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THE BETTER WAY

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C. C. STOWELL, MANAGER
SIDNEY DEAN, EDITOR
A. F. MELCHERS, ASS'T EDITOR

EDITORIAL.

THINK much, speak seldom.

WHEN truth hurts we must look within to find the cause that made it hurt.

THE first strike in the United States occurred in Philadelphia in 1796 among boot-makers for higher wages.

JUDGING a man by what he says is like forming an opinion of a city mansion. The front of brownstone; the back gate chiefly ash-barrel.

MR. BLACK, the novelist, has announced that he will make Mr. Andrew Carnegie the central figure of his forthcoming novel. Where will Mr. Frick come in, who risked his life to carry out his master's will?

THE paper upon our second page entitled "Immortality and Modern Thought" by Prof. H. D. Barrett, was delivered at Cassadaga Camp, and reported especially for THE BETTER WAY. Though long, it will well repay perusal.

THE testing acid of common sense should be applied to every particle of the golden ore of spirit messages or phenomena, so that no "fool's gold" will be accepted in all honesty, in the place of the sterling metal of truth and life.

THE dress-reform agitation of our lady friends seems to be in accord with nature, as the amount of whalebone now taken annually is less than half the amount of a few years ago, and in addition to which the price has been just raised from 50 cents to \$6.00 per pound.

REV. H. MCQUEARY, who exchanged the Episcopal for the Universalist Church a year or two ago, has become an ardent student of Spencer, and now writes: "Evolution settles the question of the atonement. Salvation does not mean escape from a distant, burning prison, by reason of Christ's death, but means escape from sin."

ON HIS deathbed John Knox is credited with having said: "I have meditated upon the state of the Church, the spouse of Christ. I have fought against spiritual wickedness in high places, and I have prevailed; I have tasted of the heavenly joy, where presently I shall be! Now, for the last time, I commit soul, body, and spirit into His hands. Now it has come."

WE WOULD respectfully remind those good Christian people who are constantly asking us to point out our charitable institutions, that Christianity lacked these many centuries after its appearance on earth. As Spiritualism has made greater progress in forty years than Christianity did in three hundred, it is likely that our institutions will make their appearance consistent with our growth.

DR. HIRSCH in the *Reform Advocate* expresses himself rather severely on the pretended conversions that so often precede the marriage between Jews and Christians. He does not oppose their intermarriage, but says that "conversion under these circumstances is apt to add a bitter drop to the cup of felicity by insisting upon a sacrifice on the part of one, which sooner or later will become a disturbing element."

THE call to arms in three great States against laborers does not show a very healthy social system. Of course, both sides can logically prove their rights, yet neither are to blame for the wrongs that will naturally grow out of the encounters. The primary cause of the troubles is not to be sought on the field of action, but in the selfishness of the corporations that are endeavoring to amass fortunes at the expense of bread-winners. In all such demonstrations the real culprits generally escape the sufferings which they have brooded.

TWO members were recently expelled from a Protestant Church at Mitchell, Ind., because they advocated the purchase of an organ. Either this congregation is very unmusical or it is forty years behind the age. Nothing adds more to the glory of religious worship and inspires the heart to truer devotion than music. It is the earthly symbol of spiritual harmony. Its antithesis is discord, symbolized by the expelling of brother members.

WHEN the Romans manumitted a slave, his head was adorned with a small red cloth cap. As soon as this was done he was known as a libertinus, or freedman, and his name was registered among others of the city's "tribes." In the year 263 when Saturninus invaded the capital, he hoisted a cap on the point of his spear, to indicate that all slaves who rallied around this standard should be free. This was the origin of the liberty cap still used in art as a symbol.

THE Boston *Watchman* thinks public prayer should be carefully premeditated as to its thought if not its phraseology; and that, "in our revolt from the liturgical prayer we have gone to the extreme of praying extemporized thoughts with extemporized feelings." A demand for a compromise will perhaps be the outcome of the above, but with it may arise the question whether prayer has a scientific basis. Thinking preachers are not above asking such "infidel" questions now-a-days.

How would the editorial management of the *New York Tablet* feel if we should substitute for "the public or common school system" in the following excerpt the words "Romanist or parochial school." The substitution might be made with far more truthfulness than is contained in their anti-American statements:

"The public or common school system, is a swindle on the people, an outrage on justice, a foul disgrace in matters of morals, and should be abolished forthwith."—*New York Tablet*.

PROF. PUTNAM and his assistants, while engaged in collecting material for the ethnological exhibit at the World's Fair, have made a very important archaeological discovery near Fort Ancient, O. It is that of a serpent mound 1,900 feet long and about 10 feet thick. This is by far the largest known "serpent" constructed by the mound-builders of prehistoric times, and is regarded as one of the most notable of American antiquities. The mound-builders' works there had been recognized before, but it was not known that they constituted a huge "serpent." Many valuable relics are expected by Prof. Putnam from the excavations now being made.

A CHICAGO newspaper writer, who evidently has a grudge against Queen Victoria, let forth a gush about her "discreditable" conduct in "compelling" Mr. Gladstone to take the tedious and dangerous trip to the Isle of Wight for the ceremony of kissing her hand as head of a new government. If Mr. Gladstone is able to travel hundreds of miles electioneering in England and Scotland, it is doubtful whether a journey of two hours ride from London would prove very tedious or dangerous to him. Though in his eighty-third year, he is a "grand old man" still, and no common medium for the higher powers.

OUR Mexican neighbor, too, is beginning to think that economy and a republican form of government go hand in hand, and therefore is seriously considering the question of reducing her army. This is a good move, inasmuch as it is a progressive one, and shows that the warlike spirit of Mexico's thinking population is being allayed. Nor is she in any imminent danger from an adversary. Uncle Sam will not molest her without a very good cause; and to keep up an expensive army for an expectant war is a waste of fuel which could be utilized for purposes of revenue. It is expected that the military expenditures can be reduced about \$12,000,000, which is certainly an enormous sum for Mexico. Let the olive branch be placed above the cross and battle-flag.

INTEGRITY, CHARITY, UNITY? Because we can give a heartier amen than was ever uttered from heart or lips of orthodox Church disciple, to the following appeal from the pen of the veteran editor of the *Banner of Light*, we give it the most conspicuous place in our columns, trusting that every true Spiritualist will take it to heart, and seek to bring him or herself into full harmony with its inculcations.

It is time that Spiritualists in the mundane were a unit with the forces in the super-mundane, not only for the defence but for the advance of our grand philosophy of life. To us, this appeal possesses a pathetic element.

"The *Banner of Light* thinks (and so, we feel confident, do all consistent Spiritualists), that it is high time the old experienced workers in the cause, and all who are honestly interested in the presentation of true Spiritualism, free from personalities and sensationalism, should unite and work together in harmony.

"If something of this kind is not speedily adopted, those who have given many of the best years of their lives to the work, such as the grand platform speaker, Cora L. V. Richmond, and others, will have to take a back seat, and allow theologians to usurp the prerogatives of the advocates of genuine Spiritualism.

"Prominent spiritual workers, have you ever thought of this—the present tendency of things?

The pioneers of our cause—such men as John Pierpont, Judge Edmonds, S. B. Brittan, Charles Partridge, Dr. Gray, Dr. Hallock, Dr. H. F. Gardner, A. E. Newton, H. C. Wright, Thomas R. Hazard, Achsa Sprague, William and Mary Howitt, and a host of others of the grand workers of the olden time—send down from their abodes in the spirit world their protests against the inharmonies existing in our ranks, and advocate unity of action above everything else!

"It behooves all Spiritualists, wherever located, to unite in the bonds of fraternal intercourse, to the end that our glorious cause may more rapidly expand in usefulness all over the civilized world!"

THE constantly recurring notices of spiritualistic phenomena and of psychical teachings and belief in our daily secular newspapers, is one of the most encouraging signs of the times. The spirit of inquiry and investigation is steadily increasing among our most intelligent classes of society, and the now old, rusty, and time-worn shackles of creed and dogma are dropping one by one from the minds and intelligences of our free American people. Let the good work go on, and soon to be a Spiritualist will be considered not a mark of mental weakness or lack of intelligence, but an honor which can be attained only by purity of life, of thought, and of aspiration.

A WRITER in the *Chautauquan* thinks that dietetic causes are perhaps most to blame for the nervousness of American children—tea and coffee, late hours, tight clothes, small shoes, and insufficient exercise doing the fell deed which leads to sallow faces in youth and nervous prostration later. But does the writer forget that overtaking the mental faculties of children—as is largely the case to-day—affects physical digestion, sleep, and growth, and make the above but secondary causes? We believe a little less parental pride in seeing their children "take the prize" at school would result in a larger census of hearty children than a study of dietetic laws. We have proofs to that effect all around us. Let a medium course be pursued.

CORPOREAL punishment is no longer permitted in the public schools of New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Minneapolis, Erie, and many other smaller cities, nor in the State of New Jersey, where it was abolished by law in 1867. It has also been abolished in many American prisons, especially in those that make any pretensions of being first-class institutions of their kind. In some States such punishment is prohibited by law, but in most of them the spirit of progress has found its way to the soul of the managers or wardens. Corporeal punishment is degrading to the sensitive-minded, and has more effect for ill than good in the end, for it brutalizes and brutalizes. Discipline with

kindness in the act often makes the culprit a willing convert to the will of his superior or chief, and aids the moral nature of the individual in that it allays the spirit of revenge. Spiritualism is an advocate of all reforms that will lessen human suffering, and especially that inflicted by one mortal on another.

BRAINS.

The late Professor L. Bischoff, the distinguished physiologist, of Munich, was, it appears, says the *New York Commercial Advertiser*, fond of insisting on the intellectual inferiority of women to men, a fact which he attributed to the relative lightness of the female as compared with the male brain. As the result of laborious research he had found that while the average weight of a man's brain is 1,350 grammes, a woman's only weighs 1,250 grammes. The fair sex must have felt itself amply avenged when, on the ungalant professor's death, his brain was found to weigh only 1,245 grammes. The ladies will probably say that this is only what might have been expected, and there is a poetical justice about the denouement which makes one wish that the story may be true. The moral of the affair seems to be that men of science who deny the intellectual equality of the sexes on the score of relative weight of brains should leave strict injunctions that their own brains are not to be examined after their death.

THE PASSION PLAY.

The recent hopes of many that the spirit of false piety had sufficiently died out in this country to tolerate a performance of the Passion Play, was rudely shaken when the same old opposition was manifested that reigned at the time that Salmi Morse endeavored to produce it and was prohibited. It is doubtful whether the public care so much for the play as they do for the spirit of tolerance that permits it to be played. If painters, sculptors, and poets are permitted to take their subjects from the Bible, there is no reason why the Church should object to the portrayal of these subjects by actors. It would perhaps prove a better school of instruction than listening to tiresome orthodox sermons upon the same subjects. If the Church does not object to using the stage for beneficiary purposes when its treasury is to be aided, or to selling and raffling pictures and figures of characters taken from the Bible, why should it harbor such a silly abhorrence for the stage? Of course, the Passion Play will not be given, because the managers themselves declined the invitation to do so; but it is well to touch upon truths occasionally that may help along those in orthodox darkness.

THE LEAVEN WORKETH.

In Rome, the former stronghold of the Pope and his followers, on August 7th, a riot between the clerical and anti-clerical parties occurred with considerable fighting and tearing down of standards. The liberal party tore down an Italian flag from a window in the Via Riffetta and bore it aloft in triumph, defying the Catholic societies to take it from them. In the fight which ensued, a Catholic banner which was inscribed, "Catholic Rome to Columbus," was torn to shreds and many of the combatants were injured.

Three little girls wearing the papal colors, yellow and white, first called forth the hissing of the Catholic procession, which incidentally was the cause of the riot.

A strong force of police was unable to subdue the mob, which paraded the streets, cheered the liberal newspaper offices, and filled the air with "vivas" and cries of "down with the priests, the enemies of Italy," "Down with the Vatican," "Viva Giordano Bruno!" A company of carabinieri was necessary to protect the papal palaces from the infuriated mob.

To judge from this and the kindred fact that the Pope is seeking to gain a foothold in free America, the course of papacy is working westward faster than is dreamed of by our unsuspecting citizens. The sooner the American people awaken to the fact that the Pope and his clergy are striving to get possession of the reins of our government the better. For if decided steps are not taken immediately the harm will have been done, and instead of a race of self-governing, free-thinking people, with equal justice and education for the poor or the rich,

irrespective of creed, we will be but a religious organization for the ends of a few, crushed into submission or worse by the iron heel of a papal despot, whose sole foundations for his assumption to this supreme power are founded on a baseless creed, which is itself the last relic of the darkest ages in the history of the race.

It is a significant fact that while no report of this rioting appears in our secular newspapers, every move, action, or decision of the Pope and his advisors is heralded far and wide.

MAY BE IMITATED.

The *English Illustrated* contains a contribution in which is described the privileges of the workmen on the Great Eastern Railways. The writer says, that there is an accident fund, to which each of the 5,260 workmen subscribes, a pension fund, and a saving bank, optional, and a contagious disease fund. The institution of the three former is due to the present well-beloved chairman; the latter is a workmen's movement entirely, and an excellent one, not only preventing the deprivation of the member's means of support when most needed, but by removing the risk involved in coming to work when disease is in their homes preventing the spread of infection among their shopmates. The company covers every subscription to the accident fund and pension fund with an equal amount, gives four per cent. interest on savings-bank investments, and supports a science and art institute and technical school, situated near the works, which has a library of nearly 7,000 volumes. Last, but by no means least, every person in the company's employ has the right to travel once a week, with any members of his family residing with and dependent upon him, to any point on the system at a fare of a farthing a mile.

SEAL-POACHING STOPPED.

For a dozen years past, says the *New York Press*, poaching on the seals in Behring Sea has been going on with varying degrees of success. It has been particularly active and pernicious during the past seven years. The reasons are not far to seek. When the United States first acquired Alaska it was generally understood that we had acquired also all the privileges which Russia had exercised over that country and its contiguous waters, including the privilege of taking seals within the eastern half of Behring Sea. As the years went on the great profits to be made in seal-catching induced the poachers to trespass more and more upon the breeding grounds. As is customary in matters where British subjects are concerned, British diplomacy was at length called on to uphold British interests in a new and unwarrantable interpretation of existing treaties. The same thing has occurred again and again in many parts of the world. It has occurred more than once in our own history since the revolutionary war. It is a British habit to claim everything in sight, with the idea of making as good a bargain ultimately as possible. Arbitration has been arranged for as to the rights of the United States in Behring Sea, and pending the decision of the arbitrators the sea is policed by both British and American vessels.

The latest reported seizure, that of the whaler *Lydia*, following that of the *Jane Grey*, has discouraged any further poaching in Behring Sea. The *Jane Grey* tried to hoodwink Commander Evans by pretending to be a whaler pure and simple, but the trick was found out; and since that time every whaler has been searched and sealskins have been found on nearly all of them. This policy has now been so successful that poaching has virtually come to an end, and the danger, which before was imminent, that the seals might be exterminated, appears now to be happily passed.

HOW TO INVESTIGATE.

The following very intelligent bit of advice is given by the undersigned in *Boston Investigator*:

"If a person wishes to test a medium, let him furnish the slates himself, and keep them in his own possession until they are wanted, and then keep one hand on them so that they can not be opened, but place the pencil in yourself, and do not let the slates go out of your possession, the medium holding one and you

the other, and there will be no writing on the slates. By one who has been there. S. S. Call, of Lancaster, N. H."

Every Spiritualist who desires a friend to have absolute proof of spirit-communication through slate-writing, gives the same advice, but adds, "if there is no writing on the slates, try another medium, and continue this until you find the one whose magnetism will furnish your spirit friends with the necessary power to manifest."

If every investigator were to permit himself to become discouraged on account of his failure to obtain a test at his primary sittings with mediums, there would be few converts through physical phenomena. Experience shows that harmony between the spirit friends of the investigator and the medium is the first essential in the science of spirit-communication. After that there will be less difficulty because an avenue has been opened for further advice.

Those who contemplate searching for truth concerning the future, should not listen to "one who has been there" and got nothing, but to him who has been there and found what he was seeking. Many, however, find it in their first attempt, having allowed themselves to be led intuitively and without mortal advice. Spirit friends, in such instances, show the way. But when men know too much themselves, intuition is shut out and they grope in darkness. Spiritualism is a strictly spiritual science, and seems to find favor with those best who make the least pretensions to being wise. This seems to be the right condition for all, whether priest or laymen, rich or poor, and in this it is neither sectarian nor bigoted, secular nor politic, but comes to all who earnestly desire to know, to learn or to advance spiritually, intellectually, or otherwise. Spiritualism is the world's revelation, though to be sought individually.

FORCE OR ARBITRATION?

To judge from the number of strikes, riots, and disturbances, volcanic and otherwise, that have recently occurred, the astrologers must be right in their belief that the planet Mars exercises a stirring influence upon the inhabitants of the earth.

Never before in the history of this country has there been such activity in labor circles, and every disturbance so far can be traced directly to some demand of labor, which has been peremptorily refused.

The desire for equal rights, and the rebellion against the dictates of capital has found vent in armed resistance to the enforcement of obnoxious measures.

What does it signify? Are the workmen seizing the first opportunity to harass their employers, or, is it a move for the better? We sympathize fully with the aims of the strikers—a desire for a hand in the contracts which they are to fulfill, and in their demand that free labor shall not be forced to work in competition with convicts, hired from the State at a low wage—but we unhesitatingly condemn the mode of action they have taken to gain this end.

Can concessions from individuals be gained by the destruction of inanimate property or by the blood of the citizen-militia who are obliged by their oath of fealty to protect the institutions of the State and the public safety? No. That idea is erroneous, anarchistic, and suicidal. The result of such action upon the public mind is directly opposite from that sought by the strikers.

Such scenes as have been enacted at Buffalo, and in the mining regions of Tennessee during the past week are a disgrace to our country.

Brute force was the power employed in the middle ages, but it has been outgrown. Its day of usefulness is over, and every return to it, is contrary to the genius of our republic, and the dictates of our civilization. Arbitration and the ballot-box are the only means by which the desired results can be attained.

The animal nature is still strong in man, but let us hope that the future will see no repetition of the horrors of the past few months and that labor and capital may be as brothers working for the same end, the betterment of both, rather than bitter opponents whose constant enmity not only incites both to harsh measures, but forces the public to take grounds which ordinarily it would be far from doing.

"In unity there is strength," and the unity of the interests of labor and capital, means strength to the laborer, strength to the employer, and last, but not least, strength to the institutions of the State, and the foundations of our government.

IMMORTALITY AND MODERN THOUGHT.

The question of life beyond the grave is one which has occupied the minds of men, almost from time immemorial.

The sons of men in all ages and nations have left records, which prove that they had a certain amount of religion—that is to say, a religion of some sort, even if it were fetishism, nature worship, or any other form of expressing the emotions of the soul.

Of the religions prior to Christianity, three will suffice for my purpose of illustration. Take the Chinese reformer Confucius, who lived about 550 years before the Christian era.

Although Confucius taught that there was a god, he yet said but little upon the subject. Reverence for ancestors and parents was the strongest point, perhaps, outside of the golden rule, in this reformer's teachings.

Let us next glance at Buddhists, a people whose moral lives at the present day even, will put many Christian nations to shame.

The one great aim of Buddhism, however, is to attend to this life—to live pure lives, and search for wisdom.

Next comes Judaism, out of which developed Christianity. The Bible has preserved for us the history of this religious system and people who have done so much for the advancement of the world, as some writers say.

In that great and beautiful poem the book of Job, the Hebrew thought finds its noblest expression, and it says nothing whatever about immortal life—its tone is one of despair, and sees only blank darkness after the soul leaves the body.

Accepting, therefore, the spiritual manifestations of spiritual phenomena as there recorded, as genuine, it by no means follows that the Jews held any belief in a future life.

Turning now to the Greek and Roman world, we find there but little evidence that they possessed any knowledge as nations of the final destiny of man.

Herodotus tells us that those who were initiated into the Eleusinian mysteries were taught a more hopeful view of the future, and given some evidence in that direction, but what they were, we know not.

With the advent of Christianity, came other spiritual manifestations, which, as interpreted by Modern Spiritualism, we can accept with some qualification.

The so-called miracles of Jesus were but the results of a natural law, which even the medium himself but imperfectly understood.

The early days of Christianity were full of manifestations of spirit power. Jesus was a medium, and so were several of his apostles.

For many, many centuries the Church, as a whole, has either rested in the mere hope of immortality, or else has said nothing about it.

for he saw and conversed with them daily.

Until about a century ago, the religious thought of the world was Calvinistic—an arbitrary God, and eternal punishment were the characteristics—immortality was a matter of faith and hope without the proof of it.

Universalism arose teaching an equally arbitrary God, and an arbitrary salvation—men must be saved whether they would or not, immortality was also mentioned, but no proof given, falling back once more upon faith and hope.

Unitarianism came, adding more light and truth—denying the absurd idea of three gods in one and one in three, and affirming the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

The search for truth in religion was carried into the field of science, and earth, air, water, and fire were forced to yield their secrets unto men.

'Tell us, O princes and kings, ye rulers of earth, do our friends, whom ye have slain, yet live?' Once more comes back the mournful wail: "We know not—it is mystery still!"

Methodism came, bringing with it some light, and adding many gems to the starry crown of truth.

Universalism came, and brought with it more truth, doing away with endless torment, in hope, but offering no proof in fact.

With the tiny rap, Spiritualism was born as we have it at the present time. It brought the answer so eagerly waited for by humanity, to the query of life beyond the tomb.

The evidence offered by Spiritualism in proof of immortality is legion—slate-writing, materializations, spirit-photography, trance mediumship, inspirational speaking, table-tipping, rapping, spirit-telegaphy, transfiguration, all come in as parts of its physical or mental phenomena.

sciences as will feed them. The work that Spiritualism has done and its relation to modern thought so-called, still remains for us to consider.

Spiritualism has sole credit for taking away the fear of death by lifting the veil which hangs between the two worlds. By it, men have been made to see that it is truly not "all of life to live, nor all of death to die."

It has taught us the law of eternal progress; it has proved the truth of evolution. It places man squarely upon his own merits, and says "by them you must be judged, must stand or fall;"

Lastly, Spiritualism teaches the existence of an eternal spirit of life, diffused throughout the universe, whose love has created and whose wisdom guides all things material and spiritual;

Is Spiritualism related to the so-called modern thought? I think it is in some measure, and by Spiritualism, in my opinion, will come the rectification of all scientific errors.

future life, when there is a prospect of finding it. Cold intellectualism may do for Spencer and his fellow agnostics, but the truth is what the true scientist is looking for.

The teachings of the Spencerian philosophy and Modern Spiritualism are about as follows. The Spencerians deny the possibility of there being a future life, while we Spiritualists go to work and prove it by both objective and subjective proof.

Spiritualism is but forty years old, as we now have it. It has had to suffer as all new movements have, from the evil effects of parties who claim the name, but do not practice the virtues of Spiritualists.

Let scientists say what they may, Spiritualism is the beacon light of the nineteenth century that will guide all mankind into a haven of rest.

OMNISCIENCE.

There came to me, inspirationally, other thoughts than those presented heretofore, and which I am weighing. I will relate the circumstance and copy the message, that others may weigh its claims as well.

The day following, being Sunday, I read the chapter on invocations. I later fell to reflecting, and endorsed his statement that in elevating the soul by concentration of thought

I presently began to experience an intense pain in my right temple, so unusual, that I remarked upon it and marvelled that I thus suffered.

Reader, was I influenced to thus word my query, in order to draw forth the following:

"Can you not invoke in all seriousness those whom God's goodness endows with virtues that are helpful in one's associates, feeling that the power thus addressed must be superior and permeating mankind, and all nature for good where good is desired by our labors for mankind and self?"

Well, I am a doubting Thomas, wanting proof, but I shall leave my soul free to weigh the spirit's word. My soul longs daily for truth. And in its earnest desire I feel that it is growing.

MOUNT VESUVIUS. The crater of Vesuvius is an irregular round hole, about four hundred feet deep, and, it is said, about one thousand feet in circumference.

The inside of the crater, in some places, is very steep—too steep to descend at all; but in others it slopes more, about like a high place in a canal bank.

But the most curious thing about the crater is the fact that inside, about the middle, there rises a steep, sharp cone, exactly like the peak, or cone, which you have climbed, and looks like a huge funnel, little end up, set in the big hole down the side of which you have descended.

In the center of this little cone is a little crater, probably a hundred feet, may be more, across, but how deep no man knows; for no man ever looked down into it, or ever climbed up to it, or ever will.

THE FAIR FOUNTAIN.

One of the most beautiful and conspicuous features in the Columbian Exposition grounds will be the electric fountain that is now being constructed at the head of the basin.

BODIES FOUND THROUGH SPIRIT AID.

The events now to be narrated occurred in the year 1864. It was not forty miles from Boston. The persons chiefly concerned are these: A Mrs. C., who had been three times married to a young man, child of the first marriage, I shall speak of him by his first name, Charles, two sons by the second marriage, William and Joshua, aged respectively sixteen and thirteen, and Mrs. D., the one who played the principal part, and who tells the principal story. All these together with the other witnesses, are still living with the exception of the two boys, William and Joshua, around whose fate the story revolves.

of Mrs. C., and had been "dead" for several years, while the mother was then living with her third husband. Here then is the story. I have in my possession the account as given by Mrs. D., who is still living and is a personal acquaintance. I have the account of her daughter, who well remembers it all. I have also the account of Mrs. C., the mother of Mr. C., the father-in-law, of the elder brother, Charles, of the sister of Mrs. D. of the lady who was at that time postmistress of the town, of a man who came into Boston after grappling irons with which to search the lake, and also of two or three other persons whose names, if given, would be recognized as connected with one of the distinguished men in American history.

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As I went into the room, Miss Ann said, "Isaac, ask me twenty questions, and I will write you the answers." The old lady said, "Miss Ann is a writing medium. I wrote out the questions and then notified her and she would write the answers; there was not one word spoken by either. After we got through, my father signed his name to it just the same as he always did. He would write Seely first, then bring a mark over and write thus, Seely, Obadiah. I took the answers and went to Mr. Smith's and went to the door to ask for a hoe. His daughter, Mrs. Lewis, whom I never saw nor she me, met me at the door. I stepped in, and she said, "Isaac, ask me the same questions, and I will write you the same answers." I sat down and took my book and read over the questions mentally, and obtained the same answers. Now I have just stated facts as they transpired. My father was dead before Mrs. Starr or Mrs. Lewis were born, and Mrs. Lewis had never seen me.

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The boys' father was the second husband

to Mr. Starr's to see an old revolutionary

THE BETTER WAY

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CINCINNATI, AUGUST 27, 1902

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One of the wisest of the Grecians strove to impress the idea that we are not certain of anything. Mediumship is a part of that boundless field of uncertainty. The more one tries to understand it, and the more one gathers up facts thereof, the more we discover that we stand in a puzzle garden...

This lands us at the fact that all forms of mental effort are based upon similar principles, and that mediumship is more natural and wider in its application and exercise than is generally conceived...

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The total size of the area is about 500,000 square miles, one-half the size of the Mediterranean sea. On June 21 a small dark spot appeared in the southern snow cap. Later this spot lengthened rapidly, and early in July it was a thousand miles long, dividing the snow in half.

Small, dark areas, surrounded by snow, appeared on July 10th, and two days later I first saw a dark line in the fork of a Y-shaped mark in the direction of the seas. The line became more conspicuous on July 14th, and on the 16th a dark area about the size of Lyke Erie appeared on the northern side of the stem of the Y, which was connected with the northern sea.

This had grown much fainter by July 23d, and a new area appeared to the south of the northern sea, concealing its outline. The line in the fork of the Y had disappeared, but the area of the Y had extended. On July 24th a large dark area, apparently either a lake or a sea, appeared near the melting snow, and on July 25th the southern branch of the Y became very narrow.

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The development of psychometric sensitiveness will often lead to the desired result of clairvoyant perception. In fact, clairvoyance, clairaudience, psychometry, healing, impressions, and ecstasies, are all possibilities inherent in the spiritual constitution of embodied man...

LEPERS AND ELECTRICITY

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SCIENTIFIC NOTES

No bird can fly backward without turning; the dragonfly, however, can do this and can outstrip the swallow in speed. More first magnitude stars are in the field of vision in winter than in summer. Sirius, Aldebaran, Procyon, Betelgeuse, Rigel, and Capella are bright stars seen in the winter months which are not visible in the evening hours during the summer.

NEWS ITEMS

Kossuth will be eighty-six years old on September 1st. Texas has the largest corn crop on record this year.

Denmark has established a quarantine against Russian ports. Wales was visited by earthquake shocks Wednesday night, the 17th inst.

The revolution in Honduras has ended in failure. It was a revolution that did not revolute.

Mrs. Watson M. Smith, of Bonn, Mich., has given birth to four sets of twins in ten years. The eight are all healthy.

The Novosti, of St. Petersburg welcomes Mr. Gladstone's advent to power as a happy augury of the consolidation of European peace.

The Berlin correspondent of the Times says that 180 Jewish families have returned to Bremerhaven from the Argentine Republic in a pitiable condition.

M. Deibel, the French executioner who guillotined Ravachol, has been turned out of his house by his landlord, who is very much afraid the anarchists will blow up his property.

Bismarck says that the clericals are at their old work of trying to undermine German unity. They can make better terms for themselves with a disunited than with a united Germany.

Confirmatory advices have been received of the burning of an Indian village on Queen Charlotte Islands. The fire was started by Christian Indians from Vancouver Island, who objected to the hanging of dead bodies on poles.

A frightful accident occurred on Sunday near St. Alfonso's Church, Rome, where a religious fete was in progress. While there were crowds of people present of both sexes and all ages, a mortar charged with dynamite exploded, killing eleven persons and injuring thirty-two.

OUR EXCHANGES

The Berlin correspondent of the Standard declares that the renewed reports to the effect that Chancellor von Caprivi is to resign and that he is to be succeeded by Count von Hatzfeldt, the German Ambassador to England are regarded in Berlin as absolutely incredible.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie is about to reap the fruits of his famous coaching trip to the Highlands, on which he was attended by Mary Anderson, Walter Damosch, William Black and other clever people. Mr. Black has just announced that he will make Mr. Carnegie the central figure of his forthcoming novel.

The smallest vessel that ever sailed from England to Africa has just arrived at Sierra Leone, having been thirty-five days on the way. The vessel, "The Queen," intended for trading purposes on some of the small African rivers in British territory, is only thirty-five feet long.

James G. Batterson, who has the granite contract for the \$6,000,000 national library building at Washington, says: The granite-cutters in New England have lost in wages by this strike about \$2,800,000. This would have purchased half a dozen of the principal plants in New England, with all the cash capital needed for the business. A few cents a day contributed by each man would enable them in a few years to buy out the plant and make their own wages without a resort to strikes.

Lieut.-Col. J. B. R. Streater, the Pennsylvania military martinet, long ago earned the sobriquet of "Natural Gas," because of his excess of enthusiasm in promoting the interests of the National Guard. He is a man of gigantic strength, of which he made a peculiar exhibition during the division encampment at Mount Gretna in 1890.

The deep sea explorations that have been conducted by the Austrian government in the eastern part of the Mediterranean show greater depths than any before recorded, and as a result, the great depression of this sea must be shifted considerably east from its former central position on the maps.

According to Nikola Tesla, the electrician, the new discovery of carborundum will largely increase the possibilities of electric lighting. Among these possibilities he mentions electric lamps operated without any wires at all, an inexhaustible store of electrical energy on tap everywhere without need of either generation or transmission, and a light at least twenty times more efficient than that now furnished.

Relief for Hayfever. Dr. Hoxsie's Certain Croup Cure has a specific action on the membranes of the throat and nose, and speedily relieves the obstinate visitation known as "Hayfever." It will in many cases remove the disease altogether, so that its recurrence need not be feared. In any case its soothing effects are miraculous. Solely P. Hoxsie, Buffalo, N. Y., manufacturer.

OUR EXCHANGES

It is believed that skepticism undermines mediumship. This belief is false, for all Spiritualists were skeptical in the beginning, but have been led by facts to know better.—Spiritualist's Bulletin.

Blay Mills says there is but one chance in a thousand for a man of forty to get into the kingdom of God. The only reason is that but one man of that age in a thousand is lazy enough to take stock in that mythical "kingdom."

A lack of social courage is a crying want of our political life. Only those who have tried to organize any independent movement to resist the domination of the "machine" or the "bosses" can realize how little political pluck the average voter possesses.—Return Advertiser.

We are required to believe certain things under the penalty of eternal damnation for disbelief, as if we could believe or disbelieve at will. Belief, if sincere, is founded on evidence. No one can believe a thing because he wants to, nor can he voluntarily disbelieve what has been proven to be true.

The mission of Liberalism is to wage honorable warfare upon ignorance, superstition and immorality, and not to nurse the sectional prejudices of a by-gone generation. Our weapons in this warfare are reason and common sense, tempered by kindness, love, and patriotic devotion to the whole country. Our opposition is to the errors and false doctrines of Christianity, to its superstitions, its bigotry and intolerance, and not to the Christians themselves, many of whom are personally blameless.

Mrs. Tyndall, Birmingham, now in her 83rd year, mentions in a letter that she has been "a total abstainer over fifty years, and a vegetarian." She has been for many years a hydropathist and health reformer, and likewise a Spiritualist. In her letter she further says:—

"I often wonder at the blundering of theologians and philosophers about the origin of evil; when it seems so clear that this comes in breaking the moral and physical laws, and that they thus bring their own punishment on them. God has given animals instinct, which alone prevents them from errors, but man with reason and conscience to regulate him according to the law theron written, tramples on them continually for the gratification of his passions."

"How well has Shakespeare put this question:— 'Heaven is most just, and of our pleasant vices Makes instruments to scourge us.' And Burns follows on the same lines— poor fellow, that he never could follow his own advice:— 'Know, prudent, cautious, self-control Is Wisdom's root.'"

In the great city of New York there are said to be thirty thousand women "dropping out of the ranks," every ten years, dying in want, in misery, in vice, their wretched condition being almost unnoticed, and their names and memories passing at once out of recognition. It is a dreadful fact to contemplate. New York is called a thousand-church city, which contributes hundreds of thousands of dollars every year for the "conversion of the heathen," yet it is thus shockingly indifferent to the worse than heathenism going on all the time in its midst.

It is passing strange that distant objects can be made to take on such exaggerated proportions in matters of pressed religion equally with those of practical money speculation. Do real Christians sincerely think that it is more pleasing in the sight of heaven that a Hindu woman should be saved from idolatrous practices than that the life of an American woman should be lifted out of the darkness into the light of happiness?—Banner of Light.

ESTRAYS

A vocabulary of the Eskimo language has been compiled by M. Rybery, a Danish official in Greenland. An alloy of gold and aluminum has recently been made. Its color is a most beautiful purple, and it will be valuable in making jewelry.

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Reunion of Old Sailors and Soldiers. Two coming important events of interest to sailors and soldiers of the late war will be the Reunion of the Naval Veterans at Baltimore, September 15th to 19th, and the Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic at Washington, commencing September 25th, immediately after the Sailors' Reunion. Interest in the reunion will be heightened by the presence of the White Squadron in the harbor at Baltimore. The U. S. A. K. Encampment will be the occasion of the greatest military assemblage in Washington since the grand review of 1865, following the fall of Richmond. For both of these events the Baltimore & Ohio Southwestern Railroad and the connecting lines in the West and Southwest will sell tickets at greatly reduced rates, and will grant most liberal concessions in the way of stop-over privileges. Tickets will be sold from September 15th to 19th, inclusive, valid for return journey on or before October 10th, and will be good to stop over, going or returning, at all stations between Cumberland and Baltimore—a region rendered familiar to all veterans by the constant warfare along the Potomac.

For more detailed information as to time of trains, rates, and sleeping-car accommodations, also for guide to Washington and map of battlefields, apply to nearest Ticket Agent, or address O. P. McCarthy, General Passenger Agent, Cincinnati, O. Relief for Hayfever. Dr. Hoxsie's Certain Croup Cure has a specific action on the membranes of the throat and nose, and speedily relieves the obstinate visitation known as "Hayfever." It will in many cases remove the disease altogether, so that its recurrence need not be feared. In any case its soothing effects are miraculous. Solely P. Hoxsie, Buffalo, N. Y., manufacturer.

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"The writer, says Mr. Cortes, brings another charge against Spiritualism, that of inconsistency because North American Spiritualists do not believe as we of the Latin race do, and adds that the spirits in their communications, accept or reject reincarnation according to which of the two countries they belong.

"That Spiritualists in North America and England do not accept a theory that we accept, goes to show simply that we each make use of our freedom of thought in considering a philosophical, moral or religious question.

"When he thinks about the differences of opinion among the spirits, does not Parson Miller come to the conclusion that these communications cannot be the work of the devil, whose interest it would be that his doctrine should be the same everywhere?

"Let us understand each other. Would any one believe a man to be dead because the man says he is? We think his assertion would be received with laugh-

ter as a joke or a mailman's notion. Well, such would be the effect produced by a spirit coming to tell us that he is a Materialist, i. e., that matter alone exists, and therefore no such thing as the spirit can survive the death of the material body.

"After that let the illustrious person say which is a farce, the struggle against Materialism or the communications from Materialist spirits.

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If Spiritualists throughout the land would unite in trying to down this purposeless extravagance what a help it would be. If we profess to think less of the body than others should we not practice as we preach? The money saved by adopting a plainer mode of burial would do a great deal of good if given to one of the Spiritualist homes spoken of in THE BETTER WAY.

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Correspondence.

Cassadaga Camp.

The interesting incidents of last week at our camp on Saturday evening with the regar dance in the amphitheatre which was highly attended...

On Sunday, the 17th it was said that three thousand people passed through the gate. Mrs. Becher-Hooker occupied the rostrum in the afternoon...

The week past has been a busy one, and the fair has engrossed much of the attention of the denizens of this popular resort. The ladies are being congratulated on all sides for the success that has rewarded their efforts...

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Friday July 23rd-Willard J. Hull and Emma R. Tuttle. Saturday July 24th-Mrs. H. S. Lake and Lyman C. Howe...

Monday July 25th-Conference. Tuesday July 26th-Willard J. Hull. Wednesday July 27th-Lyman C. Howe...

Friday July 29th-Conference. Saturday July 30th-Willard J. Hull. Sunday Aug 1st-Conference...

Tuesday Aug 3rd-Conference. Wednesday Aug 4th-Willard J. Hull. Thursday Aug 5th-Willard J. Hull...

Friday Aug 7th-Conference. Saturday Aug 8th-Willard J. Hull. Sunday Aug 9th-Conference...

Tuesday Aug 11th-Conference. Wednesday Aug 12th-Willard J. Hull. Thursday Aug 13th-Willard J. Hull...

Monday Aug 15th-Conference. Tuesday Aug 16th-Willard J. Hull. Wednesday Aug 17th-Conference...

Friday Aug 20th-Conference. Saturday Aug 21st-Willard J. Hull. Sunday Aug 22nd-Conference...

Tuesday Aug 23rd-Conference. Wednesday Aug 24th-Willard J. Hull. Thursday Aug 25th-Conference...

Monday Aug 27th-Conference. Tuesday Aug 28th-Willard J. Hull. Wednesday Aug 29th-Conference...

Friday Aug 31st-Conference. Saturday Sept 1st-Willard J. Hull. Sunday Sept 2nd-Conference...

Tuesday Sept 6th-Conference. Wednesday Sept 7th-Willard J. Hull. Thursday Sept 8th-Conference...

Monday Sept 13th-Conference. Tuesday Sept 14th-Willard J. Hull. Wednesday Sept 15th-Conference...

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Tuesday Sept 20th-Conference. Wednesday Sept 21st-Willard J. Hull. Thursday Sept 22nd-Conference...

Monday Sept 26th-Conference. Tuesday Sept 27th-Willard J. Hull. Wednesday Sept 28th-Conference...

Friday Sept 30th-Conference. Saturday Oct 1st-Willard J. Hull. Sunday Oct 2nd-Conference...

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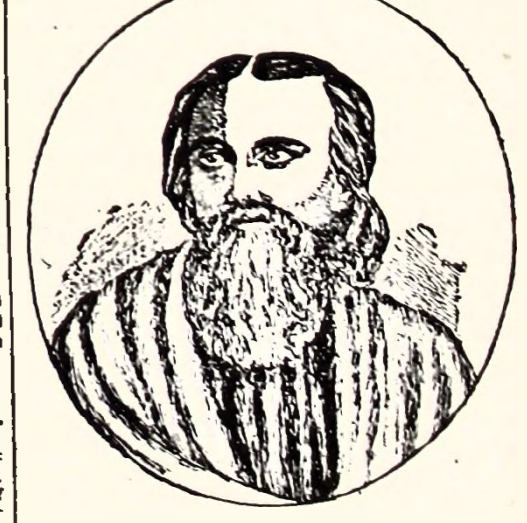
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Women's Corner.

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Women's Corner. The Fiddler of the White-Breast Water. The fiddler of the white-breast water...

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WOMEN ELECTIONEERING.

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SKILL OF PREHISTORIC LAPIDARIES.

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BUSTED'S

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THE SPIRIT OF A PHYSICIAN

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A STUDY OF WOMEN.

A STUDY OF WOMEN. An artist, an author, and a society woman in Boston recently compared their views upon the period in life when a woman is at her best...

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A RELIC OF BARBARISM.

A RELIC OF BARBARISM. Mrs. Annie Jenness-Miller in a lecture in the Battle Creek sanitarium, reported for Good Health, speaks thus strongly against that time-honored article of dress, the petticoat...

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UPWARD STEPS OF SEVENTY YEARS.

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WHY WEAR MOURNING?

WHY WEAR MOURNING? It seems a pity that the brief discussion by Mary Elizabeth Blake in the North American regarding the propriety of wearing mourning has not received more general attention...

LITERARY.

LITERARY. GLEANINGS FROM THE ROSTRUM. By A. B. French. Published by the Author, Clyde, O. 300 pp. Price \$1.00. Reviewed by Hudson Tuttle.

BRIEFS.

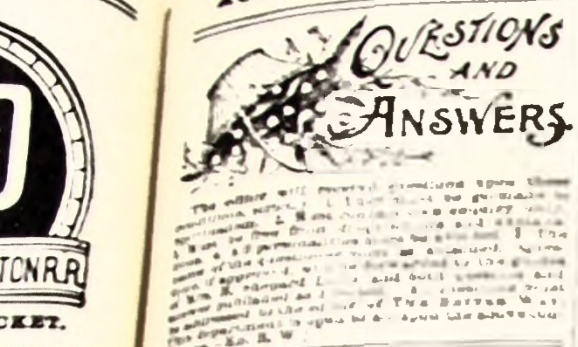
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THE BETTER WAY.

THE BETTER WAY. THE BETTER WAY can be found on sale in following cities: J. K. Cooper, 748 Market Street, San Francisco, Cal.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. The editor will receive questions from those who desire to see their questions published in this column.

QUESTIONS. 1. How can we know the true nature of our impressions and inspirations? 2. How can we know the true nature of our thoughts and feelings?

ANS. 1. We can know the true nature of our impressions and inspirations by comparing them with the word of God.

QUESTIONS. 4. Can you forecast the conflict between bigotry and superstition, as represented by the Roman Papal system, and free thought, free speech, and common sense, the natural outgrowth of education and our republican form of government?

ANS. All history records the unceasing conflict between truth and error, which will continue to be waged until every vestige of superstition shall have disappeared in the light of the knowledge of truth.

Sometimes the cohorts of truth are in advance, sometimes those of error, and when truth is making the greatest advancement, the van guards of error make the most desperate resistance.

OLD MOTHER EARTH. The amount of lime salts in water which drains from districts made up of granites and basalts is found by comparison of different analyses to be on an average of about 3.73 parts in 100,000 parts of water.

shall be solely supported by the sect which they represent and that institutions which are wholly or in part supported by public funds shall be unsectarian.

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Jamesville, Wis. One of the brightest and most energetic...

Mr. A. H. Person is considering to crowded...

Mantua Station, O. A few personal words are necessary that...

Brother M. C. Danforth, of Darrowville, is a...

The officers of the past year were all re-elected...

Pittsburg, Kan. On Saturday, July 16th, my wife and I visited...

Ashley Camp Opening. This day, the 20th of August, is a promising...

Lake Pleasant, Mass. The number of people on our campgrounds...

Haslett Park. At the meeting of the Directors of the Haslett...

Mrs. Adie Person is considering to crowded...

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Brother M. C. Danforth, of Darrowville, is a...

The officers of the past year were all re-elected...

Pittsburg, Kan. On Saturday, July 16th, my wife and I visited...

Ashley Camp Opening. This day, the 20th of August, is a promising...

Lake Pleasant, Mass. The number of people on our campgrounds...

Haslett Park. At the meeting of the Directors of the Haslett...

At the meeting of the Directors of the Haslett...

PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS. He dropped a sack in the path...

HE DREW THE LINE AT SNIGGERS. "Sniggers has got religion and is to be taken...

THE STRIKING MANIA REACHED A COLORED PREACHER...

By a unanimous vote of the congregation it was...

Two lovers' neath you poplar tree— She, sixty-five— he seventy...

Evangelist—Are you a Christian, Sing Yeh? Sing Yeh...

Mr. W., a "Sunday man"—one who could take his...

"Ah, then, your honor," here broke in the prisoner...

THE DIFFERENCE. To know whether a stranger is a Canadian...

MOVEMENTS OF MEDIUMS. L. M. C. Howe will be at Liberal Mo. from...

Mrs. A. E. Sheets, inspirational speaker, Grand...

Mrs. C. S. Cutler, trance speaker and psychometric...

Dr. Urah D. Thomas, trance and inspirational speaker...

Frank N. Foster, the well-known spirit photographer...

Campmeetings for 1922. Haslett Park, Mich., July 28 to Aug. 29...

Testimonial. CHASE CITY, VA., July 2, 1892. B. F. Poole, Clinton, Iowa.

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