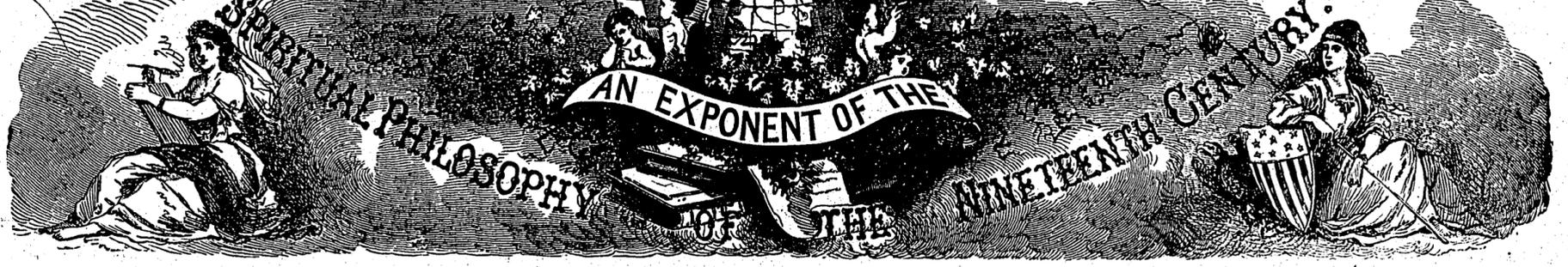


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CONTENTS.

FIRST PAGE.—The Rostrum: Spiritual Illumination. Brittan's Secular Press Column—Science and Spiritualism.

SECOND PAGE.—Biographical: The Early Days of E. V. Wilson. Foreign Correspondence: Echoes from England. The Fate of Sir John Franklin's Expedition. New Publications.

THIRD PAGE.—Banner Correspondence: Letters from Kentucky, Wisconsin, Michigan, Vermont, New York, New Hampshire, Ohio, Virginia, and Maine. The Re-creator: Holiday Books. Light Out of Darkness. Poetry: Whispers of the Angels.

FOURTH PAGE.—Our Heavenly Visitors, Changing Orthodoxy, etc.

FIFTH PAGE.—Brief Paragraphs. New Advertisements, etc.

SIXTH PAGE.—Message Department: Spirit Messages given through the Mediumship of Miss M. T. Shelburne; Questions and Answers through the Mediumship of W. J. Colville. Obituary Notices.

SEVENTH PAGE.—"Mediums in Boston," Book and Miscellaneous Advertisements.

EIGHTH PAGE.—Dr. Slade in New York. Good Advice. Which—Spiritualism Simple, or Christian Spiritualism? A Medical Law for Vermont. Spiritualist Meetings in Boston. W. J. Colville's Meetings, etc.

The Rostrum.

SPIRITUAL ILLUMINATION.

An Address delivered by
MRS. NELLIE J. T. BRIGHAM,
Before the First Society of Spiritualists, New York, Sunday Evening, Oct. 17th, 1880.

Expressly reported for the Banner of Light by Mr. George Herbert Mellicham.

Desires spiritual gifts but rather that ye may prophesy.

There are many who read this passage of Scripture without realizing any special meaning in it; or if they contemplate there was a meaning in it, when it was written, they think it applied especially to the affairs of Jesus, or to those early Christians who were soon to understand something of the gifts alluded to. Why this one gift of prophecy seems to be placed above all others many do not understand. They say the veil that covered the future was woven by the hand of mercy. It is a beautiful saying, and a true one: If it were best that mortals should see the pathway of future years each one would be clairvoyant; there would be nothing dim or obscure about it. But as it is, even those who have the clearest perceptions are limited; that which they know is little, that which they do not know is much indeed. Then why was this passage written: "Desire spiritual gifts"? It is easy to see that it is good advice—"but rather that ye may prophesy" may seem strange to some minds. Seeking to know what prophecy means, we find people believe, or suppose, that it means the power of seeing into the future, the power of divination. It means seeing no longer as through a glass darkly, but seeing face to face; no longer knowing in part, but in the entirety. Striving after the real meaning of the word we find it is not limited to divination, nor to clairvoyance—whereby a person reads future events. It means really the spiritual illumination; something like that which was given to Swedenborg. The light is such as has broken upon all those who have had a perception of the new truth, and applied and understood it. Of old the prophets possessed the power of looking into the future to a certain extent, and yet by no means was their vision unlimited in that respect. It is said that the greatest of all the prophets was John the Baptist. We do not read so much of his looking into the future, but he recognized that there was a power about him, and he had a knowledge of the affairs of men, and with a deep comprehension of the differences in humanity he could read that which was veiled from others. His word was like a two-edged sword; his spirit was like fire, earnest, and melting every opposition confronting it. The great power that belonged to him was this spiritual illumination, this perception of existing things, and the power to speak plainly of them.

Having considered what this gift is, let us study and analyze its meaning. We find there is a Pagan interpretation or definition of it, and that this tells us a prophet is one who speaks for the gods. What did the Pagan mean by this? You will read that when Saul sought the woman of Endor, that wonderful woman of the past, she commenced to describe to him what she saw. She said, "I see gods ascending out of the earth." What did she mean? When slowly before her vision appeared those forms, which to her were so clearly portrayed, it seemed to her, as they grew upon her perception, that they ascended as a cloud might from the earth. She said, "I see gods." Now did she mean those Pagan deities, those divinities that we read of, which man in his fancy has conceived? She described the spirit of Samuel, and so clearly and perfectly that Saul perceived that it was Samuel. This was only one of those which she saw; others are spoken of as gods. Now this is what we believe to be true in regard to it, that if a clairvoyant of to-day saw what she saw, that clairvoyant would so express and describe it; whereas in the far-off ages, when intellectual perception of what the spiritual sight revealed was dim, they did not know that these beings who had passed through the shadow of death lived again as real entities, as men and women, as truly identified and real as while here on earth: So if one was seen, the one who saw it believed he or she had seen a god, some strange mystical being, some phantom or some shade. So Paganism tells us that a prophet is one who speaks for the gods. The Spiritualist takes the words *gods* and *prophecy* according to their full meaning and sheds light upon them. A prophet is one impressed by higher intelligences and is able to reveal the

truth. Speaking of these higher intelligences, what are they? Only the spirits of those who have walked here on earth; who have suffered, striven to understand; who have progressed and passed over the river called death into the spirit-land. And these return—and in the olden days were able to impress mortals; and they who were so impressed were called prophets. A prophet is one who is spiritually illumined, who has interior light. That light may shine through a spiritual nature; it may develop itself in certain phases of mediumship, which of themselves may be blessings to the world. But whoever is spiritually illumined, whether as Swedenborg was or as some of the more modern seers have been, is a prophet in the high and pure understanding of the term. "Desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy"; that you may be spiritually illumined; that you may have perception of spiritual things; that your nature may not grovel in the dust; that it may not be ground to coarse materialism, but that it may have the power to resist and confront it.

Having found a correct definition of this saying, we naturally ask what can grow out of this prophecy of spiritual illumination? What can come to us from this clear, spiritual perception? If man stands on the earth, questioning immortality, the cold science which lies on the surface of mentality gives no answer to the question, What has man to hope for, what to live for? He asks himself, Is life worth living? The answer of the materialist is, No; it is only valuable as it affects one's self, only valuable as humanity expands in that aggregation of things that go to build up the world. But a person, when he has lived his life of care, borne his burdens patiently, has striven to do right, and yet misfortune has followed him through his earthly years, when he comes to leave this world in his old age he says, I have only just commenced to learn what life means; if I could only live my life over again it would be different; I should know what to do. Just as he learns that, he goes out of this world. Where? What land does he enter? Is he lost in oblivion? Has he gone down like a tear dropped into the ocean, unknown, annihilated, gone into universal death and decay? If so, then life for him is a failure and hope a mockery. By this spiritual illumination of which we have spoken the spiritual organization will come with the unfolding of the mind, and we look at life and find there is not one of its sorrows but has a blessing to give us; not one of its mistakes but will be rectified; not one of its experiences we would have avoided here, but what in the future becomes to us a blessing. It may be in disguise oftentimes, but nevertheless it is a blessing. So life works as a great sculptor might, standing before a block of marble so many feet long, so many feet high, so many feet broad. He looks upon it as you do, and sees a rough block of stone. But he looks upon it with another sight which you have not. He sees in that rough block a figure most beautiful, an angel with the purest and most beautiful face that a soul can imagine. Others may look at it and see only the rough block of marble; the sculptor sees the angel, the ideal. As Hawthorne has beautifully said: All that man has to do is, not to create, but with chisel in hand, to clip and cut until he discloses the angel in the stone. It is all he has to do. When we look at the monument we find the angel in the living stone. Day by day experience, like the sculptor with his chisel, a natural and divine force, is cutting out that angel-life of ours which shall live to all eternity.

Prophecy, this spiritual perception, looks into the soul of man, and finds that theology has been mistaken, theology has begun wrong. It has taken human life as if it were a pyramid, and tried to stand it in an inverted position, on its summit, instead of placing it as it should be. It has commenced the wrong way to work. It has commenced by believing that man started entirely pure, and then became entirely sinful; that he commenced in absolute ignorance, and then came in possession of knowledge, a perception of the difference between right and wrong. His eyes were opened, and he could see the difference between light and darkness. Theology has said in its creed, "In our own soul there is no foundation for hope; we cannot offer to God, of ourselves, one single acceptable deed; there is nothing in human nature pure and beautiful and lovable enough; we are to seek for atoning grace; we are to put on righteousness as a garment; we are to believe; and through this magical work of the creed the gate of heaven is to open for us, if at all." Now with this belief they have gone to work and tried to labor with humanity, not by reason, but by faith. They have used various influences. They have tried to make heaven appear beautiful. But in the work of theology in the years gone by they have not striven to make heaven attractive so much as they have sought to make the torments of hell terrible and repulsive. Instead of showing man the beauty of a religious life, and leading his nature along in that way, directed by its natural intuition, they have used the whips of fear—those scorpion whips—and have tried to drive man into religion in that way. As soon as the soul of man believes, it grows impervious to these gross things. It refuses to be driven by fear.

In this higher light of which we have spoken we learn that mankind started, as far back as we can look or comprehend, upon the lowest level that we can conceive of; that he was gross and selfish. Growing out of this condition man commenced to expand toward spiritual things. His conscience awakened, and he realized his own nature and the supremacy that belongs to humanity. It was a great step when man began to realize his spiritual nature, began to realize

that there was something holier and diviner than passion, and eventually that there was something holier and diviner than the creed made by man. And so from step to step, from the old ages of darkness when even God himself to human eyes seemed cruel and revengeful, men have progressed, until religious teachings have changed, and now in the very churches that once were the narrowest and most bigoted for the creed, we see a mighty change. Were one of Jonathan Edwards's sermons to be read in the churches to-day, you would find that according to its stated belief, there would be infidels in the church—we do not mean atheists. And so it has grown naturally, and we find a purer and higher life in Christian teachings now than formerly.

It is a grand and beautiful step that man has taken from the shades of the past toward the religion that teaches man that God is wise, just, kind and good. But this is not the end. They had been told that from their own natures nothing could come forth that was acceptable in the sight of God. We learn that we are to work out our own salvation instead of having it done by others for us. We learn that the very centre of the Golden Rule is in one little word—*do*. Just that little word of two letters. It is not so much what we believe as what we do, that builds the starry way to heaven. It is a great lesson to learn. Then we find that in the past the whole matter of immortality was veiled. The question was asked, If a man die shall he live again? The Church answered yes, and endeavored by its statements to satisfy the questioner and to compel him to have faith, and to feel that it was sinful to doubt; that it was religious to believe.

Science analyzes and dissects humanity, and says there is no such thing as spirit after death; but Spiritualism tells us that there is life after death. History has shown the truth of Spiritualism. Men may sneer at these things, they may doubt; but, just as Galileo said, the earth moves, so we say of the doctrine of Spiritualism: it moves, and no power on earth can check its progress. For Spiritualism we claim the power of prophecy to a certain extent; not in any miraculous way, but as those who stand on the watch-tower can see further than those who stand in the valley, we claim that the Spiritualist, being elevated and enlightened, can see into the future, for a like reason. "Spiritualism tells us what is in the near future: There will be great changes in the atmosphere, in the governments of the earth, in social matters, in labor, in capital, during the succeeding eight years. We pray that these changes may come peacefully, by reason, by understanding. There will be great changes, also, in religious matters. We look forward through the storm and see the clear sky, when ignorance in regard to these matters will have passed away forever. Watch and wait, for the signs of the times are full of power and significance. Be wise, with a clear perception; and with an earnest, cheerful labor, mark out for yourself a path wherein your own nature, illumined by progression and a knowledge of the truth, shall find the peace that comes through these liberating influences that are descending within and about you.

The following eloquent passages occur in a recent address in England by Mrs. Cora L. V. Richmond:

"In the street, in the hotel, in the cottage, in the palace, in the brilliant courts and in the halls of science, Spiritualism alike proclaims its presence and works its revolution. It has wrought its revolution in your hearts. Say, ye whose friends have gone down to the grave leaving no word or sign or token by which your thoughts might follow them, what wonder it has wrought in your lives. The sealed lips have responded, the voice that was silent has again answered to your own; the intelligence, the heart, the mind has given to you evidence of existence, and though removed from the outward form and from contact of the senses, this friend has revealed to you the fact that the spirit-life brings one step nearer those who love; that death, instead of being a barrier, really removes one barrier of flesh and sense from between two loving hearts; and that your children are nearer—the wife, the child, the brother, the sister, are one degree nearer your own souls by the change called death. No other religion the world has ever seen, no other philosophy the world has ever proclaimed, could have so filled your lives and homes with joy as this one simple fact. What, then, becomes of the cold creeds of separation that place a formal barrier between you and your friends?"

What has it wrought aside from this? Your literature is filled with its magic spell of inspiration. It breathes forth in the songs of poets; it is heard in the sounds of music, and in the lofty strains of the drama. It is revealed in all the current literature of the land and of all civilized countries, that there is a power above and around manifesting at every opportunity its presence to the hearts of men. More than this, it has entered the places of human worship; it has charged again the altars, that were well-nigh quenched with a new fire; it has kindled again the shrines of living worship, and has made manifest its power in the hearts and minds of living men of God that the spirits still manifest to men."

CALLING ME HOME.

BY MILTON H. MARBLE.

They are calling me home, they are bidding me come,
They are calling me, darling, from you;
Not long can I stay from those glories away,
My dear, I must bid you adieu!

They are bidding me come to the glad spirit home;
Bright angels are gathering round,
Who sing to me low of the joys I shall know;
With rapture I list to the sound.

They are calling me home, at last they have come,
With flowers, and with music so sweet;
And soon I shall stand on a far fairer land,
And the loved of the olden time greet I
Table Rock, Neb.

Under the freest constitution ignorant people are still slaves.—Condorcet.

BRITTAN'S SECULAR PRESS COLUMN.

The Editor-at-Large at his Work.

(Written for the Argonaut, of San Francisco, Cal.:
SCIENCE AND SPIRITUALISM.

A Critic's Views of Science—Relations of Facts to Scientific Systems—Horology and Instruments for Measuring Time—Mistaken Views of the Argonaut—Friendly Criticism—Hypothesis of Fraud and Jugglery—Theory of Involuntary Cerebral Action—A Harvard Professor with the Spirits—Science on and Dignity under the Table—An Epic Poem from the Spirits—Remarkable Improvisation—The Solar Harp—Doctrine of Chances Illustrated—Is Meteorology a Science?—Comparison of Physical and Spiritual Phenomena—Facts in Science which Centuries may not Repeat.

Not bound by narrow views to things below. Page.

To the Editor of the Argonaut:

Some one has sent me your paper of the date of May 22d, in which I find a marked article entitled "Spiritualistic Hunders." I am much pleased with the general appearance of your journal, and recognize the ability displayed in the treatment of such topics as come within the range of ordinary thought and familiar observation. But will you permit me to remark, *per contra*, that some one—whom I suppose to be on your editorial staff—is equally unfortunate in what he writes about Science and Spiritualism? After asking the question, "What is science?" he answers—without hesitation, and in a manner which is at least admirable for its directness, however widely his definition may be found to diverge from all the recognized principles and approved methods of the schools. From this lucid but very questionable exposition of what constitutes science, I extract the following passage:

"Established facts; logical conclusions; systems that work; that never fail; that never disappoint. Three and two are five. . . . A clock that keeps time; an engine that will run; a steamship that sweeps the ocean; a telegraph wire; laws of nature discovered; complications invented; systems of mechanism, chemistry or thought that never fail—that repeat, or illustrate, or demonstrate whenever you choose to test them; contrivances and processes that know no failure and no disappointment—these are science."

It seems evident that the author of the foregoing definitions could never have familiarized his mind with either the principles or terminology of the sciences. The relation of "established facts" to science is often so remote and obscure as to be quite imperceptible. Viewed alone and without reference to any rules of classification, or to the discovery of the laws which govern their occurrence, they never constitute a science in any comprehensive sense of the term. The writer in the *Argonaut* does not limit his statement to facts of any particular class, or to any one department of human observation. Let us therefore take a few examples at random, and leave the writer under review to dispute the facts or show their relations to science. The following will be sufficient for the present illustration. Mr. Gladstone succeeded Lord Beaconsfield as the responsible head of the British cabinet; Gen. Garfield is the Republican candidate for the Presidency; Charles A. Dana is editor-in-chief of the *New York Sun*; roosters are most disposed to crow in the morning; there are men base enough to admire the heroism of the prize-ring; the papers still publish the details of cock-fights; the State continues to break the necks of capital offenders; even when they are young converts to the Christian religion! These are all well "established facts"; but what have they to do with science? Nothing in particular, so far as we are able to discover.

It is true that facts are indispensable in the formulated knowledge which we denominate science. But these are not all that we require to constitute a scientific system. *The facts must be classified agreeably to the recognized principles involved in the subject of our observations.* They must be so disposed that the mind may comprehend their relations to the essential principles and immutable laws which determine and regulate their occurrence. Facts, then, are only some of the materials from which different sciences may be and are constructed. It is well known that bricks are necessary in the construction of a suitable dwelling; but a brick is not a house, and it must be equally evident that a fact is not a science.

Again, we are informed that "A clock that keeps time" is "science"; but we fail to see it in that light. A clock is an instrument which illustrates Horology—the science of measuring time—which explains the principles and laws involved in the construction of instruments for this purpose. A clock is one form of an instrument for measuring time; but it is not the science of Horology. The presumption that it is, overlooks the necessary distinction between the mere instrument and the branch of science it is designed to illustrate. We depend on the barometer to indicate the existing atmospheric pressure, and the probable changes in the weather; but he would be a crazy scientist who should so utterly confound the mercury and the barometrical scale with the variations of the atmosphere as to recognize no possible distinction between an object which properly belongs to the department of constructive art and the science of atmospheric phenomena. There is substantially the same difference between a clock and the science of measuring time, that exists between a barometer and the science of the weather.

Your article suggests that sciences must be very numerous when one can be found in almost any inanimate object, even in "a telegraph wire," which is said to be "science." It is true that wires are employed in the science of Telegraphy; but the wire is only one part of the apparatus used in the practical application of this science. Here we note the same want of discrimination in the use of terms, and a total in-

difference to that precision of statement which characterizes all true science. Agriculture, especially in its superior relations to chemistry, is a profound and most important science. Plows and hoes are agricultural implements; but must we have all our ideas of scientific principles and the proprieties of speech *harrowed up* by being told that shovels and pitch-forks are sciences!

I need not traverse all the terms and forms of expression under which the writer who elucidates Science and Spiritualism for your journal claims to have discovered the former. If his questionable judgment is to be accepted, then the essential elements of science are also to be found in "complications invented." This conception has every appearance of originality; but is it true? We must confess we had not dreamed of that, and should never have thought of looking there for those elements. The subject may be obscure, but Webster comes to our aid with the following plain definition of "complication": "Intricate or confused blending of parts; entanglement; the act or state of being involved." From this view of the subject we might reasonably expect that great scientific attainments need not be so rare. If "complication," or a "confused blending of parts," constitutes science, it follows that the greater the complication or confusion, the more profound the knowledge it involves, and the ancient Babel must forever stand forth at the head of all scientific institutions. If "entanglement" is science, the fellow who is lost in a bramble-jungle, and cannot find his way out, is in a fair way to graduate with all the honors.

"The act or state of being involved" is thus defined by the same philological authority: "To involve in anything which exists on all sides; as, to involve in darkness and obscurity." Now when we look for science in the "complications invented"—in other words, in "confusion," "entanglement" and "darkness"—it is astonishing how scientists are multiplied. The motley crowd not only embraces all those well-dressed aspirants who are striving to reach the temple of fame, but,

"The gathering number, as it moves along,
Involves a vast, involuntary throng."

Since science is made to consist in "complications"—"confusion and entanglement," as the term is explained by Webster—we need not seek the shadow of the University, the doors of classic halls, or search in the groves of Academies for wise men. When confusion is science, mere wranglers ought to be sages, and madmen supremely happy; at the same time the lawless rabble must be on the royal highway to knowledge and power.

While respectfully submitting these brief observations respecting your views of science—which are offered in no unfriendly spirit—I trust I may be permitted to notice your summary three-fold method of disposing of Spiritualism. And first you observe—respecting the spiritual phenomena—"we must aver that a large portion undoubtedly" belong to "the imposture part." But I beg to say that the *causes of imposture* are in no sense a part of Spiritualism, but on the contrary, the work of its enemies. If the Editor, in assaying a specimen of ore from one of the mines, should find four ounces of gold and three of other metallic substances, would the assayer be likely to state in his report that the ore tested gave seven ounces of gold, but that "a large portion" of the same was some baser metal? Should your agricultural Editor, or the statistician in your office, be required to estimate the wheat crop of the country, would he report that the United States annually produces 550,000,000 bushels of wheat, but that one-twentieth part, more or less, of the whole is *beans*, and "a large portion" of the remainder "is undoubtedly" *larses*? Of course no sane man would make such a report. It is only on the abused subject of Spiritualism (possibly on science) that the newspapers expect to be excused for publishing such nonsense. When the Secretary of the Treasury figures up the amount of the national currency he never includes the counterfeit. For a similar reason we insist that all impostors and jugglers be excluded in estimating the number of Spiritualists and mediums, and that all tricks and frauds be left out of the analysis of Spiritual Phenomena.

Your next method of disposing of the facts of Spiritualism is by referring them to the *involuntary action of the brain and nervous system*. But pray, Sir, what possible relation can the involuntary action of the brain have to one in a hundred of these facts? Will you ascribe phenomena to unconscious cerebration which the individual is forever incapable of producing by the concentrated action of his faculties and the utmost effort of the will? Yet your assumption involves this manifest absurdity. It is a fact established beyond all rational controversy that ponderable bodies—sometimes weighing several hundred pounds—are moved with irresistible force, and yet in such a manner as to demonstrate the fact that this surprising power is guided by an invisible intelligence, human in all its essential characteristics. If, indeed, the involuntary action of the brain so far transcends the utmost exertion of its voluntary powers, let the fact be demonstrated. If the agents and forces are all in this world, the scientists ought to be able to prove the fact and find the agents. If there is any substantial evidence to support any one of the thousand materialistic theories and speculations, we are quite ready to receive and digest it; but the mind becomes flustered that feeds forever on hollow assumptions.

I was once present at a séance when a Harvard University Professor, with a friend weighing over two hundred pounds avoidpois, rode about the room on a table; and then both were hurled headlong on the floor by this invisible agency; and I have an explicit statement of the

facts, to which the Professor referred to subscribed his own proper name. Is it to be supposed that the involuntary and unconscious action of either his cerebrum or cerebellum moved the vehicle on which he rode, together with the superincumbent weight of some four hundred pounds? Did this silent elevation, in spite of the man himself, send him and his companion sprawling on the floor? If a single brain-power can develop such amazing force without the least effort to do so, every slumberer ought to be able to plant, hoe, and grind his corn by his own cerebral motive power. If there is any truth in the assumption it would appear that the way to accomplish the greatest possible results is to make no effort whatever. This is a fair sample of the reasoning employed by the opposition to Spiritualism. If there is anything in this theory the philosophers of the Micawber school must be right, and the power of a dozen loafers might be utilized to run a line of stages; fashionable idlers and all vulgar drones might become useful members of society, and hereafter make some show at the farmers' and mechanics' fair.

I have before me an Epic Poem of some five thousand lines. It is a grand conception; the imagery is equally bold and beautiful, while it is entitled to a high rank as a metrical composition. It is believed that no living poet, unaided by special inspiration or direct spiritual agency, could produce such a work in six weeks; and yet it was improvised through a medium in just twenty-six hours and sixteen minutes. I know it is the fashion with the secular press to assume that all the poetry emanating from the spirits is mere doggerel and utterly worthless. For this reason I may be permitted to extract—almost at random and not on account of the exceptional merit of the passage—a few lines as an illustrative example of the quality of the poem to which reference is here made. The heavenly muse contemplates our planetary system as a grand musical instrument—the SOLAR HARP. One chord in the stellar lyre (the spirit's reference is to the Earth) is represented as unstrung. But the angels—the invisible ministers of the divine harmonies—touch the Earth with immortal fire and it is renewed. The chord which had lost its tone is restored and becomes responsive, and Earth, with radiant face—coming out of the darkness and discord with the unbroken symbols of her power—joins in the Solar Anthem.

THE SOLAR HARP. There are twelve great chords in the Solar Harp— One chord alone unstrung; That chord is touched with a living spark, And again it flutters a tongue. Joy! Joy! Joy! That chord is touched with a living spark, And the earth grows fair and young. There are twelve great Angels above the stars, And they sit on their thrones of gold; But the throne of one, by Death's iron bars, Was crushed in the ages old. Joy! Joy! Joy! For earth's throne again is among the stars, And she sits in the angel-fold. There are twelve great Nations in solar space, But one of them sat in the gloom; The sun of its glory vailed its face In the darkness of the tomb. Joy! Joy! Joy! For the twelfth great Nation lifts its face, And glows with immortal bloom. —(Epic of the Starry Heaven.

The third and last hypothetical method by which you propose to explain the facts of Spiritualism—to borrow and emphasize your own words—is "the doctrine of chances, the slippery foundation on which all this superstructure of superstition and imposture rests." Here you seem to abandon the first and second hypotheses, and to rest "all" on what you are pleased to term a "slippery foundation." Every one who has made the phenomena a subject of serious observation knows very well that the claims of Spiritualism rest on no such uncertain foundation. Let me frankly tell you that such hypothetical facts as you are pleased to use in your peculiar method of illustration are not such as any rational believer is accustomed to depend upon. May I ask why you do not look at the real facts in the case, instead of trifling with a grave subject by the use of bogus examples?

Now suppose you make an application of your doctrine of chances to the composition of the Epic, and tell us how by chance such a work was accomplished in twenty-six hours and a quarter, when there exists not even a shadow of probability that the combined powers of the medium and all the witnesses could ever have produced it at all. The idea that it is possible to execute such a work by accident—in other words, in the absence of any design and without effort—will not be entertained for a moment by any rational mind. To illustrate your doctrine of chances—whom Dr. Adam Clark defines to be, "men's ignorance of the real and immediate cause"—employ a man to throw paint all day at canvas; let him continue the experiment as long as he lives; then let another succeed him in the exercise of the same function; and so on for centuries in unbroken succession. If in one thousand years you chance to get, by this means, a faithful copy of Raphael's Madonna, or of Michael Angelo's "Last Judgment," you may possibly find some one disposed to listen to the doctrine of chances as an explanation of the Spiritual Phenomena.

You object that "Spiritualism will not be put to work—will not subserve any human purpose—will not come when wanted, . . . it will not repeat itself," or, in other words, the phenomena can not be reproduced ad libitum. That Spiritualism has been most effectually "put to work" to overthrow the scientific materialism of the age, and to revise the religious beliefs of all Christendom, is obvious enough to all who are pleased to look at the evidence. That in this way it subserves a divine purpose by quickening the spiritual faculties in human nature, and by furnishing scientific confirmation of our faith in immortality—is already demonstrated to the entire satisfaction of several millions of the human race. When you object that, in respect to positive evidence, it is altogether unlike science, because its phenomena can not always be repeated, or reproduced at pleasure, you assume too much. This is no less true of a very large portion of accredited science. I have not time to survey the whole circle of the sciences with a view to an analytical and exhaustive exposure of the fallacy of your reasoning, and hence a more summary method must be adopted. The barometer may indicate the same general atmospheric conditions, but the nimbus and cumulo-stratus clouds never assume precisely the same forms any two days in the whole year. The laws of Nature are ever the same, but her method produces endless variety, and never an exact reproduction of the same phases and aspects. And because this is the truth, which no

one may dispute, will you assume that meteorology is no science?

If we may not exactly duplicate the same fact in Spiritualism at will, it is nevertheless true that facts of a similar character may be obtained at almost any time under suitable conditions. But in science there are many facts which may never be repeated at our solicitation. This does not warrant our disputing their actual occurrence. Should you chance to observe, on some clear night, one of those small comical bodies which, for a moment, become incandescent by their motion through the earth's atmosphere—a shooting-star or luminous meteor—and you were to make the same subject of a paragraph in the Argonaut, you would not expect your readers to dispute your statement, and obstinately refuse to believe unless you would make a definite appointment, bring out your meteor, and continue to repeat the exhibition at stated periods, or as often as the caprice of some caviling skeptic might dictate. There may be creatures in human shape so enslaved that they hug the chains they wear.

"As the pipes of some carved organ move The gilded puppets' dance."

But Nature is not responsible for such servility; nor is science the servant of petty dictators. On the contrary, Nature pursues her majestic course regardless of our vain conceits; nor can the administration of her laws be stayed to save an empire.

"Such is the world's great harmony that springs From union, order, and consent of things."

Astronomers tell us that there is a pale pilgrim of the sky, whose flaming hair trails through one hundred millions of miles of ether; that this celestial traveler has made but a single circuit or revolution since Noah's flood; and we are disposed to believe what they say. Science presumes that this mysterious apparition will come round again in the far-away future. Now here is another heavenly body (we know not how many such exist) that will not reappear at our bidding; it will not come and stop and pose for your artist; and so you may, if you will, ridicule the pretensions of the astronomers. In this case you will nurse your unbelief a long time if you wait for a personal introduction to this missionary of light from heaven. The last of the Argonauts may founder in the great sea of popular skepticism, realizing at last that "the golden fleece" is not for the faithless. We shall finish our own brief commentary on passing events and the drift of the world's thought; but cosmos will remain; the procession of the seasons will move on; nations will rise and fall, and centuries come and go. But when that pale traveler comes back from his long pilgrimage to the frontiers of the astral system, we shall watch his progress from observatories in the heavens, and how will this world be changed! It is more than probable that the foremost nations of Europe will have finished their career and live only in history. Even the model Republic of the Nineteenth Century may only exist in story, because among the more enduring monuments of great Peoples their languages are sometimes immortal.

In the true spirit of freedom and universal Progress, and in the hope that the boundaries of science will soon be so far enlarged as to embrace our formulated knowledge of spiritual things, I am, my dear sir, Yours truly,

S. B. BUTTAN, M. D. Belvidere, Warren Co., N. J., July 28th, 1880.

Biographical.

THE EARLY DAYS OF E. V. WILSON.

BY HIS SISTER, MRS. PAULINE WILSON STEPHENS.

To the Editor of the Banner of Light:

Now that the earthly career of my brother, E. V. Wilson, has closed, I have thought that a few items in regard to his early life might prove of interest to his friends and the readers of your paper.

He was born on the 16th of March, 1818, in Pittstown, Rensselaer Co., N. Y., the eldest of the children of Samuel and Charlotte Wilson, and was a child of such delicate health that it was questionable for a long time whether he would live beyond the years of childhood. Our mother was a Methodist and an excellent clairvoyant. Night after night, for a long period, she would not close her eyes, so exacting were the demands of the feeble boy upon her constant care and watchfulness; and I well remember her saying she did not know by what means she had succeeded in sustaining him in life unless the Lord had helped her, for the purpose of keeping him on earth for the fulfillment of some great work he had laid out for him to do. He was christened Ebenezer Vespasian Wilson. In his early life he was a sonnambulist. Many times during that period the entire family have been aroused at night by his declaiming in a powerful voice to what we supposed to be an imaginary audience. He exhibited an eager desire for books, and availed himself of every opportunity to acquire knowledge. But the means of obtaining an education were very limited in the central portion of the Empire State, from 1824, when our parents moved to Oneida County, until 1834, when Eben entered the battle of life for himself, consequently no systematic course of study was pursued by him.

He would often relate the remarkable dreams he had. Our mother, being highly mediumsitic and often in communion with spirits, was always in sympathy with him, but our father, who had received an excellent education, considering the limited facilities for acquiring one in his youth, treated everything of the kind as mere superstition, and would not allow the subject to be discussed in the family. Often have I heard him say to mother: "I fear Eben will never amount to anything, he is so visionary and seemingly worthless."

Father was a farmer in those days, and his large family of boys were necessary helps in the fields. From constitutional weakness and a consequent disinclination to manual labor, Eben, as he was always called, often escaped out-door toil, and being with mother so much, he busied himself in assisting her in her household duties. Many were the loaves of bread his hands made for the family repasts. He was an excellent knitter and sewer, and used to delight in spinning the yarn. Our dear mother's health was at that time very poor, and in Eben's desire to aid her he frequently undertook and accomplished the arduous task of doing the entire washing for the large family. I was the only daughter, nearly five years his junior, and the remembrances of these events are indelibly impressed upon my memory.

I recollect when he was about twelve years old, father said he must go to the field and help hoe the corn, and, as disobedience to parental commands was unknown, he went; but in the evening he said to mother, "I suppose I shall

have to work till I get big enough to take care of myself, but when that time comes I shall not hoe corn, for I know there is something in my head that will support me."

Father's farm lay on the north side of Oneida Creek, near its mouth. Just north of where the house, barn and yards were located was a strip of land, some forty rods in length, that fifty years ago was white sand, and in the family was called "the sand streak." It was enclosed in a pasture. In the summer of 1831, Eben was one evening told to drive the cows home. He started off cheerfully, and had been gone but a short time when the whole family were startled by fearful screams, whereupon all rushed to the door. Eben was approaching, and soon reached the house. His face was white as clay; he trembled in every limb, clung to his mother for protection and hid his face in her clothes. Father sternly inquired, what it all meant. Eben replied that the whole sand-streak was covered with Indians, fighting and killing each other, and he had to jump over their dead bodies. Then looking in the direction of the point indicated he exclaimed, "There they are yet! Do not you see them? Do not you see them?" But of course no one beheld them but the young seer, and that he did so, those who witnessed his manner and his frightened looks could not for a moment doubt.

About three years after the above occurrence there came to our house a very aged Indian, bringing with him a printed pamphlet, in which it was stated that he was an Oneida Brave; that during the Revolutionary war he had rendered great service to the army by running to carry a letter from General Schuyler to another department of the army, and soliciting all who should read the pamphlet to give him any little supplies he might want, in consideration of the service he had rendered our common country. The pamphlet further stated his probable time of birth, which would show him to be about one hundred years old. The account was signed by Governor Clinton. He could talk very good English. He told our parents that when he was a small child the Indians had a great battle on those grounds, and going out-doors he pointed to the sand-streak and said, there they fought all day long; the ground was covered with dead; that his father was killed, and his mother took him on her back and ran all night to save his life. Our mother then said it was no wonder that Eben had been frightened on the sand-streak.

When about seventeen years of age Eben went to work at lumbering, cutting wood and hauling it to the creek. The man by whom he was employed refused to pay him, and father determined to prosecute him at law in order to obtain what was Eben's due. In furtherance of this he proposed to engage the services of a lawyer; but Eben said he would plead the case himself at court, and so persistent was he in his determination that he was told to go ahead, leave his own way and lose the case. He did go ahead, argued the case, won it and received his pay.

The next year he went to what was then "the far West," the Mississippi Valley. He was absent a year and a half, and returned home in the fall of 1838 sick, and continued in poor health all winter. In the spring of 1839 he worked on an Erie Canal boat. In June, 1840, he married Archibald Adaline Eggleston, an excellent young lady, born and educated in our vicinity. The following year his first child was born, Edwin, who fell, with thousands of others, in defence of his country during the war of the rebellion. During the winter of 1842-3, he resided in Utica, and became "converted" under the preaching of the revivalist, Jacob Knapp. The doctrines of Millenism being then much talked of, he adopted them, but the day of the end of all things having passed, leaving him a foothold on earth, he naturally changed his views on that subject.

In the spring of 1844 he again started for the West, leaving his family at home. In July of that year his wife and two sons followed him, but the vessel in which they embarked came near being lost on Lake Michigan. Eben, who was at that time in Chicago, receiving a vision showing their peril, started the next day on a vessel, and shortly after met the one on which his wife and children were, in a disabled condition. He lived a few months in Chicago, during which time George, a child of two years, passed to spirit-life. From this place his business led him to remove his family to Menomonee, Green Bay, where in the spring of 1846 his wife passed from this life, leaving an infant. This infant, with the boy Edwin, Eben brought to me. I was then married, living in Mercer Co., Ill. My mother was with me, but father had passed to the spirit-world in 1844. Eben fell impressed that the youngest child would not abide long on earth. Starting on his return to business, the vessel upon which he took passage was wrecked near Milwaukee, Wis., and many lives were lost. He drifted ashore in a semi-conscious condition, from which at daylight he was aroused by his spirit wife, who stood at his side with the infant in her arms, it having passed from his care the day before. In writing of his misfortune, he said he knew the babe had passed away, for Archibald held it in her arms, and told him she had taken it.

In August, 1847, he came home, and in September was united in marriage with "Farmer Mary." In May, 1850, being on a visit to his mother, then living with me, he informed us of the Rochester Knockings, and related what he had witnessed, and said: "If this thing proves to be a fact, it will renovate the world." He continued to investigate its claims, became convinced of its truth, and entered upon its public advocacy. From this date, the life and services of E. V. Wilson are well known to all Spiritualists.

All Vaccination Bad Alike.

I had been on board "The City of Berlin" steamer five or six days when a Quaker lady from Pennsylvania, but residing in New York, accosted me with the question, "Are you the gentleman who is opposed to vaccination?" I said, "I am," and then she replied, "Then I wish to shake hands with you," and proceeded to relate the terrible results following the vaccination of her own children. Her eldest daughter, a well born child, without spot or blemish, had been so fearfully poisoned by vaccination that the flesh dropped from her arm within a short time of the operation. She is now a woman, and through life has been afflicted with humors requiring surgical treatment, and her existence has been rendered miserable. Her second child broke out in suppurating sores after vaccination, when she remonstrated with the doctor, accusing him of using bad matter; adding, with tears in her eyes as she revived her painful experience, "I did not know then, as I know now, that all such matter is bad alike." Another child, one of twins, had been killed outright by vaccination. I said, "Madam, how is it that, after your first child had been so seriously injured, you allowed the others to be vaccinated?" She replied, "Because I was compelled to do so according to the laws of the State of Pennsylvania." —William Tebb, in Vaccination Inquirer and Health Review.

Foreign Correspondence.

ECHOES FROM ENGLAND.

NUMBER TWENTY-FIVE.

BY J. J. MORSE,

Special Correspondent and English Agent of the Banner of Light.

In counting up the sum of progress made by Spiritualism over here, some of our friends are dissatisfied with the total, and consider greater, as well as more numerous results ought to have been expressed. There are those good, but fearful souls, in all movements, who, being inclined to a more or less pronounced pessimism, mistake periods of rest for times of that decay preceding death. From such folks at such times a "Jeremiad" is all that can be expected, though the "Jubilate" of success has but a little while before been sounded by their lips.

Our Jeremiahs over here are inclined "to come out strong," and deluge us with tears and deafen us with lamentations both alike uncalled for, since whatever cause there may be for the disunion in our ranks, Spiritualism itself is in no wise responsible; all such must be laid at the doors of those inconsiderates who imagined our spirit-sent cause to be a plaything for them, or a stepping-stone to notoriety, by enabling them to air their crochets, exercise their hands at rulership, or in other ways divert the glory of Spiritualism to the illumination of their own peculiar selves. If such as these have "sown the wind" they cannot but expect "to reap the whirlwind" in course, and if that wind be a winnowing gale that sweeps out chaff, and leaves the grain, timorous souls may groan the while, but in the end the cause will be the better and the stronger. Our Spiritualism must be the rule of life; self must be subordinated, and with a righteous determination to help the angel-world in their mission upon earth no reason for fears of the stability of our cause will ever be found, for strong from within it can resist pressure from without. Harmony, unity, the common good—these our needs, our duty.

Miss Maizie A. Houghton—whose name is known in Boston as an excellent healer, as it is also well known here in London—has been the subject of attentions anything but delicate or polite, from that well matched couple, Dr. Forbes Winslow, and a person using the name of "Charles Stuart Cumberland," but who turned out to be a Mr. Charles Garner, clerk in a butcher's store in the city of Oxford, though announcing himself as a journalist, lecturer and friend of the Home Secretary! Miss Houghton was taken upon a warrant granted at the request of the above persons, and after a strict cross-examination of "Cumberland," or "Garner," by the defending counsel, that gentleman was glad enough to ask that the charge against Miss Houghton be dismissed. Miss Houghton has suffered severely, physically and mentally, but it is some satisfaction to feel that, in her person, has again been fought successfully the battle of mediumship against bigotry and prejudice. Mr. Garner will in future, no doubt, confine his killing attentions to sheep, etc., and not expend them on mediums and Spiritualists.

The "British National Association of Spiritualists" commenced their annual series of "Fortnightly Discussion Meetings" last night—Monday, Nov. 1st—the course being opened by the guides of Mrs. Cora L. V. Richmond, who delivered an able lecture upon "The Pending Crisis in Spiritualism, and how to Meet it," before a numerous company in the Association's rooms. The lecture, and the concluding poem upon "Light, More Light," were received with marked favor. In the absence of the President the chair was occupied by Mr. Desmond Fitzgerald, M. S. Tel. E. These fortnightly meetings are looked forward to every year by a large body of Spiritualists in Great Britain, who either attend in person or eagerly peruse the reports of them in the press; and much valuable matter is annually contributed to our literature. As proof of the wide area traveled over, and evidence of the ability employed, the list of the current session, 1880-81, is submitted:

Nov. 1st, Mrs. Richmond (trance address). "The Pending Crisis in Spiritualism, and how to meet it"; Nov. 15th, Mr. E. T. Bennett, "National Organization among Spiritualists"; Dec. 6th, Mr. Calder, President B. N. A. S., "Social Harmony"; Dec. 20th, Mr. Morell Theobald, "Mistakes of Spiritualists and Investigators"; Jan. 17th, Mr. Dawson Rogers, "The Proper Attitude of Spiritualists to Public Paid Mediumship"; Feb. 7th, Rev. W. Millar, "Conviction: Its Basis and Obligations"; Feb. 21st, Rev. Dr. Maurice Davies, "An Hour's Communion with the Dead"; March 7th, Miss A. Rundell, "Re-incarnation"; March 21st, Mr. Morse, "Mediumship in Relation to Health"; April 4th, Madame de Sjelger, "Art and the Supernatural"; April 21st, Mr. D. G. Fitz-Gerald, "Spiritualism versus the Press and the Double-Edged Sword"; May 5th, Mr. F. G. Fenner, "Agonies of Spiritualism"; May 19th, Mr. F. E. Cook (Chicago), "Relations of Science and Spiritualism"; June 6th, Mr. Stanton Moses, M. A., "What I Know about Spiritualism, and What I do Not Know."

The council of the B. N. A. S. are promoting a "national memorial," for presentation to the Home Secretary, with a view to bringing about some alterations in the laws with regard to the position of mediums, who are now held liable to pains and penalties "as rogues and vagabonds" in a manner most discreditable to our age.

Messrs. Smart and Spriggs, two young gentlemen belonging to Cardiff, Wales, have lately sailed from London to Australia. A company of some sixteen friends assembled in Mr. Burns's parlors and bade them farewell, presenting them with an illuminated address in the names of the Spiritualists of England. But as no one knew of the intention until after its execution, its national and representative character is somewhat speculative. From personal acquaintance, however, with the two gentlemen, I can assure your Australian readers they will find them a most desirable acquisition. Mr. Spriggs is an excellent medium for materialization, against whom no suspicion has ever been breathed. The "Circle of Light," in Cardiff, to which he was medium, has a world-wide reputation for its success, its spirituality, and the incontrovertibility of its phenomenal facts. Mr. Smart is an excellent stenographer, and has reported several of the lectures delivered by the guides of the writer. Long may they be spared to work for our cause.

A general conference of British Spiritualists has just been held in Manchester, to which the writer acted as Honorary Secretary. A pleasant time was had, and it was resolved to advocate the formation of "District Committees" as a prelude to a more complete national unity. The conference was preceded by three special services on the Sunday at which Messrs. Wright and Lambelle and your correspondent officiated, each being greeted with excellent audiences. As Honorary Secretary it fell to the writer's lot to obtain a statistical return of the movement here. For convenience of reference your correspondent put the returns in tabular form, and his table is printed in the Spiritualist for Oct. 29th. Among the American authors exciting the

most interest over here just now, my beloved friend, Dr. J. M. Peebles, takes the lead—the demand for his later works: "Spiritual Harmonies" and "Our Immortal Homes," being very great, so much so that my cases are emptied of them as soon as received, and then purchasers have to wait. As stated in my last, there was a deal of pleasurable anticipation over the Doctor's new work on the future life, and that anticipation has been fully realized since the work has come to hand. It will undoubtedly attain a permanent popularity similar to the "Seers of the Ages," considered by many the best work the Doctor has produced. The Pilgrim is a marvel! How does he find time to accomplish all his work?

Trusting the truth, practicing it always, we build up a life that is holy in ourselves, beautifying humanity at large, and bequeathing to posterity a legacy that shall help on the world to higher spheres of love and goodness. So let us trust, so let us practice, and it will be well for all, and the angels will ever be with us and for us.

Progressive Literature Agency, 22 Pallatine Road, Stoke Newington, London, Eng.

The Fate of Sir John Franklin's Expedition.

To the Editor of the Banner of Light: You may, perhaps, remember that about the year 1850 a spiritual medium somewhere near the coast of Maine published a small pamphlet, in which he stated that the spirit of SIR JOHN FRANKLIN had communicated to him an account of his last Arctic expedition.

Sir John stated therein that the canned meats with which his ship had been provided—having been improperly prepared—all spoiled; that it therefore became necessary to devote so large a proportion of his crew to bear and seal-hunting, &c., instead of navigation, that the entire command consequently perished.

About the year 1856 I mentioned this circumstance to Sir Emerson Tenant, then Secretary of the Board of Trade in London, remarking, also, that inasmuch as we had no means of testing the correctness of the statement thus furnished, the question must remain an open one.

The Baronet was not a Spiritualist, but he immediately remarked that he happened to know that the canned meats alluded to were a portion of a large lot that had been prepared at Berlin for the British Government, and that the residue proved worthless, having spoiled in a naval storehouse at Portsmouth, I think.

I have recently seen in the public prints that a Mr. Cheyne—in England—has lately raised this question, with a theory that attributes the failure of Franklin's expedition to the same cause, and declares himself ready to prove that other parties used portions of the same lot of cans above named, that also proved unreliable, and failed accordingly. [*]

JOS. P. HAZARD, Seaside, R. I., Oct. 8th, 1880.

[*The account to which our correspondent evidently refers is as follows: a more lengthy statement, but presenting substantially the same facts, is also going the rounds of the press, credited as being from a letter to the New York Herald by Commander Cheyne.—Ed. B. of L.]

Commander Cheyne says: "It was not the Arctic regions that sent Franklin's men to the next world. They were murdered by the contractor who supplied the expedition with preserved meat. The same contractor supplied Sir James Ross's expedition, to which I belonged, and the tin labeled beef and mutton contained nothing but bones of the tips, when opened, contained nothing but big knuckles of bone. Everything belonging to the animals was put into the tin, except the horns, hoofs and hides. The very entrails were there, and when the crew, having nothing else, ate them, they had to hold their noses, so offensive was the stench. If Sir James Ross and his party had been out another winter they would have starved. I have repeatedly, in my lectures throughout England, denounced this contractor as a murderer, and dared him to bring action for libel. I should be glad to have him do so, for I could establish the truth of what I say." In support of this statement Commander Cheyne produced a package of the Arctic Regions, by Simmons, the following passage in regard to the dependence of Captain Moore's search expedition in 1848: "After a minute examination about ten thousand pounds of preserved meats on board this vessel were found in a pulpy, decayed and putrid state, totally unfit for men's food, and ten thousand five hundred and seven pounds were thrown overboard. This was the case in July last." Commander Cheyne has been in three Arctic expeditions. He was with Sir James Ross when he found the ruins of the Franklin expedition. At Beechey Island and elsewhere they found this bearing the contractor's name, and Commander Cheyne, knowing the kind of provisions which he had prepared, and that he had a note in his journal to the effect that he could fully understand how Sir John Franklin's men had come to their death. The same contractor subsequently supplied the Mediterranean and Sir William Parker, the commander, condemned the supplies at Malta.

New Publications.

JAPANESE FAMILY WORLD—Stories from the Wonders of Japan, by William Elliot Griffis, author of "The Mikado's Empire." Illustrated by Ozawa, of Tokio. Schenectady, N. Y.: James H. Barlythe.

Twelve years' intercourse with Japanese youth and four years' residence in Japan, enabled the compiler of the thirty-four stories contained in this volume to make the selections from the literary and artistic products of the imagination of that, to us, strange nation. Some of them he first read on the tattooed bodies of the native foot-runners, others he first saw in the flower-tableaux at the floral shows in the streets of Tokio. In the collection are condensations of bulky volumes and interminable romances, and a few sketches by the author embodying Japanese ideas, beliefs and superstitions. The dozen engravings are from drawings made by a native artist of Tokio. The book possesses a peculiar charm for children, and is not without interest to adult readers.

THE BACK BAY DISTRICT AND THE VENDOME. BOSTON, by Moses King, editor of "King's Handbook of Boston," etc.

The new palatial hotel of this city, "The Vendome," which Col. J. W. Wolcott is the proprietor, is the central figure around which the array of artistic beauties contained in this *bijou* revolves. A finely executed engraving of the "Vendome" is given, with a map of Boston originally published in 1722, twenty or more pictures of public buildings, works of art and points of interest, and brief historical sketches of Boston and its suburbs, serve to make this work a pleasing souvenir for transient visitors to take with them on leaving the city, or to send to strangers at a distance who desire to know something of the attractions of the metropolis of New England.

LA GRANDE FLORENE. A Love Story, by Adolph Belot. Translated from the French by G. D. Cox. Philadelphia: T. B. Peterson & Bros.

As a sequel to "The Strangers of Paris," this is pronounced to be a brilliant illustration of the remarkable skill of its author in the construction and development of an intensely interesting plot.

"TRUE RELIGION" is the name of a poem by Mrs. J. H. Harter, of Auburn, N. Y., appended to which are "Rhythms on Shakerism," by Mrs. Harter and Lizzie Morton; recently published in a tract of twenty pages. The subjects are pleasantly treated in Hudsonbrast verse.

James Jackson Jarvis writes from Florence to the New York Times as follows: "If Boston should ever decide on redeeming her reputation in monuments, which it should do soon to keep pace with its intellectual growth in other matters, there is an historical incident at the very bottom of the annals of Massachusetts which affords, either in sculpture or painting, a motive of great character and capacity of treatment. I refer to the visit of the first Indian to the half-starved Pilgrim Fathers on that memorable winter morning when Samoset, as he called himself, instead of coming with war-hatchet, advanced from the woods toward the startled group with the words, 'Welcome, Englishmen,' on his lips—a sentence that was the anticipatory requiem of his own race and the giving over of a continent to the white race. Here is material for a great work of art, indeed."

TO BOOK-PURCHASERS.
 COLBY & RICH, Publishers and Bookkeepers, No. 9 Montgomery Place, corner of Province Street, Boston, Mass., keep for sale a complete assortment of Spiritual, Progressive, Reformatory and Miscellaneous Books, *Wholesale and Retail.* Orders for books, to be sent by Express, must be accompanied by all or part cash. When the money for a book is not paid for by Express, it will be sent by Mail, and must be accompanied by cash to the amount of each order. As the magnitude of the order varies, the terms of sale vary. We do not sell by mail, but subject to our usual conditions, we would be glad to receive orders for books, and to send them by mail, if desired. All business communications looking to the sale of books, or to the purchase of books, should be sent to the publishers, and not to the printer. Any book published in England or America, and not out of print, will be sent by mail, or Express, if desired. Catalogues of books published and for sale by Colby & Rich, free.

SPECIAL NOTICES.
 In reporting from the BANNER OF LIGHT, it should be remembered that the communications of correspondents must be taken to distinguish between editorial articles and the communications of correspondents. Our columns are open for the expression of important free thought, but we cannot undertake to publish the varied shades of opinion to which correspondents give utterance. We do not read anonymous letters and communications. The name and address of the writer, in all cases, should be given as a guarantee of good faith. We cannot undertake to return or preserve manuscripts that are not used. When newspapers are forwarded, which contain matter for our inspection, the sender will confer a favor by drawing a line around the article he desires specially to recommend for perusal. Address Spiritualist Meetings. In order to insure prompt insertion, must reach this office on Monday, as the BANNER OF LIGHT goes to press every Tuesday.

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THE WORK OF SPIRITUALISM is the universal, the most noble, the highest sphere of our life, the lowest condition of human existence. It is based on wisdom, a comprehension of Love, and its mission is to bless mankind. John Pierpont.

Our Heavenly Visitors.

Reincarnation and Visible Appearance of Fifteen Spirits—Four Males and Eleven Females; Inimitable Evidence of Materialization and De-materialization.
 By invitation we attended a spirit materializing séance at the residence of Mrs. Andrew Bizelew, No. 3 Hancock Street, on Wednesday evening, Nov. 17th. The company was a select one, numbering eight adults, two only being females. It is altogether unnecessary to specify the initial proceedings, as that has been done many times in these columns; suffice it to say we were convinced there was no collusion, and no avenue open for deception of any kind. This matter being settled beyond doubt, we give below a succinct description of what we saw, with our senses vividly on the alert every moment, and what the other visitors in the circle likewise saw during the sitting of two hours and a half. To only say that the company was gratified; that the séance was a successful one, etc., would be taking an entirely superficial view of the astounding phenomena presented in the short space of time named above. It was marvelous in the extreme. No words can describe the holiness of the scene presented. It thrilled every heart. The personal spirit-friends of nearly every one in the room alternately appeared, and were fully recognized; and the delight of the for the time being embodied spirits, when identified, was unbounded. Should we give a fully-detailed account of what we witnessed it would occupy several columns of the Banner of Light, and then not do full justice to the wonderfully life-like appearance of our angel visitors.

A short, appropriate invocation was made by the lady of the house, a pleasing melody sung, and presently the curtains parted, and before us, in angelic beauty, stood a female form which was recognized as the guardian of the son of Mrs. B. She was robed in white, a profusion of lace being about her head, which she soon removed, and passing outside the group of sitters, she placed her hands on the heads of each in succession, enveloping the heads of some with her lace mantle, making passes over those of others, and kissing those whom she had before met.

Next came a tall, gracefully-formed female spirit, indicating by a motion of her hands those with whom she was acquainted. Though her features were not at first recognized, she soon made herself known by directing attention to a silver leaf on her brow. One of those whom she had indicated as being acquainted with was, during her (the spirit's) life on earth (1836), a correspondent of several Spiritualist publications, writing over the signature of "Silver Leaf." Being recognized, the leaf became more distinct. She then displayed a lace shawl or mantle ornamented with many silver leaves. At the time referred to the lady also wrote over a signature of her own, and she was asked if she would in like manner give us to understand what it was. She retired, and in a short time reappeared with another object in place of the leaf. Wishing to assure himself and all present of the test the spirit had chosen to give of her identity, the gentleman requested others present to state what ornament she now wore, and it was said, "It is a pearl"—which was correct, her *nom de plume* having been "Pearl."

The next was immediately recognized by one of the company as his wife, her long experience in materialization enabling her to come with great strength. She beckoned him to approach, which he did, and, embracing, they kissed each other, the gentleman congratulating her upon the wonderful success attending her appearance.

Another female form then came. She walked to where we were seated and extended her hand to us. We took it in our own and shook hands with her as naturally as we could had we both been mortals of earth. Her head and face were enveloped in a veil of thin, gauzy material, which in a brief time she carefully removed. Our impression was that it was Mrs. Conant; but we were not fully assured of the fact until, as she gained strength, the features gradually assumed an appearance we were long familiar with, and we then felt that in truth and verity the spirit-form of our faithful co-worker in the cause stood before us. The light, fleecy mantle she had taken from her head and now held in her hand, she dropped to the floor, and, kneeling

upon it, motioned us to approach her. We did so, and as we bowed our head she raised her hands and held them a moment above us, as if in supplication for the bestowal of spiritual blessings.

With many expressions of delightful satisfaction in having been able to succeed in all she had undertaken, Mrs. Conant left us, and shortly after a smiling, frolicsome face was thrust through the opening of the curtain. Then the full figure appeared: an Indian maiden with long black hair, whom we recognized to be "Springflower," one we had long known as a spirit. "Springflower" on this occasion was quite coquettish. Darting upon our view at one instant, she quickly vanished behind the curtain the next, played bo-peep in its folds, and amused us with her quaint facial expressions and child-like antics. Passing behind the sitters she allowed each to handle her long dark tresses, and threw them playfully over the heads and faces of several. She walked to all parts of the room, being at some points a distance of twenty feet from the medium. Apparently greatly interested in every object, she looked at the pictures, passed her hands over a piece of statuary, as if to learn of what it was, made, and, attracted to a bright colored cushion cover, made an attempt to remove it. She then passed to a what-not, took up various articles and examined them, and finally, while holding a vase in her hands, extracted from it a dozen or more fancy lamp-lighters, and carried them behind the curtain. Her merry mood led one of our party to remark that one of his spirit daughters had frequently increased the length of her hair until it touched the floor, which was more than "Springflower" could do. But the happy little Indian girl was not to be thrown from her equanimity by such bantering. She immediately commenced to manipulate her long, flowing hair, as if to extend its length. After doing so, she suddenly stooped so that the ends touched the floor, then arose, and with a triumphant smile on her face, bounded behind the curtain. She soon reappeared, and motioning for a chair, seated herself, and passing her hair through her hands several times, increased its bulk to about double what it was at first.

When "Springflower" first appeared her dress was pure white. She directed our special attention to it, and we beheld its surface gradually change until it glistened as if covered with diamond dust. Retiring for a moment, she soon reappeared, and the dress was adorned with what looked like silver spangles, each being about half-an-inch in diameter, placed three inches apart. She remained with us from fifteen to twenty minutes, and was the strongest materialization of the evening.

Our next visitor was recognized as Mr. Lloyd Minurn, a brother of the wife of Mr. Hazard. When on earth he signalized his life by heroic conduct in saving the lives of many of his fellow-passengers, during the burning of the steamboat "Henry Clay," on the North River many years ago. At that time he met with an accident that disabled him more or less the remainder of his life, the nature of which he made known on this occasion as a proof of his identity.

John Pierpont, Bertie North, and a son of Mrs. B. then appeared.

Mr. Hazard's daughter Fanny next presented herself and affectionately greeted her father. Then came a female whose features were very clearly defined. She was recognized as Pauline Wright Davis, a lady well known for her active efforts, while on earth, in advancing the interests of women and her hearty cooperation in all movements for the general good of all.

Mr. H.'s daughter Gertrude came, pleasantly greeted all, and affectionately met her father.

So long an interval elapsed between the disappearance of the last spirit and the appearance of another, that it was supposed no others were to come; but an emphatic movement of the curtain indicated that the séance had not terminated, and soon after a spirit-form came into view, and was immediately recognized by Mrs. J. S. Adams as a relative who passed to the spirit-world only a fortnight previous. The recognition was perfect, she having been deformed while in the earth-life, which peculiarity was fully shown as she now appeared. The effect upon Mrs. A. was extremely thrilling. She had not supposed it possible for her aunt to come, but she now stood before her with all the reality of life, in a position she had many times seen her, and tears of joy and gratitude came to her eyes as she beheld what was to her the crowning event of the evening. So overcome was she by the manifestation that she could not move from her seat to approach the spirit-form, though asked to do so; but Mr. Adams stepped forward, took the spirit's hand in his own, and felt assured of her identity. The same eyes, the same arrangement of the hair, the same complexion, the same expression, size and form with which he had been familiar for upwards of thirty years. The spirit appeared as greatly overjoyed at being able to come, as her friends were in welcoming her.

Mr. Hazard's daughter Anna next came, and after the customary salutation with which she invariably greets her father, confirmed the identity of Mrs. Davis and indicated the pleasure she experienced in meeting her in spirit-life. Then, waving her hand as if to extend her kindly wishes to all, she withdrew.

The last spirit-form which appeared was understood to be that of a lady of ancient time. As she stood before us, each was permitted in turn to approach her and observe the beauty of her features and complexion. They were, indeed, nothing of earth, and we will not attempt to describe them. The curtain was parted sufficiently for us to see the medium, and at the opening stood the spirit-form, attired in white. Her headress was also white, banded across the forehead and draped closely at each side of the face, after the manner of women of the East. While standing in full view of the company, the form gradually decreased in height and breadth, at the same time slowly retreating to where the medium lay, until it was less than one-half its original size. As this progressed the outline of the form became less and less discernible, and soon nothing was seen but a narrow strip of white, through which we beheld the medium on the lounge, and that gradually vanished.

The séance was a success, not because we were all Spiritualists, not because the medium was spiritually exalted in her nature and unexcelled for the production of the phenomena, but from a combination of causes, chief of which was the fact that we had no desire to dictate conditions. We had entire confidence in our spirit friends, and they in us, and, consequently, that perfect harmony existed which is absolutely essential at such times to secure satisfactory results.

Nearly every spirit that came seemed to make special efforts to assure us of the reliability of the medium and the genuineness of the mani-

festations, by repeatedly drawing the curtain aside, so that every one could plainly see the former, reclining, deeply entranced, upon the lounge.

The spirits who appeared and walked among us were not thin, shadowy forms, ethereal nothings to our sense of touch, which one's hand might pass through as through a cloud of mist; but—so far as that sense and others could be cognizant—firm, substantial bodies.

Changing Orthodoxy.

If the churches are right beyond a peradventure, they obviously need no modification in their creeds and observances. Yet we see such modification continually going on. It was only the other day that the general convention of the Episcopal Church, sitting in New York, adopted a resolution looking to the revision and necessary modification of the Book of Common Prayer, which it has always held to be next to the Bible, in acknowledged obedience to the changed views and opinions of the present time. The prayer-book, it was urged, needed alteration to suit the age in which the church is obliged to live to-day.

We have in a recent issue referred to the case of the Rev. Dr. Thomas, of Chicago, and the fearless and outspoken character of his utterances regarding many of the at least tacitly understood tenets of Methodism (for it is a notable fact that open and critical formulation of its opinions has not entered to any large extent into the practical life of that church). The public press teems with marked instances all over the country which demonstrate that the liberalizing process is going on, and that its fruits are not wanting both in the utterances of the clergy and the laity alike. The recent remarks of Rev. J. Hyatt Smith, (Baptist, of Brooklyn, Wis., are keenly to the point in this direction.

So it is all around. Even iron-clad Calvinism, the most cruel and forbidding creed known to Christendom, is silently suppressed by making no mention of it; and other doctrines, derived mainly from the same source, are evaded or passed over without the regular Sabbath preaching about them. Nothing more is required to show that the ecclesiastical power, which seeks to control all else, is obliged to take not merely hints but inspiration from the prevailing body of public opinion. It would be arrant folly to undertake seriously to deliver spiritual messages to a people who put no faith in them. That is just what the preachers are beginning experimentally to find out. The people will have something besides the old chaff and refuse of ecclesiastical magnification.

A discourse was delivered before the Independent Religious Society of Utica in May last, that furnishes an illustration of our remarks. It was based on the defection, or rather the open revolt, of Rev. Mr. Adams from the Orthodox Church, he having rejected the dogma of eternal punishment on natural ground. "Sixteen years ago," said the speaker, "while pastor of a Congregational Church, I began the protest which led me, step by step, into rationalism. And I know well," he added, "the doubts and troubles which thousands are suffering who have not wholly eschewed. I have letters from ministers, Sunday-school superintendents, lawyers, physicians and business men, asking counsel."

A Wisconsin minister confesses that he dare not open his mind to a brother minister, for fear the latter would at once lose confidence in him. Ask any church member you chance to meet if he has no doubts as to the soundness of the theology he professes—says the Utica preacher. He quotes Rev. Dr. Patten as saying that you may even yield the inspiration of the Scriptures without losing the essential portion of Christianity. The dissent of Mr. Adams from the hell doctrine is based on the rationalistic ground that enlightened human nature protests against it, that the whole doctrine of eternal punishment is abhorrent to every sentiment of honor and justice in the human soul. Dr. Lyman Beecher said, "The woes of some will make others happy because their punishment glorifies God." But the son, Edward Beecher, says, "This doctrine involves God, his whole administration, and his eternal kingdom in the deepest dishonor that the mind of man can conceive."

Our Utica preacher remarked with perfect truth, that the brooding horror of this whole scheme of salvation and damnation has cursed us beyond all that can be expressed. He has no patience to discuss the question of eternal doom. He said he was far more anxious to have the people get rid of the notion of heaven than of the notion of hell. The one is selfish to the core; the other is simply horrid. This is the scheme of Calvinistic Orthodoxy: An angry God; fallen man; an atonement by the blood of Jesus; salvation for those who believe, and damnation for those who do not. Rev. Mr. Adams denies, in his protest, that the failure to accept of any scheme of salvation involves anybody in eternal ruin.

Who is the man that is afloat on the sea of doubt? asks our preacher of the Independent Religious Society. Is it the man who can say: "I will study all religious thought that I can reach, and judge as to its value; I am bound to hold none of it except that which confirms itself to my reason and moral nature as true?" or is it the man who says: "I am bound to hold that the Scripture of the Jews is supernatural, the special word of God, and the full guide for all right belief and life; yet I reject the cosmogony of Moses; I reject the astronomy of Samuel; I reject the literalty of Job; I reject the morality of Solomon's Song; and I do not believe the chronology or the genuineness of the authorship of most of the books"; and so on. The new Orthodoxy, in other words, believes in God as everywhere, literally present in nature, the soul of the universe in which we live and have our being. Old Orthodoxy longs to die and find its God, whom it believes to be somewhere beyond the grave.

The Spiritualist will not have to look far for the cause of this broadening out of public opinion. In the earliest days of our acquaintance with the modern dispensation it was proclaimed to us by spirit intelligences through the

Rev. J. Hyatt Smith is reported to have said, in a late Sunday discourse: "They would have us believe that God creates 1,200,000 human beings every generation, picks out, say, 100,000,000 to be saved, and makes a Niagara of condemned souls of the other 1,100,000,000. It is monstrous. It is not in the Bible, and I should not believe it if it were there."

The Rev. Mr. Kutchen is reported by one of our exchanges to have made the following remarkably frank avowal of his own opinions on the theological "scheme of salvation": "I believe the Scriptures are the revelation of the Lord's will, but that the Bible is not absolutely infallible. I believe that the Old Testament is merely a history, and in a great deal of it there is no need for any inspiration. In relation to the Atonement, I believe that Christ, by his life and teaching, is made into the world a moral force tending to humanity and truth, and that all truth centers in him. In relation to the future punishment, I am not sure as to its duration, and I believe that hell is not a place, but a cry of repentance that comes from a contrite heart. I believe when sin ceases, hell shall be no more. I believe that God is compassionate, and I do not believe in a hell of material fire. These old ideas are being cast away, and humanity is coming out into the sunlight of a better knowledge."

mediumship of Mrs. J. H. Conant, that Spiritualism had come to earth "to liberalize existing conditions, not to overthrow them"—even as him of Galilee said, "I am not come to destroy" the law, "but to [spiritually] fulfill" it. The good work is evidently going on at every hand, as all can see who read even with casual glance the signs of the times. The prophecy thus made to us so long ago is being unquestionably verified day by day. The spiritual heaven will continue to work in the churchly measures of men "till the whole is leavened"; and we feel confidently assured that the spirit-world—whose denizens inaugurated the modern movement—will be found fully able of itself when that time shall arrive to take the next step and utilize the material thus finally prepared for the greatest good of the greatest number of sentient and immortal souls.

A Lesson from the Minnesota Fire.

A large portion of the hospital for the insane, located one mile from St. Peter's, Minn., was burned on the evening of Nov. 15th. Over five hundred patients were turned out of doors during a terrible night, whose rigor was almost unparalleled in that region. Some twenty-five of the patients are reported to have perished, and hundreds of half-naked, screaming maniacs raced in utter despair over the bleak snow-laden prairies, and in the face of the freezing, cutting wind. The citizens, State officials, and hospital physicians and men did all that remained to do for the survivors; but the occurrence was one whose horror can hardly be overstated. It is said that as one result of the disaster the roll books of the male department were destroyed, thus rendering the personal identification of the whole number of patients (upward of five hundred) necessary. This conflagration is another argument in favor of the "cottage," rather than the "palace" system of building hospitals for the insane: no fault existed in the Minnesota edifice, it being light and cheerful, large and airy, but through want of fire-discipline among its employees the hospital, and its precious freight of life, well-nigh foundered in the red waves; whereas had this home for the insane consisted—as in what is known as the cottage plan—of numerous small detached buildings, each under the charge of proper officials, both the loss of life and the great destruction of property would have been avoided.

Aid for the Poncas.

It is the purpose of the committee in this city having in charge the relief of the Ponca Indians, in conjunction with other persons in other parts of the country, to push the measures now before the U. S. Senate which involve the question of reparation and justice to the Poncas, and also the legal status of all the Indians within the limits of the United States. Further than that, it is desired to assist the Poncas, who have fled from the Indian Territory and are now trying to make a living on their old reservation in Dakota. It is also desirable that the public be kept informed as to the progress of the efforts to secure justice to the Indians and become familiar with a view of the subject of Indian rights and wrongs which it can get in no other way. For these purposes Mr. T. H. Tibbles, who has done so much in behalf of the Indians already, and Miss "Bright Eyes," will be in the East during the season, and will speak whenever there is a desire to hear them; for which purpose they can be addressed in care of B. W. Williams, of Williams Lecture Bureau, 258 Washington street, Boston.

Cruelty to Children.

The Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children will hold a Fair in Horticultural Hall, Boston, Dec. 8th to 18th, 1880. His Excellency, Gov. Long, will be President of the Fair. His Honor, Mayor Prince, will be Vice President.

Six thousand five hundred ladies, representing nearly every city and town in the State, constitute the General Committee. An Executive Committee of thirty ladies and gentlemen have charge of the arrangements. Frank B. Fay is General Agent and Secretary of this useful organization. Parties wishing to know more concerning its aims and plans can call upon or address him at his office, No. 1 Pemberton Square, this city.

Bastian to Remain in Europe.

The following letter from the celebrated materializing medium, Harry Bastian, will acquaint his friends in America of his present change of programme:

To the Editor of the Banner of Light:
 Will you have the kindness to make known in the Banner that I shall not be able to return to America as soon as expected, having made engagements here and in Paris. I am also receiving many letters of invitation to visit other places. I have met with good success in Hamburg. I find here a great interest in Spiritualism. I hope to return to my many friends in America as soon as the higher powers see fit.
 Yours, in the cause of Truth,
 HARRY BASTIAN.
 No. 1 Heerenstrasse, Hamburg, Germany,
 Oct. 31st, 1880.

"Soul Germs and Spiritual Growth."

We shall print next week an eloquent and thoughtful discourse on the above topic. It was delivered in Parker Memorial Hall, Boston, by Spirit Edmanuel Swedborg, through the trance mediumship of Mrs. Cora L. V. Richmond, and will fully repay perusal.

S. K. Abbott & Co.'s mammoth pamphlet bindery, situated at No. 98 Federal street, Boston, is just the place where a neat job, and one quickly despatched, may at all times be obtained: of which fact the firm of Colby & Rich are witnesses, in that the larger portion of their work of this nature passes through the hands of Messrs. Abbott & Co. The Abbott bindery is the oldest and largest of the kind in New England, and without doubt one of the most complete establishments in the country. The business was commenced thirty years ago by Mr. J. H. Abbott, brother of the senior member of the present firm. At that time its force comprised two hands and the proprietor; now the premises contain a quarter of an acre of flooring space in this crowded city, embrace every variety of labor-saving machinery, and give employment to two hundred and twenty-five men and girls.

The California Medical Journal remarks with self-evident truth, that "of all the professions the medical is the least liberal; that while the church is getting more and more progressive each year, so much so that it is no uncommon thing to see clergymen of different denominations exchanging pulpits and meeting on the same platform for religious purposes, the 'medical sects seem to be separating further apart. Distrust, bitterness, strife and meanness are the ruling passions."

Matters in Cleveland, O.

We are in receipt of a letter from our friend and correspondent, T. Lees (of Cleveland), describing his recent visit to New York City and Brooklyn. Not having space for the account we reserve it for our next issue. Brother Lees concludes his letter as follows:

"We [the writer, and his sister who had just returned from England] reached home just in time to attend the Cleveland Lyceum on the Sunday, when I delivered all the kind messages sent by the Brooklyn and New York Lyceums, and shared in the enjoyment of the unexpected but pleasant reception tendered Miss Lees after her long absence. I am to regale the little ones on Sunday (21st) with a description of the two Lyceums I visited."

I am glad to announce that Mrs. Cora L. V. Richmond will address the Spiritualists of this city Sunday, Dec. 10th, en route from England.

I cannot close without saying one word on the C. Farnio Allen conversion to the Baptist Church. She is certainly the fittest Baptist I ever heard speak; for at the time the report must have been sent to the Banner of Light office she was advocating, as strong as anybody I ever listened to, 'The Truth of Spiritualism,' in this city.

Our regular lecture season has not yet opened, but negotiations for discourses are pending with Mrs. F. O. Hyzer, Profs. Buchanan, Kiddle, Denton, and others."

A Second Edition.

The first edition, and an unusually large one, of "OUR HOMES AND OUR EMPLOYMENTS HERE-AFTER, WITH WHAT A HUNDRED SPIRITS, GOOD AND EVIL, SAY OF THEIR LOCALITIES AND CONDITIONS," was soon exhausted, and we now have the pleasure of announcing to our readers that the second edition of this valuable work, corrected and revised by Dr. Peebles, is now ready.

Be reminded that this elegant volume of three hundred pages treats of the proofs of spirit existence, of where the spirit-world is, what spirits return to earth, what employments occupy their time, what the higher spirits do for the lower, and what spirits, through their mediums, not only in this country but in Australia, Ceylon, India, South Africa, England and other countries, teach of the future life. Without a dissenting voice, so far as we have heard from Spiritualists and the liberal-minded, this is the ablest and most interesting of all Dr. Peebles's published works. For sale at the Banner of Light Bookstore, No. 9 Montgomery Place, Boston.

Mrs. Richmond Sails for America.

A private letter from Mrs. Cora L. V. Richmond informs us that Mr. and Mrs. L. were to sail on the steamship "Adriatic" (White Star Line) from Liverpool Nov. 16th. She is announced as to speak in New York the 28th of November and 6th of December in Masonic Hall, corner 6th Avenue and 23d street. They will then visit Boston, remaining from the 7th of December to the 13th.

It is reported that Mr. H. C. Strong, of Chicago, has invented a telephone by which electric earth-currents can be utilized to transmit messages without the use of wires. A magnetic survey has been commenced, forty-five stations for observation established, and a system adopted by which to record the variation or declination of the needle. The hypothesis is that the magnetic needle is acted on by earth-currents, which bend round the dry hills and mountains, taking by preference the course of the damper valleys and the streams. According to well-known law, the needle tends to set across the stream-lines of an electric current; and, if earth-currents exist, having a general direction from east to west, the abnormal deviations of the needle are thereby fully accounted for. It is proposed to search for these currents according to Matteucci's method, employed in Europe many years ago; that is, by long telegraph lines grounded at each end and without a battery. That earth-currents do exist is a well-known fact. It remains to investigate their direction and strength.

William Tebb, the great anti-vaccinator in England, and who is constantly on the alert to avail himself of the best methods of advancement for this needed reform, advocates a free use of tracts, pamphlets and leaflets, as very effectual means of disseminating its truth. This practice will be found equally valuable as a means of introducing a knowledge of the spiritual dispensation itself, everywhere. Colby & Rich have, at the Banner of Light Bookstore, No. 9 Montgomery Place, Boston, a great variety of low-priced but valuable aids in enlightening the public, and Spiritualists can do no better service than to procure them by the dozen or hundred and scatter them "like autumn leaves, broadcast over the land."

Our readers in Vermont will do well to turn to the eighth page, present issue, and peruse the article wherein A. S. Hayward depicts what the Allopathic Regulars are scheming to accomplish in that State. Having read the account, and weighed the advice he gives, let the friends call to mind that time-worn but still apposite apothegm, "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty," and acquit themselves accordingly. [Our thanks are due in this connection to Dr. S. N. Gould, of West Randolph, Vt., for his kindly action in forwarding to us documents bearing on the case in hand.]

A gentleman who attended Edwin Keene's test séance last Sunday evening informs us that he was very much pleased with the nature and results of the meeting. The parlors—at 46 Beach street, Boston—were filled with visitors, and many descriptions of spirit-forms present were given, accompanied by messages, details, etc., which were generally recognized at once, and thankfully received by those for whom they were intended. Mr. Keene gives one more séance at the same place before leaving the city.

Lee & Shepard's trade list for the present season is embodied in a stout pamphlet, and makes an excellent showing of works of the most varied character which have been published by this enterprising firm at Nos. 41-45 Franklin street, Boston. Books by other publishers they have also on sale. These indefatigable business men richly deserve their share of attention on the part of book-buyers generally.

By vote of the Board of Trustees the three volumes of Mrs. Maria M. King's "Principles of Nature" have been placed upon the shelves of the Mercantile Library of San Francisco, Cal.—the largest library in the city. The fact that Albert Morton, the well-known Spiritualist, (and who is our agent in that city,) is one of the Trustees, may throw some light upon the action of the Board.

We have received from a New York correspondent—and shall print next week—an account of a "Surprise" meeting held in honor of Mrs. E. Goodwin of New York, on the evening of the 10th of November.

BRIEF PARAGRAPHS.

HOME-MADE COURT-PLASTER.—The following recipe comes to us well recommended: One ounce of French Isinglass; one pint of warm water; stir till it dissolves; add ten cents' worth of pure glycerine and five cents' worth of tincture of arnica; lay a piece of white or black silk on a board and paint it over with the mixture.

He that follows the advice of reason has a mind that is elevated above the reach of injury; and sits above the clouds in a calm and quiet ether, and with a brave indifference hears the rolling thunders grumble and burst under his feet.—Walter Scott.

"I never argy argy a success," says Artemus Ward; "when I see a rattlesnake's head sticking out of a hole, I bear off to the left and say to myself, that hole belongs to that snake."

Rev. Mr. Walte has transferred his great moral show to Lawrence, where it is presumed will be renewed. He has Boston programme of "exposure," challenge and "defeat," with Col. King and Warren Lincoln in the cast.—Boston Herald, Nov. 17th.

An old saint when asked how far North he had ever been, replied that he had been so far North that "the ows when milked beside a red hot stove gave ice cream."

A WATER LILY. Oh, star on the breast of the river! Oh, marvel of bloom and grace! Did you fall right down from heaven, Out of the sweetest place? You are white as the petals of an angel, Your heart is steeped in the sun! Did you grow in the Golden City, My pure and radiant one? Nay, I fell not out of Heaven, None gave me my salutary white— It slowly grew from the darkness, Down in the dreary night, From the ooze of the silent river I won my glory and grace, White souls fall not, oh, my poet! They rise to the sweetest place.—[M. F. Dutton.]

A Boston man has invented a new word, "Astronomyology," and already there are six men in the country who can pronounce it.—Post.

The man who digs a hundred feet into the ground for water gets a long well.

You may rest upon this as an unfalling truth, that there neither is, nor ever was, any person remarkably ungrateful, who has not also been insufferably proud; nor any one proud who was not equally ungrateful.—South.

"My lost love!" as the toper said when he accidentally dropped his rum-jug.

"The doctors who advise vaccination have no right to be listened to with deference; for they have been guilty of monstrous and deadly blunders. A quarter of a century back they rebuked and scoffed at those—some of the graduates in medicine—who informed them that vaccination was a mistake, and was propagated, any or every disease that is in the blood. To the last moment they hardened themselves against conviction, and when unable any longer to deny it, they showed no humility, no confession of error, no abatement."—F. W. Newman, Emeritus Professor.

Batley, the Danbury lexicographer, defines "Fun" to be "One man's suffering enjoyed by another."

"Prof. Petree doubted not that he should out of this body continue the studies which his friend with the microscope and himself with the telescope had begun. He thought some point in the constellation Hercules would furnish a favorable point whence his observations might be carried on."

So speaks the Boston Herald concerning the late Prof. Benj. Petree, of Harvard College, whose liberal utterances before the Lowell Institute, Boston, some years since (and which we then noticed) startled many of his more conservative brethren.

"You are sleek, that's sure!" they say.— "Slick of what?" They disagree. "Tis the brain," thinks Dr. A. "Tis the heart," holds Dr. B.

So ignorant of man's whole, Of bodily organs plain to see, No sage and certain, frank and free, About what's under lock and key.—[Lobt. Browning.]

If men who belong to churches would not be so particular about carrying their umbrellas into the pews with them, but would leave them out in the vestibule, they would show more faith in those who attend the same church. As it is, says an exchange, there is little encouragement to a poor man to try and accumulate an umbrella.

L. Kusner yesterday received a telegram announcing the arrival of his son, daughter and Mrs. Pence in New York.—Daily Express, Torre Haute, Ind., Nov. 18th.

God's Poor Fund. Received since our last acknowledgment: From M. W. Wall, Victoria, B. C., \$5.00; J. T. S., 50 cents; Reuben Adams, Crete, Ill., 75 cents; Eliza Allen, Winoski, Vt., 40 cents; Solomon—Engle, \$2.00; Amos Hutchins, Medford, Mass., 50 cents; Martin P. Chase, Steadman, N. Y., 20 cents; C. Fannie Allen, \$1.00; Moses Hunt, Charlestown, Mass., \$10.00.

[We thank these generous friends for their kind remembrance of the suffering and needy. We have judiciously distributed their gifts to those most in want, but find the calls for assistance far greater than the supply, especially at this inclement season of the year; and trust that those who can spare something for the poor will do so at once.]

In the course of its notice of the three latest works on Spiritualism from the press of Colby & Rich, the Boston Daily Advertiser speaks in the following strain of Mr. Putnam's book:

"The second of these books by Mr. Allen Putnam, explaining New England witchcraft on the theory of Modern Spiritualism, relates once more the story of the marvel-workers of Boston and Salem at the close of the seventeenth century, and the sad work of the wise men of that time in attempting to deal with it. It may be truly said of Mr. Putnam's reasoning, wild as it seems, that it is quite as reasonable as that of the prosecutors and judges who sent the supposed witches to the gallows. Incidentally Mr. Putnam comes to the defence of Cotton Mather and the clergy, against the judgment of most historians, and places the burden of the blame for the witchcraft prosecutions upon the civil magistrates. His own theory is that 'lesser beings than the devil of Mather and Calef, and more powerful ones than the operators designated by Hutchins and Upham, were actual performers of the principal manifestations that have been known as witchcraft.' And it is all summed up in an epitaph which Mr. Putnam proposes for the unknown grave of the first victim:

TO THE MEMORY OF MAHARAJA JOMES, America's first martyr to Spiritualism; who was hanged in Boston, June 16th, 1693. Because God had given her such Organization and Receptivities that beneficent Occult Powers used her successfully as an instrument in curing Human Ills, So excited the Condemners of a Peril-fearing People, that knowing not What they did, they cried, CRUCIFY HER! CRUCIFY HER!

Any person having a copy of a pamphlet entitled, "A RIVULET FROM THE OCEAN OF TRUTH," published in 1855, who may be willing to part with it, will confer a favor by sending it to this office, and will be remunerated therefor.

Boston must be a very desirable place to live in since the advent there of the Rev. Joseph Cook with his "Monday Lectures." According to Mr. Allen, who has contributed a remarkable article to the Sydney Free Thought for August, the reverend gentleman above named has instituted in that city "the reign of the Kingdom of God and his Christ." I submit it to the members of our Young Men's Christian Association as a proposition worthy their most earnest attention, whether they had not better suspend their singing and other propaganda, and make strenuous efforts to get Mr. Joseph Cook over here. There is just one drawback: If, like the Bostonians, we all got turned to "righteousness," what would our clergy do?—Harbinger of Light, Melbourne, Australia.

Another Prosecution for Heresy in Scotland.

This time it is in the Established Church. The victim selected is the Rev. — Macfarlane, of Lenzie, one of the preachers of "Scottish Sermons." No less a man than Dr. Jamieson has been put forward to bring in the indictment, and plain speaking is evidently the order of the day. Mr. Macfarlane intimates that the old theologians are being slaken and will soon be overturned; but Dr. Jamieson pertinently reminds him that it is to one of these old theologians that he is solemnly pledged, and flings down his challenge to the heretic with the sharp declaration that if such preaching as his were allowed, "vital religion would soon decay in the land." The seconder of Dr. Jamieson's resolution said that "the sermons were the most unscriptural and pernicious he had ever read." From the honest Presbyterian point of view he is right, for these sermons protest against "the plenary and verbal infallibility of the Bible," and against "the superstitious reverence for the Bible prevalent among Protestants, by which its readers are induced to attach a like value and a like authority to all portions of it." This is the tone of all the sermons, and we need not point out how utterly subversive it is to the whole scheme of Orthodox Presbyterianism. Dr. Jamieson's resolution is carried, and Scotland will have another theological earthquake.—The Truth Seeker for November, Rev. John Page Hoops, editor, London, Eng.

Persecution of Mediums.

The Spiritualists of San Francisco are considerably exercised over the contemplated taxing of mediums in this city. An ordinance has been passed assessing astrologers, seers and clairvoyants fifty dollars a quarter; and various mediums have been notified that the law will be enforced against them. The First Spiritual Union propose to test the law's constitutionality and its applicability to mediums, and have secured two good lawyers to conduct their case. The test will probably be made in the case of Mrs. Robinson. A proposition was considered to ordain the mediums as "Ministers of the Gospel," by the Union, and on Sunday last our oldest medium, Mrs. Hendee, was so ordained. WM. EMMETTE COLEMAN. San Francisco, Nov. 9th, 1880.

Foreign Items of Interest.

Mr. Thomas Walker held a farewell conversation at the Theatre Royal, Kimberley, South Africa, on the 16th of September, during which, as we learn from The Diamond Fields Advertiser, a deputation of friends and well-wishers presented him with a handsome diamond ring, together with an address, numerously signed.

The Herald of Progress notices the movement in this country to establish a home for worn-out mediums, and suggests that the Spiritualists of England do something of the kind.

Information is received of the departure from earth of the mother-in-law of the Baroness Adeline Von Vay, who was, like the latter, a prominent Spiritualist and writing medium. Her loss will be deeply felt in Austria, where her labors in behalf of spiritual enlightenment have been invaluable.

A farewell concert was announced to be given in London, to Mr. and Mrs. Richmond, on Saturday evening, Nov. 13th.

Movements of Lecturers and Mediums.

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

P. C. Mills spoke in Fulton, Sunday, Nov. 14th, and 18th; at New Haven the 17th, and Flint, Mich., Sunday, the 21st. From thence he goes direct to Iowa. He expects to spend most of the winter in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin. He would be pleased to hear from the friends in those States. Address him Sioux Rapids, Buena Vista County, Ia.

Dr. L. P. Greenleaf's address is now at 7 Beacon street, Chelsea, Mass. He is an eloquent and thoughtful speaker. Keep him at work, friends.

J. W. Van Namee, M. D., has engagements at Clinton, Unionville and Bridgeport, Ct. Madison, Ct., is his permanent address. He would like to make some engagements in Massachusetts.

Mrs. Susie Willis Fletcher sailed for London from Chelsea, Nov. 20th.

Chas. H. Foster has arrived in New Orleans, and has located for the present at 111 Carondelet street.

Thomas Street is now in Boston, where he will remain for the present. He is located at 31 Indiana Place. He will be glad to answer calls to speak wherever his services are desired; for which purpose he can be addressed as above, in care of Mrs. Drake.

Capt. H. H. Brown speaks in Chelsea, afternoon and evening, Dec. 5th and 12th. He would like to make engagements for morning lectures on those days. He would like to make arrangements also for week day evening lectures, either in halls or parlors, on any dates from Nov. 30th to Dec. 15th. Terms reasonable. Address him 111 Dec. 1st and after the 15th at William, Conn. Between Dec. 1st and the 15th he can be addressed care of Banner of Light, Boston, Mass.

Prof. Wm. Denton's recent discourses in Gotham have called out ardent expressions of appreciation on all hands. A correspondent writes us under date of the 19th inst.: "I would like to speak of Prof. Denton's lectures, which have given us so much of pleasure and profit here in New York during the past eight days, but my feeble expression is of no avail in estimating such lectures from such a map." A card of thanks, numerously signed by representative Spiritualists of New York, was presented to Prof. Denton at the close of his labors there.

Brooklyn (N. Y.) Spiritual Fraternity.

The lecturer for the evening, Deacon D. M. Cole (formerly a Deacon in the Gettysburg Baptist Church), has followed his convictions which led him from out of the ranks of Orthodoxy. Highly meditative himself, and oftentimes controlled by invisible influences, his growth in the philosophy of our faith has been gradual. Possessing strong reasoning powers and a deeply religious mind, his lectures and talks are always listened to with attention, and while often spoken in a way to draw out argument, his thoughts are practical and elevating. Bro. Cole has recently been elected as President of the Eastern District Fraternity, lately organized, and whose meetings so far have been well attended.

The subject of the lecture was the "Signs of a True Church," and the speaker traced the life and teachings of Jesus, and argued that when the wise men of the East were led to the child in the manger, this was an evidence of the signs that followed. In tracing the life and teachings of the Nazarene, the speaker showed that Christ had no creeds, and that the Christianity of to-day was the Christianity of Paul, and not of Jesus. He said that Christian ministers could not be induced to preach from the text: "These signs shall follow them that believe," and when questioned to do so they would reply that the days of miracles were past. He showed that there was a striking similarity in the development of mediums of to-day and those of the Christian dispensation; and in conclusion he deprecated the common custom among some Spiritualists of always seeking for a sign when one fact, that clearly demonstrates mortality and the communion between the two worlds was all that was necessary. He urged upon Spiritualists to make their faith practical, and this could only be done by self-sacrifice—and unless we were actuated by this spirit we would miss the golden opportunity of becoming active and earnest members of the church of the future, that is to save and bless humanity.

Bro. Cole was listened to with close attention, and was followed by short addresses by Prof. Denton, Mr. Willis and Wm. C. Bowen.

Dr. Henry Slade is to be with us at our next meeting, and if the weather is pleasant we look for a large gathering.

Prof. Henry Slade speaks for us again Dec. 3d, on "The Bible and Spiritualism." S. B. NICHOLS. 467 Waverly avenue.

Banner of Light.

We take great pleasure in calling attention to this paper, published in the interest of phenomenal and scientific truths of spirit communion. It has ever stood fearlessly by the side of mediums that could demonstrate immortal life. It never ignores the fact of equality of women, where the invisible mind placed them for a mortal existence, thus making a two fold power in its columns, and worthy the respect of believers and unbelievers.—Western Light, St. Louis, Mo.

The Editor-at-Large.

The amount of funds previously acknowledged and placed to the credit of Dr. Brittan, ending Oct. 2d, 1880, is as follows: Paid: The Banner of Light, Chicago, Ill., \$1,000.00; A. P. Andrew, Jr., La Porte, Ind., 25.00; Amount Paid: H. Brady, Benson, Minn., 2.00; Peter McAvoy, 3rd City, Chicago, Ill., 25.00; Bell's Philosophical Journal, Chicago, Ill., 25.00; Charles Phillips, 2d Broad, 25.00; Hon. M. C. Smith (personal), New York, 25.00; R. A. Bidder, 25.00; B. Tanner, Baltimore, Md., 5.00; Total to date, \$1,358.45.

Brooklyn Spiritual Society Conference Meetings.

At Everett Hall, 308 Fulton street, every Saturday evening at 8 o'clock. After those speakers who have been invited to attend the Conference and take part in the exercises have spoken, any other subject may be brought into play pro or con, under the ten-minute rule. J. Dayid, Chairman.

Brooklyn (N. Y.) Spiritual Fraternity.

Conference Meetings held in Fraternity Hall, corner of Fulton Street and Gallatin Place. Friday evening, Nov. 26th, an Experience Meeting. Dr. Henry Slade will be present and give some interesting experiences. Friday evening, Dec. 3d, "The Bible and Spiritualism." Prof. Henry Slade. Friday evening, Dec. 10th, "What Shall We Do?" Prof. J. H. Bidder. Friday evening, Dec. 17th, Wm. C. Bowen. Friday evening, Dec. 24th, a Christmas Meeting. Friday evening, Dec. 31st, an Experience Meeting, and a review of our year's work.

Thirty minutes' first speaker, followed by ten minutes' speeches by members of the Conference. S. B. NICHOLS, Pres.

Eastern District Brooklyn Spiritual Fraternity.

Meets at Latham's Hall, Ninth street, near Grand, every Sunday, at 7 1/2 P. M. D. M. COLE, Pres.

We know that there is nothing on earth equal to Hop Bitters as a family medicine.

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For Sale at this Office:

THE RELIGIO-PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL: Devoted to Spiritualism. Published weekly in Chicago, Ill. Price 3 cents per copy, \$2.50 per year. THE SPIRITUAL RECORD: Published in Chicago, Ill. Price 3 cents per copy, \$2.50 per year. THE SPIRITUALIST: Published in Philadelphia, Pa. Price 3 cents per copy, \$2.50 per year. THE SPIRITUAL RECORD: Published in Chicago, Ill. Price 3 cents per copy, \$2.50 per year. MILLER'S PSYCHOMETRIC CIRCULAR: A monthly journal devoted to the young sciences of Psychometry. Published in London, E. Price 3 cents per copy, \$2.50 per year. 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 Society of Shakers, N. Y. 60 cents per annum. Single copies 5 cents. THE OLIVE BRANCH: A monthly. Price 10 cents. SPIRITUAL NOTES: A Monthly Epitome of the Transactions of Spiritualists. Published in London, Eng. Price 75 cents. Single copies, 8 cents. THE THEOSOPHIST: A Monthly Journal, published in India. Conducted by H. P. Blavatsky. Single copies, 50 cents. THE COMMONER: Published weekly. Greenback and Labor Reform. Single copy, 4 cents, \$1.50 per year.

RATES OF ADVERTISING.

Each line in Agate twenty cents for the first and subsequent insertions on the fifth page, and fifteen cents for every insertion on the seventh page. Notices forty cents per line, Minion, each insertion. Business Cards thirty cents per line, Agate, each insertion. Notices in the editorial columns, large type, ten cents per line, small type, five cents per line. Payments in all cases in advance.

Electrotypes or Cuts will not be inserted.

Advertisements to be renewed at continued rates must be left at our Office before 12 M. on Saturday, a week in advance of the date whereon they are to appear.

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The Wonderful Heater and Clairvoyant!—For Diagnosis send lock of hair and \$1.00. Give name, age and sex. Address Mrs. C. M. MORRISON, M. D., P. O. Box 2519, Boston, Mass. Residence No. 4 Euclid street. F. 7.

Dr. F. L. H. Willis. Dr. Willis will be at the Quincy House, in Brattle St., Boston, every Wednesday and Thursday, till further notice, from 10 A. M. till 3 P. M. N. 20.

J. V. Mansfield, TEST MEDIUM, answers sealed letters, at 61 West 42d street, New York. Terms, \$3 and four 8-cent stamps. REGISTER YOUR LETTERS. O. 2.

James A. Bliss, Letter Medium, Spirit Communication by letter. Terms, \$1.00 and 3 or 4 stamps. 713 Sanson street, Philadelphia, Pa. N. 13. f.

BUSINESS CARDS.

NOTICE TO OUR ENGLISH PATRONS. J. J. MORSE, the well-known English lecturer, will act as our agent, and receive subscriptions for the Banner of Light at fifteen shillings per year. Parties desiring to subscribe can address Mr. Morse at his residence, 22 Palace Road, Stoke Newington, N. London, England. Mr. Morse also keeps for sale the Spiritual and Reformatory Works published by us. COLBY & RICH.

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LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S Vegetable Compound IS A POSITIVE CURE For all Female Complaints.

This preparation, as its name signifies, consists of Vegetable Properties that are harmless to the most delicate invalid. Upon one trial the merits of this Compound will be recognized, as relief is immediate; and when its use is continued, its salutary effects are in a hundred, a permanent cure is effected, as thousands will testify. On account of its proven merits, it is today recommended and prescribed by the best physicians in the country for all forms of female weaknesses, including all displacements and the consequent spinal weakness.

In fact, it has proved to be the greatest and best remedy that has ever been discovered. It remedies every portion of the system, and gives new life and vigor. It removes fatigues, restores, destroys all craving for stimulants, and relieves weakness of the stomach.

It cures Bleeding, Headaches, Nervous Prostration, General Debility, Sleeplessness, Depression and Indigestion. That feeling of bearing down, causing pain, weight and backache, is always permanently cured by its use. It will, at all times, and under all circumstances, act in harmony with the law that governs the female system.

For Kidney Complaints of either sex this Compound is unsurpassed. This preparation is strongly endorsed, recommended and prescribed by the best Medical Men and Clairvoyants in the country.

LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S VEGETABLE COMPOUND Is prepared at 231 and 233 Western Avenue, Lynn, Mass. Price \$1.00. Six bottles for \$5.00. Sent in the form of Pills, also in the form of Lozenges, on receipt of price, \$1.00 per box, for either. Mrs. PINKHAM freely answers all letters of inquiry. Send for pamphlet. PINKHAM'S LIVER PILLS. They cure Constipation, Biliousness, and Torpidity of the Liver. 25 cents per box.

OUR LITTLE ONES AT HOME AND AT SCHOOL. WE ARE PLEASANTLY AND AFFECTIONATELY EDITOR. The most elegantly illustrated Magazine for Little Children ever issued. Every Picture drawn by one of the BEST ARTISTS, and engraved on wood especially for this work. Beautiful Stories and Poems by the BEST WRITERS for children. Spectacles free. Agents wanted. Monthly, 15 cents a copy, \$1.50 a year. Single copies, 5 cents. RUSSELL PUBLISHING COMPANY, Nov. 27.—2w 114 A Tremont street, Boston.

MRS. E. C. DODGE, OF OSWEGO, N. Y. MEDICAL CLAIRVOYANT. Examination by lock of hair, \$2.00; examination in person, \$1.00. Residence, 25 West 2d street, New York City. Office hours from 5 P. M. Medicines sent by express at low rates. Nov. 27.—2w

MISS JENNIE RHIND, TYPICAL MEDIUM, Psychometrist and Seer, will answer letters in English and Languages. Enclose \$1.00. Stating age, sex, stamped and directed envelope. 211-213 Essex street, Boston. 3w—Nov. 27.

MRS. S. D. MITCHELL. MAGNETIC TREATMENTS. Prepares and magnetizes hair, and restores all kinds of hair. Resides 4 Edgerly Place, off Winchester street, Boston. Hours from 10 A. M. to 4 P. M. 3w—Nov. 27.

SAN FRANCISCO. BANNER OF LIGHT and Spiritualistic Books for sale. E. C. MORTON, Spirit Medium, 1010 Broadway, Market street. 1st—Nov. 15.

NEW Prices reduced 50 percent. Elegant Family Bibles, \$2.20. Extra Prices. Agents for the BANNER OF LIGHT. COLBY & RICH, Publishers, 51 Commercial street, New York City. 4w—Nov. 27.

WANTED—Boarders in the house of ALLEN PUTNAM, 421 Dudley street, corner Woodward Avenue, Boston. 1w—Nov. 27.

DR. SARA E. SOMERBY, Magnetic Healer. Psychometric Readings, One Dollar. 107 West 11th street, New York. 3w—Nov. 27.

STRAUSS, THE HERKHOPTGRAPH SCHEINELLE POLYGRAPH, and all kinds of spirit communication. Send for catalogue and price list. 150 N. 2d street, New York. 1w—Nov. 27.

50 Gold, Silver and Jet Jewelry. Also, Agents' Sample Book, 25c. SEAVY BROS., Northford, Ct. Nov. 27.—1w

NO FEE UNTIL CURED. Dr. JUDGE'S easy and pleasing method of treating Deafness, Catarrh, Asthma, Consumption, Hay Fever, Rheumatism, Gout, Gravel, Nervousness, Loss of Sleep, Neuralgia, Headache, Discharge of the Eye and Lung Complaints, by the use of Dr. JUDGE'S Compound, is a sure cure. The Compound, which, applied directly to the seat of the disease, results in a speedy cure in the most obstinate cases. Sent in pamphlet form, or by mail, from all parts of the country. Trial free. No charge for consultation by mail or in person. Patients treated equally well at distance. For particulars, send for the public directory from 9 A. M. to 9 P. M. Callers will have the privilege of consulting with one of the physicians in a private office. For further particulars, send for the Compound, Dr. J. D. JUDGE & CO., No. 79 Beach Street, Boston, Mass. Ladies' entrance to Parlor, 7th, opposite United States Hotel. 1w—Nov. 27.—1w

50 Gold, Silver and Jet Jewelry. Also, Agents' Sample Book, 25c. SEAVY BROS., Northford, Ct. Nov. 27.—1w

SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF SPIRITUALISM.

BY EPES SARGENT. Author of "Planchette, or the Despair of Science," "The Proof of the Immutability of Matter," etc.

This is a large 12mo of 322 pages, in long primer type, with an appendix of twenty-three pages in lawyer, and the whole containing a great amount of matter, of which the table of contents, condensed as it is, gives no idea.

The author takes the ground that since natural science is concerned with a knowledge of real phenomena, appealing to our sense-perceptions, and which are not historically impaired, but are directly presented in the trustworthy form of daily demonstration to any faithful investigator, therefore Spiritualism is a natural science, and all opposition to it, under the ignorant pretence that it is outside of nature, is unscientific and unphilosophical.

All this is clearly shown; and the objections from "scientific," clerical and literary denouncers of Spiritualism, ever since 1847, are answered with that penetrating force which only arguments, winged with incisive facts, can impart.

In all that it claims for its "basis" the book is purely scientific, proceeding by the inductive method from facts as well confirmed as facts in any other science. The postulate is fully presented that other supernatural or preterhuman facts, not included in the "basis," are however made scientific by their relation to the "basis."

Mr.

Message Department.

Public Free-Circle Meetings.
Arranged at the BANNER OF LIGHT OFFICE, corner of
Providence and Montgomery Streets, every Friday
and Friday afternoons. The hall will be open at 2
o'clock, and services commence at 2:30 o'clock precisely,
at which time the doors will be closed, allowing no access
until the conclusion of the same, except in case of absolute
necessity. The public are cordially invited.
The messages published under the above heading indicate
that spirits carry with them the characteristics of their
earth-life to that beyond—whether for good or evil—consequently
those who pass from the earthly sphere in an undeveloped
state, eventually progress to a higher condition. We ask
the reader to receive no doctrine put forth by spirits
in these columns that does not comport with his or
her reason. All expressions much of truth as they perceive
no more.
It is our earnest desire that those who may recognize
the messages of their spirit-friends will verify them by in-
forming us of the fact for publication.
A our angelic visitants desire to behold natural flowers
upon our Circle-Room table, as well as donations of such
kind to the friends in earth-life, who may feel that it is a pleasure
to place upon the altar of spirituality their floral offerings.
Miss Shelhamer wishes it distinctly understood, that she
gives no private sittings at any time, neither does she re-
ceive visitors on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Fridays.
Letters pertaining to this department, in order to
ensure prompt attention, should in every instance be ad-
dressed to Colby & Rich, or
LEWIS H. WILSON, Chairman.

Messages given through the Mediumship of
Miss M. T. Shelhamer.

Science Oct. 19th, 1880.

Invocation.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth even as
it is in the highest spiritual spheres. Give unto all,
this hour, the needs and the necessities of the spirit,
whether they be of material substance or spiritual food.
Forgive the transgressions of the spirit, even as we
forgive those who transgress against us; each every
soul to recognize and live entirely by the golden rule
of love, doing unto all others the same as we would
have them do unto us. Give unto the spirit, whether
ceased in the bonds of flesh, or disembodied in the
immortal spheres, strength to withstand and overcome
temptation, to resist evil and wrong, and to aspire for
the highest gifts of the soul, which are purity of life,
sympathy for mankind, and love for one another.
Thou art the deliverer of all things, the sustainer, the
guiding star of all souls, therefore we ask, in every
hour of struggle and temptation, of weakness, of sad-
ness and of pain, that thou give to the weary heart
strength, consolation and comfort. We come to thee
with our souls attuned to gladness, reaching forth for
tidings from the holy angels that will strengthen, en-
courage and sustain us through all the coming time,
Amen.

Deacon Jonathan Howe.

Well, one after another, I perceive, finds him-
self returning from beyond the dark river. After
all, it is a river of light instead of darkness, and the
realms beyond glow with transcendent beauty.
I feel that my time has come to return, in
this vast procession, and give my testimony as to
the truth of the power of disembodied spirits
to manifest to mortals. My friends may not
care to receive my utterances, yet I desire them
to seek for that knowledge and truth which is
well for the spirit. I can only say that as I have
found this philosophy to be a truth, I must, if I
would be honest to myself and my convictions
of right, return and speak to those who remain
on earth. Were I still an inhabitant of the
body I would have attained what you on earth
call a great age; but I am a mere infant com-
pared to eternity, and I consider that I have
not attained much of experience pertaining to
spiritual things; yet, such as I am, I return, to
say to those yet in the body, it is true that we
live, and because we live you shall live also.
My daughter has joined me in the spiritual
world. I may add she was much surprised when
she met me in the eternal spheres, not because
she did not expect to meet her father, but be-
cause he was so differently situated from what
she anticipated; all was so strange, so very
strange to her, because her ideas had not un-
folded to comprehend the full significance of
spiritual life. She, too, sends back her greet-
ing, as I do, and says it is well with her. If
friends of ours in Charlestown who may care
to hear a word from beyond the tomb, will give
us an opportunity to return and speak in pri-
vate, we shall be most happy to respond. Deacon
Jonathan Howe.

Lucy Holbrook.

My name is Lucy Holbrook. I am from Wor-
cester. I think I would like to communicate.
I have a friend who manifested here a great
many years ago, before I passed out of the
body. I did not know that she manifested here
until I went to the spirit-world, and then, when
I was so anxious to return to my mother, she
told me there was a place where I could do so
and send a letter. I have been here several
times but have not been able to speak; then I
remained away a long time, because I had
grown discouraged; but my friend told me I
had better come again and perhaps I would
succeed. My mother's name is Mary. I want
to tell her that I have been trying to speak to
her ever since I went away. I don't like to see
her bowed down in such terrible grief; it seems
to overshadow my spirit as though I was draped
in mourning robes. I cannot get away from it.
I would not care if it would only lighten her
sorrow; still it continues on and on, and I do
hope and believe, if she will receive a message
from me—and feel that I can return to her and
minister with words of love and sympathy, and
tell her that I am happy now; that I have no
weakness; that the old pain has left me entire-
ly; that my lungs are strong; and I am free and
happy in a beautiful world with her dear mother
and sister—that she will feel more contented to
wait until I can call her home. This is my
great and earnest desire; this is my excuse for
coming here, and I hope I shall by this be able
to come to my old home and manifest more
closely. I want my mother to try to find me
some medium and let me come to her. I want
to manifest and tell her about my little effects;
she hardly knew what to do with those that
were left after I passed away. Some of them,
she intended to preserve and others she has
still kept, not liking to let them go. I want her
to distribute them as she thinks wisest and
best. I shall be perfectly satisfied if she is
pleased—only I think they had better go where
they will be of use and do some good.

George W. Schull.

It is five years since I was called to my spirit-
home, and welcomed by dear friends who for
long years had watched over and guarded me
through many an hour of pain and suffering,
many a weary week of mortal distress, bringing
me strength, consolation and patience; and in
connection with them it is that I return to send
out to those friends—and relatives—all my dear
ones who remain on earth—my love and greet-
ing, and to tell them I am happily situated in
the spirit-world. I believe in looking upon the
bright side of things; I believe in making the
best of whatever circumstances and conditions
come to the spirit; and by doing this I have al-
ways been enabled to extract a great deal of
sweetness from life.

Now I consider this a great blessing to be able
to return and speak; to tell my friends that I am
well and happy; that the old conditions of phys-

ical weakness and distress which clung to me so
long have all been broken, and I can now soar
free. I can still go onward and reach for some-
thing new, unimpeded by material things. I do
not regret one action while I was in the body.
Were I living now, a mortal, and conditions
around similar, I should certainly act in the same
way. But I do think that war is to be deplored
everywhere. I do most earnestly work from
the spiritual side for that day to dawn upon
earth when peace universal shall reign and com-
bat become only a thing of the past. To this
end I shall earnestly continue to work, unfur-
ling the banner of truth and progress, by which
humanity shall become enlightened. And I ask
my friends to work with me on their side to this
end, that we may lasten the day when man shall
love his fellow-man, and sympathize with him
so cordially that there will be no fear of turmoil
and strife, as all will then strive to benefit and
bless each other.

I lived just about thirty-four years in the
mortal form. It seems to me that I have gained
more of beauty, of experience and truth, through my
short immortal existence, than I did during my
mortal life. And yet I am glad that I had the
experience I did in earth-life. I am not sure
but it would have been well for me to have re-
mained on earth until age had advanced upon
me. But still I can, through friends, gain many
an experience from the material side which will
benefit my spirit, while in return I shall bring
to them a spiritual influence which will tend to
ripen them spiritually. My name is George W.
Schull. I report here, materially speaking, from
Oberlin, Ohio.

Nathaniel Snow.

Whatever faith, or even knowledge, a man
possesses on earth, concerning the immortal
life, he cannot realize the hereafter, he cannot
gain a perfect surety of the future world, until
he becomes a disembodied spirit. To faith we
may add knowledge, while yet in the body, but
it is given to the spirit disembodied by material
things to gain absolute, perfect knowledge.
If mortals could realize in its entirety the life
that pertains to the spirit, the proper life that
should pertain to the spirit, I am sure each and
all would live so in accordance with natural and
divine law that his spirit would become fitted
to know the most beautiful portions of the spir-
itual world. I find myself unclothed of material
vestments, yet possessing a form, a body, that
is material in every sense, adapted to my wants
and suited to my purpose, which I can use in
every conceivable way; although it may not be
as beautiful as I hope to make it, yet it is sound
and of use to me in my higher home. I would
like to reach my family and friends; I would
like them to realize my power to return to the
dear old home, and sit beside them, to take cog-
nizance of their doings, of their conversations,
of all that is of interest to them. If ever an op-
portunity is presented to me fully to return,
and speak boldly and plainly, I shall not hesi-
tate to do so, for I feel that I may not only bless
myself, but what is of more importance, be of
use and benefit to my friends. I come to-day
particularly to gain experience and knowledge
concerning the method and the manner of con-
trol, and to send out, as it were, a feeler, to see
how my words will be received. I come, like-
wise, to send my love and my affection to my
friends, and to tell them I shall rejoice when
they all cross over to the other side, and join me
in my heavenly home. I reside on Ferry street,
Malden. My name, friends, is Nathaniel Snow.

Helen Jackson.

I am Helen Jackson. I lived in New York
City when in the body, and nearly all my friends
are in New York at this time. A few of them
have heard of the Spiritual Philosophy, and one
family sometimes reads the spiritual papers.
Through them I hope to reach my own family
and nearest friends, and assure them that I can
really come and speak to them, and that I am
not asleep. I know the words they carved upon
my tombstone—"She is not dead, but sleep-
eth." I wish to assure them I am not asleep,
but wide awake and active; that I come to them
many, many times, anxious to whisper of my
presence, and assure them that I have not gone
out from their midst. I can appreciate all the
kindly thoughts and feelings each one sent
after me to my spirit-home; they were like so
many beautiful flowers springing up in my
path, to beautify my way; they have adorned
my spirit with gladness and joy through all
these years. I was but twenty years old when
I passed away. Life, material life, spread out
beautiful and sweet before me. I had bright
prospects, and the promise of enjoying all the
blessings that come to one in the material form;
but in a little space of time I was called away,
and my friends mourned long and earnestly—
and often now I can feel the pleasant, beautiful
thoughts that well up in their souls for me, and
the regrets, likewise, that I passed away like
a fading beam of light. I do not wish them to
mourn any more, for although my earthly life
was so sweet, my spiritual life is more beauti-
ful still. The promises and the prospects of
happiness that awaited me on earth are more
than fulfilled in the higher world, and I do not
now regret my departure from earth.

I wish my friends who see my message to send
it to one whom I may just name as William.
I wish him to investigate this philosophy or reli-
gion. Then I may be able to come to him and
convince him that it was best that I passed on
when I did. I wish him to know that I have
been enabled to guide and guard him since my
departure; that I can surround him with my
influence, and very often at night, when he feels
so peaceful and calm, and thinks of me, I am
close beside him. It is not fancy. Although
he is of a poetical turn of mind, yet there is
more truth than fancy in his musings, for I am
by his side, striving to inspire him with thoughts
that will draw to him spiritual influences from
on high; and then he can weave them into out-
ward expression for the good and consolation of
others. I am not weak and worn now, I am
happy and strong, and I shall always guide and
guard my loved ones until I meet them in the
beautiful spirit-world.

Charles Manning.

[To the Chairman:] Sir, I would like to say
just a few words, to-day, to a friend in Port-
land. The name by which I was christened is
Charles Manning—"I was commonly called, all
over the lot, "Charlie" Manning. My friend's
first name is David. I am not sure whether he
would like me to give his last name or not.
However, if he only receives my message, that
is all I want. We made a compact once, when
we were together, that the "one" who "died" first
should come back and frighten the other. Well,
I have not been able to frighten "Dave," by
any means. It would just delight me to give
him a good scare—but he is a tougher subject
than I was. However, perhaps his hair will
stand on end when he finds I have come here;

hope it will. Now, Dave, I have fulfilled my part
of the contract by coming here and speaking.
You are entirely too positive for me to appear
to you in a ghostly way, but I think I can con-
vince you that I do come and speak from this
plane. The summer we went journeying on our
own account we didn't have a great deal of the
filthy lucre in our pockets; our funds gave out
before our journey ended, and we were obliged
to "rough it," and to tramp a considerable dis-
tance. Now I want to recall one circumstance
to my friend's mind: Way down in the wilds of
our Native State we came across an isolated
farm-house, where we stopped over night and
were very kindly entertained. Just before we
left, in the morning, a young man of the place
took us into the barn and filled our pockets
with apples. Well, we hadn't a cent to give
him for his kindness—and I doubt if he would
have accepted any return. On the road, that
day, we came across a poor little girl, who, from
appearances, we judged was very hungry. All
we could do was to fill her tattered apron with
apples. Now I want to tell my friend that I
have seen that little girl in the spirit-world. It
seems that she was sent to one of the almsh-
ouses, and in a little while contracted a fever
and died. By some strange law that I do not
understand I have met that child in the spir-
itual world. She came to me, and in place of apples
presented me with beautiful flowers, that were
thornless, and which gave me a great deal of
satisfaction. The flowers seemed to brighten
my condition. We are now great friends. In
place of my being an instructor to her she has
proved a teacher to me, and from her I have
learned more of purity and innocence than I
ever knew, I may say, in my life. Now, Dave,
I am sure you will remember the circumstance,
and know very well it must be your old friend
Charlie who is talking, because we were alone
on that day, and we had a great deal of fun and
frolic. If you want to give your old friend a
call, do so; I think I can respond and make it
pretty lively for you.

Science Oct. 22d, 1880.

R. L. Dashiell.

I never expected to be coming back from be-
yond the grave in this manner, for I could not
believe in the return of spirits; yet I find myself
in this position, anxious even to speak to my
friends and to tell them I have thus returned.
I was what is called a missionary of the church.
I sought to do—as well as I understood it—my
Master's bidding, and to bring others into the
fold. I strove to live as well as I know how,
and yet I find I was very much mistaken in
many things. I have not long been a disem-
bodied spirit, therefore I am not qualified to
speak concerning spiritual things; I thought
that I was when in the mortal form. To-day I
find that I am not able to teach others, for I am
in need of instruction myself; yet I would say
to my friends and to my associates, I find that I
can be with you as in the old days—that I can
join with you in songs of praise and thanksgiv-
ing, and I confess it is still a pleasure to my
soul to be in your midst and take part, silently
and unseen though it be, in your exercises. I
passed away in Newark, N. J. Oh, it appears
so strange to me—this new life! It seems that
I am but a child in need of instruction and of
the guiding hand which shall lead me onward.
I would reach out my hand to those who remain
on earth and say to them: If you will it so, I
will lead you on as fast as I am led onward my-
self. I will teach you in spiritual things just as
far as I can learn for myself concerning these
things, of which I feel that no mortal man can
speak intelligently to your souls. Give me an
opportunity to return to you and I will give to
you such instruction that your souls will blossom
out and expand into a new and diviner revela-
tion.

My friends will see this and think it strange
that I have returned in this way: possibly they
will not believe that it is I; yet I cannot pause
for that consideration. I feel it to be a duty to
send out a word, and to speak to them concern-
ing this higher life. I feel that I must say to
them: The immortal world is far grander, larg-
er, more beautiful than any religious teachings
have led us to conceive it to be; it is more adapted
to the wants of man than any idea we ever held
of it; and so, if you will only strive to reach out
for some knowledge concerning this other life,
you will certainly find all your aspirations ful-
filled, all your wants satisfied, and opportuni-
ties given you to advance as you cannot do
upon the earth.

Although used to speaking, when in the form,
yet I find myself strangely situated to-day. I
can say no more. I only send a blessing. I return
thanks that I am enabled to come and speak in
this manner. Rev. R. L. Dashiell.

Louisa Rhule.

My friends are in Hoboken. I have been as-
sisted to come here and speak to them. It has
long been a desire of mine to return and man-
ifest in some manner, but I have never received
an opportunity before. I am twenty-five years
of age. My name is Louisa Rhule. I have a
particular message which I wish to bring to my
friends, feeling that they must and will receive
it, if I can only give it to them as I desire. I
wish to say there were three beautiful bouquets
brought to me just before I died, flowers that
were sent by loving friends; and now that I
have an opportunity, I desire to return the
thanks for them which I was unable to then.
One of the bouquets my family have preserved;
they have it now, under a glass case, just under
my picture. To the friend who sent that partic-
ular bouquet of flowers, I wish to say: You
cannot realize all the thanks I would return to
you for your kindness to me when ill and suffer-
ing, for your ever watchful tenderness and care.
Oh, I would that you could see me in my spir-
itual home, surrounded by all that is beautiful
and sweet, calculated to bless and brighten the
spirit. I wish you could see me with my
friends, and with your friends, and I wish to
say, I have met Charles; he is well, and strong,
and happy, and returns to you with love and
blessings. We know how you have sorrowed
and mourned for him, but we ask you now
never to grieve any more, for he is well, he is
satisfied with the change, and he comes to bless
you with his love. Many, many times have I
returned with him to your side. We have seen
you in distress and pain; we have seen you en-
shrouded in gloom when you left the genial fire-
side, and the companionship of others, and fled
away to the privacy of your own room, where
you could indulge in your grief without the eyes
of others fixed upon you. And now we say,
many times in these hours of silence and sad-
ness we have sought "to minister" to your spirit,
and to bring you peace, but the clouds around
you are like a heavy mantle which debars us
from approaching close; we cannot do you that
good which we wish. If you can only realize
that we can come, that we can bring you love
and blessings, and that you will meet us again

in the other world, where no sorrow or separa-
tion can come, we feel sure that it will bring us
so close to you that you cannot fail to feel our
presence. We know you have heard of this
Spiritualism; that you have wished that you
could be a medium, and draw your loved ones
to your side. Now I wish to say you are a me-
dium; all you need are proper conditions to de-
velop your powers, and if you will throw aside
your grief, and with little Sarah and auntie sit
alone, quietly, calmly, passively, I am sure we
will be able to come to you and bring that con-
solation that no other can give.

Henry A. Thompson.

I desire to reach my family, and I have come
here for that purpose, trusting I shall succeed.
Although a disembodied spirit, I can still
take an interest in earthly affairs; and there
are certain affairs of earth that interest me
greatly, because connected with my material
life, and I wish to send my greeting, my love,
to my friends. I wish to reach Henry F.
Thompson, of Baltimore. I wish to say to him,
I have been watching you in the settlement of
certain affairs, and I am pleased that I can
come to your side and note what is going on.
Although it may be thought a spirit should
have no wish in any matter concerning earthly
affairs, yet I have the wish and desire to see
all things settled wisely and well, and at pres-
ent I have no complaint to make. I feel that
all will be for the best, and I wish my friends
to know that I am satisfied with my change. I
feel that by coming here I shall approach my
earthly home more closely; that I may see more
clearly what is transpiring, and perhaps be
able to direct certain affairs which are of great
interest to me, as I said before. My friends
may know that I have returned to manifest,
and it would be a great privilege if they could
provide me with a medium at home, where I
might come and speak and give some little
counsel. I feel that I should be better able to
press onward, could this be accomplished. I
feel, also, that I should be better satisfied with
material things, if I could do this. I hope my
friends will do as I wish in this respect, and
allow me to come. I thank you, Mr. Chairman,
very much, for this privilege. Henry A. Thomp-
son. There are certain matters which I desire
to have entirely settled before the year is out—
that is why I have manifested particularly.

MESSAGES TO BE PUBLISHED.

- Oct. 22.—Elijah G. Gardner; Erasmus Collins; Charlotte
Newlin; Henry Morrison.
Oct. 23.—Julia Stokes; Mrs. Sallie D. Clement; Willie
Carroll; Charlie Bunnett; Nathaniel C. Small; David Wil-
son; George W. Davis.
Oct. 24.—John Beale; Nancy Green; Dr. Shaw; Mary A.
Partridge; Alex. Marshall; Walter J. Stowers; Guide of
the Medium.
Nov. 3.—John Cleghly Prince; Mary A. Weightman;
Laura Miller; Capt. Homer Kellogg; Margaret Cumming;
Mrs. Sarah J. Thompson; Susan Adams;
Nov. 4.—Anna Lyman; George Carter; Dr. Charles Dun-
ham; Abbie K. Freeman; Richard McIntire; Deacon
George W. Holmes; William H. Lewellyn; Mary Hutch-
inson.
Nov. 12.—Rev. William C. Wisner; Mrs. Emma L. Bar-
rowes; James Warren; Thomas West; Louisa Wilkins; Ag-
nes Peck; John A. Stevenson; Emma S. Lodge.
Nov. 15.—John Pierpont; Charles H. Gench; Lavina Mer-
riek; Col. J. P. Barber; Mary E. Collins; Henry Kaynor;
Sarah L. Martin; Washington Johnson.
Nov. 19.—Juliette T. Burton; R. W. Huntington; Betsy
Happgood; George Luther; Cornelia Gilford; John A. Curtis;
Mrs. Alice Frazer; Carlo Lewis.

REPLIES TO QUESTIONS,

GIVEN THROUGH THE MEDIUMSHIP OF
W. J. COLVILLE.
AT THE BANNER OF LIGHT PUBLIC FREE-CIRCLE ROOM.

Questions and Answers.

QUES.—Are the quality and condition of the
spiritual body affected by the differences in the
kinds of food taken by the material body? and
if so, what is the nature of such influence? to
what extent and in what manner is it so af-
fected?

ANS.—There can be no form on earth unless
there is a spirit behind it, producing it; there
can be no material substance apart from the
spiritual essence, and therefore there cannot
be a vegetable, an animal or a bird which has
not a spiritual as well as a material part. Now,
if you eat of bird or animal, vegetable or fruit,
you take into your physical system the outer
portion of what you eat, and you take into
your spiritual body the inner portion; thus you
build up your spiritual bodies with the inner
essence of whatever food you may take into
the physical structure. The outer portion,
which you can perceive with the physical senses,
feeds the outward man; that which you
cannot perceive with the outward senses feeds
the inward man; thus the different articles of
diet do not only have a physical, but they also
have a mental effect upon you. Some persons
may eat injurious food with impunity. Why is
it? Because their own spirits are too strong
and exalted to be affected with what may be
brought in contact with them; there is the re-
sisting power of a developed spirit, and also of
a developed organism, which repels whatever
is injurious to it. You may enter a fever-ward,
and not take the fever—not because the ele-
ments or germs of disease can enter into your
system without affecting you, but because your
system is fortified and guarded, so that those
elements can gain no admission. Some persons
can take food that does not agree with them,
and throw it off from their system before it has
had time to operate or power to become part
of their constitution. Those persons may eat
anything and not be affected by it; not because
they can assimilate everything, but because
their natures are sufficiently developed to re-
ject whatever is injurious, and merely absorb
what is beneficial. Probably in every conceiv-
able article of diet there are some portions
capable of being absorbed beneficially by all,
however small the fragments may be, in some
instances, and however large in others. Per-
sons in delicate health, of course, ought to be
very particular indeed as to what they eat.
Persons who are weak-willed, who are easily
affected by their surroundings, ought to live
almost entirely upon fruit and those finer por-
tions of the earth which tend to elevate the
nature; but still it cannot be denied that in the
condition of mind in which you are, you will
absorb from whatever comes in contact with
you, either the purer or the lower portion of
that substance. You may come in contact with
a person whose moral condition is not the high-
est, yet he has some good in him—there is no
one devoid of good—and you may be so disposed
toward him that you may extract from the
emanations thrown off from his mind and body
that which proceeds from the higher portion of
his nature, and is harmonious and beautiful,
whereas another person who comes in contact
with the same person, in a different condition,
may absorb the very elements which are in-
jurious—which proceed from the undeveloped
portions of his nature. Thus it is that two
magnetic physicians may be differently ad-
apted to different persons. The one who can do
you good may not be the most spiritual, may
not be of the highest moral type; but the one
who does you the most good is the one from
whom you are capable of drawing an element

that tends to elevation—while, if differently
constituted, you would be negative to the other
side of his nature. Just as it is with regard to
the moral and physical emanations from human
beings, so is it with reference to all the food
you can eat. In certain conditions of mind and
body you absorb the nutritive elements—those
which are desirable for you—because that por-
tion of your nature is in the ascendant which
magnetically attracts the nutritive portions in
the food. In another condition you may eat
the same food, and be seriously injured, be-
cause your nature then, or the part of it in the
ascendant, magnetically attracts those elements
which are not beneficial to you. Thus there is
no absolute rule which can ever be laid down
with reference to food, magnetic treatment or
general surroundings. That which you fear
will always injure you; that which you believe
will do you harm, is sure to do so, because,
when you believe it will harm you, you place
yourself in a negative position to the evil in it,
and in a positive attitude to its good; whereas,
if you believe it will do you good, you then
place yourself in a negative condition to the
good, and in a positive condition to the evil.
Thus the condition of mind in which you meet
anything that may come to you has really more
to do with the effect which it afterwards may
produce upon you, than the mere constituent
elements of that which is outwardly applied.

Q.—If the spiritual body be so affected, please
inform us what food should, in your judgment,
be used in order to promote or facilitate the
highest development of the soul?

A.—Persons who have become the most spir-
itual have lived principally upon fruits and
grains. This can be illustrated by acquaint-
ance with the wonder-workers in Oriental
climes. Those who are capable of performing
the most brilliant feats, and who have endured
the greatest hardships, have subsisted almost
entirely upon the productions of the vegetable
kingdom in their highest forms. They have
eaten largely of fruit and boiled rice. There is
nothing better for the system than these arti-
cles, but, as previously stated, more must be
said concerning the mind than simply concern-
ing any article of diet. If we were to recom-
mend any special diet for the development of
spirituality we should certainly recommend
fruit and cereals as generally conducive to phys-
ical and mental well-being. Still, we are ac-
quainted with many vegetarians who are very
aggressive individuals and possessed of very
warm tempers; we also know of very many
kind-hearted people who subsist on animal food
largely. Thus there is no absolute rule that
can be laid down for every individual; your own
moral sense must guide you, and your own
physical necessities. Whenever you truly try
to do the best you can, you will always be in
a condition to absorb the best from everything
around you. We decidedly advise mediums to
live as much as they can on fruits and grains.

Q.—[By J. N. B.] Do disembodied spirits use
the mentality of mediums in their communi-
cations, as in trance mediumship?

A.—They use the mind in the very same way
that the organist uses the organ. From as much
limited by the mind of the medium, this after-
noon, as this medium is limited by the capacity of
the organ placed in this circle-room when he sits
down to play. He cannot make that organ speak
as loud as the one at Music Hall can, yet the
organ has no choice in regard to what is played
upon it; so in the case of an entranced or inspired
medium, who surrenders himself wholly to his
guides, they can say what they like through
him, in so far as his brain is capable of giving
expression to their thoughts, but as these
thoughts have to be clothed by making use of
the mental powers of the medium, the clothing
is always limited by those powers. We give you
our ideas exclusively, not the ideas of the me-
dium; his own opinions may or may not be in
accordance with ours, but they do not interfere
with our communications. We give to you what
we believe and what we know; we do not ask
him what we shall say. If he had not the brain
capacity for the transmission of certain ideas,
we should be obliged to say, "We are unable to
give the communication."

Passed to Spirit-Life.

- From his home, in West Warren, Mass., Eddie L. Brown,
aged 19 years and 8 months.
He was the youngest son of James H. and Emeline Brown.
For many years he fought the cruel and distressing dis-
ease of consumption. Although his sufferings were ever patient, pleasant,
and always thoughtful and concerned about the care and
welfare of his family, his condition for his last few years
was such that he was unable to do any work, and he
suffered even to the extent of causing his friends. He seemed
to have no hope for his condition for his last few years,
and he even expressed a desire to die. He was taken to
the hospital at West Warren, Mass., on the 10th of Oct.
(over 5 years ago) just before he passed away, which seemed
to be a great pleasure to him. His pleasant, genial ways
deared him to all who knew him, and he was a true friend
to all. His remains were taken to Lancaster, Mass., for
interment in the family lot. E. M.
From Lexington, Mass., Nov. 2d, Mrs. Lydia A. Smith,
widow of Justin Smith, aged 53 years and 3 months.
In the truths of Spiritualism she has rejoiced for many
years, and as the time of her departure drew near, her
joy and triumph that she desired to express to her friends
seemed inadequate to express her joy. It was not rarely
passive acquiescence in the change that is inevitable, but
joy and triumph that she desired to express to her friends.
Her friends might participate in it and receive with un-
doubting faith her testimony in the reality of Spiritualism.
But her dear husband, long an invalid, whose life has been
bound up in hers, and the daughter, tenderly devoted to
another whose love and thoughtful care for them never
failed, and the friends and neighbors among whom her life
has been spent in works of kindness and unselfish service,
all will miss her from their lives, until the glad reunion
shall consummate in the spirit-world. The funeral services
were attended at the house of her daughter, Mrs. E. A.
Hatch, at Concord, Dr. H. B. Storer, of Boston, conduct-
ing the exercises.
From Stockholm, N. Y., Oct. 21th, Mrs. Louisa, widow
of the late Austin Kent, in her 73d year.
Another pure and noble spirit has gone to join the
angelic host. A firm Spiritualist, a true woman, a loving
mother, and a true friend, she was ever patient, kind, and
kind through all his long years of suffering, she has now
gone to meet him in a bright celestial home which her life-
long goodness has earned for her. Her tender memory of
this truly worthy woman lives in the hearts of all her friends,
who from her example might learn many a lesson of self-
denial, patience and resignation. H. N. G.
From Boston, Mass., Nov. 11th, Miss Margaret Hodgdon,
formerly of Dover, N. H., aged 80 years.
For twenty-five years she had been a firm believer in Spir-
itualism, and a constant reader of the Banner of Light.
She was a true woman, a true friend, and a true woman,
and she was a good woman, a sympathizing friend, and will be
affectionately remembered by all who knew her. Death had
no terror for her. A short time before her transition, she
gave all necessary instructions as to her burial, as calmly as
though she was about to take a journey to some distant city.
From Swampscott, Mass., Nov. 9th (at the home of his
nephew, Mr. George Holden), of dropsy of the chest, Mr.
Elijah Geer, aged nearly 65 years.
Mr. Geer has been an active Spiritualist for over twenty
years in Vermont and later in New England. He was
resident previous to his coming to Massachusetts this fall.
His relatives here are Liberalists, but not yet confirmed
Spiritualists. Funeral services were conducted by Dr. L.
K. Conley, at 2 o'clock p. m., Friday, Nov. 12th. The
body was taken to Middlesex, Vt., for burial.
From his home, in Morris, Ill., Oct. 22d, 1880, Joseph
Thayer, in his 85th year.
He was a firm believer in immortality and spirit-return,
and was a constant reader of the Banner of Light for twenty-
five years, and was a faithful husband and kind father. His
ruling motto through life was honesty. He prepared for his
going as one prepares for a journey, and, in his years, he
was a true friend, a true woman, and a true woman, and
will be affectionately remembered by all who knew her. Death
had no terror for her. A short time before her transition, she
gave all necessary instructions as to her burial, as calmly as
though she was about to take a journey to some distant city.
[Obituary Notices not exceeding twenty lines published
gratis. When they exceed this number, twenty
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Dr. J. C. PHILLIPS, Secretary.

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