

THE
COMMUNITY'S JOURNAL;
OR,
STANDARD OF TRUTH.

Useful Knowledge,



Void of Fiction.

THIS VOLUME IS DEVOTED TO
HISTORY, SCIENCE, ART, AND GENERAL AND DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE :
WITH FOREIGN NEWS, ETC.

ALSO, SHEWING THE MORAL, SPIRITUAL, RELIGIOUS, PHYSICAL, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL
CONDITIONS OF THE HUMAN RACE, WITH AUTHENTICATED DOMESTIC TALES,
AND OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION, SELECT VARIETIES, POEMS,
NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS, ETC., ETC.

CONDUCTED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE NOTTINGHAM SPIRITUAL CIRCLE.

Printed for the Proprietors by S. E. HACKETT, Maypole Yard, Market Place, Nottingham : and Published by
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OCTOBER 31st, 1857.

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October 31st, 1857.

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INDEX.

No.	CONTENTS.	PAGE.	No.	CONTENTS.	PAGE.
1.	The Address	1	3.	The Heroic Mother	29
1.	Political Rights and Increasing Depravity	1	3.	Mutiny amongst the Native Troops of India...	30
1.	The Comet Panic	1	3.	Troubles of the Mormon Prophet	31
1.	The Outcast Family	2	3.	British Spiritual Telegraph	31
1.	Is Spiritualism Truth or Error?	4	3.	A New Use for Whiskey	31
1.	General Intelligence—Cost of Royalty	4	3.	The Princess Byal's New Abode	32
1.	An Infant Soldier—Life amongst the Mormons	5	3.	Presentation of French War Medals to British Soldiers	32
1.	Riots in Belgium, Spain; a British Schooner fired into by a French Man of War—News from China—French News	5	3.	Advertisements, &c.	32
1.	An Address to the Community	5	4.	The Hut on the Heath	33
1.	A Military Execution	6	4.	An Indian Difficulty	36
1.	Indian News—Advertisements, &c.	8	4.	The Attack on the King of Naples	36
2.	Political View of Teetotalism	9	4.	American News	36
2.	The Outcast Family	10	4.	Chinese News	36
2.	Truths of Spiritualism Demonstrated by Facts	12	4.	Experience in Immortality	37
2.	French News	12	4.	Universal Kingdom of Christ, &c.	38
2.	Russian News	12	4.	Divine Revelations, Ancient and Modern	40
2.	Italian News	12	4.	Are We, as a Nation, Degenerating? &c.	41
2.	American News	12	4.	Spiritual Manifestations	42
2.	Income Tax	13	4.	Select Poems	42
2.	Spread of Catholicity in London	13	4.	Destitution of the Poor in the British Capital	42
2.	Smoking in the Workhouse	13	4.	The Outcast Family, &c.	42
2.	To the Members of the Community	13	4.	A Dangerous Adventure	45
2.	A Military Execution	13	4.	A Prolific Slave	46
2.	British Spiritual Telegraph	15	4.	French News	46
2.	Another Mormon Defaulter	15	4.	Spanish News	46
2.	A Forest on Fire	15	4.	Italian News	46
2.	Cheering News	15	4.	Useful Knowledge	46
2.	The Mormon Chief Rules the Comet	15	4.	Comets and Women	46
2.	Ancient and Modern Maxims	15	4.	A Recipe for Success in Life	46
2.	A Joke Retaliated	15	4.	Select Varieties	46
2.	Destitution	15	4.	The Ill Effects of Encouraging crime	47
2.	A Truthful Joke	16	4.	Notice to Subscribers, Advertisements, &c.	48
2.	The Sin of Government	16	5.	The Hut on the Heath	49
2.	Notice; Advertisements, &c.	16	5.	The Laws of Nature and the Rights of Man...	52
3.	The Hut on the Heath, &c.	17	5.	French News	52
3.	Napoleon's Visit to Manchester	19	5.	Spanish News	52
3.	King Bomba	19	5.	Indian News	52
3.	A Vessel Run Down in the Channel	20	5.	Italian News	53
3.	American News	20	5.	News from Tunis	53
3.	Biography Beyond the Grave	20	5.	How Bailiffs are Treated in London	53
3.	Table Tipping	21	5.	American News	53
3.	An Address to the Members of the Community	22	5.	Prophecy 1.	53
3.	Divine Revelations, Ancient and Modern	23	5.	Divine Revelations, Ancient and Modern	54
3.	The Earth's Journey	25	5.	Address to the Community	56
3.	News for the Mormons	25	5.	A Curious but Cruel Fact, &c.	56
3.	National Education; or, Mockery of the People	25	5.	Administration of the Law, &c.	56
3.	The Outcast Family	26	5.	Juvenile Treachery, &c.	58
			5.	The Outcast Family, &c.	58

325914

No.	CONTENTS.	PAGE.	No.	CONTENTS.	PAGE.
5.	Gloomy Prospects of the Future, &c. ...	61	7.	Rising against the Mormons, in Birmingham	95
5.	The New Commander-in-Chief for India ...	62	7.	Notice to Advertisers, Advertisements, &c. ...	96
5.	Prinæ Napoleon in Manchester ...	62	8.	The Hut on the Heath, &c. ...	97
5.	India—Delhi ...	62	8.	French News ...	100
5.	Hail-storm in America ...	62	8.	Prussian News ...	100
5.	The Militia ...	62	8.	Neapolitan News ...	100
5.	Paris ...	62	8.	Revolt in Madagascar ...	101
5.	The Ill Effects of Encouraging Crime ...	62	8.	How the Revolt at Meerut Originated ...	101
5.	A Negro's Opinion of a White Man's Happiness after death... ..	63	8.	Maltese News... ..	101
5.	Notice to Subscribers, Advertisements, &c. ...	64	8.	Austrian News ...	101
6.	The Hut on the Heath, &c. ...	65	8.	Answer to an Appeal for the Wealthy ...	101
6.	Blood Coloured Rain in Bagdad ...	68	8.	Prophecy 4. ...	102
6.	Conspiracy to Assassinate Louis Napoleon ...	68	8.	The Oppressive State of the English Law ...	103
6.	Italian News ...	68	8.	Letter from a Constant Reader ...	104
6.	Indian News ...	68	8.	Divine Revelations, Ancient and Modern ...	104
6.	News from China ..	69	8.	Letter on the Arrangement of Society ...	105
6.	News from Spain ...	69	8.	Letter from W. T., London ...	106
6.	Prophecy 2. ...	69	8.	Our Critical Position, or England in a Fix ...	107
6.	Working Class Distress in Leicester ..	70	8.	Mesmerism ...	108
6.	Divine Revelations, Ancient and Modern ...	70	8.	The Outcast Family, &c. ...	108
6.	Prejudice, Bigotry, and Scepticism ...	72	8.	Social Reform ...	111
6.	Capture of a Shark... ..	73	8.	On Spiritualism ...	111
6.	The Boasted Prosperity of England, &c. ...	73	8.	Notice to Correspondents ...	111
6.	The Outcast Family &c. ...	74	8.	Advertisements, &c. ...	112
6.	The Gradual but Certain Growth of Spiritualism	77	9.	The Hut on the Heath &c ...	113
6.	The Atlantic Telegraph ...	77	9.	French News ...	116
6.	French News ...	77	9.	News from Spain ...	117
6.	The Cost of the Chinese War ...	77	9.	The Name of Mazzini a dread in Italy... ..	117
6.	The Collision in the Channel ...	78	9.	Squabbles in the Ottoman Empire ...	117
6.	Rebuilding of Sebastopol ...	78	9.	Gloomy News from India ...	117
6.	Capture of a Boa Constrictor... ..	78	9.	The Outcast Family &c ...	117
6.	Why did Adam Bite the Apple? ...	78	9.	What will be the Result of the Indian Revolt? ...	120
6.	An Odd Thought in a Young Mind ...	78	9.	An Address to the Members of the Community ...	121
6.	The Comet ...	79	9.	Prophecy 5th ...	123
6.	Mutual Forbearance ...	79	9.	Letter from J. S. T., London ...	123
6.	Water Falling Downwards no wonder ...	79	9.	Divine Revelations, Ancient and Modern ...	124
6.	How to Get a Feather Bed ...	79	9.	Letter from J. C., on the Progress of Spiritualism in Leicester	125
6.	Notice to Subscribers, &c. ...	79	9.	Letter (continued) on the Arrangement of Society	126
6.	Notice to Advertisers; Advertisements, &c....	80	9.	The Battle of the Intellect ...	127
7.	The Hut on the Heath &c. ...	81	9.	Advertisements, &c ...	128
7.	Public Meeting of Women ...	84	10.	The Hut on the Heath, &c. ...	129
7.	French News ...	84	10.	The Indian Rebellion ...	132
7.	Spanish News ...	85	10.	The Danubian Principalities ...	133
7.	Neapolitan News ...	85	10.	Trials of the Italians in France ...	133
7.	Revolt against England in the Ionian Islands ...	85	10.	Battle between the Russians and Circassians ...	133
7.	The Indian Revolt... ..	85	10.	The Outcast Family, &c. ...	133
7.	How the Poor are Kept in Ignorance, &c. ...	86	10.	Ancient and Modern Prophecy, and the General Aspect of Affairs as now appears amongst the Nations of the Earth ...	136
7.	Prophecy 3. ...	86	10.	Prophecy 6. ...	137
7.	A Working Man's Letter, from Manchester ...	87	10.	On the Newspaper Reports of the Victims to Spiritualism	138
7.	Divine Revelations, Ancient and Modern ...	87	10.	Divine Revelation, Ancient and Modern ...	138
7.	England's Prospects at Home and Abroad ...	89	10.	Pure Religion as taught by Christ and his Apostles, a Blessing to man: spurious Religion, or Sectarianism, a curse to the human race	139
7.	On the Divinity of Christ ...	90	10.	Continued Letter on the arrangement of Society ...	140
7.	Letter from the Secretary of the Spiritualists' Union	91	10.	Thunderstorm in Sheffield and Prevailing Vices ...	142
7.	The Outcast Family, &c. ...	91			
7.	An Appeal for the Wealthy, Remarks, &c. ...	94			
7.	Indian News ...	95			
7.	Chinese News ...	95			
7.	The Paris Plot ...	95			

No.	CONTENTS.	PAGE.	No.	CONTENTS.	PAGE.
10	How to extend the Circulation of this Journal, by a Subscriber	142	14	Letter of Enquiry	188
10	Terrific Thunderstorm in Nottingham, &c.	143	14	Divine Revelations, Ancient and Modern	188
10	Execution at Stafford	143	14	On the Moral and Physical Elevation of Man, &c.	189
10	Notices to Correspondents	143	14	The London Slave Market	191
10	Advertisements, &c.	144	14	General Intelligence	191
11	The Hut on the Heath, &c.	145	14	Notice to Correspondents, Advertisements, &c.	192
11	General Intelligence-India, France, Russia, &c.	147	15	The Hut on the Heath, &c.	193
11	The Outcast Family, &c.	148	15	The Increased Difficulties of England, &c.	194
11	Remarkable Indian Prophecy	150	15	Reply to the Letter of Enquiry	195
11	Lord Palmerston's hopes on the English Labourer's Prospects	151	15	Divine Revelations, Ancient and Modern	196
11	Prophecy 7.	152	15	On the Moral and Physical Elevation of Man, &c.	197
11	Slavery in England	153	15	The Mission of Christ to the Earth, &c.	198
11	Sunday Lyrics	154	15	The Cry of the Successful Freebooters, &c.	199
11	A Remarkable Revelation	154	15	Notice to Correspondents	199
11	Public Announcement	155	15	Advertisements	200
11	More faith than Intellect	155	16	The Hut on the Heath, &c.	201
11	Letter on Crystal Seeing	155	16	The Rapid Progress of Science, &c.	202
11	Divine Revelations, Ancient and Modern	156	16	Public Address	203
11	Miscellaneous	157	16	Divine Revelations, Ancient and Modern	203
11	The Oppressive Laws of England, &c.	158	16	On the Moral and Physical Elevation of Man, &c.	205
11	Notice to Correspondents	159	16	The Mission of Christ to the Earth, &c.	206
11	Notice to Advertisers, Advertisements, &c.	159	16	Hail to the Future	207
12	The Hut on the Heath, &c.	161	16	Miscellaneous	207
12	Public Announcement	163	16	Notice to Correspondents	207
12	The Outcast Family, &c.	164	16	Notice to Subscribers, Advertisements, &c.	208
12	Practical Blunder	167	17	The Hut on the Heath, &c.	209
12	The Indian Revolt and the English Press	168	17	The Fast, Mockery, &c.	210
12	Prophecy 8th	169	17	On the Truths and Errors of Spiritualism	211
12	On the Moral and Physical Elevation of Man, &c.	170	17	Divine Revelations, Ancient and Modern	212
12	The True King	171	17	On the Moral and Physical Elevation of Man, &c.	213
12	Labour's Exodus	171	17	A Word to the Young	214
12	Letter (continued) on Crystal Seeing	172	17	The Mission of Christ to the Earth	214
12	Superfluous Wealth, &c.	173	17	Advertisements, &c.	216
12	Divine Revelations, Ancient and Modern	174	18	The Hut on the Heath, &c.	217
12	Letter from T. C. S.	175	18	Can the Scoffers at Modern Prophecy, &c.	218
12	Advertisements, &c.	176	18	A Defence of Spiritualism	219
13	The Hut on the Heath, &c.	177	18	On the Moral and Physical Elevation of Man, &c.	220
13	The Defenceless State of England, &c.	178	18	The Toilers' Share and How to Mend it	221
13	Prophecy 9th.	179	18	Divine Revelations, Ancient and Modern	221
13	Divine Revelations, Ancient and Modern	180	18	The Mission of Christ to the Earth, &c.	222
13	On the Moral and Physical Elevation of Man, &c.	181	18	Notices to Correspondents	223
13	Causes of the Indian Mutiny, &c.	183	18	Advertisements, &c.	224
13	A Sign of the End	183	19	The Hut on the Heath, &c.	225
13	Notices to Correspondents, Advertisements, &c.	184	19	Sneaking Hypocrisy, &c.	226
14	The Hut on the Heath, &c.	185	19	Divine Revelations, Ancient and Modern	227
14	The Negro and his Wrongs	186	19	On the Moral and Physical Elevation of Man, &c.	228
14	Are the Indians Justified in Expelling their Invaders, &c.	187	19	The Hypocrites' Feast	230
14	Revelation from the Mormon Prophet	188	19	The Mission of Christ to the Earth, &c.	230
			19	Notice to Subscribers, Advertisements, &c.	232
			20	Contains Index, Notices, Advertisements, &c., to the end.	

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P R E F A C E .

THE principal object for which this Journal was sent before the Public was, that all classes of society, and more especially the down-trodden working classes, might have an organ through which their grievances could be made known to each other; and the Proprietors of the Journal have spared neither time, trouble, nor expense, to keep its columns open to the Public. But, as the Journal has boldly and fearlessly advocated the rights of man, both politically and religiously, we are sorry to say that the classes for whom it stood forth as the champion of their rights, have listened to those whose worldly interest the Journal opposed, and have rejected it instead of rallying round it, and endeavouring by their support to keep it afloat. True we have staunch friends, who have boldly come forward and offered their assistance, but the Proprietors finding that its circulation is not sufficient to clear one-third of the expense connected with it, they have been compelled to discontinue its publication. When the first number was published, in eight pages, we stated that, as soon as its circulation would warrant such a step, the Journal should be enlarged; and finding that with the second number more than one thousand was likely to be demanded, we, with the third number, increased its size from eight to sixteen pages, at the same price, viz., one penny, and had two thousand published weekly, at an outlay of seven pounds fifteen shillings per week. Now, if every copy had been sold and the Proprietors had received one penny each, a profit only of eleven shillings and eightpence would have been cleared, for all their outlay and labour; but instead of receiving one penny each, the greater portion has been sent to the booksellers in London and the provincial towns, who are supplied at the rate of ninepence per dozen, in thirteens, carriage paid; which, together with there not being more than one thousand copies sent out, and a number of them not sold, notwithstanding its increased size during its enlargement, the Proprietors were sacrificing nearly five pounds per week, besides their labour. Still, feeling anxious for the public welfare, they resolved to keep the Journal afloat, and decreased it again to eight pages, first issuing an address as an appeal to the friends of truth, numbers of whom responded and promised their support, even in its diminished form. But eight weeks have since past, and we find that it meets with still greater opposition on account of the principles it advocates. For the different religious communities in the various towns, on account of its exposure of their hypocrisy, are denouncing it as a devil's work, and are employing persons to go round both to the people and the booksellers, telling the people that if they read this Journal, or any of the works advertised upon it, they will go to hell and be tormented by the devil for ever in fire and brimstone. And the booksellers, they tell them that, to expose these works for sale, it will incur the eternal displeasure of God, and they too must be tormented hereafter for ever and ever. Many of the people, and some of the booksellers, have been weak minded enough to listen to these gross absurdities; and have rejected both the reading and selling of the journal, and hence it is that its circulation is decreasing, and the Proprietors being poor working men, are unable to stand against such heavy losses, otherwise the Journal should continue. But finding that means cannot be obtained to support it, it must be closed; nevertheless, the cause of truth will prevail, and in defiance of the hypocritical assertions and delusions of the mock religionists,

whose only study is the loaves and fishes, and not the welfare of the immortal souls of their fellow-creatures. Then, in defiance of all they can say or do in the protection of the hypocritical delusions, or to save their salaries, which they plunder from their ignorant followers, and pocket with the grossest effrontery, another Journal or Periodical will shortly appear, which will continue to advocate the rights of the poor, the downfall of oppression, and expose the hypocrisy and deception of those who set themselves forth as the servants of God, followers of Christ, and ministers of the gospel; and will the new Periodical meet with no better encouragement than the "Community's Journal?" Time alone will prove this. We are aware that the people generally will not believe truths. Modern revelations have declared that they will see their error only when too late. Hence we do not anticipate an extensive circulation. How strange it is that the poor down-trodden classes of humanity should be the first who stand forth to oppose, ignore, and ridicule men who are bold enough to advocate their rights, and endeavour to instruct them in the path of justice, righteousness, and freedom; yet it is so, for early tuition hath caused them to believe that no one portion of society would attempt to benefit the condition of the other, without some interested motive on the part of those who offer the benefit, be at stake. This we, the Proprietors, and Members of our Circle, have literally experienced; for although we have devoted our time, labour, and money, and have experienced heavy losses in every work published, the sale of them not being sufficient to cover one-third of the expense connected with their publication. And, in addition to this, hundreds have been gratuitously distributed; and for the last twenty weeks, exclusive of all other losses, the Proprietors have been experiencing an average loss of three pounds per week, with all our labour in the compilation, packing, and posting, sacrificed, all for the welfare of our fellow-creatures; yet, with all our labour and losses, it is unhesitatingly declared by those who are bigoted and prejudiced against us, that we are living on the credulity of the public, and accumulating fortunes for ourselves; but to any person who may be curious enough to wish to prove whether the above statements are correct or not, we can assure them that we have receipts and bills to prove that the only persons who have ever received any benefit from the printing or selling of these works, are the printer and the publisher, the printer being regularly paid, as his receipts will prove, and the publisher pays himself out of the stock sold. Therefore, having thus far shown the cause for the discontinuation of this Journal, we hope our readers will not think we have acted either unwisely or unjust in so doing. While, at the same time, we confidentially recommend to their perusal the "Universal Magazine, or Truthful Recorder of Passing Events," which will be issued in lieu of this Journal; and trusting that the readers of the "Community's Journal" will recommend it to their neighbours, and endeavour by such means to diminish the stock on hand, as its perusal must give satisfaction to all who read it, instructing and interesting young and old of both sexes, it thus becomes a volume which the head of every family should possess.

J. G. H. BROWN,

On behalf of the Spiritual Circle, Nottingham.