

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

THE BETTER WAY

\$1.00 PER YEAR.

AN ADVOCATE OF SPIRITUALISM AS A SCIENCE, PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION.

VOLUME 10.

CINCINNATI, MARCH 26, 1892.

NUMBER 13.

THE BETTER WAY.

PRINTED EVERY SATURDAY BY THE WAY PUBLISHING CO., 20 Race Street, Room 10.

A. F. MELCHERS, EDITOR.

EDITORIAL.

THE German Emperor imprisons his subjects for contempt. Whether imprisonment is a cure for contempt has not yet been proven.

THE "Boston Globe" thinks the abolition of Sunday papers will be about as difficult to accomplish as to turn revolutions backwards.

THE frigate Constitution (Old Ironsides) is still included among the vessels of our navy. She was launched at Boston in 1797, and will undoubtedly be the recipient of centennial honors if still above water by 1897.

SENATOR SMITH, of New York, has introduced a bill to prohibit cremation of the dead in that State. Is Senator Smith perhaps apprehensive that a fiery send-off will be an unnecessary addition to the one awaiting him in the future?

A BILL has been introduced in the French Chamber of Deputies providing that damage done to buildings by the unlawful use of explosives shall be punished by death. This means that Anarchism is rife in Paris and desperate measures are being taken to meet it.

ONE of the famous "Blue Laws" which has never been repealed, says the "N. Y. Press," reads: "If any white female of ten years or upward shall appear in any public street, church, tavern, or ball-room, with naked shoulders (i. e., low-necked dresses), being able to purchase necessary clothing, she shall pay a fine of two hundred dollars."—But affecting the *elite* of society it is not brought in to requisition. It is the *poor* sinner that the Church and State are after, and therefore only old laws concerning the Sabbath are unearthed and enforced.

IN HIS Unitarian Club address Rev. Lyman Abbott said: "We believe in spiritual certitude. If by agnosticism is meant that nothing can be known with certainty respecting God and the invisible world we are not agnostic. If by rationalism is meant that all our knowledge is derived from the logical faculty and through observed phenomena we are not rationalists. We believe in the power of the human soul to perceive immediately and directly the spiritual and invisible world. We believe in spiritual certitude, but we do not believe in an infallible Church, and we do not believe in an infallible Bible."

THE Philadelphia Methodist Episcopal conference has voted to exclude women from the general conference. But let the women be of good cheer. When they get to heaven they will be in a majority, and if any male Methodist from Philadelphia has the nerve to apply for admission they can easily exclude him—if they so elect.—Telegram.

Tut, tut! The Pauline doctrine of the silence of women in the Churches of earth never was enforced where the male "religious persuasion" was half-civilized, and could never be enforced in an orthodox golden-paved city where the chief employment is singing. What would the Philadelphian, or any other Methodists, do without the soprano voices? The music would be *base* enough.

THE return of the Jews to "the land of their fathers" seems to be attended with as much unconcern as the emigration of the negro to Liberia. In fact it would be easier to induce the latter to go to Africa than the Jew to Jerusalem. The negro is desirous to go, but lacks the means to see his way clear; while philanthropic Israelites are not only aiding emigrants financially, but are sustaining them in Palestine to induce others to follow. But the Jew who sees his way clear amongst other people than his own is unwilling to take any chances in Canaan, though once the happy land longed for; and the desire of certain wealthy Israelites to see a Jewish Kingdom or a nation re-established will most likely prove an "iridescent dream" for the present.

OUR NEW DEPARTURE.

Self-laudation is inexcusable; and in venturing before our readers with a few remarks concerning recent improvements, which have placed THE BETTER WAY in a position to command greater respect and attention than has hitherto been accorded it, we shall endeavor to so curb our exultation as not to make it appear that we are seeking the applause merely of our readers, but that a pleasant duty devolves upon us which they have, in part, enabled us to perform.

THE BETTER WAY came into existence amidst privation and want, and when the present management took charge of its struggling life with a purpose to place it upon a footing where it should take an aggressive part in the great discussion of the day, there was a large admixture of uncertainty as to the outcome of our resolve. That the paper has lived and thrived in the face of adversities which would have sufficed to kill an ordinary business enterprise; that at no time has it failed to present itself when it was due, and that it has contained the best element of thought in the ranks of Spiritualism, is sufficient to show that the word failure did not enter into the considerations attending our policy. Through all these years the struggle has been growing more heated in some quarters and less in others, and while our plans are far from assuming the form of perfection laid out for them, we take pardonable pride in stating that at no time in its history has THE BETTER WAY entered upon a more prosperous future than at the present.

With this issue we take up our work in new and commodious quarters, bright and cheerful surroundings, and with every incentive to make the home of THE BETTER WAY an ideal one in the annals of spiritual journalism. For the past three years our headquarters have been at the corner of Plum and McFarland Streets, in a dingy, uninviting locality, in rooms cramped and gloomy, but even there we found conditions which enhanced our work in a manner not to be met with in the miserable quarters where we found the paper originally. These conditions had been a source of annoyance and discouragement. But all such annoyances are wiped away, and we may, without boasting, pride ourselves upon our present position and quarters. Our new home is in the "Excelsior Building," at the southeast corner of Race and Longworth Streets, Room 7, in the heart of Cincinnati, surrounded by all the push and energy, vitality and enterprise of a great city. Offices light, airy, and convenient, with plenty of room for the mechanical department of the paper, and everything conducive to sound success. We feel like the proverbial rooster that screeches victory after a bitter campaign.

Now, all this has been brought about by hard knocks and bitter experience, but our motto is and always has been, "Nothing succeeds like success," and our determination to make THE BETTER WAY the foremost journal of its kind bids fair to be consummated. As we have indicated herein, many improvements are yet in embryo which, as time moves on, shall be brought about and which will place THE BETTER WAY where we want to see it.

Not a little of this anticipation depends on the support and encouragement we know is our due from the spiritualistic public, and we confidently look for an increased patronage, knowing that our subscription list, at one dollar per year, ought to be doubled and will be if our patrons and readers will extend a little of this influence in that di-

rection. As in the past so in the future the aim of the management shall be to present the truths and issues involved in the spiritual philosophy in a calm, dignified, and courageous manner. Our corps of contributors is of the best and will be improved, and no expense will be spared to make THE BETTER WAY a GO.

WORLDLY CHARITY.

We are not surprised. The trumpet-blowing which accompanied Mr. Jay Gould's little gift to the missionary treasury of one of the New York churches is now followed by the statement that Mr. Gould has been "converted," and will join the Presbyterian Church of which Brother Paxton is pastor. When the Nazarene gave the conditions of charity, or alms-giving, he is reported as using these words:

"Take heed that ye do not your right acts or alms, before men, to be seen of them; else ye have no reward with your Father which is in heaven. When therefore thou doest alms, sound not a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth; that thine alms may be in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall recompense thee."

The alms-giving of modern Churchianity is after the latest approved, Wall Street pattern, which has become generally fashionable in all Churches. We are not surprised that Mr. Gould, educated in the tricks of shearing "lamb" and filling his financial warehouse with their fleeces, should employ the heaviest of theological thunder known to the credal pulpits of New York, to sound his little half-penny alms. The poor widow who casts into the treasury of the old synagogue her two mites which equalled a farthing, will give our new "brother Gould" "points" on value in alms-giving when he leaves his scores of millions behind him. The key to a heavenly condition of existence is not a platform of wealth, nor alms-giving accompanied with a blare of human-trumpet voices.

LET US HAVE PEACE.

Go to, Mr. President Harrison and gentlemen of belligerent tastes in Congress, who desire a scrimmage with Great Britain over the little Behring Sea imbroglio, for the sake of party-political success! The spirit of murder, whether materialized by the knife or revolver of an assassin or accompanied, on a larger scale by plumes, military regalia and shoulder-straps, is not in consonance with the spirit of the great mass of the people of this country, or of the age. War is bloody business, and its results are not completed when it has buried its mangled dead in long trenches, and emptied the national coffers by pensioning the diseased and crippled living survivors. War is barbarism, out of place in this age of spiritual knowledge, spiritual light, and acknowledged spiritual law as governing an eternal spiritual existence.

Our friends on the other side of the mortal line declare the unity of the race, as set in families of nations to be blended into a national unity of comity and purpose, when an evolved humanity shall have touched the zenith of its spiritual coronation. Our brethren of the Churches, who believe in the supreme authority of the Book, call it the day of the "Millennium." Our spirit friends proclaim it the day-dawning which banishes the old night condition of ignorance and superstition, false pride, and the beastly spirit of prowess. Give us a reign of reason, of love, and of peace, Mr. President and Congress! Our hearts want a rest from the sad, hopeless wailings of war's widows and orphans! "Let us have peace."

MEDIUMSHIP.

The able editor of "Medium and Daybreak," London, England, Mr. James Burns, in his "weekly theme" of March 4th, discusses some very practical topics connected with the psychical, both incarnate and exanimate. He holds with our expressed convictions that "all mankind are mediums," in that they are the subjects of "influx." The power to properly discriminate between our own exalted spiritual condition in intellectuality, and the impressions, thoughts, and messages of independent exanimate

spirits, must come to the medium through experience, close observation, and analysis. A true sensitive is always affected, in a greater or lesser degree, by contact with other minds and by the subtle influences which are peculiar to, and belong to other personalities.

Persons can not wholly determine the nature or quality of their own individual mediumship. It very often happens that there is an almost overpowering desire on the part of a sensitive to become the medium for a special phase of psychic phenomena, and so intense does this desire become that it crystallizes into a fixed purpose, to the exclusion of a natural mediumship which would confer a lasting benefit upon the person and the world. It is needless to say that in nearly, if not all such instances, a lamentable failure results. Nothing is more true in modern psychic revelation than that fundamental law of spirit nature and method of revealing voiced some 2,000 years ago by a psychic writer in these words:

Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same spirit. And there are diversities of ministrations, and the same Lord. And there are diversities of workings, but the same God, who worketh all things in all. But to each one is given the manifestation of the spirit to profit himself. For to one is given through the spirit the word of wisdom; and to another the word of knowledge, according to the same spirit; to another faith, in the same spirit; and to another gifts of healing in the one spirit; and to another workings of powers; and to another prophecy; and to another discernings of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues (languages); and to another interpretation of tongues; but all these worketh the one and the same spirit, dividing to each one severally even as he will.

We have quoted the entire paragraph from the Pauline epistle, because it will bear study and analysis in the light of modern mediumship and varied psychic phenomena through different individuals. It is safer and far more pleasant to the individual, not only to permit but to welcome a development in harmony with the nature as seen and as sought to be utilized by the wiser exarnates. And whether an intellectual or a physical mediumship results, we can rest in the consciousness that it is the one for which we are best fitted by that natural and original endowment in which we, as individuals, had no choice and less power of direction.

The laws of nature create and conserve variety. These laws are disclosed in all the lower organisms of the mineral, vegetable, and animal kingdoms, and should be expected in the kingdom of the spiritual, the higher realms of the intellectual and moral nature and their natural outworking through the material organism. Sameness in the universe of matter would act upon the spirit of man as an opiate acts upon the physical nature. It is destructive to all progress, and progress or evolution is the universal law. Sameness of individual spirit nature would be appalling when viewed as a society unit. Because the infinite variety in personality and its "gifts of the spirit." Each in his own orbit should fill the measure of uses by the exercise of his natural "gifts," while on earth as in the stellar universe it will ever remain true that "one star differeth from another star in glory."

Some are blest with the double intellectual and physical gifts in mediumship. As the editor of "Medium and Daybreak" expresses it, "the personal and thought planes become amalgamated, and those persons have the experience of spirit presence and the influx of thought combined. These are their own 'mediums'; they can think with the thinker; they can at the same time hold personal intercourse with spirits, and in various ways discern the identity of spirits." But we agree with him, with an emphasis, in the statement that "these glorious results are not to be attained by sitting in circles, but by true Spiritual Education."

The anniversary exercises of the various Spiritualist organizations in this city promise to be unusually interesting this year, and will be attended by a larger concourse of new converts, who have been initiated during the past winter, than at any previous time. Further particulars may be found among the local matters in THE BETTER WAY.

CREEDAL CHAINS BREAKING.

The giant strides taken every day on the line of the emancipation of mind and heart from the cruelties which a past ignorance has imposed upon both, must be refreshing to active and observing spirits on the thither shores of the mortal life. They are very refreshing to working Spiritualists, for they show how deep and how broad this emancipating power extends. Its silent but effective force is one of the best proofs of its divinity, enshrined in spirit laws. There seems to be no credal incrustation which it does not penetrate or break. And yet it is so quietly done that almost before the sturdy credal subject is conscious of it, he is talking a new language and, if a minister, preaching new doctrines to his people, who trust in his orthodoxy, while being blest and enlightened by his heterodoxy.

The Rev. Dr. Behrends, of New York, pastor of a trinitarian, orthodox, Congregational, Calvinistic, elect-saints-and-reprobate-sinners-before-the-foundation-of-the-world Church, whose ability has been equal to the retaining as members of his Church mothers and fathers whose non-elect babies were writhing in eternal torments for "the praise of the glorious justice of God," recently visited and preached in one of his former parishes. We have before us an extended report of his sermon, and we are moved to congratulate Dr. Behrends and his people upon his emancipation and growth in that standard virtue of humanity known as common sense. It is a dangerous thing for our credal brethren to possess and use in these times of heresy-hunting and ecclesiastical ferment, unless they possess a courage of their convictions equal to an ecclesiastical martyrdom.

His text was taken from the Book of Revelations—the last book of the New Testament—but we are among the multitude of "the many readers to whom it is a riddle rather than a revelation." He called it "a series of pictures from beginning to end. The canvass," he said, "is overcrowded, and a great many things are thrown together." Oh, Dr. Briggs, with your "higher criticism," are you equal to the discounting of that statement?

As the whole Bible is given to man for his guidance, for the ignorant and learned, the wise and the foolish, as "the one only sufficient rule of faith and practice," according to the creed of Dr. Behrends and his Church, how refreshing to a narrow, bigoted mind this bit of advice: "If you would simply read the last book of the New Testament, in a large way, you will get a great deal of comfort out of it." It is not so much "comfort" and ease in Zion which are needed as knowledge and light. Religious taffy has ceased to satisfy even half-awakened credal minds and hearts. But to advise bigots to read an abstruse and metaphysical book, filled with blind figures of speech, "in a large way," in order to get some personal comfort out of it, is like asking a dyspeptic to gorge himself with indigestible food and expect the orthodox miracle of resultant physical "comfort."

With the vigorous statement of Dr. Behrends that "there is only one unardonable sin, and that is falsehood," we are in perfect accord. When he supplemented it by saying that "the very first step towards the betterment of life is that a man shall be fearlessly honest with himself," we respond with a hearty amen! The hypothetical "sin against the Holy Ghost," seems with Dr. Behrends to have resolved itself into the sin of falsehood against one's own nature. How many of his hearers, good Church members, who not only believe but know that Spiritualism is true, but who by their position and profession, publicly denounce it, that charge of the sin of falsehood hit and hurt he will never know in his earth ministry. He will be wiser by-and-by. The sin, shame, and eternal disgrace of a bigoted credalism to-day is that it holds its subjects to a lie, and thus debauches all their moral nature. This is plain language, we know, but plainly spoken truth is what is now required. There is a quiver of grief and sorrow behind our pen as we write it, but it should be written.

With another remarkable statement in this sermon we are in full accord. He said: "I believe in faith in God as much

as anybody else, but I also believe in faith in ourselves. Faith in the veracity of our sense, faith in our eyes, faith in our ears, faith in our hands, faith in our mental intuition, and faith in our moral judgment." Well, Bro. Behrends, why don't you use your senses, and advise your hearers to do the same, your eyes to see, your ears to hear, your hands to handle, your mental intuitions and your moral judgment to investigate and know that God has an angel ministry of exanimate spirits now at work upon these mortal shores. The whole realm of their ministry lies within the boundary of human consciousness, and is manifest through the very senses you have named.

Not to investigate is sheer cowardice. To investigate and be convinced and not confess the truth openly, is to cherish the unpardonable sin of falsehood. Upon which horn of the dilemma do you advise your hearers to be impaled? But we are thankful for even so much of an advance over old credal teachings. When credists begin to "see men as trees walking," it is a sign of hope.

THE SPIRITUAL CENSUS.

According to the religious statistics as published by the Census Bureau for 1892 the Spiritualists have 334 organizations in the United States with a membership of 45,000. While this may be very nearly correct, so far as the organized effort is concerned, it falls far short of the number of Spiritualists *per se*, as every one knows. But we are not behind in the race for all that. Those who follow us in order are the Universalists with 737 organizations with but 43,000 members and perhaps very few outside. Then come the Mennonites with 550 organizations and 42,000 members; Seventh-Day Adventists with 995 organizations and a membership of 29,000; Unitarians with 407 to 20,000; Salvation Army with 320 to 9,000; Shakers with 15 to 1,500; Theosophists with 40 to 700; and Altruists with one organization and a membership of twenty-five. Those in order above us are the Jews with 533 organizations to 1,310,000 members, and perhaps comparatively few who are not identified with some body religious. Then come the Quakers with 1,956 to 165,000; Episcopalians with 5,118 to 470,000; Presbyterians with 13,619 to 1,222,000; Lutherans with 8,427 to 1,199,514; Baptists with 48,371 to 4,292,000; Methodists with 54,711 to 4,989,000; and crowning the whole are the Catholics with 10,221 organizations and a membership of 6,252,000. The five last-named Protestant denominations, however, belong to the statistic of 1891 as a full report has not yet been received for 1892. All the rest are completed.

THOUGH a "heathen" people the Chinese have kept under one government, under one homogeneous set of civil institutions, the greatest mass of human beings that has ever existed under one government in any age of the world. It is the oldest country extant that possesses a history, covering a period of 4,600 years without a rupture in its heathen harmony. Contemporaneous with Egypt, Babylon, and Nineveh, it has outlived them all. One of the oldest books in the world it is Shu-King, one of the classics, and contains a record of events that occurred in this country B. C. 2,300. What the latter is, will, if permission be given, prove an interesting investigation for philologists, as well as to the rest of the world.

WHERE there was but one woman from the South studying medicine four or five years ago, there are twenty-five now. In the emancipation of women lies a better and happier future for the whole race. Not only for the coming generation, but for men and women now living who otherwise have been indifferent to the subject. It must be realized to be appreciated, and a very few years of experience, brought on by change of environment or circumstances, teaches one how to appreciate the situation fully. Women, as a rule, have no cause to complain of their treatment in the South—nor by any spiritual-minded American—but there is even a higher regard than gallantry; and that is to give them credit for as much sense as men have. Ave, frequently more, for women have a higher intuitive sense, if permitted to act, and not crushed out by man's presumption, would often keep him out of trouble and lead him where mistakes are unknown.

Entered the Post Office at Cincinnati, Ohio, as Second-Class Matter.

THE BETTER WAY

Published by THE WAY PUBLISHING CO., PROPRIETORS. CINCINNATI, OHIO. M. G. WYMAN, President. J. H. BURMAN, Treasurer. C. C. STUBBS, Secretary.

CINCINNATI, MARCH 20, 1909

Terms of Subscription. The Better Way will be furnished until further notice at the following terms, payable in advance: One year \$1.00. Clubs of ten a copy to the one getting \$7.50. Six months on trial \$3.50. Three months on trial \$2.00. Single copies 5c.

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SUGGESTIONS FOR CLUBS.

To facilitate the handling of our 25-cent trial subscriptions, it would be of immense advantage if trial subscribers clubbed together and remitted names and money at one time. This offers a splendid opportunity to our friends, who are intimate with the scope and merits of THE BETTER WAY, to introduce the same into homes and families where a scientific-spiritual paper has heretofore been excluded by reason of high-priced subscription. Truth and purity is the basis of our work and we need the active and intelligent co-operation of all in the same.

THE ISSUE.

To the reader of my first article, under the above heading, this query will come uppermost and I proceed to answer it. If the now prevalent scientific thought takes the ground, as it must to be scientific, that man, on this plane, is not absolutely free, then how are we going to make him responsible for his acts? How, in other words, can a system of ethics or morals hold good in the face of such a fact? I see but one way out of the dilemma and that way was pointed out about a century ago by Emanuel Swedenborg. He declared that man knows nothing of morals, of God, or of his own soul even, except by experience and revelation. That these two factors enter into the attainment of all true knowledge. That up to the time of the giving of the law—I mean the ten commandments—man's ethical knowledge was experimental, needing the conclusive test of revelation. That since this revelation was given from Mt. Sinai the race has been gradually taking up into itself the ethical principle and evolving it in statutory enactments as a part of its life, until now, through the evolution of the State and the customs of society, we have the life of God as a moral fact underlying all the relations of life. All this independent of man's free will. It is the divine life as law ruling in civilization. To appearance it seems to man as his own work, but it is not. It is the work of one overruling power, using man as an instrument in the evolution of his purposes. This experience of the race, confirmed and supplemented by revelation, has been the work of the past. As we now see it, as embodied in the State and the customs of society, it is to get a foundation for the divine life to rest upon, so that the gift of a higher spirituality may come as a new manifestation of the divine in human nature, revealing the fact that man is a mere form of life and not life itself. In the past and largely in the present the appearance has been, and is, that man has life of his own. That he is free to do or not to do as he may elect. Almost everyone believes this to be true, and as a consequence we have confusion confronting us at every turn with no scientific or philosophic solution of our problems. A few, however, mostly those who have made Swedenborg's work a study, are beginning to see the truth—the truth behind this appearance. To their illuminated vision all is order and not the revelation. That which appears to be evil, with all its hideousness, is in reality one side of the absolute working through forms receptive of life, and that the ultimate issue will be good, although, with our limited knowledge, we can not at present see the wisdom and beneficence of the operation. The purpose of God in his providential dealings with the race is to develop in conscious beings full self-consciousness. This can not be done without the All-wisdom hiding Himself, as it were, in the consciousness of His children, that he may come forth in the experiences of good, and evil as their veritable

self-consciousness, making these forms of life to feel that it is their own. In the development of this self-consciousness the appearance is that the recipient of life is free, and he is master of his own destiny and therefore responsible for what he does or leaves undone. As we advance out of the realm of appearance we no longer hold to such unsatisfactory conclusions, but we realize what the actual truth is, that God himself and not man is the real worker in all this drama, that He is responsible for His own work, be it so-called good or evil.

Many are ready to say this can not be, that if such teaching prevails there will be no restraint upon the folly, wickedness, and disorder of men. Not so, I reply. No one will ever accept this teaching who has not been disciplined and prepared for the thought. The feeling of self-hood is so dear to men that it is very difficult to convince them that they are not the authors and finishers of all they do and say and think. Even remorse and so-called repentance are evidences of what I claim. All who are at all sensitive cling to religion as a support and relief from the consciousness of sin. This is all an appearance. Am I trying to convince the reader and such as he that they should prematurely dismiss, if they could, this appearance of things? I am not. So long as you believe that you are free and that all the rest of your fellow-sinners are free, you would be injuring yourselves and them to dismiss the illusion. And what is more it is impossible for you or them or the writer to commit such moral suicide. We can discuss the reality of truth, although we may not be able to appreciate it or live a life in accordance with it. This is wisely ordered while we are passing through our tentative experiences as denizens of earth life.

As scientific Spiritualists, opening up the splendors of the beyond and forecasting in thought at least that which is ours by birthright, it is proper and wise to seek and to know the genuine foundation upon which truth rests and no longer look to the worn-out systems of the past for the "Bread of Life." These systems rest upon the supposed freedom of man and are covered over with the moss of mysticism, which bring no true illumination nor true knowledge of life, here or hereafter. Written for The Better Way.

THE THREE ELEMENTS.

HON. A. B. RICHMOND. Slave to no sect who takes no private road. But looks through nature up to nature's God. —POPE.

In THE BETTER WAY of March 17th I read a very interesting and well-written article by Dr. H. H. Brigham and it suggested the following thoughts: Speaking of primordial cells the doctor states as a self-evident proposition as follows: "Within the cell the phenomena of life is found to exist and here it is affirmed that life originated." I would differ with the doctor in the statement that here life originated and would change his proposition as follows: "Within the cell life was first manifested." It could not have first originated there, for the reason that the formation of the cell must have been the result of an intelligent life that preceded it. Once on this earth there were no cells; matter existed in attenuated superheated vapor. The atoms of this vapor were governed by a force, and that force must have been intelligent and only expressed itself through immutable laws in the countless forms of aggregate matter as they exist on our earth to-day. The cell could not have been formed by the innate potentialities of matter unless each separate atom had both the infinite power and intelligence of a God. What moved the atoms of the first cell to assume a form peculiar to its genera but some power behind the throne greater than the throne itself? Who directed the affinities of the same elementary atoms in the countless millions of different formations that succeeded each other under the laws of evolution until they culminated in man? Did the primordial cell look into the vast future and design and contemplate the creation of the human race? or was the cell the foundation of a project of an infinite mind? By what right or logic dare we assert that the intellect of man once slumbered in the potentialities of atoms? When and where did it so assert its presence in primordial elements? As well might we assert that the genius of all great inventors was the innate property of the wood and metal out of which they constructed the engine and printing press or the ship and railroad train. We look at the complicated machinery of the manufactory and see the various parts shaped and formed to accomplish a certain purpose and adapted to the attainment of a certain result that once "with-out form and void" exerted only in the mind of the inventor. For long years the mighty engines of modern civilization lived only in the world of thought and realm of intellectuality. The beauty of the sculptured form existed in the kingdom of mind alone long before the hand of the artist moulded matter into the expression of thought and design. The wonderful products of genius were not born of matter, but of mind. The potentialities and affinities of matter were but the means and forces used by human thought to express itself visibly to the

THE GOD-IDEA OF THE BIBLE.

The necessity for a divine revelation is supposed to exist on account of the fallen and corrupt nature of man. If this revelation supercedes nature and reason, and flows from an infallible source, it must present a perfect view of the Divine Being. If we examine it critically, in the same unprejudiced manner we do any other book, we shall find that such is not the fact. It bears the unmistakable evidence of human origin. If God gave a revelation to Moses and another to Paul, he would represent himself the same in both. The Bible should be a unit throughout, although its inspired writers were scattered over a thousand years. We find, sad fact, the very reverse. It is a book composed of many fragments; and each of these contains not the absolute view of God, but the writer's idea of God. Man changes; the ages come and go, bringing new ideas, but God is eternal and unchanging. The rude Israelites in the wilderness and the disciples taught far differently from each other. They wrote differently. Hence the Bible is contradictory, and when asked to give the character and attributes of God, its testimony is most diverse and conflicting. If called to decide the unity or trinity of the Godhead, it yields many texts for both, though more strongly proving the latter. He is represented as satisfied with his works, and as dissatisfied; as dwelling in temples and as not; as dwelling in light and in darkness; as seen and heard, and as impossible to be seen and heard; as being weary and resting, and as never requiring rest, as being omnipresent and all knowing, and as limited in presence and knowledge; as all-powerful and the reverse; as changeable and unchangeable; as just and impartial, and as unjust and

partial and as the author of evil and not its author, and as warlike and as peaceful as cruel, unmerciful, destructive, and ferocious, and as kind, merciful and good, as vindictively angry, and unforgiving, and as merciful. With true heathen reli-h he is described as delighting in burnt offerings, sacrifices, and the observance of holy days and again, when a sudden gleam of spirituality pierces the darkness, as disapproving all of these, as accepting human sacrifice and prohibiting it as tempting man, and lying and deceiving, and as neither lying nor deceiving. The unity and plurality of gods are both endorsed by the Bible. The Creator represented as the author of all things is an eternal, omnipotent spirit, almighty, perfectly good, merciful, sincere, faithful, who upholds and governs all things, good and bad. It teaches that this Creator subsists of his own simple and undivided essence, in three distinct persons—the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, "the same in substance and equal in divine power and glory." Such is the translation of Bible language by the makers of creeds. The Father is the true God, who from eternity begat his only Son, consulted with and foreordained him before the foundation of the world. He sent him into the world supported him through his earthly struggle, speaking in and working through him, gave him up to death, and raised him up from the dead and crowned and gave him all power in heaven. The Son is equal to the Father as a person, but one in essence. He is called God, the only God, the King of kings, and Lord of lords, and all the divine attributes of omnipotence, omnipresence and unchangeableness are ascribed to him. Though as Son he is equal to the Father, through his human nature, as mediator, he is inferior. In that state he undertakes to pay our debts and fulfill the obligation. He is the husband, shepherd, friend, and physician, the all-in-all to his people. Jesus Christ is God and man, united so as to enable him to be a true mediator between the infinite and the finite. The Holy Ghost proceeds from the Father and the Son. He is omniscient, omnipresent, and almighty. He is recognized not as an energy, but as a person, reproving, executing, and being grieved. Such is the trinity recorded in the Bible, and received by the orthodox Christians. Its mysteries they do not attempt to solve, but receive with blind, uncritical faith. The Unitarians claim that the Bible furnishes absolute truth that God is one. Christ is the Son of God, and the Holy Ghost is the power and divine influence of God. They hold that the early fathers for the first three centuries were on their side, and that the Bible has received its trinitarian texts from contact with paganism. Justin Martyr, the most distinguished and the earliest writer next to the apostles says: "We worship God, the maker of the universe, offering up to Him prayer and thanks. But assigning to Jesus, who came to teach us these things, and for this end was born the second place of the God, we, not without reason, honor him." From the beginning to the present, the discussion of the unity and trinity of the God-head has more or less disturbed the quiet of the Church; and there is now a gradual movement, through Unitarianism toward a more reasonable, not to say understandable, view of divinity. The God-idea of the Bible would not be complete were the devil omitted. That personage fills a most important position, by solving the vexed problems of the existence of evil. The scheme is imperfect without him. The belief in his existence is passing away, but his name can not be blotted from the pages of Scripture. It remains as a remnant of the influence of Persia and Assyria on the Hebrew mind. The Bible recognizes duality in nature; the good and evil deities; and Lucifer, fallen as he is, is believed by the orthodox and Catholic world to be the stronger, if the number of souls he captures be a sign of power. The biblical "sea of God is anthropomorphic. The mediumship of Christ is interpreted by so. The human mind weary with contemplating the infinite seeks the divine man, and deifies ideal human nature. Human nature even returns to itself, in the theology of the Hindoo, the Persian, the Moslem, of the Christian world. The God at last is only a man. A far off appears huge and unreal, near he develops to human size. The God of the Old Testament is a crafty, cruel Jew the God of the New Testament is the same with the added graces of some thousand years of culture. Christ is the ever-expanding ideal of the age receiving him. What then do we learn from the Bible, of the nature, power, and attributes of God? Nothing. The God of the universe could not have been an overwrought caricature of an Arab, and if that were possible, such a being could not have had a son like Jesus Christ. The Holy Ghost is a sort of nondescript, without any assignable reason for being, or without any function to perform, and the poor much-abused Devil has dematerialized, right before the astonished orthodox world, who yet wonder at the

performance as they would at a trick of legerdemain. The devil was there, horns and hoof, captivating the souls by the million, and presto! he has gone nevermore to disturb the quietude of man. Written for The Better Way.

CATAclysms.

There is no doubting the effects and facts of past convulsions in nature that have modeled the face and interior of the earth we inhabit. There exists yet, without much doubt, a molten interior and it is readily surmised that there was a time when as cosmic matter this world was a molten mass. The cooling processes created the surface known as the tertiary period. The first forms of life came from the waters. Myriads of insects, mollusks, and animal life have built rocky terraces by the wonderful processes of amalgamation. Fossil life shows the processes of unfolding and evolution in earth structure. Decaying vegetable matter has builded strata of the earth. As the cooling processes progressed the ice-age at the poles followed, and by earthy motion and tidal force vast icebergs were sent adrift, grinding down mountains, forming valleys, and depositing their freight to build continents. The whole of North America shows the effect of what is called the ice-age. South of Cairo is a constructed country by wastings from the North and yet there is building in the Mississippi delta by the wastings an island that will be, ere long, inhabitable and most likely attach itself to the mainland for better protection of New Orleans. The lost Atlantis is continually being proven as a reality and not fiction. The archaic findings reveal the racial connection of the mound-builders with the inhabitants of Mexico and jointly with a pre-historic race similar to those revealed in Asia. And then the soundings made by English and American vessels reveal a mountainous ridge in ocean depths connecting Asia and Mexico. What a fertile field this will be for Archaeologists! And what will they reveal to establish history before any feasible Mosaic time? Man stops not in fear of God's vengeance against studying the world's secrets, for he now knows that God desires him to explore and learn. Thus only will He reveal! His true revelations are in the rocks, the strata of earth, the verdure-clad hills, and the silurian deposits. There the Bible of nature is found and is the true Bible. Her-culeaneum and Pompeii have made history for us by preserving past arts and civilization from destruction by vandal hands. The mysteries of the Nile are being solved. Ancient hieroglyphics are being read by modern philologists, although much of these have been destroyed by designing or vandal persons. Priests very likely, have done their share. Vesuvius yet speaks of internal commotion. The shaking earth at Charleston caused a land-slide and fissures to open. Throughout the globe there are reports of earthquakes. Java was severely shaken while our loved Denton was exploring just before he laid down his earthly body in death's embrace. Rome was lately shaken and spirit Denton says it is but a forerunner. As we write there is handed us a report that shocks are being felt in California. We have not reached the worldly age of immunity. Prof. Buchanan sees as a scientist and is informed by the spirits, and he prophesies of the future that cataclysms will change our coastline, perhaps destroy cities. He foresees the clash of nations to change geography. The discontent of wage-earners and wage-payers foretells a future revolution of force or peaceful arbitration that shall change the conditions of State and society. By the convolutions of thought there is being made radical changes in philosophy and theology. The coming cataclysms will dare to deal with creeds, dogmas, Bibles, and Churches. Change is in the air with regard to the physical world and the spiritual man. Planetary relationship is changing, creating climatic rupture and influencing magnetic and electric forces. Dwellers on earth begin to feel all this and look with prescient eyes into the twentieth century and see a new order of civilization, a more positive revelation to men of the laws of life, and the ushering in of an evolved spiritual era. With terror we stand at the brink and the ordeal may bring many a pang of pain, yet the future good demands the travail that from the matrix may be born the more beautiful, pure and true. Similar to this—more fully and eloquently—said spirit Wm. Denton through Mrs. Kates in the lecture last Sunday night before the Pittsburg Spiritualists. The watchfulness of spirit minds is maturing and from their presence we may learn much to ward off what may be disastrous to many people while old mother earth is undergoing accouchement for the birth of force and power that shall bless her myriads of dependents. The "Kansas City Times" speaks in high terms of our friend Dr. Jos. Rhodes Buchanan. Not only as a citizen, but as one with a record of which it seems proud. We are pleased to see the doctor becoming so popular in his new home.

PERSONALS. Contributions accepted: E. L. M., H. H. W., M. E. P., J. O., P. B., B. F. R., H. H. B. Attention is called to a notice in another column concerning "Summerland Echoes." Mr. U. C. Figley, author of "Life in the Stone Age," has something to say to his friends in it. A reader asks when and where and by whom was independent slate-writing first developed. Perhaps some of our older mediums for this phase can give the information. Who will? We are indebted to Dr. R. C. Long-fellow of the "Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery" for an invitation to the commencement exercises of the fifty-seventh session at the Scottish Rite Cathedral Tuesday evening, March 23d. Mr. H. A. Starry was honored last week by a pleasant little gathering of friends at his cozy residence on Richmond Street, to bring him congratulations to his birthday. Mr. Starry is the general secretary of the Unity Society and never fails of his duty. Early and late he may be found at his post. Decorations for the anniversary are requested by the Ladies' Aid of the Union Society. Greens, flowers, plants, wreaths, garlands, stuffed white pigeons, and singing birds (the latter a pleasing new feature) may be sent to G. A. R. Hall, 115 West Sixth Street this Saturday afternoon (March 27d) where the ladies will be found at work arranging for the festivities. Mrs. F. O. Hyzer, having regained her health and strength, is now ready to accept lecture engagements. Mrs. Hyzer has always been one of our most eloquent speakers and her recent illness has no doubt added to her mediumship and given her a new lease as a spiritual worker. She may be addressed at Ravenna, Ohio. Our space being limited we are naturally compelled to be very select in our choice of reading matter, and thus can not admit of any controversy that is extended or lengthy in MSS. We have our regular contributors, but will not debar others who have a truth to tell or an opinion to express, provided they do so briefly, logically, and in good spirit. The Durango "News," of Colorado, March 14th, had the following: "Married, last evening, at the residence of Judge Garlonati, Dr. L. L. Bedell, of Denver, and Mrs. E. A. Wells, of New York City. The doctor and Judge Garlonati were old-timers together, having met at Central City, this State, in 1893. Naturally enough the doctor sought the aid of his old friend to perform the marriage ceremony. The happy couple leave for their home in Denver this morning." We are sorry to be compelled to announce the fact that Mrs. Emerson, mother of our excellent test-medium and worthy co-worker, Edgar W. Emerson, has passed beyond the mortal realms and made a pleasant home desolate by her physical absence. Yet not desolate in a spiritual sense, for she is not dead, and those who are gifted with soul-sight or spiritual sensitiveness feel not the loss as those who are minus this blessing. Mr. Emerson is thus blessed, but we send him our sympathy nevertheless and hope he will soon be consoled by the ever-presence of an angel mother instead. Her transition took place on Thursday evening, March 17th. "Old Testament Stories Comically Illustrated," by Watson Heston, New York. The Truth-Seeker Company. This is a compact, neatly bound, and well-printed volume of 324 pages profusely illustrated with cartoons, showing up the humorous side of the old bible stories of creation, fall of man, etc., and is gotten up in Mr. Heston's own inimitable style. The story is taken from the beginning of the genealogical account and embellished here and there by apt comparisons and conclusions; carries the reader through all the absurdities of the Pentateuch, finally ending with a full and complete exposition of the Jonah-Gourd whale combination. It is immensely funny and we have seen nothing like it in the whole course of ridicule upon these subjects. It is safe to say that no unshelved orthodox minister could peruse this book and not laugh and be the better for it. Those who have followed Mr. Heston's cartoon work in "The Truth-Seeker" can hardly fail to find rich lessons in the guise of mirth and ridicule in "Old Testament Stories Comically Illustrated." Price, cloth, \$1.00; boards, \$1.00. For sale by The Truth-Seeker Company, 25 Lafayette Place, New York. Deafness Can't be Cured. By local applications, as they can not reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube gets inflamed you have a ringing sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition hearing will be destroyed forever. These cases out of ten are caused by catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces. We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of deafness caused by catarrh that we can not cure by taking Hall's Catarrh Cure, send for circulars free. F. J. CHENEY & CO. Proprs. Toledo, O. Sold by all Druggists.

Correspondence.

Notes From Boston.

The season of jubilee the Christmas of Modern Spiritualism...

It is well that we hold in commemoration that event when after the long dark ages...

The Boston Spiritual Temple Society holding its regular service in Berkeley Hall...

The Brooklyn Progressive Conference had a more than interesting meeting on Saturday...

Of late there have been themes and subjects broached before our conference for discussion...

At the First Spiritual Temple, corner of Newbury and Essex Streets...

At Wells Memorial Hall, 95 Washington Street, Friday April 1st...

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received from Mr. O. M. Wallace Revere Mass. who says we may use his name as reference...

This is only one of many and in face of such evidence transpiring daily...

Brooklyn, N. Y. The Brooklyn Progressive Conference had a more than interesting meeting...

Of late there have been themes and subjects broached before our conference...

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Kansas City, Mo. Affairs in Kansas City may be said to be progressing fairly in our society...

This month we have placed Prof. T. C. Hadington upon our platform as an exponent of the scientific thought of the age...

Brooklyn, N. Y. The Brooklyn Progressive Conference had a more than interesting meeting...

Of late there have been themes and subjects broached before our conference...

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Detroit, Mich. As I have seen but little in your paper of late in regard to Spiritualism here...

On the evening of the 13th last the Ladies Aid of the Detroit Society of Spiritualists gave a banquet and social entertainment...

Washington, D. C. Perhaps never has there been so much interest in Spiritualism as expounded from the platform and phenomena...

St. Paul, Minn. The St. Paul Spiritual Alliance continues to hold its meetings and Prof. Frank T. Ripley...

Pittsburg, Pa. The good work goes on here in spite of the inclement weather...

East Westmoreland, N. H. Thanks for sample numbers of your excellent paper...

Alexandria, Ind. A reader writes that Mrs. S. Seery of Dayton, O., has been in Alexandria, Ind., for two days...

After a careful reading of the three numbers received, we can not say that THE BETTER WAY is second to any Spiritual paper...

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MRS. PLYMOUTH B. WEEKS, PSYCHOMETRIST, P.O. Box 518, CINCINNATI, O. Will read sealed letters and also give character readings from lock of hair...

MR. & MRS. F. N. FOSTER, Spirit Photographers, No. 372 CLARK STREET, CINCINNATI, OHIO.

A. WILLIS, Materializing Medium, 264 East Third Street, City.

PIRENO-PSYCHOMETRY, Gives an absolutely correct reading of character, how to improve your talents and correct your faults...

TRY DR. EDDY'S Magnetized Flannel and Paper, Contains vitalizing principles, is soothing and beneficial...

DR. J. C. PHILLIPS, 315 W. Van Buren St., Chicago. Highly magnetized remedies sent to all sufferers...

DO YOU SLEEP WELL? If not send for highly magnetized paper, prepared by the noted Indiana White Cloud, Black Bear, and Spotted Tail...

MAGNETISM, Dr. J. W. Brown, Magnetic Healer, 307 State St., Santa Barbara, Cal.

MAGNETIC HEALING, I have repeatedly been advised to offer the benefit of my Magnetic Healing Powers to suffering humanity...

YES YOU CAN, Get well. Send \$1 for a Bottle of Elixir of Life. A spirit remedy. Purely vegetable and magnetized...

The Blind Clairvoyant, Prof. HENRY W. SINCLAIR, Will send by letter a life-reading of the Past and Future with DATES...

MRS. H. L. WOODHOUSE, 980 Sixth Ave., New York, Has removed her home for the Sick from 217 W. 114th St. to the above address...

ALL WHO WOULD Know Themselves and Destiny, SHOULD SEND FOR THE WILLIAMS' Psychological Chart...

Mrs. M. E. WILLIAMS, 232 W. 46th St., New York City.

An Astonishing Offer, Send three-cent stamps, lock of hair, age, name, sex, one leading symptom, and your disease will be diagnosed free by spirit power...

DR. A. B. DOBSON, San Jose, California.

A LIBERAL OFFER, By a Reliable Clairvoyant and Magnetic Healer, Send four 2-cent stamps, lock of hair, name, age and sex...

J. C. BARDORF, M. D., President of the Magnetic Institute, GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN.

Pilo's Remedy for Catarrh is the Best, Easiest to Use, and Cheapest, Sold by druggists or sent by mail, 66, E. T. Hazlett, Warren, Pa.

THE SIGN OF RECOGNITION, The Sunflower Jewel, Price \$1.00, THE C. D. HAINES CO., 24 & 26 Front St., ROCHESTER, N. Y.

PSYCHOMETRY, Consult with PROF. A. B. SEVERANCE in all matters pertaining to practical life and your spirit friends...

Emanuel Swedenborg, In regard to Man as a Spiritual Being and Life after Death...

GAS and GASOLINE ENGINES, STATIONARY and PORTABLE, All Sizes, Dwarfs in Size, but Giants in Strength...

VAN DUZEN, GAS & GASOLINE ENGINE CO., Cincinnati, O.

Psycho-Magnetograph, This instrument is an improved device for obtaining communications from departed friends...

Independent State Writing, Mr. Fred Evans, The world renowned Medium for Psychometry...

Development of State-Writing, Persons desiring to develop this controlling phase of mental strength and reading of a distance...

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Women's Department.

Written for The Better Way.

Immortality. I will come again - Jesus. Immortal youth can hold its prime With all its life of age-long...

It is for us to govern Thought. And train each sense with artist's skill. That Love and Wisdom may be brought...

Reveal that we are yet unglad. The glorious, ay, eternal Truth. That we can hold by power of Thought...

The clear voice of the Judean seer. Sweet Mother Nature, echoes still: In every breeze its tones I hear...

The morning sunbeams woo the dew. From the fairest petal of the rose. As though its glancing, iris hue...

"I gladly meet the morn's embrace. But in the soft, refreshing rain. Here, or in some more peaceful place...

But true to her unerring laws. Absent she can not long remain: Earth's yearning love upon her draws...

They only pass the grosser veil. Of primal matter's lower plane. Divine attraction must prevail...

As truly as the day returns. From the dark chambers of the night. And on the east in splendor burns...

O God, my God - Eternal Mind: Sweeter to me than praise or prayer Thy omnipresence to find...

Each rising in relations new. Holding its claim on law divine, Is to the universe as true...

Written for The Better Way. SEEKING KNOWLEDGE. ALLIE LINDSAY LYNCH.

I am seeking knowledge. My soul seems hourly reaching out with earnest endeavor to grasp truths, to grasp these as fully as its unfoldment permits...

Written for The Better Way. MATTER THROUGH MATTER. FANNIE E. LAMB.

The vexing question of matter passing through matter I hoped to have explained when I commenced reading the article...

Written for The Better Way. SOUND. All sounds, whether high or low, loud or soft, travel at precisely the same rate...

discovered but now, through rummaging over back numbers. I have reference to the extract from Edgar A. Poe, given by George F. Kittredge, in December 19th issue, page 1.

Poe's mesmeric subject treats of God, spirit, and matter. Poe asks: "Is not God immaterial?" "There is no immateriality, it is a mere word."

I would not have missed reading this article for a good deal, yet it does not prove that God is much more than myself - at least to my mind.

I have set forth to improve my mind or self - by an ever-present resolve - I want to know.

Written for The Better Way. WHAT'S IN A NAME? ELLA LUCY MERRIAM.

A rose by any other name smells just as sweet, only in occult matters you mustn't call it Spiritualism!

He Reiterates His Statements, Produces Additional Proof, and Clearly Defines His Position. It would be difficult to measure the interest and comment not to say excitement, which the published letter of Dr. R. A. Gunn, which appeared in the papers yesterday, has occasioned.

I called upon Dr. Gunn at his residence, No. 121 West Forty-seventh Street, yesterday afternoon. I found the reception room crowded, and it was only after an hour's waiting that I succeeded in obtaining an interview.

Dr. Gunn is a distinguished looking man, and impressed me at once by his manly bearing and air of sincerity. I took the seat he courteously offered me, and said: "Are you aware, doctor, of the commotion your letter has caused?"

"How long have you known of this remedy, doctor?" I asked. "Nearly ten years," he replied. "My attention was originally called to the Safe Cure by a serious case of Bright's disease, which was considered hopeless, and yet, much to my surprise, under its use the patient recovered."

"That is a delicate thing to do," the doctor replied, "but, as I always keep a written record of my cases, I can accommodate you."

"Here is another case. It is that of a gentleman who had frequent attacks of renal calculi, which, as you know, is gravel forming in the kidneys. He had never been able to prevent these formations, but after an unusually severe attack, I recommended him to try the Safe Cure, which he did, and although it is three years since he took the remedy, he has never had an attack since."

"Here is a most remarkable case. It is that of a lady who had suffered for some time from Bright's disease. She became *emiente*, and about the fourth month suddenly became blind, had convulsions, and finally fell into a state of coma, caused by urenic or kidney poison."

"Those are certainly most wonderful cases, doctor," I said, "and while I do not for a moment question their authenticity, I should consider it a great favor if you would give me their names. I think the importance of the subject would fully justify it."

"Both the lady and her husband are so rejoiced, so grateful over her recovery, that I know she is only too glad to have others hear of it. The lady is Mrs. Eames, wife of the well-known costumer. She was not only restored, but is in perfect health to-day."

I thanked the doctor for his courteous reception, for the valuable information imparted, and I feel assured that his generous and humane nature will prevent him from feeling other than glad at seeing this interview published for the benefit of suffering humanity.

EVERY WORD TRUE!

So Says the Writer of That Famous Letter. He Reiterates His Statements, Produces Additional Proof, and Clearly Defines His Position.

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SPIRITUALIST LECTURERS.

Listing that lists list of lecturers should be kept in mind. It is a list of names and addresses of lecturers who are to be held in various parts of the country.

Mrs. M. J. ... Boston, Mass. Mrs. F. ... New York, N.Y. Mrs. ... Chicago, Ill.

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Written for The Better Way. A VOICE WILL BE HEARD. A Jesuit in a frock coat, a constrictor in a...

The crime of commendable treason. Her journalistic purpose which in the United States has been endured from the burlesque of the burlesque.

Here is the gorgon side that grins a door. How will be open political arm clutched at some arm of time since Crisis' in for indepen raged end heeded, an heeded u Island is t bor and h image with hyena to a Preside anc the 'Religio man gov tially dis empt from Vesterda making vote for told the much h Is this jf impude Last the o the upon t thanks bound such as the sw castic ging th the de eat an the c sleep hear nor r butio of the dotal less webs of \$ Chu per ooo to hea that peo aua duc dus ext th gou Lat wal ma me ha out Jes sq wa gr es th fr by fo of vi or pu fu it ts te a in i C w r

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Writes for The Better Way.

A VOICE FOR LIBERTY.

A Jesuit in a free country is like a bo-constructor in a kindergarten; neither of them have other than a single object; that is, to prey upon the unsuspecting.

Bishop O'Connor, Roman Catholic priest, says: "We are not advocates of religious freedom, and religious freedom is simply tolerated and endured until the opposite can be carried into effect."

Here is shown up without a mask the gorgon side of the Janus-faced virago that grins behind Uncle Sam's closet door.

President Madison had this to say about the subject of Church and State: "Religion is not in the purview of human government. Religion is essentially distinct from government and exempt from its cognizance."

Yesterday, as it were, Senator Hill, in making a bid to the Roman Catholic vote for the chair that held Madison, told the Tammany Hall Democracy how much he revered the memory of the bishop who wrote, "Lead Kindly Light."

Last November the president issued the old chestnut proclamation, calling upon the sheep and the goats to offer thanks to Almighty God, who, in His boundless providence, had bestowed such abundance upon us, and up into the swelling air arose with it the sarcastic wail of the poverty-ridden, begging the Almighty to accept thanks that the dogs of the aristocrats had plenty to eat and that the 70,000 boy tramps of the country still had room enough to sleep in the open air.

At present it only serves to point to the most stupendous dead-head religion on the globe, and not only that, but an insufferable robbery of the people's wealth. If this vast sum was available and wisely distributed in reducing taxation on the homes and industries of the people it would of itself extirpate uninvited poverty forever from this country.

The constitution declares that Congress shall make no law respecting an establishing of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging freedom of speech, or of the press. Every demand made upon the Congress by any religious sect in this country for particular favor, to the discomfort of others' rights, is a blow at this provision of the constitution, and the party or sect making the demand should be punished for treason.

And this war upon the secular school system is an open one. We know what the purpose of this power amounts to. Wherever the history of the Church has been written, monasteries, nunneries, beggary, illiteracy, and intrigue march hand in hand along the path of that history.

system is an open one. We know what the purpose of this power amounts to. Wherever the history of the Church has been written, monasteries, nunneries, beggary, illiteracy, and intrigue march hand in hand along the path of that history.

What, then, means the insufferable boast that this is a Christian country? I will answer. It is because the country is menaced by a power which does not recognize the principles of the constitution, as they relate to religious liberty.

We demand that the Church, with its hordes of non-producing sky pilots, stand off and let severally alone the fabric which gives us these rights of independent manhood and womanhood.

What is true of Pittsburg can be made true of other cities. The tiger is crouching, ready to spring whenever it shall suit the men who hold the chains to unleash her. What are the Spiritualists going to do about it?

Nothing herein set forth refers in any respect to the integrity of people who, linked to the Christian Church in any of its guises, still hold to the necessity for absolute separation of the State from Church denomination.

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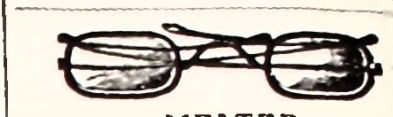
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