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“Command thy passions, and the gods obey.”



THE ORACLE.

Exponent of the West Gate Philosophy.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF PROGRESS. DEDICATED TO THE
PEOPLE OF HIGH IDEALS; DISCIPLES OF THE NEW ERA.


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Motto of the West Gate Brotherhood :

There is but one victory worth the
struggle; there is but one world
to conquer—the victory over
self, the world within.

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In the words of the immortal Emerson the ORACLE has hitched its wagon to a star. It will be content with nothing less than the highest, and it will seek to inspire its readers with the same divine ambition. The ORACLE will always aim to speak plainly, briefly and to the point. It assumes that the reader has no time to consider subjects which have small claim for recognition outside their verbosity. This journal desires to present themes of true service to the earnest occult student, and it aims to present them in a manner to assure sincere reading.

It is amicably disposed toward all other journals and schools of advanced thought, knowing that each fulfills an individual sphere of use.

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“In the will work and acquire, and thou hast chained the
wheel of Chance and shalt always drag her after thee.”

THE ORACLE

EXPONENT OF THE WEST GATE PHILOSOPHY.

Dedicated to the People of High Ideals.

VOL. I.

BRIDGTON, MAINE. JULY, 1895.

NO. 1.

THE INCOMING AGE.

Each succeeding revolution of the earth around her sun centre marks one more short step in the endless journey of her inhabitants toward Perfection. The Incoming Age will be a spiritual epoch. There are a few beings now in the earth form who are truly seeking to live their very highest conception of purity, chastity and those other noble qualities which are potent to consciously usher the son of man into the presence of Divinity.

Slowly and almost imperceptibly the "old grey earth" has climbed up into the outer regions of that cycle where golden opportunities are within her grasp. This stage of her growth marks a most important era in the life of the planet. It makes possible the re-birth of the mortal into the state of immortality. It makes this state possible here and now. A few earnest souls have done this in past ages. They have hastened the usual processes of slow evolution and have flown far ahead of their time; thus solving a problem, through years of severe struggle, which may now be accomplished far more easily and generally.

But mark this truth: while the present People of High Ideals can more easily reach the divine planes which the masters of past ages have attained, yet this growth and development does not mark the ULTIMATE which the Incoming Age demands. We must go higher than any example furnished by the Past if we would fulfill the most significant utterance of earth's greatest Master. The time is come, and the voluntary birth into immortality may be ours.

A SUGGESTION.

In the study of the stars the student of occultism may derive a quality of pure inspiration which he little dreams of if he has never entered this vast field of research. We do not advocate a close mathematical application to the science of astronomy, but rather a contemplation of the beauties of the starry heavens at all times when opportunity allows.

A knowledge of the names, character and a few of the

principle points connected with the members of the solar system, together with light study of those other celestial objects distinguishable to the naked eye, is all that is necessary to bring inestimable benefit to the true student. Only those who have really entered the mystic domain of this sort of stellar research can understand how very close to the Source of All, one may thus approach.

It is so very easy to commence the study, and the methods for pursuing it are so simple and easy to apply. Upon every clear night the lesson book is open and free for the perusal of all. Recently we have taken much satisfaction in watching the beautiful planetary display in the western heavens. Upon one evening (when the new moon was in view) the scene was too magnificent for any description in words. There was the coy Mercury, which countless people have not beheld during their entire lives, twinkling low down in the northwest; Jupiter, Mars and the Queen of Evening (Venus) all clustered together around the young moon, as if engaged in council over some subject of mighty import. And we are inclined to believe that such was really the case, for these strange situations augur important events. One of these events was the birth of the ORACLE. As to what its present humble circle will broaden into, the unturned leaves of the future, alone, will reveal.

Yes, the stars may send us many a useful and helpful thought and we advise all to systematically study them. Study them with that spirit which will cause them to disclose, through their darting rays, the secrets which they hold for YOU. Thus you may comprehend the higher uses of astrology spiritualized.

JUSTICE AND RETALIATION.

I have just written a retaliatory article concerning an envious paragraph recently published in reference to myself and my work. I wrote this article with the intention of printing it in this issue of the ORACLE. But somehow I seem to be fully satisfied with the WRITING of it and will not defile the pages of this journal by direct reference to a supposed injury of a personal nature. If the life and works of a person is not sufficiently strong evidence of his true worth, then words are of little avail.

In this connection I am reminded of the scriptural passage, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." Knowing this to be absolutely true I am content to wait.

"Tao' the mills of the gods grind slowly,
Yet they grind exceeding small."

A strange incident caused this decision of mine not to print the article above referred to. The incident was this: I was walking up the path a few moments ago and seeing a movement in the grass I stepped aside to investigate and soon discovered a small striped snake wriggling along almost beneath my feet. I drove him out into the open space and there he lay at my mercy. As a boy I had a great reputation as a snake hunter and have probably killed every variety of snake known in New England. Have been "in swimming" in the same vicinity with water snakes; have handled and sported with them nearly ever since I can remember and at one time was bitten by a very rare, dark brown snake, and I carry the mark to this day. Hence when this particular reptile lay there so easily within reach of my foot it was very natural that said foot should rise and do its customary work of destruction. But "Pisces" was restrained by a higher influence. This influence was so strong that I could almost hear its audible voice. It told me that the snake was harmless; that it was created for a purpose; that I had no right to take its life; that when its usefulness was ended it would die by virtue of the same power which gave it life. I listened to this voice and I obeyed it, passing on and allowing the snake to wriggle back into the obscurity of the grass. Then a still more marvelous thing transpired. The voice had gained an audience with my reason and it hastened to improve its opportunity for further advice. During the next few minutes it delivered a sermon which I shall probably never forget. In substance it said: "You have been merciful to that little snake and have not interfered with his work. Now be still more generous in your treatment of the OTHER snake. He is just as harmless to your real interests as this one which has crawled out of your path into the grass. He is able to be temporarily troublesome to the sense of sight, and will create a feeling of loathsomeness within you, but all this is transitory, while the step which you were about to take in the publication of that article would have ended his work as completely as you proposed to end the life of the reptile of the dust. Treat this injustice in a way which can be of use to your adherents and the readers of the ORACLE but NEVER deal with personalities." Again I listened and again I obeyed. And I feel that I have given my readers a thought therein which will be of far greater and nobler influence than it would have been had I essayed to CRUSH, in violence, the agent over which God alone has jurisdiction.

I have heard an anecdote of the illustrious Lincoln to the effect that his Secretary of State once came to him with a very serious mein and said that some politician of note had grossly

insulted him (the Sec'y). Lincoln listened with his customary quietness. At the conclusion the Sec'y declared his intention of writing a scathing rejoinder and asked the President's advice in the matter. "Do so, by all means," said Lincoln with warmth, "and when you have written it come to me and let me hear what you have done." Highly pleased with this endorsement the Sec'y lost no time in the preparation of a most cutting and sarcastic epistle. He repaired at once to the White House and laid his effort before the President. "Good! Splendid! Serves him right! You have put it in a way that he doubtless deserves, etc.," ejaculated Lincoln, all of which was very gratifying to the expectant Sec'y. But when the latter arose, folding his letter as if to direct it, the President said, "By the way, what are you going to do with it?" "Do with it?" cried the Sec'y, "why send it of course." "You will do nothing of the kind," said Lincoln with firmness, "you have said what was in your mind, and having expressed yourself so well your next step is to BURN IT." Wisely may the principle of this story be applied by each and all of us. Let us never pause to publicly answer or refute an untruth. It is precious time worse than wasted.

C. H. M.

THE WEST GATE NUCLEI.

This plan has been inaugurated for the purpose of bringing the advanced thinkers of the world into harmonious relationship through correspondence. Each Nucleus consists of two and three principle members, as set forth in the circular which we send to all upon application. The underlying motive is to get these members well acquainted and harmonized through correspondence and then to urge them to attract others to their Nucleus for the dissemination of advanced thought.

There is really no limit to the influence for good which this plan may wield and no doubt it will meet with the approval which it merits. It will be especially welcome to those students who are far removed from associates of a congenial nature. The associates are selected from opposite sexes and with the idea in mind of adaptability. When they are placed in correspondence with each other all details of Nucleus work are arranged strictly between themselves.

Some very pleasant and helpful bonds of true friendship have been created through this idea, and we are in receipt of frequent letters endorsing and praising it. But all that has thus far been seen in this connection is merely preliminary to the great work which the future may reveal. If we could organize

one thousand of these humble centres throughout the land an influence for good would be apparent which can hardly be estimated.

IDEAL MARRIAGE.

If the married state proves to be a condition of limitation then it may well be pronounced a "failure." We speak now with regard to the higher uses which it may subserve to the true student of occultism. It may be a heavenly state and it may be an infernal one. It is within the power of either party to make it a perpetual means of peace and happiness. But the principal work is the husband's, and his influence is quickest felt and the most lasting, either for good or bad as he elects. The wife is usually ready to accept any plane which the husband occupies. If this plane is high and pure then the bond of matrimony is a celestial state, indeed, and the influence for good which the two will exert cannot be estimated.

There **MUST** be harmony and this can come only through constant watchfulness and forbearance by one or both parties. The unruly tongue is the principal source of trouble with man and wife and if this weakness is studied and remedied the "family jars" would be reduced to a minimum. And there must be full liberty and freedom or here, again, we lose the ideal degree. We know exactly what this means and admit that it is an almost impossible principle to carry out in actual life. Tell the average woman that you do not want her to feel limited and bound simply from the fact that you have a mere legal claim to her and what is the result? It is this: she will accept invitations to theatres, dances and other places of amusements and will never have a pang that you are at home alone and full of regret because your wife has been unable to know your **HEART**.

The true man and husband will **TELL** his wife to enjoy all possible freedom, but his heart and soul will suffer intensely if she finds it agreeable to seek any form of freedom distinctly apart from him and his interests. Now the question arises, "has he any right to feel thus, and is it not extreme selfishness for him to allow such emotions?" Well, the subject is pregnant with all sorts of possible argument, but since we are considering the **IDEAL** marriage state, we must say that the husband's position is correct and his **HEART** decision entirely right and of a most divine character. His **WORDS** may say to her: "I married you to help you; to broaden your sphere of usefulness; to give you higher and diviner enjoyments; to insure your greater freedom,

but not to limit or crush out any independent work which your soul has yearned for and lacked the opportunity to bring to fruition." These words translated into HEART throbs read somewhat differently, however: "Cannot my aim be yours? Is not my constancy and devotion to you sufficient! There is none other in all the world that can assist to give ME true pleasure save you and I would that you could know the true spirit of the words which my principle of honor compels me to utter?"

But, alas! There are few if any women who have attained the sublimated plane where they can see a thoroughly pure man's heart. The truly unselfish husband gives his wife a certain privilege and his heart, at the same time, yearns for her to renounce that privilege because it leaves him outside the circle which she must enter in order to partake. But she fails to read him aright and thus severs another strand in the rope of pure love. She may be the personification of virtue and possess the most sterling qualities of a true wife; she may own deep and unchanging love for her husband and never be disloyal to him by word or act, as disloyalty is reckoned by society. But this is of small account. She widens the gap which must be crossed before the "twain becomes one," and she misses the golden enjoyment of the ideal marriage.

The reader may conclude that our "ideal" is too high for any possible association of earth. Not so, however; it is entirely possible of attaining, and the hint of selfishness is fully removed when the true state is reached by both parties.

ASTRAL FLIGHT.

We consider the principle and most important point about astral journeys to be this: do not desire to go to any particular person or place, but hold a steady, and passive attitude, allowing the soul to move as she deems wise. It is well, however, to be cautious in determining between soul action and thought action. The latter is wavering and uncertain, the former steady and unchanging. To make my meaning clearer, the thoughts will lead out into one direction and then immediately fly to some other field, while the soul will usually usher you at once into the presence of a distant person or scene and will stay there as long as the brain is kept in a passive condition.

The most propitious periods for astral journeys is between the waking and sleeping state: at night before going to sleep, or early in the morning upon partially awakening. A great deal depends upon the ability to hold the mental and physical STILL, and give them thoroughly into the position of observer,

allowing the higher nature to conduct the operation after its own manner. This advice is particularly applicable to those whose astral "wings" are just beginning to plume. After repeated experiences, and when the three mysteries of the microcosm have become thoroughly in harmony with each other, then the external man may more safely choose the friends and scenes which he shall visit.

In the Peter Ibbetson astral experiences the position of the body was always the same, namely, one foot was crossed lightly over the other, the arms were thrown above the head and the body lay flat upon the back. These are details which I have no doubt were worked into the story merely as points which first occurred to the author. Nevertheless we are convinced that the body's attitude is of more or less importance, but it is not well to lay down a general rule, for the reason that mental and physical habits and weaknesses of each person will best decide as to this point. A favorable position for one person might be very unfavorable to another. Self study, alone, will enlighten us here.

NOTES.

The reader has doubtless observed that the ORACLE is not an especially voluminous journal! Size is not always a true gauge of worth, however. This point may be comprehended by placing the meat of a nut along-side the shell. Nevertheless we trust that our pages will gradually increase in number with each succeeding issue, and this without increase in subscription price.

It is probable that the permanent home of the ORACLE will be that centre of centres for spiritual and intellectual work—Boston. We propose to issue the magazine from Bridgton during the summer months only. Due notice of change will be given.

"How true it is that occult students who do not pay sufficient attention to bodily culture sooner or later become unbalanced." So writes one of our students. His observations have been wisely directed and his conclusions correctly drawn. The physical has not been given us through any blunder or series of blunders. We have it for a PURPOSE. We cannot get out of it permanently until that purpose is out-wrought and understood.

Bridgton is a spot so beautiful and so full of nature's dearest works that a faithful catalogue of her charms would be pronounced by the reader too ideal for any locality now existent in this "vale of tears." The village is in the midst of a most prosperous farming country, surrounded by mountains, lakes, groves

and every delightful creation of God and nature, of which the greatest by far may be reckoned her exemplary people. Here "hard times" is an unknown evil, and crime is a stranger seldom seen within her limits. A fitting place for the early life of the ORACLE.

Some of our people have a very erroneous idea regarding our attitude toward Christian Science. We are evidently supposed to be at enmity with this great school of advanced thought. We take this opportunity to firmly and unequivocally disclaim enmity or opposition to the true principles of C. S. The sincere exponents of this system are doing a mighty and needed work, and our hearty God-speed attends them.

Upon the evening of June 9th, here at Bridgton, we have good reasons to suppose that we caught a glimpse of the planet Uranus. It occupies a position some six degrees south of the star Spica (in Virgo) and about one and a half degrees east of said star. We located it first with a small telescope and afterwards could see it with the unassisted eye. It is very rare, indeed, that this planet can be seen save with a good glass.

Virile power, wisely used, and continence go hand in hand. They are co-existent and inseparable. If there is no virility there is no continence, although the subject may claim it. He simply does not know what he is talking about, and his continency (?) is merely a forcible retention in one way and a constant loss in another. The man who uses opium and tobacco does not make very much of a victory if he drops one of these habits and clings to the other. This is especially true if, as is usually the case, when he renounces opium he uses three times his customary allowance of tobacco. True regeneration is very slightly comprehended by most of our occult friends. Otherwise they would not be held in ONE degree for so long a time. They hypnotize themselves into the belief that they have it all, when, in reality, they have perceived but one point, and there are eleven more still beyond their range of vision. The narrow way is a peculiar path to tread. Its margin is microscopic!

No religious or scientific movement of modern times has done more for the enlightenment of the civilized world than Spiritualism. It has been the leaven which "leavens the whole lump." In the ranks of Spiritualism starts the investigation that leads up to the highest planes of earth life, provided the investigator has the courage to hasten forward as soon as the true uses of that school have been subserved. Nothing under heaven, save Spiritualism, could have held out a hope to us of immortality, when grim despair forced us to look higher than earth's resources for our peace of mind. We own and bless this bridge that guided us into a conception of life's nobler possibilities.