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No. 2.

EXIT OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL FROM EGYPT INTO THE WILDERNESS OF SIN.

MRS. M. M. SISCO.

PART SECOND.

God led his children out of Egypt into the wilderness where they murmured at the bitter waters which the dead fishes had made to stink, and wished themselves back into Egypt.

After our earth with her children (the children of Israel) was brought out of Egypt into the wilderness of Sin (Zin) God gave them manna for bread and quails for meat. Again let us remember that bread or bread-stuff is a symbol of spirit or spiritual life, but meat is a symbol of physical life, hence the spiritual food (manna) was so small as to be compared to hoar frost, while the quails which God sent with his wind (trouble) from the surging sea of dark ignorance were scattered around about the camp two days journey i. e. a day's journey each way and were piled two cubits high. Thus we see that the spiritual food was very small when compared with the animal food, and we also see that manna and quails were their food while in the wilderness, but the spiritual food was very small compared with the material food because of their lack of spiritual esse, so they lived almost wholly upon quails.

"And while the flesh was yet between their teeth" (ere it was chewed, margin) "the wrath of the Lord was against the people and he smote them with a very great plague."

And he called the name of that place "Kibroth-Hatavah or the grave of lust" because they were so blinded by their lusts; in other words, their lusts for material things had buried them in ignorance of all spirituality while chewing their quails.

Therefore while they were journeying through Kibroth-Hatavah toward the porch of a higher condition they were holding their animal nature between their teeth with an iron grip; indeed, it is hard for us to let go that which has become second nature to us. But the door of this higher condition must and will be opened for us to enter (for we of today are the Children of Israel) when we are ready to spew out all our animal tendencies which we have fostered so

long.

Again let us repeat that the land of Biblical Egypt means a part of Virgo, Cancer and Gemini, while Taurus, Aries, and Pisces, the three next constellations mean the wilderness, and Pisces is the court in front of the king's highway that will lead us out of the grave of lusts into Hazaroth (the open porch) of spiritual freedom.

Pisces, being the god of all manner of excesses and aspirations, means the grave of all our lusts, not only of sensual lusts (although there is enough of these to nearly fill the pit) but the lust for fame, the lust for gold, the lust for wine, for revenge, and all manner of murders, revelry, etc., etc. And all of these forms of lusts come from lack of spirituality because our meat (quails) has overbalanced our bread of spirituality (manna); in other words, we have overfed our material wants while we were starving our spiritual needs and did not know it.

Is this the hidden manna spoken of in Revelations? Yes, it is, only that the manna in the wilderness had so little of the true spiritual elements in it that people became dead in trespasses and in sin, and here is just where we all stand today, upon the open grave of lust, or Pisces, close beside or within the porch of Hazeroth which will prove to be the gateway to the "White Stone" age spoken of in connection with the hidden manna, in Revelation 11; 17.

We read in Ps. XXVIII 24; 25. "And he rained down manna upon them to eat and had given them of the corn of heaven."

"Man did eat angel's food and he sent them meat to the full." In this last verse, we are referred to the margin, which reads, "Every one did eat the bread of the mighty" which plainly proves that the little manna of the Old Testament was spiritual just as much as the hidden manna was only there was not so much of it but it was the bread of the mighty or of angels.

Now let us see what is said about the quails. "And he rained flesh also upon them as dust like as the sands of the sea." But in the stone age God gave them the corn of heaven, not quails.

"So they did eat and were filled for he gave them their desire." In other words, he gave them their animal and spiritual desires.

"They were estranged from their lust, but while their meat was yet in their mouths, God's wrath came upon them," etc.

Here we find abundant proof that the manna was our spirituality, and that the quails meant our animal desires, for the manna was angel's food and the meat was their desires.

We will now see what the difference is between Egypt and the wilderness of Zin, for when the people were led out of Egypt they were plunged into this awful wilderness, and, with the little light they had, they revolted at the bitter waters (troubles) which they were forced to drink and therefore wished themselves back into the darkness of total ignorance.

It is an old saying and, perhaps, a true one that "Where ignorance is bliss, it is

folly to be wise," at least it seems true to us. The immortal Shakespeare said, "A man that is robbed and does not know it is not robbed at all." By virtue of the same law, we can truly say: A man who is a slave and does not know it, is not a slave at all.

Now let us ask, what could better illustrate our quickened spirit than the darting to and fro of the little fishes? And what could better illustrate our spiritual apathy than the dead fishes, which made the waters of materiality a stench in the spiritual nostrils. Let us remember we are even now under the astral vibrations of dead fishes. Could anything better illustrate the social and financial captivity, and the spiritual apathy of earth's children than the small portion of spiritual manna, and the abundance of material meat which is today being wafted in unto us by a mighty wind from the sea of trouble so truthfully represented in Num. XI; 31. And are we not even now the children of Israel, crying in the wilderness of Zin for pure, sweet waters from the rock of salvation, as a healing draught to our fainting, weary spirit.

When we cast our mental eyes broad-cast over the woes and ills and captivity of the whole human race of today, (for the millionaire is just as much a slave to his "golden calf" as the tramp is to his enforced idleness) is it any wonder that those who have already felt the glimmering rays of quickened spirit-love murmur at the bitter waters they are forced to drink.

Now let us look at the infallible astronomical laws of this wilderness which has made mankind just what they are and we will soon see that the wilderness of Zin and Egypt are two different ages, and that the Bible tells the truth when compared with astronomy.

We have said that Egypt extended over nearly four signs of the zodiac, i. e. from the begining of the reign of Hydra, to the dividing line between Gemini and Taurus, so, of course, the wilderness of Zin begins at Taurus and ends at the dividing line between Pisces and Aquarius. But through the centuries of Taurus the Children of Israel, i. e. the children of Earth, found some light. Although it was not clear and effulgent, yet it was much better than the troubled waters of Egyptian darkness, which the old serpent had stirred to their uttermost depths.

Now we will say that Leo has wholly lost his tearing rending influence upon the children of earth, because Orion, the constellation called the "giant hunter," shows that he has killed the nemian lion, because he is illustrated as carrying upon his arm the lion's hide, and he stands close beside.

Taurus just outside the zodiacal belt upon what is symbolized as a strip of heavenly land, where there is no water leading up to the heavenly zodiac, yet there is the river Po, or Eridanus, running zig zag through this neck of land upon which Orion, the giant, is hunting. Above the zodiac exactly opposite of this neck of land we find, near Taurus and Aries, and exactly opposite Orion a constellation called Aurigo, the charioteer, who is pictured as holding in one hand a bridle, and in the other arm three young kids, while the mother goat is swung

over his shoulder and represented by that beautiful star Capella. So on one side of the great belt we find Orion, the slayer of the lion with the lion's hide hanging over his arm, and on the other side the Saviour of the lambs or kids in the sympathetic shepherd, Aurigo, who is closely linked with the Christ, age Aries.

Astronomers say there is some mystery connected with Aurigo as no one is able to account for the goat and kids mythology has placed in his arms. It is said that even the Greeks could not agree as to the meaning of this myth, or why he is called the Charioteer, but Dr. Swiss gives it a religious significance and says it represents a shepherd.

Of this heavenly myth Aratus wrote thus;

"On his left shoulder rests the sacred goat said to have suckled Jove.

Oelian goat the Priests have named her."

This constellation we find to be the foster father of Jupiter.

And again wrote Aratus:

"If thou wouldst look on starry Charioteer,
And hast heard of his kids and his wondrous goat;
The goat and the kids on the purpling deep;
Oft look to rescue sinking mariners;
Vast looming shalt thou find on the Twins left.
His form bowed forward."

To us both Aurigo and Aries represent the Christ of two thousand years ago for it is just about two thousand years since our earth passed out of the signs of Aries and Aurigo, and, certainly, the three little kids which Aurigo holds in his arms speak the language of the shepherd Christ when he said; "Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." And we also find the Christ represented in Aries for he, Christ, was called the "Lamb of God" and is as good as one with the family that Aurigo is caring for as a Saviour or shepherd. We see by the surroundings of Taurus that the first house in the wilderness of Zin was not so very much troubled, as we will prove the other two to be, although all three of the signs, viz; Taurus, Aries, and Pisces, throw their vibrations upon our earth at once; albeit the dregs of the bitter cup are mostly in Pisces, but Aries symbolizes trouble and sacrifice.

We have said that Aries and Pisces are troubled more deeply and thus send a more troubled vibration earthward than Taurus, because the mythical heavenly waters where Cetus, the heavenly whale, (the Bible Leviathan) is pictured as swimming, overlaps Aries and Pisces, and Pisces is the worst house among the twelve zodiacal constellations and answereth to the Biblical Able Mizraim [mourning of the Egyptians.]

Here it is under the last vibration of Pisces that the dead fishes made the waters to stink and that Able Mizraim did their worst mourning, even wishing themselves back into Egyptian darkness. Now let us quote from Genesis L, 10; 11 "And they came to the threshing floor, or Artad, which is beyond Jordan, and

there they mourned with great and sore lamentation and he made mourning for his father seven days.

"And when the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the murmuring in the floor of Artad they said: This is a grevious mourning for the Egyptians, wherefore the name of it was called Able Mizraim which is beyond Jordan."

Of course Canaan or Canan, as my father used to call his sheep, is Aries. Did my father know that he was using a Biblical and astronomical title for his sheep? I think not.

Thus we see that Canaan is Aries, and Pisces is the threshing floor. It is also called the "fuller's field" and the "wine press;" in fact, it implies anything that means beating, or bondage, and who can look over the present conditions of earth's children and not see how we are being beaten, pounded and oppressed, as in a wine-press or a threshing floor.

So here we are the children of Israel in the wilderness, mourning over our conditions and murmuring over the corrupted waters (troubles) which the dead fishes have made to stink, and yearning after the sweet waters so long hidden from us by the Rock of Ages, but which is now ready for us as soon as we are able to cast off our worldly paraphernalia and grasp the chalice that Ganymede, the cupbearer of the Gods, (Aquarius) has prepared for us, and is waiting for us to sip from his wine-cup of spiritual, true spiritual nectre. And yet we halt, for we are deaf, blind and lame to our own ego, and cannot hear its voice of silence, or see the fine etherial tints of its downy wings. Or, like Nemesis, we are so strangely slow that we can well be called lame. But all of earth's children will be able to drink from this fountain of the gods at last. All hall the Day.

FAIR PRISCILLA.

BY GIBERT PATTEN BROWN.

It was in the cool September,
In the dear old long ago;
Corn was ripening I remember,
How her cheeks and face would glow.

She, her father's only daughter,
Fair Priscilla was her name;
Used to play down near the water,
Loved her mother just the same.

Lived a roaming life, this maiden, Nature's pupils, laugh and sing— Heart so free with grief ne'er laden, As the flowers in the spring.

By and by they laid her mother,
Then her father in the grave;
All she had then was her brother,
And they named him honest Dave.

Did this maiden droop? No never, Though her heart was bitter sore; For she loved her Dave, and ever, Would she greet him at the door. O'er the mantel, by the fireplace, Hung the flint-lock, sword and sheath, Which reminds her of that dear face, Father's picture, just beneath.

And when battle swept our nation, David donned his father's sword; While Priscilla left the station, Crossed the river, at ford.

Through then Uion lines she wandered, Fearing neither foe nor friend; For with God, she long had pondered, He would guide her to the end.

Like a spectre, oft she tarried, Nothing harmed her anywhere; For within her heart she carried, Mem'ries of her mother's prayer.

Many years this angel, reader— Has been with her mother dear; Also David, gallant leader, Joined Priscilla's band that year.

THINGS WORTH THINKING ABOUT.

DR. T. J.BETIERO.

As the earth and all of the planets pursue their ceaseless journey around the sun, Astrologers tell us that the whole universe is moving around another greater central sun. They have further calculated that this far distant sun which is many times greater than the orb with which we are familiar, is situated in the Pleiades and is called Alcyone. As the earth crosses the Equinox we have regularly periods of great atmospheric disturbances, storms and, perhaps, earthquakes may then appear. Such being a well known fact, is it not possible that at some certain point of the universal orbit, the magnetic harmany is likewise disturbed, and far greater cataclysms may result? The first statement is a known fact, the latter is simply a working hypothesis, and, if true, it accounts for some conditions which have for centuries puzzled the geologists.

We know that all ancient races of mankind have progressed to a certain stage, from whence they deteriorated, and, in not a few instances, they have been stricken down suddenly in their work or daily avocation.

In confirmation of the first we have but to recall the fate of the Chaldeans the Persians, the Athenians, and later, the luxurious Romans. To illustrate the latter we find in many parts of the old world unfinished temples and public buildings whose architecture was on a plane far superior to that of our present time. Travelers going from Teheran to Ispahan are shown the ruins of an unfinished temple whose design excels in magnificence any building of the present day. And a short distance from this hastily abandomed structure a great block of stone can be seen lying at the quarry, dressed and ready to assume its place among the huge pillars of the now ruined temple. This block of granite is said to be more than forty feet in length and so wide that two carriages might pass each other on its surface.

We shall not here discuss the means by which these ancient builders may have intended to transport this huge pillar to its intended place, for notwith-standing the many ingenious theories advanced from time to time, we must finally admit that "we know not."

The question I desire to bring before the minds of readers is: What caused these workmen to stop so suddenly at their task? In other parts of the world we find many unfinished undertakings which may have peen contemporaneous with the work just referred to.

As an answer to this query fraught with such grave interest to humanity we find among the Oriental records preserved at Lahore an account showing that between long periods the earth has been immersed in a cloud that brought death to all animal life. At another period we find that the earth was submerged in water. Not only was the greater part of animal life destroyed, but the narrative goes on to say that the sacred books were lost in this water and Vischnu was

sent down to recover them. These accounts proceed to say that at the end of each day of Brahm, the night comes on which lasts for a period so long as to almost baffle the imagination; and before the day changes into the night these great disturbances may be expected. According to these ancient records we are led to infer that in the progress of the universe around the great central sun there must be a crucial point where the earth encounters so condensing nebulae or solid substance that adheres to the earth, at the same time destroying the greater part of the animal and vegetable life. According to geologists the earth has six distinct layers of this nature, which may be taken for proof that the universe has revolved six times around far-off Aleyone since the dawn of creation (that is since the earth's creation.) Taking this plausible deduction for granted, we may go a step further and inquire into the possible cause of this periodical destruction. We find the answer in the one word—Evolution.

The human race must continually evolve, ever going onward and higher. We are the sixth root race, and the time may not be far distant when we will give place to the seventh or perfected race. Seven is the mystic number of Creation. There are seven days in the week, seven colors, seven perfumes, seven notes of music, and we always find the seventh higher and purer than any other degree of vibration. Therefore the seventh race, will no doubt, possess and cherish those attributes of the spirit, or inner sense, which now lies dormant in the great majority.

Some may say that such wholesale destruction as we have pictured would show cruelty on the part of Deity. To this I reply: Not so! There is no proof forthcoming to show that death is painful. On the other hand few know of their birth and we may well suppose that few will know of their death.

One of the most delightful sensations of my memory is the time when I was almost fatally injured. True when consciousness was restored my pains were such as might be expected under the circumstances. God in his great wisdom has made such provision that all forms of animal life when about to perish pass into that dreamy condition where they do not care to live.

However as we are taught by the pure doctrine of Karma and Reincarnation we were here from the beginning and if we use wisely our opportunities we shall be here in the millenium. The material bodies may undergo great changes as do all things in the material plane, but our spiritual natures may be made everlasting.

Then let us not be deceived into accepting the unreal for the real. Let us devote more time to the development of our spiritual self, and let us not lay too much store by the physical whose final object is to die.

The ignorane of evil doth not save From evil: it must roll on the same A part of all things.

WHAT IS OCCULTISM?

HENRY J. BARTON, L., L., B.

Almost everyday we are asked: "What is the meaning of Occultism?" And when we answer that it means that knowledge which is secret or hidden, the person will invariably inquire again: "Why is this knowledge secret or hidden? Why is it not fully explained to all?"

The latter seems, at first, to be very reasonable, but after the matter has been fully weighed and considered we will arrive at the conclusion that it would be utterly impossible as well as exceedingly dangerous to imbue the multitude with occult spiritual knowledge which is the highest type of wisdom that a person can acquire in this world and which places the key of divine mysteries into the hands of the recipient.

There are men in every country of the world, at this present day, as there has been in all past ages, who have grasped that power which comes through a knowledge of the secret and hidden forces of material things and invariably they have used their knowledge to oppress their fellow-man and, so far as they were able, to make him a hewer of wood and a drawer of water, but when those same men undertake to lay their polluted hands upon the hidden spiritual forces they find an Angel with a flaming sword, barring their further progress, and they are forced to turn back to the gross, sensual and soul-destroying material things of the earth for which they strove so hard to obtain and which has now turned to dust and ashes in their very mouths.

"Scarcely shall a rich man enter into the kingdom of heaven" (spiritual knowledge.) It is not merely from the fact of riches alone that a rich man is barred from heaven, but as a natural and probable consequence of man's inability to serve two masters. If he chooses to serve Mammon he must of necessity give up all hope of obtaining that spiritual knowledge which makes him a fit companion of the Gods, and he must be content with whatever joys he may receive by pandering to all those sensual desires of the body which are of the earth earthy and, in the end, destroys the body and drags the Soul down to perdition.

Man is a free moral agent; he can reach up to heaven or he can descend into hell. Two roads are open before him. He can choose the one that leads to the gates of Mammon, or he can choose the other which leads to the spring of living waters. It is not God's desire that the multitude should be barred from the knowledge of the occult, for he directed Moses to say unto the house of Jacob, and the children of Israel:

"Now therefore if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine.

"And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation."
God's offer of spiritual knowledge to these people was accepted, by melting

up their ear rings and setting up a goldon calf to be worshiped, and thus it has been with the multitude even unto this day. They have preferred material things to spiritual knowledge and as a reward, have received sickness, suffering and death.

Christ was not able to imbue the people with spiritual knowledge although he walked as God in flesh among them. "And with many such parables spake he the word unto them, as they were able to bear it.

And without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples." Mark 4; 33, 34.

But, although Christ spoke in parables, he gives positive assurance that those who earnestly seek occult knowledge shall obtain it, for he says: "Seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you."

No doubt the reader will inquire: "What benefit will I receive from a study of the occult?" To these I reply that you will obtain a healthy soul in a healthy body, for be it known unto you, Brethren, that there are as many sick souls in this world as there are sick bodies. You will be given to drink of the living waters of truth and wisdom and in due time the past, the present and the future will be unsealed to you, and the great mystery of mysteries will be as plain as a common problem in mathematics. If this reward satisfies you, brother or sister, knock upon the door of the Order of Oriental Mystics and all these things shall be opened to you.

THE CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES.

(We clip the following article from "Prabuddha Bharata, or Awakened India" an interesting magazine published in India. The article is written by a Hindu and may serve to dispel the false idea diffused among the people of our country by the returned missionaries that the whole people of India are living in utter spiritual darkness and ignorance.—J. R. B.)

We have been told that when an Englishman leaves Suez and comes eastward, a transformation comes over him. He becomes a different man altogether, mentally and morally; but, unfortunately, in the wrong direction. However this may be, we have often wondered how it was that the average Anglo-Indian missionary never found it necessary to modify his ideas as to the object of his coming out here. From the reports we read of missionary meetings in England, it is evident that the impression created in the minds of people there, by the missionaries, of their work in this country is an utterly false one. For they represent Hinduism as altogether a gross and unshapely superstition, and the people, as sunk in the densest darkness, mental, moral and spiritual. The whole vast population of this great ancient country, from intellectual Brahmin down to the very lowest class, are actually made out as living without hope and without God and created, it would appear, for no other purpose than to serve as a field of ripened corn for the Christian missionary to cut down with his Biblical sickle

and carry away in cart-loads to his church, Chapel or Gospel Hall, according to the particular caste of the many sectioned creed he happens to belong to. The work of the omniscient and omnipotent Ruler of the Universe is then made out as dependent on the people of England opening out their purse-strings, and allowing His work to be done for Him. In fact in the whole of this business there is no limit to the obligation of the Deity to the Anglo-Indian missionary. This is not intended as sarcasm; it is a straightforward statement of facts as they appear to us in India.

We may well ask, Is the missionary never disallusioned after he has had some experience of the country? It would appear not. Whatever the imagination may have pictured to him when listening to the extravagant presentation of things described above, and whatever ideas he may have formed of the nature of his work here, the missionary must surely find that on his arrival here he has no more heroic work to do than to take up quarters in a comfortable bungalow; to continue the same social life as in his own country; to turn school-master and cram boys for Government Examinations; or, perhaps, to look after the moral and physical welfare of a few so-called Christians, composed of the lowest classes of the population. And yet generation after generation of missionaries have gone back to England and repeated the old fiction of the ripened corn field and the paucity of the missionary laborer. It is only at rare intervals do we find some specially enlightened preacher of the Gospel trying to cast a little light into the minds of people in England as to the truth in regard to the religious condition of the people.

For several decades past the enlightened people of Europe have been familiar with the records of the ancient civilization of this country. There are translations in English of most of the philosophical and other writings of the ancient Hindus, and anybody of intelligence who comes out to India and acquires the least acquaintance with the people may easily find out for himself that the Hindus are not the unintelligent barbarians that missionaries make them out to be. Everybody has heard of the higher classes and the castes of the country; and a glance at almost any individual member of these will be sufficient to show the signs of birth and breeding in them. The very look of the Brahmin is enough to mark him as a man with an intellectual descent; and the Rajput's appearance shows him to be a hereditary soldier. The people in all their numerous sects and sub-divisions have their time-honored institutions, their long established customs, their religious rites, and their elaborate temple worship, all redolent of culture and antiquity. One cannot talk to an ordinarily intelligent Hindu on religious questions without being plunged by him into metaphysical and philosophical problems far beyond the scope of the narrow and short-sighted materialism of the European. That any intelligent person therefore should come out of this country and, observing the evidences everywhere of culture and civilization, should represent the people as sunk in "heathen darkness," appears to us nothing more than ignorance or a wilful perversion of facts—a shutting of the eyes to what is not wanted to be seen.

We will admit that there may be some work for the Christian missionary in India. He can do much good towards improving the moral and material condition of the degraded classes, and we will also acknowledge that a considerable amount of such work has already been done by him. But he should be candid enough on his side to confess that this is the limit to the missionary's powers as a religious teacher in this religious country. Half the so-called missionaries who come out to this country are perforce confined to educational work. Why is this? Because there is no field for them as religious instructors, and it will not do for them to go back and to report the non-existence of the ripened fields of corn; the missionary bubble would be pricked; and there would be no funds forthcoming to keep up the huge delusion of the Biblical sickle and the weary labourers in comfortable bungalows.

Notwithstanding the facts so patent to all, of the utter failure of Christian missions in this country so far as regards the classes worth Christianizing, there is still talk of what is called the "Evangelization of India." Simple people in England are still made to believe that such a thing is within the range of possibility. In regard to the belief we may here remark that it is well known that the confidence of the Britisher in himself and his compatriots is such that he will believe anything to be within the range of their powers. We need not wonder therefore that the extravagant idea should prevail amongst the people who may frequent Exeter Hall and such centres of religious opinion in England, and that thousands of rupees should be thrown away on an empty dream. There is one reason, at any rate, why the supply of missionaries may continue to keep on although the field for them may become smaller and smaller, and that is, unfortunately, that the missionary enterprise in England is largely a matter of business. In moneymaking England the Christian propaganda is a matter of busias much as it may be a religious sentiment. Possibly, at the first go-off, some really religious person or persons feel the need of organizing a missionary agency. Soon however the possibilities of such an undertaking as a means of breadwinning is perceived by other less earnest and less spiritual-minded persons, and the agency falls into the hands of such persons, who have sons and brothers and cousins to provide for; and these sons and brothers and cousins are pitchforked amongst us as teachers of religion! This explains how it is that many Mission Agencies become family concerns. It also explains the too evident unfitness of the great majority of the men who come out ostenibly for a religious purpose. It further explains the difficulty experienced in letting in light on what we may speak of as the religious question as it concerns this country, among the masses in England.

That the Christian Missionary with his verbal creeds and book-made religion should be able to impart spiritual light to the Hindu nurtured on the Vedanta,

is an incongruity of thought which no enlightened person would be guilty of. Probably the earlier missionaries knew little or nothing of the Vedanta. But between their day and ours much light has been thrown by European research on the Hindu religious philosophy. The study of comparative Religion, moreover, has enabled educated people everywhere to gain an appreciation of the various oriental religions and has exploded the notion once held in Europe that the Christian creed was a new starting point in religion. Jesus himself had no new truth to teach. He but presented the eternal verities which appeal to . every truth-seeking soul, and tried to revive in his degraded countrymen the light of spiritual truth which they had almost lost. But the Christian missionaries are not even teaching "the truth as it is in Jesus," as they would be less dogmatic and less bigoted if they did. Their Christianity is but the narrow dogmatism of the medieval churches, with its blind faith in authority and written documents, its miracles and vicarious atonement. That they have no idea of the essence of spiritual truth is evident. The fact that the best and highest thought of Europe is utterly estranged from the religion of the Christain Churches is convincing proof that orthodox Christianity is wanting in those essentials of philosophical truth which, when grasped, but receive fresh life with every advance of the mind of man. Orthodox Christianity as an intellectual system has no touch with science, and is unable to give a rational explanation of itself. Consequently the last resource of the philosophy of the padri is the intelligent formula, "Listen to what my Book says or retire to the nether regions." The fact is that orthodox Christianity is itself the crude survival of an ancient oriental philosophy which has filtered down through the hands of the ignorant, materialistic and persecuting priesthood of the European middle ages. Orthodox Christianity has therefore yet to rise to the level of its source before it can assume to even attempt to replace the Indian creeds.

I believe it is as natural for a human being to grow wise and happy, if he will obey nature's divine law, as it is for an apple tree to bear apples.

The ancient occult writers described a human being as the Garden of Eden, and in that garden was the tree of life, but the earthly nature called "Adam" and "Eve" could not digest the fruit on the tree of life, for the fruit was spiritual and required the unfoldment of the spiritual faculties to digest it, or to understand spiritual things. Our so-called Christian teachers have not obeyed the law of nature as has the apple tree, therefore they do not bear spiritual fruit. If they obeyed the schoolmaster's law the tree of life within the Garden of Eden would blossom, which is the unfoldment of their own moral powers, then the spiritual nature would unfold by natural law and the serpentine nature would not be backing up a false Cristianity with Peter's sword; for obedience to the schoolmaster's law would unfold the spiritual light which is the fruit on the tree of life, and the kingdom of heaven would be found by obedience to nature's divine law, as the growth and unfoldment of the tree of life in the Garden of Eden in the human mind, then the light of the unfolded spirit would sit on the throne of authority in each one's unfolded spiritual nature, and all the powers would obey it.—A. C. Doane.

THERE IS NO REAL DEATH.

MRS. M. M. SISCO.

WRITTEN FOR THE PHILOMATHIAN.

All, all is life! There is no real death!

The rocks confess it as they rise toward the sky;
The waves of the sea sing the same song, "No death!"
As their foam-capped waves roll mountain high.

The flowers, all around us with fragrant breath,
Drink deep from the living fountain of life;
All proclaim from their tinted cups silent as death,
Of the Master's mystical pencils, so rife

With glowing tints of Spring's shimmering rays,
When the sun has climbed to a loftier height,
And night waters their stamens with its dewey gaze
E'en through the veil of Earth's slumbering night.

Yea, all is life! There is no real death!
In earth, or sea, or the heavens above.
All space is filled with God's potent breath
Of ever unfolding and potential love.

The tall pines pierce with their needles so fair,
The dews, and perfume them with ambrosial life,
While rocking their cones in their arms with care,
As the winds moan all night in their wildest strife.

The stars sail along above the earth's azure sky,
Led on by the power of their own lofty flight;
And no one can mark their paths as they fly
Through unending space by their strength and their might.

For they are led by the soul-throbs of Deity's love; And they take not one step to the right or the left; For their paths are marked out by the cohorts that move All around and about them where no life is bereft.

Thus all must see that space is life and life is God. Yea, all within the broad domain of endless space Is chained together as one unbroken web Of the potential, everlasting laws of etherial lace

Which pushes the ego on to a loftier flight; Or chains it down to another incarnate dress Of mortal bondage, while striving for the right Of its own soul while fighting for redress.

"A checkered game is life, but blessed, happy and content are those who keep the checks woven as perfect as they can, and who try to fill their little world with the golden threads of love—that the knots and snarls may be few and small, the threads fine and beautiful, the web clean and pure, as the breath of spring, fragrant as her sweetest flowers."

Beautiful is the eagle when it soars aloft in the sky and plumes its distant flight toward the sun, but more beautiful still when it descends to the earth and brings food to its helpless offspring in their nest; so the philosopher is noble when he lives above the world in the cold atmosphere of science, but nobler still when he descends from his lofty heights and brings hope and comfort to the suffering sons of men.—Jean Paul Richter.

IN THE SILENCE.

FLORENCE MCGRAUGH.

Buddha said: "The wise man becomes full of good thought; he gathers it little by little."

The perfected or perfecting soul may consciously enjoy the gathering of good from every person and every experience even as the bee enjoys the gathering of honey from flower, fruit and weed.

The only reward which the Master promised to the pure in heart is that they shall see God or Good. He knew they would not desire any other reward, for the power to consciously receive, to see Good, is an unfailing source of deepest satisfaction. But such a beautiful state implies an ascension of man's whole nature,—not from one place to another, but from one condition to another, as grub and butterfly, mole and sky lark, live in just the same world. There is no ascension without the Passion and Crucifixion.

The soul is to herself a sea of bitterness, and she passes through floods of bitterness.

Yet no soul is forced into Angelhood. She may be thrown into the ocean again and again, but she will not be a Columbus to discover the "Kingdom of heaven within her," until she sails out boldly into the dark unknown, alone in her tiny craft, with the wild waste of waters raging around.

Who art thou, O soul, to shun experiences? Attack them bravely and manfully like the bee, with the earnest purpose of extracting good from each and all

So shalt thou lay hold of the good, and it will be to thee like an arrow shot into a prisoners cell. First a tiny soft thread of silk,—reel it in,—then a stronger thread—reel it in,—and so on, and on, until finally the rope becomes large enough to sustain a man's body and let him out of his prison.

So should it be with thee, O Soul, provided thou layest hold of the good in everything with all thy power.

St. Paul's expression, "Christ in us the hope of glory," does not and cannot apply to any extraneous personality, however bright and glorious, but to the development of the divine human spirit within.

Asleep in the cave of the body, among the lower elements—the oxen and the kine—he it is who shall save his people from their sins. And as it was said long ago, so also now. He came unto his own and his own received him not, but as many as received him to them gave he power to become the Sons of God. But such a purification and glorification, implies suffering as well as pleasure. I see not how any can be perfectly happy who feels his sympathetic relationship with the whole human family, and the highest and best will feel it most.

The highest and best are liable to suffer most from the greed and selfishness of present conditions, because the development of their interior faculties, puts them out of harmony with their environment. Herbert Spencer says that the amount

of suffering depends on the quality and condition of the surface exposed to it.

There is a without as well as a within.

"The wise man becomes full of good though he gathers it little by little." The rain falls drop by drop, till finally a mighty river rushes to the sea. Some great truth is rained down from the celestial regions watering the earth and making the wilderness to blossom like a garden.

Therefore despise not thou the day of small things, for in due season thou shalt reap if thou faint not.

STUDIES IN ORIENTAL PHILOSOHY.

JESSIE R. BARTON.

All Occult knowledge comes from the Orient and it will be well for us to take up a study of the teachings of the ancient oriental philosophers, those mighty and intellectual peace-loving masters who have so greatly transcended the physical in their researches that we of the western world are awed into silence even to contemplate the heights to which they have ascended.

India, that country whose records date far back into the dim vistas of the past, and which was hoary with age when Egypt, herself ancient beyond conjecture, was in her infancy, seems to have been the birthplace of all that is "wild, wierd and wonderful in the occult side of man's nature."

And as we are taught to reverence the aged why should not the literature and religious observances of these countries be given our profound attention and study. Their systems of religion and their philosophy contain much that is beautiful and inspiring and to him who understands the door of eternal life may be opened.

It is taught by the Hindu Metaphysicians that "there exists in the Universe, a pure, all prevading fluid, invisible, fiery, radiant, wholly divine, free from the taint of matter, purer than ether, stronger than the load-stone, mightier than the thunderbolt, swifter than the winged lightning. It is heat, light, motion, force; the soul of being—not Soul, but its power of life, being and motion. It connects God and Men, Heaven and Earth. It is the strength, or cohesive element in minerals; the growing power of plants; the life of men and animals."

This fluid the Hindoo designates as Akasa. In substance it is what the Rosicrucian calls the Astral fluid, in nature the Astral light and in animate bodies the Astral spirit, and what we of the western world call Magnetism, or life principle.

The theory of the ascetic practices of the Adepts of India rests upon the fact that the more the Soul withdraws from worldly matters and the more it seeks the things of the spirit the greater power it has of freeing Akasa and drawing to itself this divine fluid from all nature.

It is through the abundance of Akasa and its power over matter that the won-der-workers perform their seemingly wonderful feats but which to the initiate are really not wonderful at all, but may be performed by any one who has the patience and perseverence to develop his own latent powers.

Akasa is pure force and it is through a vast accumulation of it that heavy bodies my be moved, solids dissolved into fluids and again solidified. A magician by his powerful will may diffuse it through the atmosphere and picture upon it any image he pleases and cause it to be seen by a whole assembly. It also enables them to obtain control over the elementals or spirits of nature.

To develop these extraordinary powers a long course of training is necessary. One important feature of this process of development is a series of breathing exercises to develop an excess of Akasa in the human organism raising the rate of vibration of the Astral spirit to the Astral plane. The devotees are also instructed in methods of concentration and meditation by which they are able to develop the Will so that it may intelligently direct the vibratory currents as it pleases. The ecstatic who has reached this stage is called a Yogi or Adept.

WHAT THE HAND REVEALS.

There are ten stages of Yogism the study of which we will take up next month,

ву "СНЕТА."

THE FINGERS.

When you first begin reading the hands of persons it is a good plan to measure each hand you read, until the eye becomes trained to judge the length and proportions accurately which it will soon do. When reading character it is quite necessary to ascertain the length of the fingers in proportion to the length of the palm.

To take a measurement of the fingers, first get the length of the back of the hand from the point of the wrist to the joint of the middle finger where it joins the palm. Then measure from that joint to the end of the middle finger. If the fingers are normal the middle finger will be the same length as the back of the palm. If this finger is longer than the back of the palm the fingers are called long. If it is one and one-half or two inches longer the fingers are called very long. If it is shorter they are called short or very short.

Long fingers indicate a love of detail and an inclination to look after little things. Their owners are generally somewhat difficult to please on account of this strict attention to trifles. They are apt to worry over little things that others would pay no attention to.

If the fingers are very long the above qualities will be in excess and will show the owner to be meddlesome and fault-finding. They may also be cruel and tormenting. Pickpockets, shoplifters, card-sharpers and deceivers generally have long fingers, in which cases they are usually thin and emaciated. They are sometimes found on the hands of diplomats. These people are deceitful in little things. They would not rob a bank but have a faculty of picking up little things where they are not apt to be detected.

Normal fingers give a well balanced condition both physically and mentally, and show no extreme characteristics either way.

Short fingers show characteristics opposite to long fingers. The owners are rather unconventional and not guided by the laws of society. They jump at conclusions and cannot go into details.

Very short fingers show decided unconventionality. In fact the characteristics of the short fingers in an extreme. If they are also thick and clumsy, the owner will be cruel, selfish and perhaps lazy, but these will be caused by indifference rather than by any desire to harm any one. Such people belong the very lowest classes.

The length of every other finger is determined according to its relative length in proportion to the length of the middle finger.

The first (or Jupiter) finger should reach to midway between the first joint and the end of the middle finger. This is its normal length.

This series of lessons in Palmistry was commenced in the Oct. Nov. No. of The Philomathian. Anyone desiring the back Nos. can procure them at 10 cents per copy.

(CONTINUED NEXT MONTH.)

AN EXPERIENCE.

MRS. G. A. BARTHOLOMEW.

I have been thinking that I would relate an experience of mine, as it might be a help to someone who is puzzling over these questions as I have puzzled. It is both psychic and spiritual; a case in which the concentrated love thought, thoughts freighted with magnetic love vibrations, lighted and freed the soul of the departed one, and brought it into its at-one-ment with the Divine, its spiritual consciousness of its spiritual being.

Although the experience is very sacred to me I give it in the name of Christ, hoping it may help some other truthseeker, to illustrate our sacred mission to assist others through love, whether on the earth plane or in the beyond. Now I understand that the ultimate of existence is to become conscious of our spiritual relation to God. To make our at-one-ment with God, to know him in spirit and in truth and this I believe we must do eventually though it may take eons of time, and numbers of rebirths into this mortal life.

I had a dear and beautiful daughter who passed away from earth life a few years ago. During my last visit with her I had some conversation with her on the "New Thought" and Science of Being, etc. She would say "I have no doubt it is all right but I don't seem to be able to comprehend it." Intelligent, possessed of a kind and loving heart, her thoughts and desires all seemed to be earth centered, centered in the material things of this world.

Theosophists and seers tell us that the soul who passes out of this earth life with all its thoughts and desires centered in the things of this world, will be earthbound until spiritual light breaks in upon it and causes it to become conscious of its spiritual being, and frees it from the shell of earth desire in which

it is imprisoned. These thoughts would occur to me over and again, and I had a great desire to assist her if possible, and in my moments of silent meditation I would send her thoughts freighted with divine love, and I would say to her: O, my dear child! I want you to know what divine love is, and I believe I can make you feel and understand the love I send you and you will be conscious of it. This state continued for some time until one evening I had been sending her some very strong love vibrations before retiring when soon I became conscious of her presence, something gave me her name, and the most beautifully radiant vision appeared in my spiritual perception. I saw my child clothed like the sun, her features as natural as life, but all composed of different shades of shining light, the smile on her lips and in her eyes flashed like the rays of diamonds, and long rays of light streamed out in all directions from the centre, and all around and under her was a pink light like calcium light.

There was a query to me for a long time how it could be possible for me to see her such a radiant spiritual being, as I knew her then to be, if what I had learned from some of the best seers was true, i. e. that when one passes away unawakened spiritually they remain earth bound for an indefinite time, and this was no earthbound spirit that I saw. I pondered on it for some time and did not seem to comprehend the situation. After a while a sample copy of a paper was sent to me and in it I found a paragraph that just helped me out. I will quote

it here.

"Let our thoughts flow continuously in harmony with Jehovah's thoughts, and by this conscious love flow of our thoughts we cleanse the souls of those in darkness, by forming a likeness within ourselves unto God. The souls in darkness looking only for a material thought-flow from the earth, becomes receptive and catches the divine vibration from souls upon the earth plane as they ascend in thought vibrations. This divine thought vibration sent up by mortals surround the souls in darkness with its love force and change their material thought desires to divine spiritual. They look and are carried upward and are bathed in the descending flow of angel love thought vibration, and at once become at-onement with Jehovah's flow of thought-God is Love."

And this is just what I believe took place, and as her free spirit poised ere it soared to higher spheres she appeared to me, giving me that radiant smile that

ever dwells in my memory, a comfort and a solace.

1 am like Him, not shall be, but am now, sublime thought.

We are like Him; instruments to do His work, to free souls both on this side and on the other through our love vibrations, creating a soul light brighter than the rays of the sun, a light that will illuminate all the dark highways and byways of souls in a subjective condition. Glorious thought! Blessed service!

MRS. BARTHOLOMEW'S REPLY TO MRS. SISCO.

I was very much pleased with Mrs. Sisco's reply to me in regard to the poison contained in tea and coffe. Her answer is very good and, at first, seemed quite satisfactory, but, on second thought, I perceive it is not conclusive to my mind.

Now I am spirit at one with the divine that is all Good. I am like him now, no appearance of evil can affect me. In my spiritual being I am only conscious of purity, holiness, perfection. It cannot affect me. Christ said: Be ye perfect, as God in Heaven is perfect. This spirit in my soul is my perfection. It is impreg-

nable to any appearance of evil.

I also had a little experience with poison ivy. A neice and I went berrying and soon we found we were wading through mats of the ivy, and my neice exclaimed about it and said it always poisoned her terribly. I told her not to be alarmed; it would not hurt her. I at once claimed my oneness of spirit with the Divine. That Spirit is now flowing through me; is all power and perfection; nothing can harm me. I have nothing to fear where and when I am conscious of the presence and power of God, I acknowledgd no power or presence but God." I realized this for her as myself, we were neither of poisoned the least bit. Holding this realization I have seen a gentleman eat the leaves of the poison ivy with no evil effect following.

Gerrespondence Pepartment

ORIEPTAL



MASTICS.

Edited by DR. T. J. Betiero, 2134 Michigan Ave., Chicago, to whom all letters intended for this Department should be addressed.

TO THE ORIENTAL MYSTICS IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.

DEAR BROTHERS.—In answer to a letter of inquiry from Bro. Thos. A. Wilhelm, of Freetown, West Africa, I have decided to place it in the columns of our beloved journal.

Mr. W— writes asking if there is a pass-word or grips and signs in the O. M. so that one Brother may recognize another at any time. To this we are pleased to answer—yes. There are grips, signs, passwords and seven working degrees in our beautiful and mystic temple work. But it was thought best to await the time when our membership had increased sufficiently. We intend then to establish a permanent Supreme Temple in which the grand initiations will be given And I may add a strange fact which proves the exaltation of this work. Although there is no known connection between the two, an initiated O. M. can make himself known in any part of the Orient, including the Empire of China, where with our ancient work, we find the grips very similar to the Chinese (Geehang), erroneously called Freemasons.

How this similarity occurred is not clearly known, further than the proximity of China to the great Himalayas. We might further state that beyond the great Gobi desert is a race of Mongolians who perform magical operations out in the open air to the surprise and chagrin of such missionaries who have the temerity to approach them as teachers.

There is, without doubt, a great future for our Society. Each member should arouse himself, take an active interest and bring the matter to the attention of his friends.

Remember that our order of O. M. is not for profit, and we give each member the full value of all money expended. Let each one send us the application of two or three of his friends and we would soon reach the required number to establish our Temple and let our light shine for the world.

Fraternally,

*THE * PHILOMATHIAN &

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HENRY J. BARTON, LL. B. DR. M. ROGERS. JESSIE R. P. BARTON Associates.

DR. T. J. BETIERO, DR. R. S. CLYMER, MRS. M. M. SISCO, GILBERT P. BROWN,

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CHEERFUL WORDS.

I have been reading your magazine since last October. I take other magazines such as Thought, New Thought and Weltmer's journals but none compares with THE PHILOMATHIAN. I expect to become a member of the O. M. later on. This is my daily study and my night's dream. I certainly enjoy reading all the letters in this journal.—Lizzie Whitaker.

THE TAROT CARDS.

In regard to the Italian Tarot which was stated in our last issue might be obtained of A. C. McClurg & Co., of Chicago, we have the following letters which will, we think, explain to our readers better than any words of ours, the difficulty experienced in procuring these emblems.

DR. T. J. BETIERO,

Dear Sir.—We have your favor of the 7th inst., and in reply to the same we would say that it was a mistake on the part of our salesman in telling you that we had the Italian Tarot Cards in stock. If you secured a pack from him at the time you called it was the last one we had and we are unable to obtain any more. Messrs. Coolidge and Waterloo, 87 Washington St., this city, generally carry them in stock we believe, but they are now out of them. Perhaps you could obtain some further information from them in regard to the cards.

Yours very truly,

A. C. McClurg & Co.

We have had some correspondence with Capt. Geo. W. Walrond, of Denver Colo., who keeps the Bohemian Tarot cards in stock when he can get them. In his last advice of Jan. 23rd he says:

All I have left is a 50c book of instructions. I am expecting, however, another supply from France: I cannot say when they will arrive as it is always very difficult to get these eards. But I will advise you as scon as I have them. Just now there are none in New York or Boston.

Since the above date we have not heard from Mr. Walrond and so conclude the cards have not yet arrived.—J. R. B.

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Do you want to keep up with the times? Do you want to be well-informed on all subjects of the advanced scientific and religious thought of the day? Do you want to learn how to live right so enjoy this life and attain to immortality in the next. Then subscribe for The Philomathian, the best occult journal published in America.

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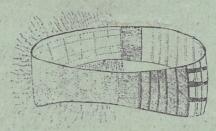
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