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THE ROSTRUM.

QUESTION AND ANSWERS.

Discourse Delivered by Mrs. Nellie J. T. Brigham, before the First Society of Spiritualists, at Adelphi Hall, New York, Sunday Morning, September 22, 1889.

HOW SHALL WE TRY THE SPIRITS?

There is a commandment in the New Testament in relation to investigation. It says: "Try the spirits and see whether they are of God." And there is a test which we are to apply concerning the testimony of Jesus. If just a statement that the testimony was from God would satisfy us, why, friends, you would be at the mercy of every philosopher—of any man who might bring his sentiments and ideas and teachings to you for approval. If you wish to apply a test, (that is, acting on the letter of the commandment) you ask: "Do you believe in the divinity of Jesus?" And if he answered "yes," you would accept his doctrines. But would that prove the good or evil of his report? That his theories were correct, that his saying were worthy of your acceptance? A person might in pure selfishness and fanaticism have a theory or set of theories, and wishing to put a sort of stamp upon them that would make them acceptable, would say, "I believe in the divinity of Christ." Would that make his doctrines acceptable? Is that what it means when they tell us to try the spirits? Does it not mean that these theories must be in accordance with the theory and teachings of Christ? That is not what it says; it speaks literally, and the interpretation as you have it is condensed into the words. But if you remember that "the letter killeth, but the spirit maketh alive," you may understand the true meaning of the commandment: "Try the spirits and see whether they are of God."

There are those who believe in the literal answer of prayer, and they tell us they can prove by Scriptures that they are correct. They read that whatsoever we ask for in the name of Christ it shall be granted us. Do you think that is true? Suppose you own a house and your neighbor owns a house much larger, much more beautiful, and much more finely located than your own. Suppose you kneel down and pray for it, do you suppose the Lord has any right to make you a present of that house, because you ask for it in a certain

name, or because you use the old formal expression, "We ask these things for Christ's sake?" "Whatever ye ask and ask in my name, shall be granted unto you." If you take that literally it is the very spirit of injustice expressed in words. If you take that literally it takes you out of the realm of that which is right, it leads you away from everything which is reasonable.

What does it mean? We believe it means this: Whatsoever ye ask, ask it in the spirit of Christ and you will have the answer to your prayer—certainly it will come. A man cannot pray unjustly and pray in the spirit of love. He cannot pray in envy, in hatred, in anger, and pray in the spirit of Christ. This is an impossibility, because the real spirit of Christ (not speaking in the sectarian way, we do not mean this in the old, narrow way) is the spirit of purest love, the purest helpfulness, the divinest and loftiest spirit condition that has ever been attained. It is the spirit of kindness, the spirit of wholeness or holiness, and if you pray in that spirit you come into a holier atmosphere, into a higher condition, and all your life is in harmony with good, and the good flows to you naturally as it should.

This commandment, "Try the spirits, and see whether they are of God," has a double meaning. And you will find that much that has been given to the world that is most beneficial and far-reaching, has a sentiment which is deeper than the surface. See how nature gives to you her wonderful unfolding. Look at her layers of glory and beauty and color. Blossoms on the tree tops, blossoms on the branches of shrubs, blossoms among the grasses, as though she had her layers and strata of beautiful blossoming life. And beneath the grass and flowers you have the layers of earth. Nature builds in this wonderful and beautiful way below as well as above, and shows you the onyx with all its little layers of beauty and color, and all the various strata of the earth.

CO-OPERATION OF SPIRIT FRIENDS.

There are also these grades of spiritual conditions, and you will find that while there are those who can come to you in the spirit world in answer to your prayer, they come on a level with your prayer. Your need, or condition, or prayer, tends outward from the level of your life towards spiritual things, and the answer invariably comes—it never fails. Those who hate draw to them the thoughts of those who are like them. Those who are envious, draw to them the thoughts and feelings of those who are the same. Those who love must draw love.

Now in trying the spirits, one meaning is this: If they come to you from your various surroundings of life, from the spirit world—those who are drawn to, or needed in your nature—try them to see whether they are of God, see whether in you is the spirit of the Christ principle or the spirit of injustice. If there comes to you a communication from a spirit, and that communication develops selfishness in you it is of evil, but if it helps you to progress it is of good. If it develops hatred or injustice it is not of God or good, it is from those lower conditions of life—as one might say like the damp earth beneath the flowers. All good, like the blossoms, unfolds towards the light, and all evil clings to the shadows that lie heavily upon your nature. There is no pure aspiration in that which is evil or wrong.

Try the spirits, and see whether they are of God. There are people who go into the investigation of Spiritualism selfishly; they say they are interested in the subject, and when you come to sift their thoughts you will find that Spiritualism is to them a something that belongs to the lower conditions of life. They feel a gossiping interest for it, or they are trying to find some way by which they can rise in material things. But that is not the

best or noblest part of you, or of the spirit of Christ. But if you are taught anything that makes your life better, and sweeter, and nobler; if you are taught anything that helps you on to the heights and light of self-control; if you are taught to overcome some evil impulse in yourself; if you are taught to help others and reach outward with earthly sympathy, that shall make this world seem like heaven some time—that is the spirit of God.

"Try the spirits, and see whether they are of God." For by trying that which you like, you try yourself. Take your tastes and inclinations, if you want a little self-examination, take what you like the best, what interests you the most in this world, and by a little careful study of that you will study yourself. If your inclinations and material interests are on the lower level of life, you belong there. So when the higher nature in you is touched, that which shows you that these things are of little worth, then it is that you are trying the spirits, and seeing whether they are of God—whether of good or evil.

There is a spirit, friends, in everything. We have often told you before that there is a spirit of love in the flower. And it is the spirit of the flower that made the stars what they are, that made the yellow centre and all those little purple rays arranged about it, like the rays of some beautiful sun or star. It is the spirit of the aster that drew from the well of the rain, from the spring of the dew, from the heart of the sunshine by its little silent prayer for that which is needed, and everything answered, just as everything will answer you. Lo! this flower is in answer to a prayer. So with every leaf that was notched or tinted in the summer or autumn forests, the same great reason was there. There is a spirit in everything. Listen to the birds' songs as they warble in the evening twilight, or in the summer dawn when you hear the birds waken. First, a little low, sweet call from one branch, and an answer from another, and then the bright merry song of the robin and all the sweet birds that lone the forest solitude, and the song of the wood thrush from the heart of the forest—how lovely it all is. What is it that makes it? Why, do you think it strange that we tell you there is a spirit in birds—it is that spirit that gives it the power to sing.

And when you rise from beast to man—and sometimes it is not so very far—we find that the text of Scripture is true and that there is a spirit in man, and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth him understanding. You cannot be like anyone else. It is never wise or well to try. Human nature is like a tree or flower, it may be cultivated, made symmetrical and beautiful, and fruitful in all which is noblest and grandest; or it can be tangled and dark and unsymmetrical—it is for you to determine what it is to be. For you here and hereafter. But whatever life is here, there is a promise in the future, a promise of growth, of fruitfulness for every one that exists.

But turning from material to spiritual things, you will find that there is a spirit in truth. There is a spirit in ideas. Take some great movement—do you not speak of the spirit of reform? Whatever tends to make the movement successful, that is the spirit. Try these spirits and see whether they are of God. Try the spirit that lives in the wonderful life of politics—you will find a great deal in that which is not of God at all. Try the spirit that lives in education and you will find a life of progress—the spirit of God. Try that which concerns humanity, which tries to make better the daily life in sympathy, in helpfulness, in works of charity, in self-control. Friends, there is a kind of life before us which bears the sign of the white cross. What matters the sign? Wherever there is an effort to put pure thoughts in the young, to develop the boys and girls, and youths and maidens in that which is noblest and best

and highest—there is the spirit of God. Men may misinterpret, they may distort, they may abuse it, but at the same time the truth remains unchanged, the spirit of Christ is there. Christ is not the individual, but the spirit—that which moved and lighted the life of Nazarene is in every thought of good, every deed of kindness, every moral action that makes you purer, truer, stronger—it is the spirit of God everywhere.

So we want you to take the double meaning and try the spirits and see whether they are good. The spirit of a reform, of a book or picture, of a song—for there is a spirit in all. Try the spirit of anything that interests you in these great daily lessons of life. When friends from the other world come to co-operate with you, try these spirits and see whether they are of God. Do not take things for granted. Oh! if people would only think, and think deeper, how much better the world would be. Some simply say, "Well, that means that we are not to be credulous," and so they deny it all. Have you investigated or analyzed these things, or do you decide from prejudice? What we are to do is to think, to reason, to judge, to calculate, and all this mental str, all this effort to understand and analyze and appreciate, deepens and broadens our capacity. Have you never heard that certain teachings were brain-stretching? That certain teachings deepen and broaden your intellect? Whatever does that does you good. So try the spirits and see whether they are of good. "Prove all things, and hold fast to that which is good."

The mind. Is the mind the man? What makes the mind? Ideas, you say, are "positive entities." From whence are they derived? How does the mind get ideas? Are there true and false ideas? Thoughts. In what do they differ from ideas? How do we think? Can we think as we choose? Are not our thoughts involuntary? Can we train the mind?

The mind is the intellectual part of you, but that is not all. A man, as you judge the individual here on earth, is a complex being. Man is in himself the most wonderful of all magical combinations. Man is a microcosm. Man contains within himself a part of that which surrounds him. If you had nothing of God in you you would never say, "I see him in nature." If you had nothing of love in you you could never understand it in anything else that loves. But having it in your own nature you can see it in the mother bird, who robs her own breast to live her nest and shield her young. It is love that lights the world and makes you see all below. There is a cave, one of the most beautiful in the world, gleaming with starry stalactites, and wreathed with stalagmites lifted from pure altars of diamonds. Only recently discovered, for long ages these beauties lay in the dark. If you go in in the dark, it would be gloomy and desolate, it would be just as death is to people who have not the light of spiritual things—gloomy and sad and terrible, and pain in fleeting when we come in contact with it. But take a little—even a little light—a lighted taper will show you the answering light; but the greater the torch the broader the light that answers you. But you must take it to have the light.

Friends, do you know that this world is a cave, wherein the blessings of heaven are the stalactites that you cannot see if you have not the love torch in your own nature? It is a cave, where trials and obstacles and discomforts are these sharp sharp-pointed stalagmites, on which you stumble and find yourselves bruised and bleeding if you have not the light. Take this light of love, of nobler and better thoughts, and with this torch shining far and wide you will find the answering love in the world all about you.

What is the mind? It is the intellectual part of man. Here in this strange complex life that you are living it is

within the external, the husk, the covering. This mere shell, the covering, is what you are wearing—it is your garment. Inside of this robe of the body is a spiritual body, possessing far nobler qualities. Within this spiritual body is an innermost life—there is intellect and there is affection. The affection does not spring from the mind, the affection is from the deeper nature which the love of God is shown.

What makes the mind? Why, the mind is not a manufactured article. If it were, then those without any could buy some. The real intellect, the real nature of the individual, the inner life comes from the divine, is of the divine. But in this life of undevelopment, in this life that is ungrown, we are surrounded by various things that help to make the inner man.

You ask if ideas are positive entities, from whence they are derived. From the Divine, as Emerson puts it, from the Oversoul, from the Infinite One. How does the mind get these ideas, and are there true and false ones? How do you get the air? There is in your physical nature this necessity of inhalation, of respiration. You breathe the air in and you draw from it, without your knowing how you do it, that oxygen which you need, and then you give back that which you do not need and which has become poisoned by that which it takes from your physical body. There is respiration of the spirit, there is spirit-breathing, the inbreathing to the need, the answer to the demand—the spirit prayer and its answer. So it is that when you are in the right position—in the right condition—you receive ideas because you are receptive. As soon as you are receptive these good and beautiful things will flow in to you you will not need to ask in words, because the real asking is placing yourself in the condition.

Are there true and false ideas? We believe in positive good, and when you speak of false ideas, it is because of your human misconception—your human misunderstanding. You may take a perfectly straight stick and put it into water as clear as crystal, and just where the water begins, or rather where it ends, looking from the bottom up, there appears to be a break in what you know is straight. There are certain laws of light and refraction that produce this effect. It is not true, but it looks as though it were. Now if you can be mistaken and know you are at the same time, may you not be mistaken and not know it? Do you not know there are many things in this world that are called mistaken ideas that can be accounted for when you thoroughly understand them?

For instance, take a drunkard on the street. That man has a mistaken idea. That man has sought for something that gives him a certain condition of physical strength, or relieves him from some gnawing, or some feeling of exhaustion, or some thought of trouble or self. He has his reason for taking it. He is in pursuit of happiness. Does he find it? Does he find peace and happiness? Oh, how experience tells us that he is mistaken—that he has a mistaken ideal. Happiness is right, peace is right, it is right for people to seek for them, but the only happiness and peace and truth lie in that which is right, in that which is good, and so the sins and crimes and evils of this world are this world's mistakes—that is all.

What are thoughts? They are mental movements. How do they differ from ideas? An idea is a permanent thing, an entity, but a thought is something of the mind, or something that may come to you from some one else. For instance, you may stand upon a board that is perfectly still, and some one steps on the other end of the board. If it is not perfectly stiff there comes a vibration. That person started that vibration, and it changes the whole board. A thought comes to you from another from something that they say or look or do, and so you find yourself vibrating to their mental vibrations. So

you yourself do not always produce the thought that seems to be yours.

You ask if we can choose our thoughts, or if they are involuntary. Can we train the mind? Certainly you can train the mind. You can cultivate, develop, rouse, bring yourself to a higher level, make yourself receptive to nobler and better impulses, and by cultivating the good that you have you will lessen the evil that lies around you; by developing you lessen the undevelopment; by ripening you decrease the unripeness.

You ask if our thoughts are not involuntary? To a certain extent they are. They come from other things. Sometimes you start them yourself, others come back from far-off things that you wish you had never heard. Friends, you can arrange and develop life around you so that good thoughts will be your frequent guests. The best way to crowd out bad thoughts is by thinking good thoughts—they cannot stay in the same house, but will be home-ick and troubled, and leave. Evil thoughts! Why, they seem to us sometimes like persons that may come to your house. Your house has its windows and doors. People may come to your door that you do not wish to make your friends, that you would not wish to have for your guests. The person who comes may belong to those lower grades of life—of evil, as you would call it—that would not be pleasant to you. Oh, friends, you cannot help your callers, but you can choose your friends and companions. Do not let evil thought be your companion. Do not take it in and admire it. Take in good thoughts, fill up the rooms of your inner nature with noble and good and clean thoughts, and we do not know of better safeguards for you. The nature that is filled with light will not be troubled by the shadows. So seeking for the best and highest, you will have the co-operation of good spirits, and all your life will be blessed and ennobled.

Written for The Better Way. Odds and Ends. A physician advises, in order to recuperate exhausted energies, instead of going into the country, or take sea, or mountain, or forest air, which process is often very expensive, to stay at home and go to bed for days or weeks, as the case may require. Morning color is white in China, brown in Ethiopia, yellow in Egypt, violet in Turkey, black with most civilized nations. Dr. Brown-Sequard's is an elixir to prolong life, even to rejuvenate old decrepit persons. Experiments have proved it kills as well as cures. Now, as of old, a well regulated life as regards diet and enjoyments is still the best means of longevity and good health. The principal food-grain in America and France is wheat, in central Europe and Russia is rye, in Japan and China rice, in Scotland oats. The favorite beverage in Southern Europe and France is wine; in Northern, beer; in Ireland and Russia, whiskey. A plant has been discovered to make people laugh, sing, dance and cut up all kinds of capers. Coffee causes congestion of blood to heart and head, tea afflicts the nerves; ice water and ice cream shocks stomach and teeth, hence so much dyspepsia. The Bland silver dollar or dollar of the daddies, is anything but American. At its origin after the Revolution it was to replace the Spanish piastre, then the circulating medium in trade, the latest now coined has been designed and engraved by a young Englishman, George Morgan; the portrait of Liberty is taken of a Philadelphia young lady, Miss Annie W. Williams, a teacher of Kindergarten. It is to be regretted that the so-called trade-dollar was withdrawn by the Government, since it represents better in value and occupation its intent. Cotton seed, once considered little more than off-l to be burned, is now found to be profitable furnishing an oil and feed for cattle. The only original American architecture is the log cabin, and only original American monument, a chimney at Buiker Hill and at Washington.

Written for The Better Way.

DOES THE BIBLE CONTAIN ALL THAT IS NECESSARY FOR MAN'S MORAL AND RELIGIOUS DEVELOPMENT.

An Abridged Report of a Speech Delivered in Philadelphia During the Wright and Bartlett Debate.

BY J. CLERGIE WRIGHT.

In presuming upon a denial of this proposition, I do not wish to be understood as denying the useful and the good the Bible contains. A book may be a very good book and not contain all that is useful to be known on the subject on which it treats, but may be useful as far as its teachings go and can be applied to the daily needs of human life. A book may be a standard of truth and conduct in one age and not in another. Men outgrow books as they do their overcoat and change their spiritual needs as they do the store at which they buy their food. The Mohammedans could not get on with the Christian Bible, and the Archbishop of Canterbury would wax warm with rage if called upon to endorse the Koran as a supernatural production. It must not be forgotten that the object of our devotion, the nature of our religion and the sort of institutions we adore are fostered and regulated by the conditions of belief and worship of God in the country in which we were born. All Christian countries love God, Jesus Christ, and hate the devil of which they read in the sacred books. In these Christian countries the Christian religion is a great and wonderful institution. It has been a great religious educator for centuries; the hereditary influence of faith and devotion is very great on the minds of the people. The people living in these Christian countries cannot reason upon the foundations of their faith without bias or prejudice. For ages unbelief was a crime which merited death, and thousands of men have been put to death by saints who are now in heaven at the right hand of God. Men have been killed for expressing less heresy than I shall express to night; and probably those saints who gloated over the running blood of infidels, victims to their pious bigotry, may be hissing their hate on me to night, but it makes no difference. I abhor their execrable deeds as I would an endless life in their society; but do not run away, one moment with the idea that all these Christians entertain the same view the Bible, or give the same application to their beliefs, or indeed, even love one another, for I am sorry that the history of the feuds and divisions among Christians in all ages shows that Christianity is very bad, or that Christians do not understand and live the doctrines and moral teachings of Christianity.

During some pleasant days I recently spent in Chicago, I went out to Lincoln park and saw there a number of monkeys in a wire cage. They were all very happy and very cheerful as a community of monkeys. Looking at them I could not help appreciating their happy state, and the reality of their felicity. My joy vanished in a few moments for a boy threw into the cage some nuts and the hungry monkeys flew for the nuts, and then at each other with much temper and cruelty. When I read the history of the Bible and Christianity, I feel, oh! how happy man would have been if the priests had never made him a religion. There is something the matter with the Bible somewhere, or it would not make so much mischief in the world among men who assume to be learned, above temptation, and who daily claim to walk in the favor and love of God. It is the nut thrown into the cage. Without assuming an attitude of blasphemy I would humbly say this: If I had been God I would have made man so that he would have been mentally great and grand; that humility, dignity, benevolence, and justice would have been the powerful and ascendent qualities of his mind; I would have made him so beautiful in liberality and bountiful in love for his fellowman that universal justice would have been natural and social equality perpetual. It would have made it impossible for a tyrannical king to exist, or for a bigoted hypocritical priest to sow discord among mankind. But I find mankind imperfect and systems of religion manifest great errors of reason, and moral imperfections.

In contemplating the works of nature and the history of human society, I fall to see that the Providence of God aimed to secure contentment, universal love and tranquility among the peoples of the earth. I do not see that human woes have been made any less by the Bible. There were noble civilizations venerable with age before the feet of Christ trod the Mount of Olives, and there will be systems of no less glorious civilizations when the Christian religion has passed away. Each age makes its own religion, philosophy and science; to some extent each age appropriates something from all preceding ages. Religions, like systems of philosophy, are produced by the human mind; books are called divine to perpetuate pious frauds more successfully. The Pope of Rome claims to be the vice-general of God—the claim is fraudulent; the priests of the church of Rome claim the prerogative to absolve a peni-

tent from sin—that claim is absurd in the eyes of the wisest of mankind; the bishops of the church of England claim to speak with power of apostolic virtue and authority, but man's best thoughts deny such forms of superstition; all Christians claim that the Bible is the word of God—the claim has no better foundation than that claimed by the Pope, or that of absolution by the priests, or that of apostolic succession by the Bishops.

It would take a great deal of wonderful evidence to prove that the Bible is the word of God. Indeed, how could such a task be done? Did anybody see God write the book? No. There then is no direct testimony in the case. Did anybody see God dictate the Bible? No. Then there is no direct testimony on that point. But somebody must have written the Bible if God did not do it. The different authors of the Bible even are unknown. The first five books of the Bible are ascribed to Moses. Then if Moses wrote them they could not be written by God. But those books ascribed to Moses could not have been written by him because one of them describes the death and burial of Moses himself, and a man cannot write a description of his own death and burial. But it is said that Moses was inspired by God. Who says so? Does Moses say so? No. Who then? The priests, a score of centuries after Moses is said by them to have lived. Did they know? They knew no more about it than than my opponent knows now. The dogma of inspiration has no better foundation than that of the infallibility of the Pope. The same priests that made the one made the other. But let me assume that God really did have the prime hand in fabricating the Bible, and that since it was written it has been preserved with providential care through stormy times, and from ambitious literary mutilation, so that King James' version—the protestant Bible—is a correct copy of what God said to mankind of all ages. No literary man on earth could ever enter into literary competition with the Divine Being. God will write in an infinitely perfect style; every sentence will glow with the wealth of infinite intelligence; all descriptions of phenomena, or fact, will be absolutely correct; differences will be just, style elegant, perspicuous, absolutely clear from all ambiguity; even a Philadelphia divine would be unable to stumble at the correct meaning of a passage or a word; the order of natural phenomena will be correctly portrayed; the solution of historical episodes and phenomena will be truly set forth. God must be the most reliable scientist, the most profound of historians, the greatest theologian, and the sublimest thinker of the universe. If the Bible be the word of God, it must be correct in its scientific description of natural phenomena. It must be true that the sun stood still till the battle could be concluded, and that the whale swallowed Jonah. It must be the most moral and logical of books; it must be free from inconsistencies and contradictions; it must be a book as superior to any man has written, as the infinite is above the finite. It is inconceivable how infinite mind could write a finite book. It is inconceivable how a finite book could reveal infinite will. But the priestly authority stops not to remove human doubts by arguments or reasons, but says believe or be damned.

Does the Bible contain all that is necessary for the moral and religious development of man? Before I say anything directly on this proposition, I must ask, what does the Bible contain in a moral and religious sense; in other words, what is the character and scope of its system of morality; and what are the nature and quality of its religious ideas; and how are these capable of developing the moral and religious nature of man.

The moment I commence the study of the ethical philosophy of the Bible, I stand face to face with overwhelming proof that the book is of absolutely human origin and was written in different ages; the books thus collected display the workings of different minds and circumstances, and many of its important teachings conform to habits and institutions which have long since passed from the world, and as rules of conduct would be unjust and execrable if applied to the regulation of society in this age. The people who lived under the laws of Moses must have been in the simplest condition of life imaginable. His laws are adapted for regulating the conduct of men emerging from barbarism. He claims that God has given him those laws to enhance their authority and command the obedient belief of the people. Moses makes use of God to advance his ambitious designs, just as the church has done in later ages.

Slavery is an institution found in every primitive form of civilization. Moses made laws to enforce and regulate it. When that law was made, somebody who was a slave wanted freedom, he was rebelling against the slaveholding power and Moses steps in to regulate it, and assumed to get his law from God. This kind of trick on the part of leaders and rulers was a very common one before the birth of the constitution of America. There are

some merchant princes and priests in this country who think the constitution of the United States of America would be better with this same Jewish God put into it. I trust the time will never dawn when the holy spirit of democracy will outlaw its damnable arms around that corrupted name, which has been the example for tyrants to follow, art-crackles to adore, and orders of saints to exalt. The evolution of liberty has come through the labor of reason. The apostles of religious doubt have been the glorious champions of political and religious liberty, and Thomas Paine deserves a monument as high as Washington's, for liberties and this grand Federal republic sprung into existence in spite of the bible and the intrigues of priests.

I said that the Bible was absolutely of human origin. The God who made a grain of sand, a star, and the lovely babe on its mother's breast, could not be the author of this book. "Both thy bondmen and thy bondmaids, which thou shalt have, shall be of the heathen that are round about you, of them shall ye buy, bondmen and bondmaids, moreover, of the children of the strangers that do sojourn among you, of them shall ye buy, and of their families that are with you, which they beget in your land, and they shall be bought with money, and ye shall take them for an inheritance for your children after you, to inherit them as a possession. They shall be of your bondmen forever; but moreover brethren, the children of Israel, ye shall not rule one over another with vigor."—Leviticus xxv. 44-46. Again: "And if a man smite his servant or his maid with a rod and he die under his hand, he shall be surely punished, notwithstanding if he continue a day or two, he shall not be punished, for he is his money."—Exodus xxi, 20-21. On these famous passages the holy writ of Southern Rebellion rested its cause. Patriots rang with zeal, periphrastic eloquence and demonstrations that the private institution of slavery was according to divine appointment. This Bible was their moral stay, and they prayed with sincerity to the same throne as did the noble soldiers in the armies of the North. A book that teaches slavery cannot be a good moral and religious institution for the people of this age.

Again, in eastern countries where it is believed the Bible was written, polygamy even exists down to this day. It was a universal practice among the early nations. The Bible approves that—Christ nowhere condemns it—but has two female friends, and apostle Paul thinks that it is far better to marry than to burn, from which view the church of Rome dissents as far as its priests are concerned; but the clergy of the church of England and non-conforming churches think it in perfect harmony with divine grace, and the happiness of human nature for each to take unto himself one wife. Without running into too much detail the old testament are of such a local and special character that they could not have anything like a world wide application; but when tyrants and men of unprincipled ambition wanted to justify some infamous wrong, the learned divine would cover over the sacred page and find a passage and twist a text to justify some form of injustice or public robbery.

Some of the poems in the Old Testament are pretty, if not eloquent, but I would prefer an hour with Shakespeare to half an hour with the rhapsodies of Isaiah; and a page of Moore to the amorous songs of Solomon, the wisest of mankind. These songs are bad poetry, and what is more, they are positively indecent. These errors are trivial when compared with the stupendous errors in moral teaching, views of the natural universe, the origin of the world, moral constitution of man and the providence of God. From one end to the other we are introduced to the superstitions, yams and follies of men covering 1,500 years. We are told of archangels, angels, seraphs, demons of terrible instinct, witches, miracles, fortune tellers, supernatural vents. It tells of the birth of one God, born of a virgin unguilted, What an age of low intelligence and superstition when a lady could hide her shame under the cover of commerce with God, and the fact of her sin should become the foundation of a religion and a civilization.

The Bible account of the creation of the world in six days is a very perfectly in harmony with the simple times when such a story could be invented and accepted as true; but totally out of accord with established facts of natural science. God, the central figure and idea in the whole book is antiquated anthropomorphism. God with a personality and attributes some of the best thinkers have discarded. Such a God as J-hovah—as he is depicted—in nature does not exist; such a providence as is set forth in Job and the psalms, is out of joint with the observed phenomena of nature and the philosophy of history. A religion that saves, believes and burns infidels has a poor Calvinistic God for its head. A God that made the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve, and the devil in the form of a serpent, is a God of the lowest order of intelligence, and is a creation of the ignorant human brain. The religious idea of the Bible is below the spiritual standard of the best men to-day. Divines have to apologize for the short comings of Bible characters. The humanity of this age has risen above the religious ideal of the Bible. The noblest mind can only worship the noblest God. The God of the Bible is a trivial God—a Jewish God. The God of the universe, of all conscious life, of universal persistent progress, the God of humanity, the Saviour of all, and the curse of none, is not the ideal God of the Bible. The God of the Bible loves the Jew and hates the world. He plagues the Jew and damns without remorse the great majority of mankind. Jehovah, as a religious ideal, is imperfect; his character is wanting in sublime moral beauty and dignity.

The doctrine of the vicarious atonement starts with the devil and the fall of man in the Garden of Eden. If that story is not true, the key-stone of the plan of divine salvation is gone. If no first Adam, a second Adam was not necessary. The tree and cross fall together. Christianity has a plan—Adam, Eve, the Garden of Eden, the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil, the creation of the world, perfection in Eden, the fall of man, the separate existence of God the Father, His only begotten

Son, the Holy Ghost, Satan, the incarnation of the Son, the atonement, the cross, Judah's redemption, heaven and hell—are part of the plan. If any one of these parts be left out of the plan, it falls to pieces. Its central idea are the absolute sovereignty of God and a compromise with His justice. The rigorous nature of a dreadful tyrant is set forth in the character of the Father; the Son is the ideal of love, mercy and goodness, and love, mercy and goodness have to be nailed to a cross of wood, to escape the justice and wrath of the Father. The Bible is no better than the God idea; and its God idea is a contradiction. It is a God idea of a transitional age of thought and divine speculation. Polytheism was breaking up, the human mind had outgrown the lesser divinities of heaven, the separate creators of natural things and the philosophy of the plan of salvation was the outcome of that transitional period. It suited the politicians of Rome at the beginning of the fourth century to play off against the old parties. From a careful study of the Bible and Christianity and nineteen centuries of their work, I find a few great characters filled with admirable qualities, setting forth virtuous capacity and acts of honorable devotion; but they were men rarely of exalted station.

The church has either acted with slender judgment, or it has been the victim of a general delusion. In circumstances, most unfortunate for the world, it has put forth as its leaders and defenders have but in a very few instances been men of generosity, reason and enlightenment, as a rule they have been men of reckless judgment, cruel and ambitious, they have made blood flow in torrents, destroyed liberty where it existed, oppressed wherever they had the power, and left the marks of their demonic heartlessness behind them. If Christianity did not produce these men, how unfortunate that it should have been represented by them. As a rule, for nineteen centuries its greatest and noblest characters were of a class of which history is ashamed. The act with which cupidity and brutality, selfishness, lust and lucre combined to produce works and character under the mask of piety and devotion, will ever remain subjects of just reprobation by the purest of mankind. I do not attribute the bad deeds of Christians to their Christianity. Men never see Christianity better than their moral perception; moral perception is a matter of growth. Ages differ from one another. This is the best age we have had since the sun began to shine. The Bible is the mirror of human nature—chapters from human life—a revelation from man to man like all history. In what sense then must it be viewed as a work of authority? As a philosophical or moral authority it can not be to this age as a whole, and it is not. The laws of Moses are not in force, bloody sacrifices are gone. When a God could accept the death of his son for the sins of the world, the moral ideal of man was low. That time with the best minds is past. Once the dying Savior on the cross called forth the sympathy of a believing world, but the moral sanction of the best minds to-day pity him and censure the heartlessness of the Divine Father. That which once helped Christianity now kills it. The moral nature of the race is fast outgrowing the idea of forgiveness of sin; the best minds ask for no forgiveness. The first ages accepted Christianity with eagerness because it offered them forgiveness of sin; the nineteenth century rejects it for the same cause. The world has outgrown the idea of a devil; no one dares the darkest minds contemplate a future hell. Fire and brimstone hells went out with the last generation of priests. The devil is in the pages of the Bible; the you find hell to be sure you find a savior born of a virgin, and the story of the Garden of Eden, all in the nature of things impossible. They are in the Bible because at the time men knew no better than to believe the dreams and follies of priests. Such poor exhibitions of human wisdom are perfectly in harmony with the doctrine of evolution, but with the doctrine of creation and divine perfection, absurd.

But good and learned men believe the Bible to be of divine origin and a perfect moral guide of life. Admitted; but these good and learned men do not interpret the Bible in the way it was interpreted in the sixteenth century. They modify the terms of the Bible by the light of their learnings, and cultivate moral sense. The thirty-nine articles of the church of England are accepted by high, low and broad church scholars. All men have habits of mental reservation and some unexpressed opinion, dim and undefined may be; and all Biblical scholars—learned men—use words with a personal latitude of meaning and, as a rule, are disposed to see only the very best points in that which is set forth and sanctified by centuries of belief and devotion. Slowly the general mind of the church moves from one view to another. It moves with the general improvement of civilization; and the character of religion is always the measure of the development of the race at any one time. Religions are born, have their age of power, and then die; this is as true as it is solemn. The lives of Abraham and Job, their ideals and the outward expression of their emotions in religious conduct are as different as they can be from the men now living in cultured or academic circles. The world has grown into a new order of civilization; we would not judge Watt Tyler by the same judgment as we would John Brown. A book which is 2,000 years old is not and cannot be made to be the perfect rule of conduct and a religious standard for all time. There are 2,000 years of progress added to the wealth of learning and intellect. No standard of truth which shall bind thought and conduct can be recognized as useful in this age. Shall the dead ages force the chains to bind the age of action and life? Shall the cloister rule the senate, the church, the state? Shall faith forge the links to bind the powers of reason? We are coming into the age of reason; reason is victor. It means a better world, more comfort, peace, learning, progress, domestic enjoyment and love. The age of reason means happy children leading clean and healthy lives, intelligent and industrious men pursuing trade, agriculture and learning with noble aims. It means educated women, worthy wives and mothers. Reason is the light of the world. Tyrants should not

again make it a slave, and systems of religion shall never chain its divine light to the lumber car of superstition. The Bible to the eyes of educated and liberalized reason will appear as a work produced by the human mind in rude ages of the world, from which lessons of utility can be drawn, useful to princes and peasants. Its pages will remind the fool of his folly; kings of the vanity of earthly greatness; priests of the wickedness of pride and selfishness, and all of the instability of earthly things. There is a solemnity and majestic, an idyllic vein of poetry running through some parts of the Bible, that stir the richest depths of the human soul. There is in it the tragic awe of a barbarous age. Humanity is seen in some of its most abject and heroic episodes. The spiritual phase of life struggling with the brutal force of character. The triumph of love over malignity; virtue over vice; heaven over hell; God over the devil. The Bible with a poetic license may be described as the reflex image of the soul of a magnificent barbarian fighting his way out of a heavy load to light and liberty; to reason and righteousness. The Bible is a noble book! It is a work which does honor to the races from which it emanated. It is a credit to the learning and imagination of the Jewish race more truthful than the writings of Homer and more natural than the poetry of Horace. It has been the daily companion and study of the best men on the globe for generations. They loved it. Its sayings they stored away in the memory. It provided maxims for statesmen and epitaphs for saints. Divines have wrangled about its occult teachings since the dawn of western civilization. It has been the cause direct and indirect of wars and wrongs, of public robbery and rapine; with slaughter and salvation it was and maintained its place in the church and closet. Its history is the history of the church itself, and what is that but the history of European civilization? This great book then after all is simply a human production, the works of several gifted minds living in divers places and ages. It is a melody. Will it be supplanting? Yes, it is practically supplanted already. Science will lead the thought of the world to a grand cosmic conception; the science of morals to lofty standards of conduct; and the science of man's spiritual nature to brilliant ideas of love and perfection. Literature, the product of the mind, will grow; books will be as numberless as the stars. The Bible will take its true place, and that will be its right place, side by side with Plutarch's Lives and Caesar's Gallic Wars. From its false pedestal progress will lift it down at the proper time. Man will be more ready then for his own inspiration and reason. Its pages are littered with the finest maxims of a divine philosophy, and the most revolting and repulsive traits of human character. It jumps from the sublime to the abominable; from light to darkness, to every extreme of devotion and folly. Its heroes are murderers and miscreants mingled with the finest characters of our ages could produce. Its views of the spiritual world are simple and primitive, showing inspiration and mediocrity in their lowest state. In its pages are found moral teachings which would enable the mind of a king and lighten the soul of a slave. It is a storehouse filled with some of the gems of thought and experience, and philosophies of life as crude as superstition itself. It is a book which would do honor to an author who lived before the age of science, but be the death knell of literary honor if written in this age.

Man draw their moral ideas from reason and experience. Reason and moral ideas are more potent than the Bible. We accommodate the Bible to our growth. We fix its meaning and put limits to the application of its text. The Bible has restrained the intellectual freedom of mankind. Christianity is a system of thought which is a finality. Together they have chained reason, enslaved man, created systems of tyranny appalling to contemplate and ten thousand human wrongs. The Bible is a link in the chain of human development—an effect—but not an original cause. Man can live the highest life by following the purest dictates of reason; indeed, that is the only life worth living. Whatever is bad in the Bible reason condemns; whatever is good in the Bible reason put it there, and whatever is spiritual in the Bible the spiritual nature of man conceived and developed. Reason is the only judge of what is reasonable. Time is never more moral and religious necessities, therefore the Bible does not contain all that is necessary for man's moral and religious development.

Yankees in Palestine. Among the people who confidently believe that the Jews will soon again own Palestine, is a colony of fifteen persons who live in a fine house built on the very walls of Jerusalem and who are known as "the Americans." These people are not Jews at all. They are Christians who have come here from different parts of the United States, and more especially from Chicago, to await the fulfillment of the prophecy that God will regenerate the world, beginning at Jerusalem. They believe that this day is close at hand and they say it has begun in the Jews coming back to Palestine. They see its fulfillment in the improvements that are going on in Jerusalem, and cite the new roads that have been built over the country as one of the evidences of it. They are evidently people of means as well as of refinement and culture. When I visited them the other day I talked with several of them and found them intelligent and well educated. I asked one as to their belief and was answered that they had come to Jerusalem to endeavor to follow its precepts while living upon its walls. They have no particular creed, and one of them said when asked as to this, that there is no living. They do no missionary work and say that they have not felt called upon to preach. They spend much of their time in Bible study and singing, and are much respected among the foreigners who reside in Jerusalem.—Philadelphia Times.

Written for The Better Way.

Greeting.

BY EMMA J. NICKERSON.

The questioning of thy eyes, dear friend, Are piercing through my heart; The burdened silence breaks in sound And still we are apart.

What anguish dumb hath touched thy friend, That waves across my soul? I fain would share the bitter part Or even bear the whole.

A dreary sea now flows between Thy anxious heart and mine; But let the sea never claim the vow He made at memory's shrine.

Alive! and speaking to me thus, I stretch my hands to thee, The gulf is bridged, I know at last, Thy soul is winged and free.

The trembling silence utterance breathes, I bide my time and wait; For parting here is meeting there, And none can come too late.

Specially Reported for The Better Way.

SYNOPSIS.

Of Lecture Given by Mrs. R. S. LITTLE at Cincinnati, Sunday, Oct. 13, 1899.

PREFACE.

On Sunday morning and evening, October 13, Mrs. Little again lectured for the Society of Union Spiritualists, at Grand Army Hall. The morning discourse was in response to questions taken from the audience, but as the same questions have been so often discussed from the rostrum by herself and other speakers that they are omitted, and a synopsis given of the

EVENING LECTURE.

Which was from a subject chosen by the guides of the speaker. The controlling intelligence said: We will consider as far as possible in one discourse "The Infinite World to Which We Belong." In regard to many matters there is certainty to day, where there used to be uncertainty in the realization of truth, and what was left to faith in other days is left no longer to doubt comparatively speaking. As we look about us and take cognizance of the events of the day, we find that the sacred writings, so called, of one people are not sought to be forced by arms upon the acceptance of others. How can we to know which one to accept when there are five great religions in the world and all claim to possess sacred writings which were revealed to man as the divine truth.

All these contained some of the truth and were a benefit no doubt to the people to whom they were given, but they did not reveal all of truth and they left the great question as to the future of man unanswered save by faith in the words of the priesthood; by faith in their interpretation of the meaning of the sacred writings. The revelation of this truth was left until the advent of Modern Spiritualism, which instead of the system of belief on which they were founded, offered a system of demonstrated knowledge. We look upon these revelations, so claimed, of the past, as only parts of the great whole. They all teach God as a living personal presence, a powerful being remote from mankind and out of all these has sprung a system of which Christianity is a part in one sense as a Christian is a part of mankind.

During the past the people accepted a religion of faith and belief, because they were not prepared to reason. But now we possess a knowledge on many points on which they were not informed, and it has been made familiar to all. All that has been accepted in the past as the truth without questioning has now grown to be the topic of familiar discussion. The old answers to the questions of whence and whether have been found to be based in reality upon a foundation of shifting sand. We were taught that God created in six literal days the heavens and earth and on the seventh rested. This is the view that must be enforced upon all who literally accept the doctrines so taught.

The speaker carried her audience with her through a searching analysis of the deficiencies of the old form and belief and step by step brought them up the ladder of progress showing how the advent of Modern Spiritualism was coincident with the discovery of the telegraph and in fact was made possible by the giant strides made by science. A grand world picture was drawn of the knowledge of a demonstrated immortality. The controlling intelligence said in speaking of the biblical doctrine of creation in comparison with the light furnished by Spiritualism: I am saying to the very best of my ability, we will tell you something more reasonable. God is a person. He is three persons—each separate and distinct, yet one and the same—God, the Father, God the Son, and God, the Holy Spirit. That the God, the Father, made this earth in six days, the much on Monday, so much on each succeeding day of the week and when he had made the earth he made the stars also. He saw that the man he had made looked lonesome, so He made woman for a helpmeet—an after thought. Then the descendants of this couple turned out so badly that God, the Father would have destroyed them, only God, the Son, offered himself as a sacrifice in their stead and himself accepted, was incarnated in the flesh by the power of God, the Holy Spirit, and would have brought ignominy and death to Mary but for a lucky dream, by Joseph. This you say is the most sensible view. Well you may think that if you choose but we do not. The speaker said the truth through a noble fatherhood and a motherhood. The world we lived in was infinite in its possibilities of growth. The lecture was an able and eloquent one throughout. The bare outline of the lecture is all that can be given at this time. The next lecture will be stenographically reported.

THE MOUND-BUILDERS.

Excavating Skeletons of a Long Forgotten Race—Utensils and Implements of War that Were in Use Before the Red Man's Day.

There is one locality of peculiar interest to relic hunters, arctologists, and students of history that, being somewhat obscure and rarely visited by writers, is comparatively unknown to the general public; and yet it is one of the most remarkable spots on the continent. After the close of the Black Hawk war the sable chieftain, with his three stalwart sons and small band of followers, sought a new home to the west of the "Father of Waters," and under a sheltering brow of a majestic bluff near the mouth of the Iowa they erected their wigwams. Where the Indian village stood is now the village of a later race, and appropriately called Black Hawk. In the early days of Mississippi river navigation Black Hawk was looked upon as a town of promise; but now it is naught but a tumble-down balliwick that will interest none but lovers of the quaint and curious. Ancient Black Hawk has merged into modern Toolesboro, a small village situated upon a plateau extending inland from the bluff. Black Hawk has long since been forgotten by the makers of maps.

A party of relic hunters, including the writer, arrived one fine morning in early autumn in the region of mounds lying to the north of Toolesboro. Those mound-builders were a strange race of people. This continent was theirs before the advent of our modern red man, and their high type of civilization is a cause of wonderment. Their origin, their date, and their disappearance are explained only by theory and conjecture. Here, on this majestic bluff of the Mississippi, we are surrounded by huge unnatural and remarkable elevations of land, undoubtedly the work of human hands, and of so distinctive a character that not even the famed works at Newark or Circleville will excite more archaeological interest.

The old fort just in the outskirts of Toolesboro is the inclosure work known locally as "The Old Fort." Still it does not appear to have been erected for defensive purposes. To class it as a sacred inclosure would be more in harmony with the theories advanced by scientific men who have made a study of the similar earthworks in the Ohio Valley. As an indication that it was not originally designed as a fortification, we observe that its plan of construction is more ornamental than practical; that it was built carefully—not hurriedly—and without regard to strength of position; and, further, it is an isolated specimen of an inclosure earthwork. If it were designed as a fortification for practical use in time of war there would be other fortifications and vestiges of war in the immediate neighborhood.

The line of defense of the mound-builders extended from New York State diagonally across the country to the Wabash, which conclusively proves that the hostilities encountered by the race came from the northeast, and that there was no occasion for a fort in this region. This inclosure is the only one of importance west of the Mississippi, and probably the most unique on the continent. It stands without a counterpart, while the various geometric forms, squares and circles represented at Newark and Circleville are common to other sections of the mound regions of the Ohio Valley. The earthen embankments are now somewhat obliterated, but can still be distinctly traced, the angles and bastion exhibiting the form of an octagon, the sides of which are carved inward, and inclosing an area of half a dozen acres. A lane or passage way originally extended back from the west side of the inclosure several hundred feet to a spring which has now long ceased to be in existence, though is remembered by the early settlers. Within the inclosure great quantities of pottery, flint chips, arrow points, polished stone axes and tomahawks, occasional pipes, copper implements and other articles have been picked up from time to time and found their way into collections and museums.

Standing upon the margin of this, the highest and most precipitous of Mississippi river bluffs, are eight stalwart sentinel mounds, drawn up in line as though zealously guarding through the ages the sacred inclosure just behind. They are conical in shape with a terraced summit; their height is from twenty to thirty feet and their circumference from sixty to 100 feet. Black Hawk and his followers had an inherited reverence for "The Old Fort," the "Sentinel Mounds," and the thousands of burial mounds scattered along the bluffs but their most remote traditions convey as little information of the origin of the earthworks and the people who built them as do the songs of the merry birds that warble in the trees above us.

Exploring the region.—Our first day here was consumed in a general survey of the mound region, which includes, in addition to the above, several thousand burial mounds, some large and some small, extending along the bluff for miles; and one must naturally conclude that this was the site of a densely populated mound-builders' city. Early the following morning we were at work on the mounds, and two of the largest were attacked simultaneously. Human remains were first discovered in Mound No. 1.

When the earth was cleared away, exposing the skeleton, it became apparent that the individual had been buried in a sitting posture facing toward the rising sun. The skeleton was that of a man of medium height; and the neck was a string of shell beads, while scattered about the remains were numerous arrow points and two small stone axes. The cranium was of the short-headed type, the forehead less receding, and the crown less domed-shaped than that of the modern Indian. Nothing of consequence was examined from Mound No. 3, disclosed a perfect skeleton within a few feet of the apex, which was readily identified as an intrusive burial, and proved to be the remains of a representative American Indian. Intrusive burials are not of uncommon occurrence, as the Indians, feeling an intuitive reverence for the mounds, frequently appropriate them for their own sepulchres. The practice confused early investigators, but from what is now definitely known of the burial habits of the two races, the question may be easily decided.

Unearthing ancient remains.—The Indian remains were carefully removed and excavating proceeded. At last the original occupants of the mound were unearthed—two figures in a sitting posture facing eastward. The practice of placing the remains in this position was a common though not universal custom of the mound-builders, and is one of the points of evidence on which archeologists have their opinion regarding them as a race of sun-worshippers. From this mound were secured relics which would indicate an age somewhat more advanced than that shown by Mound No. 1. The knives and hatchets were of hammered copper; some being wrapped in a cloth of close texture, though exhibiting skilled workmanship, which could only have been preserved for so many centuries by the chemical action of the copper with which it had lain in contact. Copper beads and a copper bracelet adorned one of the skeletons. Two finely carved pipes of catlinite, of the curved base variety—one representing a bird with eyes of pearl and the other an animal of questionable description—together with other specimens of less consequence, were discovered.

During the remainder of the week several more mounds were explored and numerous interesting relics of that prehistoric age were added to our collection. Here it was, in this immediate neighborhood, that the two elephant pipes—now world-famous—were found, furnishing the strongest proof of the antiquity of man on this continent. These pipes, carved from solid stone, representing the form of the elephant or mastodon—the only ones known—were both found in Louisa County, Iowa, and both are now to be seen in the museum of the Academy of Sciences at Davenport. These pipes show beyond a reasonable doubt that the mound-builders and the mastodon were contemporaneous. Their genuineness has been called into question, to be sure, but the severe criticism to which they were subjected only proves their value and importance. Their genuineness is attested by scholarly men of the highest personal character.

Salvors Saw Ghosts.

When the schooner George B. McFarland, which was lost recently between Fernandina, Fla., and this port, was launched a medium in Portland, Maine, claimed that he had received a communication from the other world, announcing that the restless spirit of Captain Kidd would take possession of the vessel. It was further asserted by this medium that no vessel of which the piratical spirit assumed command would ever be lucky. This prophecy made a remarkable impression upon the superstitious sailors, who for years imagined strange sights and sounds within and about the vessel. The McFarland stuck on the ways and was never water-tight after she was launched. Her first commander, Captain Strong, gave her up after two or three voyages, as a "hopelessly unlucky vessel." Captain Strong's brother then took command of the ship, and lost money steadily for three voyages, when he abandoned in mid-ocean, the crew being landed in Europe.

The McFarland was found adrift at sea by a steamship and towed to a European port, where she was refitted and placed in charge of a new master. Two days after she sailed from port the new captain was knocked down in a squall and his leg was broken. A month ago she was again abandoned at sea, and last week she was met and set afloat as a dangerous derelict by the steamship Oronoco.

Sailors who shipped on the McFarland said that ghostly carpenters haunted the vessel and were always at work, the sound of their sawing and planing away down in the hold being heard at night as they tried to cut the keel asunder and sink the ship. On many occasions the men all rushed out for the forecastle shouting that strange and unknown hands thrust them out of their bunks; and they are said to have shown bruises and cuts to prove their stories. On more than one occasion the entire crew of the schooner jumped overboard and swam ashore, while the vessel was in port, to escape from the evil spirits that their superstitious minds pictured. There was always great difficulty in securing a crew for the vessel, as men who served a single voyage and learned of her ill luck never returned to her for a second trip.—Philadelphia Record.

A NEW CURE FOR PILES

Is creating a great deal of talk and wonderment in medical circles and among the people wherever introduced. It cures the worst kinds of chronic cases, no matter of how long standing or how distressing, in three to six days, without aid of surgical operations. It contains no poisons of any kind usually found in Pile Cures, but is absolutely harmless and does not injure the most delicate person. Physicians are endorsing it wherever known. It is unlike any other Pile remedy and is prepared with scientific care by an old and experienced chemist of Cincinnati. A cure is positively guaranteed in all cases when the directions for self-treatment are correctly followed, and should the treatment fail to cure, your money will be promptly returned.

This medicine is known as the Globe Pile Cure, manufactured by the Globe Medicine Co., Cincinnati, O. It is not for sale at drug stores, but is sent by mail on receipt of price, \$2.00 a box, which is enough to cure any ordinary case. Trial or half size, \$1.00.

A treatise on Piles, explaining the origin, causes and dangers of the Hemorrhoidal disease, mailed free on application. Read what the people say about the Globe Pile Cure.

Either of these parties will be glad to answer any letters if a stamped envelope is enclosed for reply.

A Marvellous Cure of an elderly Gentleman who had Bleeding Piles for thirty-five years.

DuPont, Ind., September 2, 1889. Gents: I was a great sufferer of the Piles for thirty-five years. At times I was so bad I was not able to stand on my feet, and had to wear a truss for years. I threw away many dollars trying so-called "Pile Remedies," but got no relief until I used a part of the contents of a box of Globe Pile Cure you sent me by mail in the Fall of 1887—two years ago. I have not been troubled one bit since then. It seems almost a miracle that I should receive so much relief from so little medicine in so short a time, Very truly, L. C. DAVIS.

A Lady Wonderfully Cured after Thirty Years of Suffering.

Bellevue, O., Sept. 11, 1889. Gents: I had been troubled with Piles for about thirty years before I saw your advertisement in the paper, and thought I would try it. The Globe Pile Cure proved very beneficial, as it has entirely cured me of the trouble, and I can heartily recommend it to others. Very respectfully, MRS. G. W. BASFORD.

External Piles Cured with One Box.

Cincinnati, O., Sept. 5, 1889. Dear Sir: I had a very aggravating case of External Piles which threatened to make me serious trouble, when a friend recommended the Globe Pile Cure. One box entirely cured me. Yours truly, J. R. THOMPSON, 134 Vine St.

It Cures Quickly and Permanently any Kind of Piles.

Caldwell, O., Sept. 17, 1889. Gents: I bought a box of Globe Pile Cure about a year ago and used it all, and from that time I have never been bothered with Piles. Your Pile Medicine does exactly what you claim for it. Yours, C. SHAFER, Jeweler.

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A. F. MEACHAM, EDITOR

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It requires as much wisdom in framing a proper question as in answering it. Great things do not trouble great minds. It is the little things that bother them.

Let not your prejudices nor your good nature get the better of your judgment. Human life is the book of all sciences or studies, for man is an epitome of all causes.

Selfishness makes man weak, emotional, negative—effeminate. It makes a woman deceitful, cunning, bold—masculine.

Those who have no other but a selfish use for mediums had better keep aloft from them. Spiritual influences are not to be tampered with.

People in delicate health should dwell with and partake of the food prepared by robust, healthy people. Their magnetism is rejuvenating.

As a man overrates one person, party or principle, he is very apt to underrate others. Handle cautiously such testimony either for or against.

Unspiritual love makes man blind to his surroundings, while the opposite makes him intuitive, perspicacious, and clairminded or prophetic and judicious.

Some people imagine themselves already to be what they are only trying to become, or what they are impressed to be. We are only that in reality which comes natural to us.

Conquer prejudice. That which is against you by returning good for evil. That which you are individually troubled with by repelling it as fast as it looms up in your soul nature.

Building a philosophy on it, previous to a mean act somewhat eases the conscience in carrying it out. Some people still believe that anything under the guise of a religion is legal—materially considered.

A gunpowder has been invented which produces neither smoke nor noise. As new horrors are added to the war program, the desire to have it carried out ceases. Arbitration is the battle of peace.

Some of the gentlest and tenderest often show the ugliest phases of character when you learn to know them intimately. But just such sweetness as aforementioned is necessary to root out ugly phases that lie behind them.

A political or religious faction that keeps up a sectional animus against any other faction devitalizes itself by its discord with the spiritual of nature, and thus lays the foundation for its own collapse instead of that of others.

Schnorpke says when he hears men prating about elective affinity and other such unspiritual subjects pointing in that direction, it seems to him that an excuse is being sought after to shake off their own better half for another's.

Hypocrisy, deceit, illicit affections, pretense or any perversion of our love or soul nature makes us cowards. A guilty conscience robs man of his spiritual animus, and in this state he craves for consolation or that sympathy which nature is depriving him of on account of his discord with the same.

Some people will enjoy a thousand good things from you and pass them by without comment; but make one mistake and they will, in a moment, forget all the past and censure you or find fault with you as if you had never done them otherwise than wrong. What kind of a human proclivity gives life to such an emotion?

Make a friend apologize, and you lose him. When forgiveness, the cement of friendship, is crushed out, the masonry crumbles—the heart is broken, and the doorway of the soul is closed to you as unworthy of being admitted to its sympathy or confidence anymore.

Self-delusion in mediumistic matters is frequently the effect of a too eager desire to become popular. If there is any genius dormant that excels any already in the field, the spirits will find it and bring it out. So there is no need for young mediums to be too forward. Those whom the spirit world wants will be irresistibly put into the field, and made more popular than some have a taste for. Genius cannot be quenched.

Food without magnetism is flat and accounts for the lack of taste that it has at times, though ever so well prepared according to culinary requirements. This is because the cook is sick or suffers from loss of vitality through other causes. And as well as a healthful magnetism can give the food taste and strengthen our physical system, a diseased magnetism can effect the other way. Thus it is well to look after your cook's health, for your own depends on it. This is intended as a warning for those who are probably not aware of this fact.

There is no inertia. What is known as such is but activity in a direction towards decay or disintegration, and which, when it becomes too active, very likely again constitutes motion for a positive, progressive or building up effect. Or probably motion is life, or an attribute of life, and by its action on or through matter creates life effects—matter assuming the form of motion during the coalition; and when disintegrating from life, simply assumes a slower form and motion—too slow for our conception. There are life forms existing too minute for our conception, then why not a form of motion.

Why some men should want an ovation paid them we cannot understand. To say that it is not their fault is a poor excuse. They have but to keep their own counsel when ready to start for a place and none will know of their coming. But—they take good care to let it be known where they are expected to the very day and hour. Such homage is only due to him who can no more hide his movements, as the President. But the greater the man the less he cares for worldly honors. It is only the vain or hare-brained politicians that place any value on such things. Let such childishness remain with the uncivilized. We should be above imitating the lower races of mankind.

More people die from the effects of unspiritual psychological influences than are killed in battle. To wish it constantly one may be made to close his eyes in death. Contempt leaves a sensitive to the mercy of evil influences or diseases which may cause death. Hatred produces melancholy which often leads to suicide. Many persons are to a degree responsible for deaths in this respect, and when the time arrives that psychometry shall be acknowledged in evidence of this kind, people will begin to be more careful of their thoughts and feelings. If witnesses be still required in murder cases, they will have to be of the spiritual category, or the judges will have to be clairvoyants.

A bad conscience has the same effect on man in the future life that ill health has on him here. He feels more like dying than living, but as a spirit he cannot get away from himself and must submit to the conscience pains, accompanied by living pictures of the past looming up like realities before his mental vision. It is hell in reality and not a mythical one as presented by orthodoxy. It is a hell which burns within the soul and whose fire seem never to be consumed—except by outgrowth, reparation and repentance, and which may take centuries if the opportunities for doing good to neutralize former selfishness are lacking. Purity of living and good deeds insure a future heaven.

LAW AND CHILDREN.

In framing laws care should be exercised to make only such, that when carried out, will not make paupers. A widow for example with four children, of which the oldest is fifteen and the youngest nine years old. The support of the family is dependent principally on the labor of the three eldest, who combinedly earn \$7.50 per week. When time permits amidst her household duties and such handy work that is to be had that will not interfere with her own work, the widow may earn two or three dollars besides, giving the family \$10 to a week to exist on. With a state law that enforces her to withdraw two of the children from earning a few dollars, because they are under fourteen years of age, they have but \$6 a week left, not enough to live on and too much to starve on. Ohio has a law which brings about these results, probably suggested by some old bachelor or fatherless children in kindheartedness or someone who knows naught of poverty. In either event it proved a lack of judgment somewhere and constitutes just such a law that can lead to poverty, crime, suffering and state expense. Shall it be repealed? Or shall it be modified so that selfish parents cannot take advantage of the situation? We believe in the protection of children against injustice, but would like to keep them from the poor house at the same time.

"HOW LONG, OH, CATILINA?"

The reason of a law might be regarded as the life of the same, but framers of laws should not limit their reason by looking only to an immediate case or overlooking the effects a law will have in its universal application. To make a law simply to have one in case of need lays the foundation for mischief or an exercise of personal spite by officers of the law or individuals against one another. And a law that cannot be universally applied without doing injustice to somebody lacks the judiciousness needed in framing laws. Such laws are imperfect and are an effect of shortsighted legislation. Ignorant might be said, but not all are ignorant, except willfully so, in order to oblige somebody or to have a claim to favor the passage of another individual act. Unwise therefore would be better, for it leaves a choice between ignorance and selfishness and such legislation is mockery and an imposition on the public. What we need are wise laws; laws that are not oppressive but create a feeling of comfort instead of doubt or fear in the minds of the people. When will the people rise above "political influence" and make nominations from the heart instead of the head? From a moral instead of a material standpoint? Echo answers when!

UNDERSTANDING THE EFFECT OF CONDITIONS.

Spirits cannot instruct us in that which we are unwilling to learn. Nor can they make us comprehend a thing for which we have a prejudice. In the first instance it is therefore the height of conceit to ridicule a thing because we are ignorant of it, and in the latter the height of selfishness. To manifest an unwillingness to be instructed is worse than incompetency; for the latter is excusable while the former is not, and equal to claiming sufficient knowledge without the need of more. Prejudice naturally repels all information though it be brought to our notice in the most logical manner or form, and even causes us to reject that which we know to be true—it being just as possible to argue ourselves out of an opinion as to make ourselves believe something to be true which has no foundation. The latter is due to self-psychologization; the former to bigotry. Both are manifestations of self-love; for in one we love ourselves to an extent that we think ourselves learned or informed above all others, and in the other we lack love for others, which is equal to self-love in the effect. To believe only that which pleases us and to reject that which pleases others is arrogant, a combination of conceit and selfishness, and when properly analyzed will prove itself so in every instance. Take for example a bigoted mortal who regards his religion as the only true one, and then endeavors to annihilate yours. Would this not be the height of conceit and selfishness combined? A show of charity (a manifestation of love) would be to let others believe as they please or choose to do. Still he might be conceited enough to believe his religion the only true one. But conceit with charity is not as bad as conceit without charity, and indicates a spiritual advance in one direction. When he throws off his conceit by acknowledging his error (if but to himself) of believing his own religion to be the only true one, he advances in another direction for a spiritual effect.

This is Spiritualism, or one of the modes of its teachings to analyze human character. So we may take up every phase of human character and dissect it to the core, and find that all life is but a manifestation of some great unknown force or power, intelligent in its impetus, and all aiming for the same object: love! Love is the prime motor of all life; it is the energy which upholds life, for it is the power that creates life. It is the same in the universe—in the cause—as it is in human life, and therefore must imbue all intermediate states as well. The fidelity and affection of certain domestic animals and even tamed wild beasts prove the latter, and it is therefore hardly necessary to regard this as a matter of opinion, although there are some who cannot or will not believe that animals are gifted with intelligence, still less with love—they calling it "instinct," as if instinct was not intelligence. Life is intelligence, whatever its shape. The very rock that grows is intelligent—only it has not the organs to manifest it through, and consequently undeveloped sensation or emotion, the precursors to instinct, reason, intuition, love in its highest sense: happiness. We enjoy the latter to a degree in this life, and in proportion to our rapport with those we love. The reverse is hatred (prejudice) and in proportion to the activity of this intelligent emotion, or motion, simply, we are in discord with a fellow being, and just that much in discord with nature (God). Nature is love—intelligence in the macrocosm. Man is the same epitomized. He is the veritable microcosm of the macrocosm. The more we hate the more we injure ourselves, therefore. Bigotry is a universal hatred. Conceit is a form of selfishness, and prejudice is an individual dislike. Arrogance is the combination, while the opposite is love and humility, the sweetest, gentlest and most benign influence that we can extend to another, and receive it in like ratio from the spirit world. In this state we are open to all manner of truths, whether from mortals or spirits, and so let us strive to become.

Be true to yourself and others will then be true to you.

HEALTHY SPIRITUALISM INSURED.

Spiritualism is obtaining a much healthier tone now that we are gradually getting rid of the notion of obnoxious spirits, jealous interferences and other imaginary evils, principally due to a lack of self-knowledge in man himself. Man is much the arbiter of his own destiny—and troubles. The best of spirits cannot give a straight communication through a crooked instrument. Crooked does not necessarily imply defective or deceptive, either physically or mentally, materially or spiritually. But it does mean a lack of development, lack of spiritual purification, lack of the true god principle in active operation, or too much self-will, self assurance, self-conceit, self-love or preconceived ideas, notions, opinions etc. of life in general before knowing enough or anything about self—before having made self a study to allow for human error and the crookedness of other beings like ourselves.

To set ourselves up as judges over others before we have learned to obey, or to pose as teachers before we have studied the alphabet of life's philosophy (self) is not in accord with the spiritual of nature, and as has been the case in the past by young (inexperienced) aspirants to the medium's crown or the author's notoriety. Self-study is the acme of spiritual culture, and without it we can assert nothing absolutely. We may know we are right by reasoning, but this is not absolute (intuitive) knowledge. The god or divine nature in man only comes into play consciously as we live from the interior. Before that it acts as but blind instinct. To know the use of our higher faculties we must know what they are—be conscious of their action, and self-study leads to it.

The man who knows most of his own nature knows best how to treat on human nature—knows best how to deal with the problems of human life. And when he goes into his own life scientifically he learns of nature's laws, principles, conditions and influences as well. Together—emotionally and physically—he becomes a teacher of mankind unwittingly, his spiritual or aural surroundings forming a basis for the attraction of new truths, new ideas, a better comprehension of life's philosophy and a spiritual encyclopedia generally. He cannot help it. Spirit finds an inlet there and he is pressed to the front or to give vent to his thoughts as they formulate themselves in his mind—the spirit body. The brain is but the instrument on which these thoughts are photographed, and the lips or the pen the medium through which they flow.

Now, this presence of thoughts is often felt before we are ripened or perfected as it were, as a medium for their dispensation, and in our ignorance to formulate them or bring them to light, we stumble and blunder and arrogate, and meeting with rebuffs, and reverses and knock downs generally, we learn by experience. Between self-study and experience the former is to be preferred, for it leaves no damaging evidence against us of past follies, which uncharitable people are so prone to use against us as proof of unworthiness, even after having risen far above them in the scale of spiritual progress or of moral attainments.

But such is life, and spokes will always be found that impede the wheels of progress. The only way to overcome such fatuity is to ignore it entirely, for a well meaning man will only blacken his hands by playing with soot. Leave it untouched and it will be blown to the four winds of heaven before anyone catches the drift of it. But by an opposite policy we only call attention to it and give some reasons for believing it true.

Life is a continuous unfolding of the inner to the outer, and man is the only creature who is enabled to interfere with this process and temporarily arrest it. This is done by living too much in the material—adopting worldly customs and habits and making himself miserable by suppressing his better and higher and purer nature because others may see wrong in it, or think him peculiar for having advanced ideas and acting in conformity with them. Let nature have her way. She never errs—whether acting through matter or through man himself; and by following our intuitive promptings we keep abreast of the times, rise above conventionalism and encourage others to follow in the wake of spiritual, mental and moral progress. Give up old ideas for new ones and fear not a loss; for that which is truth, though old, will always recur when needed and fill up the gap as a dressing to the new food dished up for hungering souls. Throw aside fear of obsessing spirits. They cannot harm you as long as you resist the temptation of harming others. Nor will Jesuit spirits interfere with you as long as you stop worrying about them. It is the bent of our thoughts which attract spirits of the above category, and by trying to uphold the cause on the principle of love, we attract loving spirits. And as these rule, things take a healthier tenor. Spiritualism then cannot fail in its mission.

A New Bedford (Mass.) man had his nose broken because he had seen a whale ninety feet long. The man who broke it for him had never been to sea, but he had his idea how long a whale ought to be.

Teacher—"Master Kirby, can you compare the word rinky?" Master Kirby—"Yes, ma'am." Teacher (surprised)—"Well, Master Kirby, you may proceed." Master Kirby—"Positive, rinky; comparative, maah; superlative, elopement." Teacher—"Next!"

POLITICAL PURIFICATION.

How can those editors and reporters, who slander and blackmail each other's political opponents by slanderous reports, compromise themselves in the future, knowing that to rob a man of his character is spiritually unlawful in so far that we suffer in proportion to the harm or wrong we have done to others? Or, are those persons who are put up as candidates for office only of such calibre that whatever had may be said of them is true? If such be the case, we have a sorry government indeed. To our mind only such persons ought to be permitted to hold office of whom nothing wrong can be said, even by the opposing political faction. As long as this is not done we are veritably in the hands of a wicked set, and it is about time that honest men and sincere workers for a pure government take the political machinery in hand and relieve the politicians of this responsibility. We, as a people, dislike to be ruled by men of inferior moral worth, and therefore feel a right to demand that men above reproach be placed into responsible government positions. Not that we mean to disobey those that hold office, but we ask to be relieved of oppression, tyrannous rule, and party distinction. All men have equal rights under a government of which they are citizens, and the people of a republic especially, should share the rights with their servants—the politicians, or those who manipulate the mainsprings of the political workshops.

This mutual discourtesy may suit a popular morbid taste, and a very bad taste it is for intelligent man to indulge in, but it does not suit the taste of really refined people—morally and intellectually considered—and to which the majority of Americans now belong. Being able to read or write a little does not by any means constitute refinement or a cultured taste, and if the average daily newspaper possessed more of it, there would probably be less blackening of men's characters. It almost seems as if the owner of a house is prevented from taking possession because two blackguards are contending in the doorway about its occupancy. Will the people of their resp. state and city governments tolerate such any longer—looking on, as it were, at two political factions, degenerate by corruption, fighting over the spoils of their (the people's) property? What care we, who are honest and in favor of an industrial instead of a political government, what the name of a party implies? None of them live up to their principles now, so what difference does it make if we drop both of them? A pure party by any name would do much better, and because the influential (?) ones deride or threaten to ostracize us for leaving the grand old (played out) parties, is no reason why we should hide or be ashamed of our newly adopted principle. Who laughs last laughs best, and by consistently holding back and weakening the party vote, we encourage our own adherents to a more decided action, and finally inspired to organize under new living moral principles—principles in accord with present necessities and better suited to the tastes of the people in general.

It is natural for the individual to strive for culture and refinement, then why should not the government, or the people en masse, who are making the government? Or is it only the unrefined class that is competent to make governments? Must a candidate necessarily be defamed before he can be elected to office or become popular enough to be considered of value or weight? What man of refined or cultured taste would permit himself or his name to be used by the public in this manner? Is it worldly ambition or greed which still prompts men to allow themselves to be nominated by any of the present political factions, knowing what might be expected? Or are they lost to all honor and shame? Would you, or you, or you take the chances of being black-guarded for the sake of an office? No, and it will soon be regarded as a disgrace to hold an office—under present circumstances, of course.

However, a little patience, and a constant desire for a brighter change, will finally bring forth a brighter day for our republic, and we hope it may not be too far distant, as its people are suffering under the pressure of the presence and momentarily looking forward to a happier future.

It does no harm to think yourself a little worse than you really are; for in the end it will make you all the better. Too good an opinion of self is by no means favorable to spiritual growth, while a mean opinion of one's self attracts humble or loving spirits, whose teachings are more in harmony with the absolute than that of vain or selfish spirits. One is spiritual and the other of the earth earthy. Earthy spirits are like earthy mortals: in mental darkness. Intuition is an accompanying attribute of both humility and love, as inspiration is that of physical and mental purity. One is the intelligence of nature unfolding itself to the soul, the other the action of an individualized intelligence. Both take shape according to the conditions we offer. Overweening self-assurance give them a human rather than a spiritual tendency, and sensitive readers are offended or aggravated instead of pleased by the assertions or doctrines. Modesty softens the affirmations and allegations received in this manner and have a more telling effect on the reader or hearer. And having a modest opinion of self is therefore extremely beneficial in affairs spiritual. To be recipient to spiritual truths, therefore, forget self. Modesty leads to spiritual greatness, and none are great who lack modesty.

WEEK-DAY AND SUNDAY RELIGION.

Spiritualism is a very practical religion indeed. It does not believe much in the metaphysical. Tell a man that "Indulging in dangerous pleasures is like licking honey from a knife and cutting the tongue with the edge," he is very apt to tell you to go to church. But tell him in plain English to stop his nonsense, otherwise he will get hurt, he will reason. Spiritualism is a week-day philosophy with Sunday thrown in gratis. It is not a Sunday religion only in which people attend church in order to listen to an evangelical speech full of "oh's" and "ye's" and other second person quotations, bad metaphors and unsuited parables, unmeaning Bible passages and stupid psalms, and then not to believe a word that the preacher says, thereby putting themselves on a level with the minister himself. Oh my, what an assertion we have made! However, there is no harm meant, for it is only the truth. It is only when we lie that we mean to do mischief, and we wouldn't lie about the church. You know that would be sin, and we would have to cry, "Oh, Lord, come down and curtail the powers of the Devil—with a Big 3!" That is, the devil in us—so called sin, with a Big 8.—Now, Spiritualism doesn't deal in such stuff. Spiritualists' sermons are regular lectures full of modern thought and practical teachings made for everyday life; not only made for Sunday and to be speeded out after services before attacking the fat ducks and pate de fois gras awaiting a passage to church-men's souls—the stomach.—Oh my, another whopper of a truth! Well, then, there is no harm meant; for we don't mean any harm when we tell the truth. It is only when we lie that we mean mischief. Truth never hurts—sensible people. But as the pen might slip and unwittingly tell an untruth, we think it advisable to close this little sermon before going any further. More anon.

The spirit emanating from a three hundred pound human body, though having no weight in our gross condition of matter will feel just as cumbersome to the soul as carry about, as did the physical body in earth life. The agility of the spirit to be may be gauged by that of the earthy body when in good health or in the prime of life. But this does not imply that all stout people feel the weight of their bodies. This only refers to those who developed such a body by a life of sensuality and pigghiness. Natural obesity is often the effect of inheritance or physical causes as indifference or apathy brought on by some physical disorder. But outside of this it is not anglic. Clairvoyant visions of the latter never exhibit etherealized spirits (angels) with large corporealities as possessed by many earth beings. Thus the medium form must be the most natural.

A prominent Brooklyn divine is about to undertake a pilgrimage to Palestine in order to gather material for another life of Christ. What is the matter with the Bible? We should suppose that a good Christian would want no better material than God's own words for such a work. Or does he doubt the versions of its inspired writers? If so, why has he been trying so many years to cram it down his hearers as absolute truth. We should think such a historian rather weak in his faith; for what other testimony could he gather in Palestine to-day except such as would have to be taken on faith also? Why not now apply to himself what he has been trying to make others believe?

A better way for man to live is to take hold of every New Thought, analyze it and become a Sower in the Spiritualistic field. A Carrier Dove leads through a Golden Gate westward. More Light will dawn as he proceeds, Daybreak greets him as he reaches a point where Two Worlds smile at each other across the broad Atlantic. Another Light leads across where a Binner welcomes all to a Celestial City. Southward, he meets a Light on the Way which like a good philosophic journal, advocates Modern Thought, and brings him to an Advance Thought. From thence eastward a Watchman gazes at the star of Alcyone, which shines on THE BETTER WAY to Spiritualism.

"The Spirit Science Press," is the latest born of spiritual papers. It hails from Denver, Colorado; advertises to publish weekly at \$2 per year, with J. D. Davis as Editor. It seems to be in earnest, for it calls for contributions, and the first copy is quite an interesting sheet. But a new venture needs subscribers; so we hope our brethren will hail the newly arisen out with some show of appreciation, if but to send in a dime for a sample copy to begin with. You may want to continue it. However, we welcome it, and hope it may continue as it begun.

A Future Possibility.

Three hundred miles an hour is the proposed speed for the electric postal railroad of the future. An experimental line has been erected at Laurel, twenty miles from Baltimore, Md. A compromise between the pneumatic tube and the ordinary railroad carries a miniature train of two cars, solely for mails and light parcels, without any attendance. The road has three rails, one above the car for carrying the current, and two below which carry the cars. The cars are built of sheet-iron, and are two feet wide and twenty-one feet long. Speed will be regulated and power or brakes applied by electricity. If the experiment at Laurel succeeds, it is stated that similar roads will be laid between Baltimore and Washington and elsewhere.

RESPONDENTS

Toledo, Ohio. The cause here is progressing in its usual quiet way with now and then a visitor that keeps the interest alive.

Portland, Me. I called one Sunday evening with the First Society of Spiritualists of Portland, Sunday last.

St. Paul, Minn. The Spiritual Alliance Society are holding weekly Sunday evening in Waukegan chapel a large and appreciative audience.

Haverhill, Mass. Mrs. Kate R. Stokes spoke in her usual pleasant style on Sunday, October 14th, before the Unity Hall Society of Spiritualists.

Toledo, O. The First Alliance of Progress vs Thought met at Clark's Hall Sunday, Oct. 13th, at the usual hour, and listened to a very able lecture from Prof. Wessels.

Chicago, Ill. The People's Spiritual Society, 116 Fifth Avenue, had their regular meeting at 9:30 p. m. Sunday, October 15th.

Boston, Mass. The meeting of the Independent Club this evening was well attended, notwithstanding many outside attractions to divert its members.

Chicago, Ill. After long deliberation over the matter I have made up my mind to spend at least a part of the winter in Oregon and California.

Indianapolis, Ind. A good sized audience assembled at Mansur Hall, Sunday morning, October 15th, and after a few remarks by President Halston a song was rendered by the choir.

Yonk, N. Y. This is the true of Hall's Heretofore, for it is the great conqueror of gray or faded hair, making it look the same even color of youth.

Dayton, Ohio. The Catholic authorities issued a bull (edict) some time ago, excommunicating every Catholic member who attends a spiritual seance.

Boston, Mass. The meeting of the Independent Club this evening at Twilight Hall, was opened by the audience singing some of our old familiar tunes.

Leavenworth, Kan. With your permission I would like to say to the readers of your excellent paper that the cause of Spiritualism is still alive and growing in "Sunny Kansas."

Sumnerland Notes. We are greatly in need of a hotel in Sumnerland. There is not accommodation for the people now here, and many visitors who came to spend many weeks were obliged to go to Santa Barbara to stay.

The First Society of Spiritualists of New York City. The subject of Prof. J. Clegg Wright's morning discourse was, "The duties and obligations of Spiritualists."

Millerstown, Mo. Mrs. Kates and myself have just concluded a second series of eight days' meetings at this place. We held ten meetings, one of which was devoted to children, and one to women.

They were walking. She was from Boston. He stepped down on his back and said: "Oh! I'm all broke up!" She quickly replied with a grin of a down cast grandamian, "In that phrase rhetoric demands the verb 'was'."

San Bernardino, Cal. The Liberal Art Association of Spiritualists resumed their meetings after two months' vacation on Monday, October 15th.

On Thursday and Friday evenings, October 10th and 11th, Mr. J. Frank Baxter continued his successful work in eastern Ohio, lecturing in Alliance.

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On Sunday evening, October 15th, in Cleveland, Ohio, the Spiritual Alliance held its regular meeting at the Opera House.

On Monday, 14th, all arrangements had been made for Mr. Baxter to appear in the Opera House at Ashland, O.

On Tuesday evening, October 15th, Mr. Baxter lectured in Eagle Hall, W. Va. to a large audience in Eagle Hall, W. Va.

On Wednesday, October 16th, Mr. Baxter lectured in the Opera House at Ashland, O.

On Thursday, October 17th, Mr. Baxter lectured in the Opera House at Ashland, O.

For an inimitable work and employ one or two laborers, who would soon have many local societies result therefrom.

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On Friday, October 18th, Mr. Baxter lectured in the Opera House at Ashland, O.

AN ASTONISHING OFFER! Send three cent stamps, lock of hair, age, sex, one leading symptom, and your disease will be diagnosed free by spirit power.

DR. A. B. DOBSON, Maquoketa, Iowa.

DR. STANBURY'S SPIRIT REMEDIES. Prepared Under Control of an Ancient SPIRIT BAND.

PSYCHO-HYGIENIC PILLS.—These Pills regulate the Liver and Bowels, aid Digestion, act on the Kidneys, purify the Blood, cure many of the conditions necessary to a high degree of development, and are available in all phases of medicine.

WITNESS OF LIFE TONIC AND NERVEINE.—A newly discovered remedy for Nervous Debility in all its forms, Impotence, Paralysis, Dyspepsia, Insomnia, Neuritis, Neuralgia, Headache, Bleeding, Strains, Loss of Vitality from any cause in either sex.

THIN AT LUNG HEALER.—This wondrous remedy will cure any cough, no matter how long standing. It cures all Asthma, all Acute and Chronic Diseases of the Throat, Chest and Lungs.

WILD FIRE LINDIMENT POWDER.—One box makes a quart of liniment as above. Put up for those who prefer to make it themselves. Price 50 cents per box.

SEA MOSS HAIR TONIC.—Warranted to promote the rapid growth of the Hair and cure all itching, dandruff, and itching of the scalp from falling out or turning prematurely gray.

DR. STANBURY'S CATARRH CURE.—This remedy is used as a specific in Prostatitis, Backache, Hemorrhoids, Inflammations, Catarrhal Discharges and Genital Complaints.

DR. D. J. STANBURY, 54 Dwight St., Boston, Mass., or 305 South Street, San Francisco, Cal.

Ask Your Druggist for DR. STANBURY'S CATARRH CURE. Has cured many cases of prostatic and hemorrhoidal discharges, and all other ailments of the urinary system.

A LIBERAL OFFER. By A Reliable Clairvoyant & Magnetic Physician.

Send four cent stamps, lock of hair, name, age and sex, and we will diagnose your case free by inflexible spirit writing.

DR. FELLOWS' VINE AND NJ. In examining eyes clairvoyantly to adjust spectacles, and looking for the chief cause of failing eyesight, I found it to be catarrh and cold in the head.

MRS. DR. AUGUSTA SMITH. BY HER FAMOUS NEW PROCESS CURE TREATMENT.

Her treatment, which has given her so much celebrity, removes all POISONS and speedily restores the patient to health.

Occult Telegraphy Again. Read the following, which is only one out of hundreds of file in Dr. Rowley's office.

Dear Friend:—I have used two bottles of your magnetised catarrh cure, and one pack of your medicine, compound, and my head feels as clear as though I had never been troubled with the catarrh.

DR. F. POOLE, CLINTON, IOWA. Mentions this paper.

RESTORE LOST VISION. My Clairvoyant has been fitted the eyes never failed. Sent by mail \$1.00.

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

MRS. F. F. HILLIARD, TRANCE. TEST AND BUSINESS MEDIUM. MAGNETIC HEALER.

MISS NORA SELBY, SEER AND TEST MEDIUM. 204 Columbia St., (near Ringold) NEWPORT, KY.

MRS. J. H. STOWELL, TRANCE MEDIUM. No. 469 BAYMILLER STREET, Cincinnati, Ohio.

MISS LILLIE COOPER, TRUMPET MEDIUM. 330 Court Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mrs. H. L. Woodhouse, TEST MEDIUM. 224 Lexington Ave., New York.

PROF. J. D. LYON, BUSINESS & TEST MEDIUM. Sittings daily from 9 o'clock until 4 p. m.

MRS. S. SEERY, TRUMPET MEDIUM. 26 Pine Street, CINCINNATI, OHIO.

American ECLECTIC MEDICAL COLLEGE. 192 WEST FIFTH STREET. OPENED OCTOBER 1, 1889.

Prof. J. CLEGG WRIGHT, M. D., DEAN A. C. MALTBY, M. D., Registrar. Send For The Annual Announcement.

Attention Invalids! A GRAND METHOD OF Treating Disease Without Drugs.

MRS. DR. THOMAS, Box 417, Cardington, Morrow Co., Ohio. Chronic Diseases a Specialty.

F. N. FOSTER, SPIRIT PHOTOGRAPHER. Mansfield, Ill. Pictures taken from a Photograph or Lock of Hair, Sent \$2.00, Photo and five 2-cent Stamps.

Catarrh Can Be Cured BY USING POOLE'S Magnetised Catarrh Remedy.

In examining eyes clairvoyantly to adjust spectacles, and looking for the chief cause of failing eyesight, I found it to be catarrh and cold in the head.

One pair Melted Pebble Spectacles, \$1.00; one pair Eye Wash, 50 cents; one bottle of Catarrh, \$1.00. Sent by mail, one time, all will be sent, postage paid, for \$2.50.

POOLE'S Magnetic Compound IS THE BEST To Preserve and Restore Eye Sight.

This remedy, known as my Magnetised Compound, has proved itself an invaluable remedy for external diseases of the eyes and eyelids.

B. F. POOLE, CLINTON, IOWA. Mentions this paper.

RESTORE LOST VISION. My Clairvoyant has been fitted the eyes never failed. Sent by mail \$1.00.

SOLDIERS' RESTORATIVE. A. W. G. Gurnick & Son, Washington, D. C.

Wheeler, W. Va.

To the Editor of The Better Way. As the cause is beginning to look up now in our city, a few remarks as to our progress may be interesting to your readers.

LOCAL ITEMS.

Cincinnati Camp: June, 1890. Good talent has been engaged. The Lyceum has taken a new lease on life and a growing interest is manifested.

A Marvelous Cure.

Dear Dr. Dobson:—We have neglected reporting to you the cure of our boy by your spiritual remedies.

Church and Saloon Tax.

The Southwest says, "that as the saloons have to pay the taxes for both themselves and the churches, there should be about ten saloons to each church; that as saloons are compelled to pay the taxes of religious people, common honesty should concede to the element on which is thrown the burden of taxation, the right to enjoy its paid-for privileges in peace."

Oakland, Cal.

Presuming that your many readers will be interested in what is going on in the ranks of Spiritualists on this far away coast, we will say that the cause to an observer seems to be in a healthy condition and moving along finely.

Obituary.

Passed peacefully to the Summerland from his rooms in Masonic Temple, Cincinnati, Ohio, at 11:37 p. m. Samuel Boggs in his 83d year.

Great Excitement

At the Grand Hotel—A Life of Fear—An Unparalleled Statement of Facts—Dr. Henton & Phelps' Strange Magnetic Influence.

Summerland, Cal.

At a public meeting held by the residents of Summerland, September 25, 1889, the following preamble and resolutions were passed unanimously:

BRIEFS AND PERSONALS.

Habitual great-spirited man has departed. President Cleveland, author of "The Coming of the World," passed over last week at the age of 85.

Obituary.

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MOVEMENTS OF MEDIUMS.

All announcements under this head must be received at this office on Monday morning to secure insertion.

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Summerland, Cal.

At a public meeting held by the residents of Summerland, September 25, 1889, the following preamble and resolutions were passed unanimously:

HAIR ON THE FACE, NECK, ARMS OR ANY PART OF THE PERSON QUICKLY AND SAFELY REMOVED WITH

MODENE. DISCOVERED BY ACCIDENT. In comparing the hair on the face, neck, arms or any part of the person with the hair on the body, it is found that the hair on the face, neck, arms or any part of the person is of a different nature from the hair on the body.

MRS. DR. H. H. JACKSON. After one year's absolute rest, resumes her business through correspondence. Some are benefited through Mental Healing, others with Remedies.

RAW FUR SKINS. Highest Cash Prices Paid. HONEST ASSORTMENT. PROMPT RETURNS.

ECLIPSE POST HOLE DIGGER. The Greatest Labor-Saving Device Ever Invented.

GULLETT'S MAGNOLIA GIN. AMITE, LA.

FARMERS' SAW MILL. PORTABLE. TEN Horse Power Drives It.

LEACH'S OIL OF PINE. is Nature's Greatest Remedy for KIDNEY+TROUBLE AND LAME BACK.

WHITMAN'S NEW PATENT SUPERIOR PLUNGER PERPETUAL. NOW MADE.

"SELF-TRAMPING" COTTON PRESS. Complete, Self-Supporting, ready for belt, requires but little space in line room.

THE ROSS. Celebrated ENSILAGE and Fodder Cutters.

HE ALLEY CENTRE SHOT GUN. Newly Invented.

PALM LEAF PLUG. PERKINS & ERNST, COVINGTON, KY.

THE ROSS. Celebrated ENSILAGE and Fodder Cutters. These Cutters guaranteed to cut faster, run lighter, do a greater variety and better work than any machine made.