

# THE BETTER WAY

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## THE BETTER WAY

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### EDITORIAL.

SPIRITUALISM is a "Jacob's ladder" by means of which angels ascend and descend, daily and hourly.

Why is it that man will spend years in splitting technical "hairs," and completely ignore the basic principles of true religious belief?

AMERICAN medical men and surgeons deny the existence of a soul because they have never found one in a dissecting room. No one but an ignoramus would look for one there.

ALONE has Mrs. Frank Leslie-Wilde returned to America. Willie decided to remain in England because the climate there does not agree with him. Is it perhaps the mental atmosphere that affects him disagreeably?

The following quotation from Alexander Pope appears to have been written for the especial benefit of Spiritualists, Liberals, Liberal Christians, and others who are breaking away from the shackles of superstition:

"Know then thyself, presume not God to scan, the proper study of mankind is man."

A MISSIONARY complains that the church at Masboupia, Africa, has fallen to ruins, because the Kafirs when asked to repair it waxed wroth and said that God might mend his own house. One old man who received a blanket for attending services said when the dole was stopped, "No more blanket, no more hal-lelujah."

SPIRIT guidance is a true light "from within" and as a guide for the rugged highways of life it surpasses Bible, Koran, Vedas, or any of the so-called sacred writings. But, even to this, common sense must be applied. Man's reasoning powers were not given him for mere argumentative uses, nor yet for display, but for use.

HERBERT SPENCER writes of Russia: "My hope is that the intensified despotism of late years, displayed by these measures against the Jews, as in other ways, leading as it does to the accumulation of various explosive forces, will end in a catastrophe which will break up into half a dozen kingdoms this great barbarian empire."

A PROTEST has been made against running a bar in the basement of the capitol building at Washington for the convenience of Congressmen. But the protest has not had the effect of closing said bar, yet our good Congressmen would have the World's Fair closed against Sunday patrons. "Do as I say and not as I do!"

THE electoral population of the United States numbers 12,830,349. Of these voters 11,343,000 are whites, and 1,487,344 colored. The illiterate whites, who can not read the ballot they poll, number 886,659, or 7.8 per cent; and of the colored voters 1,022,151, or 68.7 per cent, or eight out of every 100 white voters, and sixty-nine out of every 100 colored.

The ordinary postal revenue for last year, exclusive of the money-order business, was 65,065,293.87 dollars, averaging one dollar per head of Uncle Sam's family. The bulk of this is in two-cent stamps, and the number of this denomination sums up about two billions a year. This speaks well for the letter-writing portion our people despite St. Valentine's Day.

EXPERIMENTS in firing with smokeless powder were recently made at Barwick, England, and pronounced as "interesting and important." It may have been "interesting" to those at a safe distance from the bullets before the powder, but how an invention that is solely intended to kill men can be called "important," is beyond logical inference. It needs but to be made noiseless as another improvement, and the world will be overrun by thugs and assassins.

THE Times-Star refers to the fact that prominent educators in Germany are favoring the admission of women to the higher colleges on the same footing as men, and protests against discriminations made in American institutions in this respect—especially now that one of the most conservative countries in Europe in breaking down the barrier. The cause of co-education is finding many sympathizers in this country as well as in Europe.

CHARACTER is not a massive unit; it is a fabric rather, said Henry Ward Beecher in one of his classical essays. It is an artificial whole made up by the interplay of ten thousand threads. Every faculty is a spinner, spinning every day, and almost every day threads of a different color. Myriads and myriads of webbed products proceed from the many active faculties of the human soul, and character is made up by the weaving together of all these innumerable threads of daily life.

SUNDAY entertainments in New York are advertised as "sacred" because the law forbids them otherwise. The law is thus responsible for the hypocrisy which this qualification implies. But the inconsistency of such a law appears when we realize that seven-eighths of the patrons of these Sunday entertainments are Christians—a part of the people who demanded such a law—and are made unwilling hypocrites by the foolish piety of their brethren in the fold.

IF AN intelligent man had funds at his disposal, upon the interest of which he depended for livelihood, would he, in investing them, accept another's word as sufficient guarantee, with no further investigation as to the soundness of the investment? And yet in regard to the choosing of a religion, this same man will accept readily the statements of a minister who is under salary "to save souls" and consider himself and his future safe. Why is it? Is the future of so little consequence? We await an answer.

A MODEL of ocean currents is to be exhibited at the World's Fair which will possess great practical value. This model, which is a huge scientific tank, is made to represent the surface of the earth spread out on an area of about thirty feet square, the ocean and seas being shown by actual water. Small streams of water are ejected through pipes under the model so that the whole body of water moves exactly as the ocean currents move. The direction of the currents is shown distinctly by a white powder on the surface of the water. Near the model will be placed a large map giving the fullest details of the force, volume, and direction of the various ocean currents.

THE President has issued a proclamation retaliating upon Canada for her discrimination against United States' port-laden vessels that pass through the Welland canal. For some months Canada has been levying a toll of twenty cents on the ton, with an eighteen-cent rebate to vessels laden with cargoes for ports in the Dominion government, a violation of the treaty of 1871. The President's proclamation is to be in effect after September 1, 1892, until further notice, and provides that "a toll of twenty cents per ton be levied, collected, and paid on all freight of whatever kind or description passing through the St. Marie Falls canal in transit to any port of the Dominion of Canada, whether carried in vessels of the United States or other nations, and to that extent I do hereby suspend from and after said date the right of free passage through said St. Marie Falls canal of any and all cargoes or portions of cargoes in transit to Canadian ports."

FIGURES AND PHILOSOPHY. The last United States census gives our total population as 63,011,063, of which 9,638,360 are of foreign birth. The proportion of sexes in the same is 95 females to each 100 males. In New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, and Massachusetts the females are in excess by about 120,000, New York claiming 44,000 and Massachusetts 64,000 more females than males, and the latter thus becomes the banner female State of the

Union. In Europe the average is 105 females to 100 males, and in the uncivilized and barbarous countries the proportion grows in favor of the feminine sex. This seems, however, to be a law of the animal kingdom, for the female element takes the lead as we proceed towards primitive states. This fact furnishes thought for speculators who like to theorize on the negativity of matter and positivity of spirit, making matter the female and spirit the male element of nature; or who speak of Mother Nature and Father God as the two creative principles of the universe.

FISHING ON SUNDAY. The New York World is justly indignant because its State still has a law on its statutes which forbids fishing on Sunday.

In a recent case that came up for trial the Supreme Court held that the law as it stood forbade all fishing on Sunday under penalties, and the World desires to see this law repealed. As its editorial comment is universally applicable and timely, we herewith reproduce it:

This law is wholly out of tune with the spirit of our institutions and it shuts out from a healthful and innocent recreation that part of the population which most needs recreation out of doors.

It is not the business of a purely secular State to concern itself with holy days except to secure to all men equally their rights of conscience. The law in this country has no business to prescribe religious observances of any kind or to enforce them. All that belongs to private opinion.

When the State has by law secured to every man the right to observe what days he pleases, undisturbed by others, it has done quite all that it can do consistently with our system and theory of government. All Sunday laws that go beyond that limit are un-American and oppressive.

### POLITICAL BRIBERY.

The Century says, concerning the responsibility for bribery, that there has never been any corruption in politics, in any nation that the world has ever seen, in which the responsibility did not rest upon the man who offered the bribe rather than upon the man who took it. It does not lessen this responsibility if there be one or a dozen middlemen between the bribe-giver and the bribe-taker. What is wanted is a moral sense which will be as keen in political matters as it is in private and commercial matters. No reputable man ought to give a dollar for political purposes unless he can have in return an accounting for its use. Every man who contributes to a large campaign fund, to be expended by a professional corruptionist without any public or private accounting of the uses to which it is put, is an accomplice in a gigantic scheme of bribery which he has helped to make possible. Every man who contributes a penny to the blackmail levied against him, either as an individual or as a member of a corporation, is an accomplice in the systematic debauching of popular government which is in progress in the legislative bodies of this country to-day.

### CHURCH AND STATE.

Rev. Jones, one of the preachers at the Adventists' campmeeting in this city, says the Ironclad Age, of Indianapolis, Ind., declared that Church and State were about to be united, that the Sunday closing of the World's Fair by Congress was the first great step in that direction. He compared the coalescing of Church and State in the fourth century with the present movement in this country. The sad experience of past centuries is enough to convince any one of sound mind of the danger of such a combination. If Church and State are united in this country it will be the Catholic Church that will govern, though if any other denomination had control we would probably be governed in the same bigoted manner.

Rev. Jones is mistaken. The citizens of the United States do not desire to be governed by a Pope or by any religious partizan. But they must keep in mind that there is danger threatening. The shadow no bigger than a man's hand has appeared on the horizon, which will sometime spread into great dimensions. We must be aware of the fact that the growing evil, the foe of Americanism, should be crushed before it gains greater strength.

### THE FUNCTIONS OF A TRUE JOURNAL.

That many of our great daily papers do not carry out the spirit which should characterize journalism in this country—namely, to bring all the news irrespective of the party they represent—has often been a query as well as an aggravation to readers who have risen above political bigotry. If publishers imagine it helps their cause to withhold news from an inquiring public, they are mistaken. The average reader, to-day, is an investigator in political affairs as well as in religious, and will not accept on faith from a partizan paper that "all is well." He wants to be assured of this by facts—and more, he wants to know of the danger that is menacing him from the opposition party—and puts himself in the way of finding out. Investigation often leads to conversion; for in it he is caught by the spirit which moves the opposition, but which could be prevented by giving him the desired information and thereby keeping him under the influence of his own party.

Harper's Weekly, in an editorial on "The Duty of a Newspaper," points to this desideratum in our partizan press as follows:

"The reader of the weekly edition of the London Times during the last exciting campaign in England needed no other paper to furnish him with a fair picture of its progress. Every morning he would find the chief speeches on both sides accurately reported, with the most truthful accounts of the size and spirit of the meetings. The Times was not friendly to Mr. Gladstone, but it opened its columns to all that he said, and neither belittled nor satirized his meetings. This is the function of a great newspaper. This is to be a mirror of the times."

### THOMAS PAINE.

Col. Robert G. Ingersoll contributes an excellent article to the North American this month on "Thomas Paine," in which he gives a sketch of Paine's literary career, his position in society, and his influence as a reformer in freeing man from the shackles of bigotry. "In matters of religion," says the author, "he depended upon experience, and above all, on reason." Kings asserted that they derived their power, their right to govern, from God. To this Paine replied with the 'Rights of Man.' Priests pretended that they were authorized agents of God. Paine replied with the 'Age of Reason.' Kings answered the arguments of Paine with laws, the priests with lies. Kings appealed to force, priests to fraud.

The author also says that Franklin, Jefferson, Sumner, and Lincoln were believers in the creed of Thomas Paine, and that the Universalists and Unitarians have found their best weapons, their best arguments, in the "Age of Reason," the writing of which was Paine's crime. But he was a century in advance of his time, and this is always regarded as crime.

The article also contains an account of Paine's arrest and imprisonment; of his subsequent release through the efforts of James Monroe in November, 1794, and what followed.

The article closes with an account of his death on the 8th of June, 1809, which the author characterizes as "almost his only friend." At his funeral, he says, there was no pomp, no pageantry, no civic procession, no military display. In a carriage a woman and her son who had lived on the bounty of the dead—on horseback, a Quaker, the humanity of whose heart dominated the creed of his head—and, following on foot, two negroes, filled with gratitude—constituted the funeral cortege of Thomas Paine. "He who taught a people to be free was thus given back to Nature, the mother of us all."

But Thomas Paine can never die. Men who have lived for others, suffered and died for others, need no worldly closing act in their career; no tablets of stone; no monuments fashioned by art. They live in the hearts of people where dwell human love.

### THE NEW EDUCATION.

The Christian Union draws a nice parallel between the old and new education. It says the old method simply aimed to give information; it treated the mind as a receptacle, and knowledge as the material with which the before-empty receptacle was to be filled. And as information is for the most part contained in

books, the old education was "bookish." In a word, its aim was to fill the student with the contents of text-books, and then examined him to ascertain whether he could repeat from memory. Botany was studied without looking at flowers, geology without examining a rock, astronomy without inspecting the stars, and chemistry without seeing a retort. But the new method is to confer something of this greatness by practical application—by example.

The old education also told its pupils about the great feelings, thoughts, and deeds of the past, trusting that the information would enkindle life in them. The new aim is to create that life by observation and acts. Thus the kindergarten, the laboratory, and out-of-door experimental classes in natural science. It seeks to train the will no less than the intellect, to endow its pupils with power to do as well as to think. It seeks to develop the affections and the emotions—faith, hope, love, reverence, and conscience.

Hence it demands teachers of literature who can so teach it that their classes shall be flooded with the great affections and stirred with the great thoughts of the great poets and philosophers. It seeks to give the mind life rather than truth, and truth only as a means to the development of life. And at the close the pupil is measured, not by what he knows of the great affections, thoughts, and deeds of the past, but by his own power to feel, think, and do. Or, in spiritualistic parlance, according to his power of sympathizing with men, of using his own reason in all things, and of exercising his will-power for good only.

### PSYCHOMETRY.

Psychometry is the gift of sensing and defining the influences emanating from persons or objects, these influences being caused by the so-called aura that surrounds individuals or exist in connection with objects or things handled by them.

When coming in rapport with either by thought or touch the sensitive or so-called psychometrist perceives an influence, or what might be termed a sensation foreign to his own, from which he judges the nature of the person or thing. One temperate in habits, pure-minded, or modest throws out an influence that causes the sensitive to feel complacent, calm or content during the moments of rapport, and gives him a clue to his character, while a sensual or intemperate individual causes a feeling of drowsiness or weariness to overcome him.

Under the same conditions a charitable or sympathetic individual affects the sensitive with a cheerfulness or an uplifting sensation that fills the heart with love and a desire to be charitable or loving himself—like inducing life.

On the other hand, a selfish or malicious person repels. His presence is disagreeable, and often oppressive, according to the baseness of his purpose. Objects belonging to him cause an abhorrence and are disagreeable to the touch, while it frequently incites an uncultured or a morally undeveloped sensitive to do wrong. And as spirits exert a similar influence on sensitives that mortals do, the latter class becomes a menace to society when under the dominion of selfish or vindictive spirits. Of course the sensitive is responsible for his acts, for his own nature must be in harmony with such minds to be affected by them, even if but temporarily, and moral or intellectual culture therefore becomes a necessity for him. Man is his own arbiter, and there is no salvation except by a life of purity, nor atonement except by reparation and good deeds, and sensitives particularly should be very careful about their mode of living and their daily acts.

Intellectually cultured persons inspire the sensitive to mental activity, as do spirits of this nature when attracted by a desire on part of the sensitive to be instructed. Persons of strong will-power or force of character inspire the sensitive to physical action or energy, and are often a boon to those who lack it, while an influence that causes uneasiness, restlessness or mental disturbance, betrays perverted will—arrogance or a tyrannical disposition.

The last named accompanied by a tremulousness, nervousness or an uncontrollable agitation tells of brain or

nervous troubles that need magnetic treatment. But feeling sad, melancholy, or depressed by the rapport indicates worldly troubles that need sympathy rather than censure. Dreaminess indicates an unhealthy or sluggish condition of the blood that needs purification by medical treatment or proper dieting.

In a similar manner these influences may be sensed through the press. A news item or a sentence that falls flat on the reader is either untrue or perverted by untruthful additions. If it provokes or irritates there is selfishness or malice in the motive. But if it causes reflection without gratification, there is truth in it, with some part hidden or omitted; and if it comforts or causes delight it may be relied on as true so far as known by the writer.

Such are the general influences by which sensitives may be guided, and if prophecy should be reduced to a science, it will undoubtedly be done through the agency of psychometry.

### THE NEW TRINITY.

In a recent address on the completion of the Church census, Mr. Porter, the superintendent of the eleventh census, gives 150 distinct denominations in the United States, numbering nearly 20,000,000 members. Sermonizing on this he says, "a consolidation and crystallization of some of these shades of religious belief would not be a violent shock to the consciences, and would strengthen the great armies of Christians," and further that "the tendency to multiply sects or associations representing shades of religious beliefs often results in eight or ten half-sustained religious organizations in small cities and towns, when the concentration of forces would give us four or five strong Churches, with power to attract non-communicants into the fold. The census returns point out the necessity of concentrating the religious forces of the country. They show the need of fewer branch associations and greater unity. These differences, slight as they may seem to some, are often important enough in small places to prevent the establishment, on a strong financial basis, of a prosperous house of God, with a strong and able preacher of the Gospel."

In closing his address Mr. Porter said: "This is the great trinity of moral and intellectual force—the school, the Church, and the home—working out the problem of Christian civilization in this country in a manner that should be gratifying to all patriotic citizens who love the Republic. While there is much in the air that is disturbing, discouraging, and in some directions even dismaying, may we not safely anchor hopes for the future in our schools, our Churches, and our homes?"

Whether the hope of the Republic can be found in the Churches, will depend on how much they are able to be "brethren dwelling together in unity," and how much theological prejudices will permit religious leaders to assent to a unity of action. Controversies about the mode of baptism or whether infants shall be admitted into heaven by the grace of human votes, will not effectuate it. Nor will the 43,000,000 non-Church members be induced to "come into the fold" by the other 20,000,000, as it has been hopefully expressed in connection with this matter. The tendency of the age is toward free thought, liberalism, and secular education with a practical development of the moral nature, which is to displace religion and faith. The hope of the American nation lies entirely in the practical application of morality, and not in any faith doctrine. It is foreign to our constitution and out of harmony with nature. A concentration of forces is only possible where truth is the basis. Disintegration points the other way. To consolidate the Church into a working force it will be necessary to lay aside dogma first in order to give nature a chance. Intuition or natural inspiration will do the rest. Dogma is the narrowing of intuition by human selfishness. Nature can not tolerate this, and therefore exerts a disintegrating effect on the same. Love is the condition with which nature accords, and harmony is its effect. Where harmony exists there is truth. Let the Church seek the truth if it desires to become a living force in Mr. Porter's trinity. Spiritualism offers it pure and simple as it was once given to the world according to the Christian Bible.

Reported for The Better Way: SPIRITUALISM AND THE BIBLE.

Stepping forward with treatment in hand and reading from Matthew XII. Mrs. Brewer said she had great reverence for the Bible, but was not bigoted enough to believe that the so-called Christian Bible was the only Bible in the world, or that it contained all there was of divine revelation.

The Japanese and Chinese lived in accordance with their light, which is more than most Christians do. These Japanese who live in their paper houses or in the open air, subsisting upon the simplest food, know not the meaning of felon or jail, and the missionaries who go there to convert them to Christianity could learn of them a lesson of honesty and morality which would put them to shame.

Spiritualism and the enfranchisement of women are the two great uplifting movements of the day. They go hand in hand, and behind each one of those grand women who are the champions of the freedom of their sex, are a band of spirits just as much as behind any medium at Casadaga.

Jesus of Nazareth came into the world on a great mission. Other great prophetic souls had lived and spoken prophetic words for the enlightenment and guidance of men, but he, the Christ, came not only proclaiming divine truth and illustrating it in his wonderful life, but with a mighty power to convince, by doing mighty works to attest the reality of his mission from God.

This vital fact so easily proved—so decisive in the conflict of the new faith with the old—so easily brought to bear with destructive force against the very citadel of Judaism, Jesus forbore to avail himself of, and left the scoffers to go on in greater hardness of heart and depth of unbelief. He chose rather to appear to his sorrowing disciples in the chamber—that seance-room where was performed a genuine materialization, just such as are being performed to-day.

How are we meeting the question? With a willing ignorance? With perhaps a hate that has no foundation but in ignorance? Or shall we say: Show me thy truth, oh God—save me from the miserable conceit that I know enough about a matter that I have never examined—save me from the delusion that all things are necessarily the best—save me from the worse delusion that those whose truth has been fully revealed and exhausted and that the spirit of truth is not to lead into all truth?

THE BEYOND.

Most people will think this a trifling matter and hardly worthy of notice, but I treasure it as a valuable experience and I treasure it as a consolation to me, it, with similar manifestations has kept the truth and reasonableness of Spiritualism vivid before me, more than any thing else, because it was private and unexpected and no professional medium connected with it.

THOMAS PAINE'S PORTRAIT.

About a year ago an attempt was made through the city council to have the portrait of Thomas Paine (and a certain city official whose moral record bore a cloudy aspect) removed from old Independence Hall, where many prominent men of the past century graced its walls.

With regard to the portrait of the immortal Paine, I felt pleased to find that the committee had not as yet been successful in its removal. The picture, by artists, is regarded as a good work of art. Should any future attempt be made to remove it (to probably store it away in some dark attic), would it not be well for some one to ascertain through proper channels whether the city officials will part with it, and if so, the price?

DYING WORDS.

"It is well."—Washington. "I must sleep now."—Byron. "I feel as if I were myself again."—Walter Scott. "Many things are becoming clearer to me."—Schiller.

Much attention has been indulged in as to the nature of the glow worm's light, which is not put out by water nor seemingly capable of giving forth any heat. It has been asserted that the light diffusing substance contains phosphorus, but this has never been proved.

of a beyond. So, like Mr. Savage, I would like to be demonstrably certain that there is a beyond, and I have demonstrated it to my satisfaction, and I hope to the readers. Does any one ask for my reasons for believing that these phenomena are the work of spirits? I think I cannot answer this question better than by quoting M. A. Oxon's reply, which is in brief, and I consider conclusive.

MEDIUMSHIP AND ITS MANAGEMENT.

Kindness and justice to materialization mediums require that we should shield them from the hostile and disturbing influences that always surround them. The greater the psychic susceptibility, and the more wonderful the phenomena displayed, the more necessary is it that the medium should be thoroughly sheltered from every disturbing influence.

We recognize the propriety of providing a cabinet at seances by which spirits and mediums in their most wonderful performances should be protected from the rays of light and from the gaze of curious or unfriendly spectators, but we do not realize that the same condition which requires such protection at the seance is the permanent condition of the medium, and that his whole life should be surrounded by the protective guardianship of friends, so as to save him from contact with the heterogeneous and often unfriendly public.

The attending spirits are carried into a sphere of irreverence, poverty, contention, ignorance, insolence, and disorder, which requires great psychic force to sustain the dignity of the occasion and the rectitude of the medium. Not so should the angel world be received—not into vulgar and suspicious exhibition or discordant circle, full of the malign influence of evil thoughts, as is often the case, but into reverential company, whose sentiments are attuned into harmony with the celestial visitors.

It should have a permanent salary and home, and the business relations with the outside public should be conducted by others. If a spiritual society wishes to elevate the cause to its proper height, they should assume the responsibility of maintaining a proper home or temple of Spiritualism, under the care of a wise and discreet committee—a man and a woman might be sufficient; and the admissions to seances should be so carefully guarded as to secure the attendance and sympathy of the best portion of the community.

The attendance on such seances would not be a suspicious hunting for tests and physical displays, but a growth in spiritual wisdom, love, and harmony—a continual assimilation between the spiritual circle on earth and the responding circle of the higher world—the purest form of religion—and a rare opportunity of seeking the knowledge that abounds in the higher realms.

There is no beautifier of complexion or form, or behavior like the wish to scatter joy and not pain around us.—Emerson.

My first acquaintance with any form of Russian persecution was in Roumania, and, as it affected me directly, it is needless to say that it made an impression. I had sought in vain to induce the driver of a public conveyance to take me and my luggage across the frontier to a point in Russia only about fifteen miles distant.

A QUEEN SECT.

Two respectable luncheoners had sought to persuade him by promise of far more than the usual fare, and finally I called in the assistance of a personal friend, a resident of the town—a gentleman regarded as authority in matters political and scientific. They all failed, and I had to make the journey on foot under a broiling sun, choking with dust, and bearing on my back luggage weighing nearly one hundred pounds.

The Greeks acted on this principle, and to obtain higher phenomena of prophetic oracles and healing, they placed their mediums in temples where every influence was beneficent and congenial to the higher nature, and where the continual spiritual presence would never be rudely disturbed.

How different would be the history of Spiritualism in this country if Spiritualists had been generous and kind enough to raise sufficient funds and provide temples wherein the spirits could more fully express themselves through their medial instruments, which investigators would enter with feelings of reverence. In our present shabby and disorderly system, or lack of system, the highest and holiest things are thrown before the public as pearls thrown beneath the feet of swine.

The sect to which they belong is called Skoptzi, and, as they are outlawed in Russia, we hear only the vilest things about them, whenever they are mentioned in official papers. They resemble Quakers in being ascetic and opposed to war. Both of these doctrines make them odious to the Russian police, who harass them in every manner that cupidity and brutality can suggest.

Healing mediumship and social lectures should also be a feature of the spiritual temple or home, and the parties in charge representing the society should have sufficient weight of character to command the respect of the entire community and be sustained by the authority of the entire society.

They should also pay some attention to the press, demanding a proper recognition by the editors, and securing the insertion in local papers of reports and statements that would favorably impress the public, and promptly defending the cause against unfriendly statements and comments.—Banner of Light.

There is no beautifier of complexion or form, or behavior like the wish to scatter joy and not pain around us.—Emerson.

them, the more they flourish. At the time of the trial they could not have been more than a few families. I suppose there are 50,000 to-day. Yet Plotzine died only in 1872. These men take the Bible very seriously," continued he, "particularly Matthew, xiv. 12. 'And there be cucumbers which have made themselves cucumbers for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it.' Another verse (2oth) in the same chapter is interpreted by them as fortifying their view: 'And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundred-fold, and shall inherit everlasting life.'—Poulney Bigelow, in Harper's Magazine.

INDIAN FAKIRS' SECRET.

The editor of the Medium and Daybreak comments as follows on the marvelous feats of the fakirs of India: "Though these scenes are revolting, yet much instruction may be derived from them. In co-operation with spirits these mediums exemplify the philosophy of 'psychoplasm,' about which we talk occasionally.

The tissues of the body can be reduced to fluid or gas, and which can be operated on by the human will or influence of spirits, to take any form or fulfill any purpose. It becomes the materialized spirit form, and it is seen to pass from the side of the medium like a white vapor. It is the instrument by which tables are moved, raps produced, objects carried, and all kinds of physical phenomena manifested. It is used to pass matter through matter and to carry objects great distances. It is employed by the healer to benefit the sick, and it transmits thought from brain to brain, and brings kindred souls into sympathetic relation through hundreds of miles apart.

These fakirs know how to evoke and manipulate this power or element at will. Mesmerists know something of the same kind of work. We have ourselves seen serious injuries overcome instantly before the pang of pain attending them could be felt. There are now nurses who use this power on their patients. Good nursing has always been considered superior to doctorcraft. A fragile patient may go under the most terrible operation, and thus nursed will pull through in a remarkably short time. Some persons' presence and touch are health, those of some others are poison; when this is understood disease will not only be more speedily cured, but it will be prevented; when surgical operations are needed the sufferer will readily recover.

As to the facts, do we not see them on a small scale in mesmeric entertainments? In a report of some experiments at St. James' Hall a few years ago, it was stated in these columns that the subject while under mesmeric influence had needles thrust through the muscle of his arm, and went amongst the audience and exhibited the fact. When the needles were withdrawn, and the mesmerist passed his hand over the spot there was no scar left. It is worthy of study. Is it not possible for every individual to cultivate this healing or invulnerable power? If not, the few could do so much to the advantage of others.

MUSICAL CULTURE.

Most people have some latent musical faculty, and this is capable of development. The notion has, at any rate, died out that it was effeminate for a man to play the piano, and impossible for a woman to play the violin. It is not so long since, in the upper classes, no girl's education was considered even approximately complete without a large amount of piano-forte drill—music it shall not be called—while a certain proficiency in this respect was too often held to atone for the absence of all other culture. The violin, on the other hand, was held to be good only for men; perhaps we should restrict the term, and say, for fiddlers. Boys now and then learned a little of the instrument at school, a knowledge soon to be dropped and forgotten. The difference now scarcely needs to be pointed out. Boys and girls in numbers, and not a few who are no longer boys or girls are learning to play on the violin and other stringed instruments. The discovery has been made that, though a virtuoso must certainly begin early, it is not necessary to practice half the day at four or five years old in order to be a good useful player at twenty. Ensemble classes and school orchestras show that on our amateurs the truth is at last dawning that unlimited solo performance is not the ultimate aim of all musical training, that while only a gifted few can attain to high individual excellence and finish, the combination of many atoms of good, too small to be of any use singly may result in an effect which is not only good but great, so long as music, self-display, is the object sought after.







Women's Corner.

Written for The Better Way. Where Have They Gone? FRED L. WILKINSON. I sat in the deep midnight musing...

Where the gloom in the long vacant rooms Of the crumbling ruins of Uxmal...

What is life? A. J. Davis defines life as the outward expression of divine thought...

Whittier says: "These can be understood only by him who feels that God is good..."

Edward Gibbon looks upon life as a development of hidden forces, but says that every thing human must of necessity retrograde...

SPONGING OUT A HEADACHE. In case of an ordinary nervous headache from which women suffer so much...

Every woman knows the aching face and neck generally brought home from a hard day's shopping...

KATHLEEN MAVOURNEEN. Kathleen Mavourneen. The song is still ringing As fresh and as clear as the trill of the birds...

Who does not remember Kathleen Mavourneen, the beautiful Irish melody that divas have warbled...

DRAMA OF THE MAIL. A letter once mailed no longer belongs to the sender, but is the property of the person to whom it is addressed...

It was their intention to raise one more large sum of money, part of which was to be contributed by a business friend of one of them...

The receiver showed it to her husband, whose suspicions were aroused. He made an investigation, and as a consequence the dishonest firm was broken up...

SCIENCE OF VENTILATION. The healthy atmosphere in a room is one in which the air is changed to the extent of 3,000 cubic feet per hour per adult inmate...

The great desideratum in the admission of fresh air is to cut it up into very fine streams, something in the way water is cut up in passing through the fine nose of a watering can...

LITERARY. New Thought, of Chicago, Moses Hull & Co. publishers, for September was an exceptionally good number as a spiritual publication...

THE FREE TRADE STRUGGLE IN ENGLAND. By Gen. M. M. Trumbull. 288 pp. Price, Muslin 75 cents; Paper 25 cents...

LIFE IN TWO SPHERES. After reading this book, by Hudson Tuttle, I regard it as one of the most valuable contributions to spiritual literature...

Female Weakness Positive Cure. Please inform your readers that I have a positive cure for the disease which arises from deranged female organs...

PERENNIAL HAIR RENEWER. ABSOLUTELY UNFAILING. No Patent Preparation. Natural Remedy. Not a dye; contains no harmful ingredients...

CUBA. Signs are not lacking of another domestic convulsion in Cuba, and as usual, the cause of it is to be found in the outrageous treatment of the Cubans by the home government...

In view of the probable renewal of the conflict between Spain and the Cubans, it may become necessary for the American Government to adopt a decided policy...

A Relationship Problem. Two ladies out walking met a gentleman: he raised his hat to one, and the other said: "Do you know that gentleman?"...

UPWARD STEPS OF SEVENTY YEARS. By GILLES B. STEBBINS. The author has taken part in the leading reforms of the past fifty years, from the "martyr days" of the pioneer anti-slavery movement...

MRS. COLBY-LUTHER'S LECTURES. WHO WAS JESUS CHRIST? A radical lecture delivered before the Brooklyn Society of Spiritualists, Dec. 13, 1889...

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The editor will receive questions upon these conditions... Must be free from dissensions and equalities...

QUESTIONS.—Does the ferment in the orthodox system of religion mean emancipation from creedal tyranny and a coming reign of liberalism and natural religion?

ANS.—It will be a long time before an entirely outgrown bondage to creedalism. Yet every agitation and discussion before ecclesiastical assemblies is an indication of growth toward freedom.

When life, spirit, and mind, with their wonderful powers and possibilities, are understood even in part, then the most natural thing will be the interchange of thoughts and communion of souls...

What we now term Modern Spiritualism is the science and philosophy of life and the natural religion of man.

QUESTIONS.—What is the attitude of the spirit world regarding the prohibition movement in this country? Is there a better or more speedy method of abolishing the saloon?

ANS.—The attitude of the spirit world upon this question is similar to that of your world. Spirits as individuals differ in opinion as to what would be the surest method of overcoming this evil.

There are lands where wine is as common a daily beverage as is coffee, and is used with as little harm.

As people from such countries form a part of our own nation and government, there is no one standpoint as to ways and means to be used for the correction of the liquor traffic.

Wherever prohibition has been tried, it has been found ineffectual, at least in a great measure; for men will resort to deception, intrigue, and falsehood in order to evade the law.

The drug-store and, in many cases, the family grocery-store become as dangerous a resort as the saloon which preceded it. The spirit of free masonry, as it might be termed, which exists among this class of men, renders the dealer comparatively safe from the law.

From the simple wine and cider presses of the earlier times up to the mammoth manufactories and adulterated abominations of the present day there is a long distance.

Maankind must be taught the meaning of life and the necessity of making a wise use of the body. For if a person

really understood the relation of the soul to the brain and the body, he would not lead a life of ineffectuality. And if parents understood the laws governing life, and the effect of thought even upon the sensitive germ, they would oftentimes change their manner of living.

It is through a knowledge of these things that a cure is to be effected. Educate the individual to a knowledge of the injury done himself morally, spiritually, and physically by wrong doing.

When parenthood and the laws of heredity are understood then drunkards, thieves, murderers, and morally diseased children will not be born.

MISCELLANY.—HEIGHT OF AURORAS. Experiments made at the Royal Danish Academy have demonstrated approximately the height of the aurora borealis.

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In making railroad tunnels, cuts, etc., and in sinking wells and pits in Nevada, Utah, and Arizona, salt strata are often struck at varying depths, sometimes as much as a hundred yards beneath the surface.

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Fort Atkinson, Wis.

The many friends who are following me in this journey through the columns of your paper...

PERSONALS.

M. R. P. - Would be pleased to hear from you in your hour...

PUNCT PARAGRAPHS.

The state of Illinois is about to become a spiritualist state...

MOVEMENTS OF MEDIUMS.

Mr. W. B. ... has been advised by the Society...

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Testimonial.

Dear Sir—The Melted Pebble Spectacles with gold frame ordered from you I received nearly two months ago...

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