestation. I had said I would be present on Monday evening sure, and on Sunday evening if possible, but of that I was not sure; I suppose I left the impression by my not confirming it there and then that I had been pleased; in fact Mrs. Syms said that Mr. Gordon's wife had said to that effect, so I was told by an attendant at the circle. I was in my own mind fully convinced that it was Mr. James every time with every form that appeared.

The next evening, Saturday, Feb. 22d, being a holiday I was unable to see Mr. James, Chief of Police, until about 8 P. M. I presented my letter of Introduction, and a conversation ensued. I told him of my conviction, and asked him if he had authority to send some one with me to witness what occurred, and if such person was convinced a fraud was being practiced, to make a search, and arrest him in the event of such clothing as appeared on the forms being found secreted on the person of Mr. James after the séance. He told me he could not do so, but referred me to the Mayor of the city, who had the control of the police. I called at the residence of the Mayor, Monday, Feb. 23d, and was received by Mr. J. M. Day, Mayor of the city. I called again at the Mayor's residence, but was informed he was sick, and could not be seen. So I was defeated in my desire to have the authorities take the matter in hand. I had seen Mr. R. B. Westbrook (the gentleman I had delegated to make the arrangements for the séance of the 18th of February) on Saturday afternoon, and told him of my having attended a séance of Mr. James on the evening before, and of my full conviction that it was a deception from beginning to end, and that I proposed to have an examination of Mr. James's person after a séance, if possible. He accompanied me to the headquarters of the police, and knew I could not see the Chief James until the evening. I made an engagement with Mr. Westbrook to meet me at the hotel the next day, Sunday, at 10 o'clock A. M., when I kept the next person I met to interview him, the Chief of Police, and that he had referred me to the Mayor, and that he had called there, but that he was out—also, that I would call again after dinner, and would then call on him (Mr. Westbrook), who did not reside far distant. As before stated the Mayor was sick, and I could not see him, so I repaired to the residence of Mr. Westbrook and told him I feared I would have to endeavor to bring about the desired result by moral suasion—that was, the searching of the medium. I proposed the following plan: To have a few friends present at the séance at James's, and that I thought that ladies would be preferable to the other sex, as Mr. James would be less likely to have his suspicion aroused than he would be if too many men were there. I was to propose a search, and if the medium refused to allow himself to be searched, that the medium would allow himself to be searched, and that I would give to Mr. James ten dollars in the event no garments such as might appear on the forms were found on his person, and if Mr. James refused, then I would appeal to those present to know if my offer was not a fair one, and as clothing and other such articles had been found in his coat before a séance in Brooklyn, would it not be right to have a search after a séance? Such a course would establish the mendacity of Mr. James, as well as put the ten dollars in his pocket in the event no such articles were found on him. In that way I had no doubt we could convince those who might be there, though strangers to us, of our side, and thus Mr. James would be led to see the necessity of consenting. The plan was approved of, and two persons visiting at Mr. Westbrook's residence were to be of the party. Mr. Westbrook I did not like more gentleman, as Mr. Westbrook had said he could not go, and so a young gentleman residing in the vicinity was sent for, told him of my purposes, and he approved of them. I arranged to have him meet me at the hotel at 7 o'clock, when I had no doubt would see Mr. Sermeyer, for whom I had left a note to that effect.

At the appointed hour the two gentlemen were present, and all was understood. To prevent Mr. James from a perceptible retreat before moral suasion could be brought to bear, it was arranged that I was to guard the door leading up-stairs, and the other two gentlemen were to guard each of the other doors—there being three, two of which led out of the building. For fear the light might be extinguished, I suggested that we take a candle and some matches, which was done. The ladies were to go to the house at the proper time, and the two gentlemen were to precede me, for fear Mr. James would be apprehensive, seeing so many new attendants, and I there with them, and all knowing each other. It was understood that I was to go late, and not recognize at the time any of those present, but to my surprise I found Mr. Westbrook and his lady, also Mr. Shumway, neither of whom were expected; and these, together with Mrs. Syms, a Mr. Jones and a Mrs. Hunt, made quite a gathering. Mr. James must have thought the interest in his séances was reviving.

I reached there about 8 1/4 o'clock. The cabinet had been searched, and other preliminaries completed. I was then introduced to the room through with Mr. James was on the point of going into the cabinet. I took my seat near my appointed place, next the door leading up-stairs, where Mr. James always retires after a séance, the light being turned down very low so as not to injure the medium while he is passing to go up-stairs "to lie down a few moments away from the presence of the circle, that he may the sooner throw off the control," (so the managers say.) On this occasion, after several forms had appeared, and during which I asked questions of Mrs. Syme, the lady conducting the séance in the absence of Mr. Winner, (which by the way was the second séance from which he had absented himself, and I began to think he possibly might have had his eyes opened, if all the forms materialized their own clothing, she said yes, and the forms materialized it on leaving the table, and such questions were repeated several times. The Lady Countess of Gordon again appeared, and I was promised a bird on Monday night, to be taken to Mr. Miller as a token of her regard for him. One of the forms that appeared was dressed in a full suit of red clothing, others in white, and various colored garments. I again distinctly saw Mr. James in every form that appeared. I observed the forms used the same style of slippers that had been found in Mr. James's coat, and I similar thsels, lace, etc. After the Oriental had ceased to appear, then the moderns were to come, so "Wild Cat" said—that was, that faces would appear at the aperture, which faces would be recognized

as the spirits of some departed friend of some one in the circle. Two such faces appeared, but were not recognized by the ones they purported to be for. There was a delay of some twenty or more minutes, nothing occurring except the momentary showing of these two faces, affording Mr. James ample time for the concealment of paraphernalia, etc.

Soon Wild Cat announced that the power was all exhausted, which, I knew meant turn down the light for the medium to go up stairs. I then asked Mrs. Syms to please wait a moment, as I wanted to say something. She turned the light up again as desired, and I said: "Wild Cat, I want you to allow your medium to be searched to night, and if we do not find anything concealed about him I will give him ten dollars, and that will also establish the medium's credit." Wild Cat immediately replied: "You flee me so away; get your money back and leave." I replied that I only made a reasonable request, and would leave it to the friends present if it was not fair. He retorted: "I do not change my conditions for any one; you go." I refused, saying that as articles were taken from Mr. James's coat in Brooklyn and which I had with me before a seance, it was but right to let any one else have a chance to search him. Mrs. Syms then said that perhaps might be found on him after the seance, and then appealed to all present, including Mrs. Syms, the conductor, personally, and asked if the request was not reasonable, and handed Mrs. Syms the ten dollars to be given to Mr. James in the event no concealed articles of clothing or paraphernalia were found on him. All said Mr. James ought to be allowed to search. One of the ladies present said, "Dr. Mary Pratt, of Camden, N. J., has just told me that she saw Mr. James before he entered the cabinet, and she knew from his appearance he was stuffed all over, and demanded a search be made. At this time Wild Cat said: "You give that woman back her money and let her go." He also said: "Give all back their money." He wanted all to leave; he would not break his conditions; but finding so many clamorous for a search, Wild Cat suddenly left, and Alfred James was himself again, for he said: "Mother, go upstairs and get me my pistol."

I informed Mr. James if he did not submit to a search I would on the next day get out a warrant for his arrest. After while the flouting all were persistent for a search, and having heard Mrs. Syms and his other friends siding with me that a search was right and could do no harm—gave up, and came out of the cabinet; he was making his way for the door leading up stairs, where he usually goes and where I stood, but he was suddenly tripped up and fell on the floor; the person who tripped him up put his hand in James's breast, and pulled out a lot of articles, and his indignation was so great that he would have pummelled him had not some one kept him from doing so. Mr. James then arose from the floor and retired into the cabinet again. I followed him in, and he said to me, "What do you want?" "I want to see what you have," I said. He retreated into the cabinet, no doubt, because he was obliged to disarrange his attire in order to get at two bags filled with the drapery, and which were so placed as to be reached around his limbs—the bags being square, with strings on each of the four corners. I asked him if he had given all up. He said, "Yes." Then I passed my hands up under his shirt and down the legs of his pants, but did not find anything else concealed. I wanted to spread the articles out and take an inventory of them; then and there, but his mother was so persistent in getting possession of them it was impossible, and we were obliged to leave them as they were. I told him that we must not take them away; they cost too much money, or something to that effect, when some replied shop had been paid for them by the money advanced for advertisement. I told him that I thought I might have more than that. Then I asked her how much more she wanted for them. She replied, "Five dollars more." When I immediately offered to let her have them for \$500, she said, "Yes," and took the money. On examination of the articles we found as follows: one red flannel shirt with silver trimmings; one red flannel blouse with silver trimmings; one red flannel vesting; two red aprons; one cape, braided with white; one pair red slippers; gold lace trimmings; one pair white cotton stockings, very fine; one pair white socks, also very fine; one pair of shoes, being used under the red ones; two yards bishop lawn, white; three yards white Swiss muslin (widened) yard wide; three yards Swiss muslin (wide) yard wide; three yards Swiss muslin (wide); one white cane cloth, made like the one taken in Brooklyn, only that it was of silk; one cherry-colored long silk cap with white and red tassel; one long white cotton cape, one black hat, lined with white velvet, and one half yard of silk over the head and hung down over front and back like a priest's garment; one light blue silk scarf; one dark blue silk scarf; one gray silk scarf; one black hat, lined with white velvet; one half yard silver lace (wide); one yard gold lace; two yards silver lace; one odd little velvet slipper (not recovered); eight pairs of black garters, in which were stuffed a lot of the above; three bags had strings on each corner, evidently to be tied on the limbs; one brown imitation hair switch and one pair of black shoes, and six yards muslin and silk strings were much sold.

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W. J. Colville's Meetings.

On Friday evening, Feb. 28th, Kennedy Hall, Warren street, was again crowded to listen to Mr. Colville's explanation of the Apocalypse, under influence of his spirit-mother. Great interest was manifested in the subject, many questions were answered, and a very effective poem delivered. These Friday evening meetings will be regularly continued until further notice in the same hall, commencing at 7:30; excellent music and singing being a marked feature.

On Sunday next, March 9th, Mr. Colville will resume his morning services in Public Memorial Building, Boston. The subject of discourse will be "Prayer and Fasting as Means for Increasing Spiritual Development." This is the first of a series of four discourses on the means of securing the most advantageous communion with the spirit-world. Service begins at 10:30. Free seats are provided. Collection to defray expenses.

Mr. Colville spoke in the Unitarian Church, Manchester, N. H., Sunday evening, March 24, a good audience attending. An account of this meeting reached our office too late for insertion in this number; it will appear next week.

W. J. Colville is still open to accept week-evening engagements. Great success has attended his lectures during the interval between his duties in Boston in all places which he has visited. Persons desiring his services on Sunday evenings in the near vicinity of Boston are informed that he has but few Sunday nights disengaged. Immediate application for his services should be addressed to 8 Davis street, Boston.

Dr. J. Simms.

The great traveler and scientific physiognomist, who has visited all civilized and many uncivilized countries for the purpose of studying the faces, manners, habits, and peculiarities of their inhabitants, during twenty-five years past, has just issued a fine work of 624 pages, 8vo., 300 engravings, entitled "Nature's Revelations of Character, or Physiognomy Illustrated." Published by D. M. Bennett, 141 Eighth street, New York, at \$3.00 in muslin.

Dr. Simms has lately been delivering a long course of his magnificently illustrated and popular lectures on Physiognomy, in Sacramento, Cal., of which the *Daily Bee*, of that city, dated Feb. 13th, 1879, says:

"Dr. Simms, the distinguished physiognomist, will lecture on 'The Human Face,' at the Congregational Church to-night. This is the third week of Dr. Simms's highly instructive course of lectures in Sacramento. The large church has been literally crowded each night, and his lectures are delightfully amusing and original. His descriptions of the faces of strangers evidence his wonderful skill and the definite accuracy of the science he has discovered."

"An Address: a few earnest words to clergymen and the Christian Church," &c., published in New York by E. I. Swinney (for the Swedenborgians), is going the rounds. It is a small pamphlet of 24 pages. On page 9 occurs this choice piece of bigoted assumption: "This science of correspondence which the Lord in his mercy, to save the world at this day from materialism, rationalism, Modern Spiritualism, and a denial of him and his Word, has revealed to us through his chosen messenger, is the wonderful key which unlocks every part of the sacred Scriptures," &c. On page 20, speaking of Swedenborg, it says: "He was free from the spirit of bigotry, uncharitableness," &c., which certainly the present exponents of his doctrines cannot claim.

"We shall refer in our next to a remarkable evidence of the surpassing value of what the M. D.'s call the 'irregular' system of medicine, and which they would, if they could, put down by the strong hand of law in Massachusetts. The case was the saving of a man's leg, which the regulars were about to amputate; the scene is laid in Boston, and the mortal agent who voiced the practical and saving advice of spirit physicians was Mrs. Maggie Polson, of No. 6 Hamilton Place.

By reference to our seventh page the reader will find the card of Dumont C. Dake, M. D. The afflicted in physical health will do well to consult with him.

HONEY BEES.—We call the special attention of our readers to the advertisement of Mrs. Cotton in another column under this head. Mrs. Cotton is one of our most successful bee-keepers.

Mrs. Hadley, of East Lexington, Mass., will accept thanks for a fine lot of beautiful flowers for our Public Free Circle-Room.

Will print "Lake Pleasant Camp-meeting Matters," from J. H. Smith, Secretary, next week.

Nobody ever knew a Jew to beg in this country. There are one thousand of them in New Haven, and not one is dependent on the town. The aggregate wealth of the Jews of that city is two million dollars, and they give employment to three thousand people.—*Wanted, Ct. Press.*

See prospectus of the *Banner of Light* in this number. *The Banner* has no superior in its field of labor, which is a wide and good one. We know of no higher commendation we can give it.—*Foe Lake (Wis.) Representative.*

"I am so certain of the soul's being immortal that I seem to feel it within me as it were, by intuition."—*Alexander Pope's testimony while on his death-bed.*

Movements of Lecturers and Mediums.

(Matter for this department should reach our office by Tuesday morning to insure insertion the same week.)

Abby N. Barnham spoke in East Hartford, Feb. 29th; Hartford, Feb. 10th; East Hartford, Feb. 23d and 24th; Ballston Spa, N. Y., Feb. 27th; Schenck Hall, March 2d, 3d, 5th, 6th and 7th, and will be there also for the 8th and 9th.

P. C. Mills lectured in Academy Hall, Springfield, Phila., Sunday afternoon, Feb. 23d—the hall being kindly tendered him by the First Society, to whose members he returns his sincere thanks. He is now in New York, and can be addressed at 129 East 16th street, by those wishing his services as a speaker.

C. Fannie Allen goes from Chicago, to Topeka, Kansas, and Kansas City, thence to Philadelphia for May.

Cephas B. Lynn speaks in East Dennis, Mass., April 6th.

To the Editor of the *Banner of Light*:

The *Boston Herald* recently published a piece claiming to "expose" Mary E. Hunt's mediumship as being of a fraudulent character, in order that the truth of its statements may be judged, we would say that we never held a séance at Beebe Plain (as it is alleged), our séances transpiring at Derby Line and Stansfield. No person acted a spirit or tried to seize one. We had the most wonderful manifestations ever witnessed.

St. Johnsbury, Vt., Feb. 27th, 1879.

The first life insurance company to adopt the policy of counting its accumulated assets at their actual or reappraised value, instead of carrying them forward from year to year at the nominal cost or estimated value was the Union Mutual Life Insurance Company. This policy was adopted by the board of directors in 1870; and in the years 1872 and 1877, the real estate, mortgages, government, state and city bonds, and all stocks and property owned by the Company, were reappraised by competent and disinterested parties under the direction of the board, and marked down to present market values.

Spiritualist Meetings in Boston.

PARKER MEMORIAL HALL.—Spiritualist meetings will be held at this hall, in Parker Memorial Building, 176 Tremont street, on Sunday mornings, at 10 o'clock, during the season. Good lectures and excellent music. The public are invited to attend free of charge. W. J. Colville will lecture on the 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, and 31st. The public cordially invited. D. N. Ford, Conductor.

INVESTIGATOR HALL, PAINÉ MEMORIAL BUILDING, 270 N. STATE STREET.—A. W. Colville delivers an inspirational discourse and poem and replies to questions in this hall every Sunday morning. Services commence at 10:30. Congregational Singing Society, Conductor.

AMORY HALL.—Children's Progressive Lyceum No. 1 holds its sessions every Sunday morning at this hall, corner of Washington and Essex streets, commencing at 10 o'clock. The public cordially invited. D. N. Ford, Conductor.

PYTHIAN HALL.—The People's Spiritualist Meeting (formerly held at Eagle Hall) is removed to Pythian Hall, 72 Tremont street. Services every Sunday morning and afternoon. Good lectures and speakers always present.

EAGLE HALL.—Spiritualist Meetings for speaking and tests are held at this hall, 616 Washington street, every Sunday, at 10:30 A. M. and 2:30 P. M. Excellent quartette singing provided.

PARKER MEMORIAL PARLORS.—The Spiritualist Ladies Aid Society will meet at this place, Parker Memorial Building, 176 Tremont street, on Friday afternoon and evening. Mrs. John Wood, President. Mrs. M. L. Barrett, Secretary.

RECTOR HALL.—Meetings are held in this hall, Waverly Building, Charleston District, every Sunday evening, under direction of C. B. Marsh.

Amory Hall.—We had as usual a full attendance and a grand meeting at this place to-day. We feel that we must have had the aid and sympathy of the dear ones beyond the veil, for all seemed imbued with the spirit of love and friendship. The exercises were lengthy (full two hours), and the best proof of their quality was that all in attendance remained to the end. Let us hope for a continuance of such a spirit, and let our lives merit the favor, not only of our associates in earth-life, but of the pure and good gone before, yet always near.

The services consisted of the following: Orchestral selection; singing, responses, and Banner March; remarks by Mrs. Agnes Davis Hall; music by orchestra; answers to the question: "What is the Best Service we can Render Humanity?" reading, "Where is the Soul of my Beloved Slaves?" Mrs. Francis; recitation, by Bessie Stevens, "The Baby at the Window," Willa Bell, "The Tramp's Christmas," Ida Presley, "The Little Pigs," Gracie Fairbanks; song, "Little Sister, Go to Sleep," Nellie Thomas; reading, "Peter Maguire, or, Nature and Grace," Ada Downs; recitations, "Aunt Rebecca," Charles Lathrop, "Bye-and-Bye," Jennie Bicknell; duet by the Saunders Sisters; reading, "Reading with Spectacles," Mr. Charles Hunt; recitation, "The Empty Cradle," Maude Lord; reading, "Lines dedicated to the Children's Progressive Lyceum," by Mrs. C. F. Allen; by Helen M. Dill; "Wine Movements," by Mrs. Ford; notices, Treasurer's Report; remarks, by Dr. Richardson; collection, singing, and Target March. *Wm. D. Rockwood, Cor. Sec.*

Children's Progressive Lyceum No. 1,

Boston, March 2d, 1879.

Eagle Hall.—During the past few weeks the meetings in this hall have been regularly increasing in attendance, and on Sunday last there were many in large numbers through the fire day and evening, which shows conclusively that there is an increased interest in our beautiful Philosophy, and a stronger desire to learn more of that land to which we are all hastening. The exercises were varied, the three in the morning being occupied in most excellent and convincing tests, through the organism of David Brown and other mediums, as well as appropriate remarks in short speeches by David Brown, Dr. Richardson, (the blind medium), Mrs. Crafts, Mrs. Cate and others. The tests were generally for those who were new to mediums, to Mr. Brown, and were, in most instances, recognized by those in the audience to whom they were addressed.

The afternoon and evening services consisted of well-timed and interesting remarks by Aggie Dill, Mrs. M. C. Carleton, Ireland, Dr. A. H. Richardson and several other speakers, and a large number of positive and satisfactory tests were given through the mediumship of Mrs. Ireland, Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Bagley and other well-known mediums. A good share of the evening was occupied by Aggie Dill, who, through Mrs. Ireland, Mrs. Hall relating some of her experiences in New York during her late course of lectures in that city, and Mrs. Ireland giving some of her experience as a medium for many years past.

The meetings throughout, from all appearances, were not only interesting and instructive, but thoroughly satisfactory to the large audiences present.

Pythian Hall.—Mr. Crocker opened the morning exercises at this hall last Sunday, by reading from the Bible, and remarks upon the "unfortunate conditions which mediums are subjected to during their lives, the loads unjustly thrown upon them, and the sad results which follow therefrom." Quite a protracted discussion ensued, in which Messrs. E. Brown, Geo. Plummer, R. L. Norris, Dr. Huyghue, Dr. Charles Court, the manager of the meeting, and others, took part.

The afternoon Mrs. A. W. Wildes read an exceedingly fine essay (inspirational), of which no report can do justice. It should have been listened to by all. Mrs. L. W. Litch made some practical remarks upon mediumship, giving some items of personal experience, and afforded a number of tests, both clairvoyantly and entranced, which were well received and fully recognized. The recitation of a poem by Mrs. Wildes closed a very enjoyable and profitable session of "The People's Spiritual Meeting."

Charlestown District—Abbottford Hall.—Sunday evening, March 2d, Mrs. Sarah Byrnes-Snow occupied the platform as speaker. The exercises commenced with singing by the choir, which was followed by a short invocation; after another song by the choir Mrs. Snow delivered an interesting discourse on "The Practical Influence of Our Modern Religion," which was listened to by an attentive audience. Mrs. Snow will speak in this hall next Sunday evening, March 9th, at 7:30.

C. B. M.

Stop It!

A NEW DOCTORS' PLOT IN MICHIGAN.

To the Editor of the *Banner of Light*: These times defied in our Legislature, the old-school doctors are at it again. They will hunt this time, to avoid popular feeling, "A bill to protect the people of Michigan against Empiricism and Quackery" is the smooth title of his bill quietly introduced before our State Senate.

Let us defeat it, and act soon, as it may be passed to its passage by the Legislature, and to Lansing next week to address the Legislature, to prepare and circulate among them a printed sheet of fact and argument against the plot, and to spend a week or two there. Herewith is a form of remonstrance against such legislation, for you and women to sign, in separate columns. Let every Michigan *Banner* reader copy this form, get all signers possible, and send it to his member of the Legislature, at Lansing, in a week or so—the sooner the better. More words are needless—work is wanted.

G. B. STEBBINS.

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 27th, 1879.

FORM OF PETITION OR REMONSTRANCE.

To the Legislature of Michigan.

We, the undersigned, do hereby remonstrate against the passage of "A Bill to protect the people of Michigan against Empiricism and Quackery," and the law believing that the truth of its statements may be judged, we would say that we never held a séance at Beebe Plain (as it is alleged), our séances transpiring at Derby Line and Stansfield. No person acted a spirit or tried to seize one. We had the most wonderful manifestations ever witnessed.

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pamphlets published two years ago by Colby & Rich, when similar legislation was sought for by the doctors in Massachusetts, entitled *The Doctors' Plot Exposed*, &c., and other like documents, were distributed and circulated among the members of the Michigan Legislature, much good would be done in restricting bigotry and tyranny, and enlarging the area of intelligence and freedom.

Hyde Park, Mass., March 1, 1879.

A. E. G.

To Liberal-Minded Spiritualists Everywhere.

Dear Friends: We have established a Spiritual Lyceum in London, and solicit a contribution of books for it; if there are any in the ranks of Spiritualism who would feel to help us in this way their offerings would be gratefully received and prove of great value to the work in London. Very truly, J. W. & S. W. FLETCHER.

4 Bloomsbury Place, London, W. C.

Feb. 14th, 1879.

"Any one wishing to understand the difference between *Jesús and Christ*, and desirous of knowing the scriptures, as they stand, (and Spiritualism, should send for Dr. Peck's '*Christ, the Corner Stone of Spiritualism*.' Price 10 cents.—*The Shaker Manifesto.*"

For Sale at this Office:

THE RELIGIO-PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL: Devoted to Spiritualism. Published weekly in Chicago, Ill. Price 5 cents per copy. \$2.50 per year.

VOICE OF ANGELS: A Semi-Monthly Spiritualist Journal. Published in North Weymouth, Mass. \$1.00 per annum. Single copies 5 cents.

MIND AND MATTER: Published weekly in Philadelphia, Pa. Price 6 cents per copy. Per year, \$2.50.

THE SPIRITUALIST: A Monthly Magazine, published in Rochester, N. Y. Per annum, \$2.00; six months, \$1.00. Single copies 10 cents.

THE HERALD OF HEALTH AND JOURNAL OF PHYSICAL CULTURE: Published monthly in New York. Price 10 cents.

THE SHAKER MANIFESTO: (official monthly) published by the United Societies at Shakers, N. Y. 60 cents per annum. Single copies 10 cents.

THE LITTLE PIGS: A monthly. Price 10 cents.

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Pad for back and shoulders	-	-	\$3.00
Pad for back and chest	-	-	2.50
Pad for back and chest	-	-	2.00
Pad, single	-	-	1.00
Belt, extra large size	-	-	2.00
Belt, large size	-	-	1.50
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SOUVENIR DE MEMOIRE WALTZ.....	30
CHILDHOOD'S HAPPY HOURS.....	35

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The True Marriage

A Discourse delivered by NETTIE PEASE FOX
Rochester, N. Y. Stenographically reported and published
by request of the congregation.
Paper, 10 cents, postage free.

CHRISTIANITY;
Its Origin, Nature and Tendency, considered in the
Astro-theology. By RAY. D. W. HULL. ~~12mo~~ 12mo.
Paper, 25 cents, postage 2 cents.

A Roman Lawyer in Jerusalem
BY W. W. STORY.
The story of Judas Iscariot is here related in a different light from that usually held by theologians.
Paper, 10 cents, postage 1 cent.
Published by W. W. STORY.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

But the *Herald* has a great respect for art. It should never be forgotten that while it takes a cheerful view of a very dismal subject, and

New Publications.

STEIGER'S EDUCATIONAL DIRECTORY, for 1878, is a fresh installment of the persistent labors of the author in behalf of all educational interests generally, and of educational literature in particular. It is designed as a reference-book not only for educators but for clergymen, parents, students, and the public generally. Its contents are: Educational Institutions in the United States, British Dominions, Germany, and Austria; a Catalogue of Publications on Education and General Philology; Books and other Articles of Interest to Educators generally; Subject-Index to Books, etc.; and Special Notices of Private Educational Institutions.

or twice. Capt. Hall was about five feet ten inches in height slender, erect, with bright black eyes, intelligent expression, and an exact and ready memory. His hair, mustache and beard were white as snow. Years

of Reason," "Wolf in Sheep's Clothing," etc.
Paper, 10 cents, postage free.

BY THOMAS R. HAZARD, ESQ.

will be entitled to a copy of the BANNER OF LIGHT one year, provided a marked paper is forwarded to this office.
