





## General Survey.

The Spiritualist Work—  
ers, Doings, Etc.

G. W. Van Horn lectured and gave tests last Sunday at Bricklayers' Hall, on Peoria street. The subject of his discourse was "The Power of Mind and Magnetism." Mr. Van Horn always creates an interest in the cause, wherever he stops. He has developed some new phenomena. He has taken a fine suite of rooms at 314 W. Madison street, first flat, where he can be consulted on engagements.

J. W. Avery, of Peoria, writes: "The Advance Spiritualist Society gave a Pie-and-Coffee Social at Union Hall, Saturday evening, November 28th, with a good, intelligent company. Prof. J. H. Randall was present and gave us a very able and instructive address, which we well received. Judge Lynch also favored us with an address, after which were songs and recitations. The society meets every Saturday night except the first in the month, at 8 o'clock."

Prof. G. P. Rudolph, ex-Catholic priest, is having excellent success in the East. He spoke seven times at Providence, three times at Boston Music Hall, and four times at the so-called Reformed Catholic Church. He has engaged to lecture at Lynn, Dec. 1 (and possibly Dec. 13th), and once more at Providence, Dec. 8. After Dec. 13th, he will visit Philadelphia and Altoona, Pa., and he expects to speak at the latter place Dec. 20, 21 and 22. From Altoona he will go to New York, on way of Alliance, where he will call on his liberal friends of the Independent church, Dec. 23, and then home Dec. 24.

Mrs. F. A. Logan, of San Francisco, Cal., writes: "I always avail myself of your excellent, peerless paper, which is sold by Mrs. Cook every Sunday in St. George's Hall, Market St., at 10 o'clock in the morning. I have had meetings for two years before my absence of six months in Summer Land, San Bernardino and Los Angeles; and on my return last May I secured the same hall and have had good, interesting meetings ever since, and who my correspondent, B. E. N., in the issue of the 21st ult. should omit ours in the list of spiritual meetings in San Francisco I cannot imagine. In these meetings Mrs. C. D. Pruden, Mrs. C. J. Myers, Dr. Temple, Harlow, and many others have been the assistants on the platform and have gone out to do good work."

Lyman C. Howe speaks in Pittsburg, Pa., the Sundays of December, and Grand Rapids, Mich., in January. He will answer calls for week evening lectures at points accessible to either place, or en route from Pittsburg to Grand Rapids, the last of December. He is engaged for the next Quarterly Meeting in Southwestern Michigan, to be held at Breedsfield the first Saturday and Sunday of February. He has Sundays in February yet free. First call, first serve. His permanent address is Fredonia, N. Y.

W. H. of Salt Lake City, Utah, writes: "I wish to say a word for Prof. F. C. W. who has shown great promise. Soon he will travel toward the Pacific coast to his old home in California. He, like all others who have lived in the beautiful, golden State, longs to be among its orange groves and flower gardens. He has done a grand and noble work here in the cause of Spiritualism. As a test and platform medium there is none better. It has been said by many that he has made better progress here in building up Spiritualism than all the rest of the mediums that have ever visited Salt Lake. His many friends will miss him and his pleasant and amiable wife."

Abby N. Burnhamspeaks at Watertown, N. Y., Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, and 16, to instruct audiences; Norwich, N. Y., Nov. 20, 21 and 22, to crowded house; Salem, Mass., Nov. 20. Her permanent address is Boston, Mass., Station A.

Dr. Joseph Beals, the President of the Lake Pleasant Camp Meeting, writes: "I always find something of interest in THE PROGRESSIVE THINKER, and do not want to be without it. We are glad to see the subscription list growing and the appreciative readers of our paper."

The Keystone Spiritual Conference of Philadelphia, Pa., meets every Sunday at the southeast corner of Tenth and Spring Garden streets at 2:30 P. M. Lectures and tests.

E. D. Moore, Secretary, writes: "Mrs. Abbie N. Burnham, of Boston, Mass., has just completed a most successful lecture of four weeks, at Watertown, N. Y., and now goes to other fields of labor. Like all of our best speakers, her time seems to be fully employed. Her audiences have been good from the first and constantly increased, and great interest was manifested. She is an excellent speaker, and so far as our expectations were concerned, she was a test medium, and to this is added the manners of a perfect lady, refined and courteous in the highest degree. The very best wishes of the society go with her, and we hope at no distant day that her engagements will permit her to give us at least another month's work."

Mrs. C. C. Robinson, of Olive, Mich., is in the city visiting her many friends. She is a Spiritualist physician of great power, healing the sick in soul and body.

Willard J. Hull will be in Boston, Mass., during December. He will be fully equal to the culture of that city. Some Western eloquence will do them good here.

Dr. C. J. and Mrs. Parker have removed to 902 Miami avenue, Kansas City, Mo. They are a most interesting couple, and we hope they will meet a cordial reception in their new home.

N. W. Lyon, of Fall River, Mass., writes: "I received the first copy of THE PROGRESSIVE THINKER from Mr. G. F. Perkins, at Onset last summer. He and his kind and gentle wife are earnest workers in the cause of Spiritualism, and singing at Onset were very highly appreciated."

John Jordan, of Remington, Ind., writes: "We have had several very satisfactory materializing seances in our community this fall; held one at my home. The people are getting interested and are now beginning to investigate and learn more of Spiritualism."

F. E. Marble, of Bradford, Pa., expresses his high appreciation of E. W. Sprague of Jamestown, N. Y. He went to Bradford, lectured there, organized a society, and got the people well under way in the cause of Spiritualism. He is a high appreciation of Mr. Sprague.

W. H. Bach will start on a trip west, Thursday, December 3d, and wishes to hear from the friends along the H. & D. railroad in Minnesota and Dakota. He is on a Southern trip in Texas and on the way. His permanent address is St. Paul, Minn.

Geo. H. Brooks, the lecturer, writes: "Those who are intending to spend the winter in Los Angeles, Cal., especially invalids, can find no better home than with Mrs. Frank Eastman, 725 S. Grand avenue. She has a fine home, and is a natural healer."

Mrs. Elsie Reynolds, of Cal., will hold seances for materialization, Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday evening at 8 o'clock P. M.; also Tuesday and Friday at 2 P. M., at 265 West 5th street, New York.

A paper sustained on its merits, and not by advertisements, and we cordially welcome from Spiritualists. In THE PROGRESSIVE THINKER you have just such a paper, and it is sent out 16 weeks for 25 cents.

## Books for the Holidays.

"From Soul to Soul." By Emma Rod Tuttle. It contains some of the sweetest poems in the English language. Price \$1.50.

"Poems of Progress and Poems from the Inner Life." By Lizzie Doten. They are most excellent. Each \$1.

"The Voices." By Warren Sumner Barlow. Price \$1. A book of poems that should be in every home.

"Seers of the Ages." By Dr. J. M. Peebles, telling of Spiritualism past and present; a most excellent book. Price \$2.

"Immortality and Our Employment Hereafter—what a Hundred Spirits, Good and Evil, say of their Dwelling Places." By Dr. J. M. Peebles. Price \$1.50.

A pretty little gift book is "Starnos," containing quotations from the inspired writings of A. J. Davis. Price 50 cents. Also other books by the same author.

"Outside the Gates," and other tales and sketches," by a band of spirit intelligences, through the mediumship of Mary Teresa Shelhamer. Price \$1.25.

Hudson Tuttle's books are always of interest to all thinking minds. "Religion of Man." Price \$1.50.

"Studies in the Evolving Fields of Psychic Science." Price \$1.25.

"Researches in Oriental History. Embracing the Origin of the Jews, the Rise and Development of Zoroastrianism, and the Derivation of Christianity." By the eminent writer, Dr. Geo. W. Brown. Price \$1.50.

"Psychopathy, or Spirit Healing." By the spirit of Dr. Benjamin Rush. Given through the mediumship of Mrs. Cora L. Richmond. Price \$1.50.

"The Life in Human Embodiments." By Mrs. Cora L. Richmond. Price \$1.50.

"Life," a novel, dealing with Occult Subjects, Reincarnation, etc. By W. W. Wheeler. Price, paper, 50 cents.

"Why She Became a Spiritualist." Twelve lectures by Abby A. Judson; a splendid book for beginners, and those seeking light. Price \$1.

"The Religion of Spiritualism," a good book for those coming out of the churches, to help them on their way. By Rev. Samuel Watson. Price \$1.

"Sealights of Thought, or Gems of Thought." By B. E. Litchfield. Excellent. Price \$1.25.

"Was Abraham Lincoln a Spiritualist? or Curious Revelations from the Life of a Trance Medium." By Mrs. Nettie Colburn Maynard. This curious book has no precedent in the English language. Its theme is novel, its truth apparent. It has a peculiar bearing upon the most momentous period in history, and regarding its most famous participant—the most noted American. It is based on truth and fact, and therefore will live from this time forth. The publisher has not spared care, research or expense in its verification and production, and he stakes his reputation upon the validity of its contents, knowing that it will bear thorough examination, regardless of doctrine or creed or sect. It is a remarkable and interesting revelation. You will be amply repaid. Price \$1.50.

"Fifty Years in the Church of Rome." By ex-priest Father Chiquery. Price \$1.25. Also, "The Priest, the Woman and the Confessional." Price \$1.

"Romanism and the Republic." by Rev. Isaac J. Lansing, M. A. Price \$1.

Many other books, equally as valuable, may be found in our advertising columns from time to time. We aim to keep only first-class publications.

Prof. Harry Rowland Can Draw 50,000 Lines Regularly to the Inch.

Prof. Harry Rowland, the physicist at the John Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md., has just finished grinding a perfect screw, to be fitted into an improved form of his engine, which will be able to draw 50,000 lines regularly to the inch. With this new machine he will be able to draw a million lines to the inch with regularity, but the limit of the vision in the microscope is about 100,000 lines. With this dividing engine he rules gratings of the automatic machine—which is of marvelous construction in its many devices to compensate errors—six continuous days and nights to make one of the size used to study the nature of the sun, to ascertain what elements like the terrestrial one it contains, to learn the same of the fixed stars, and to ascertain whether those remote suns called the fixed stars are receding from or approaching the earth. Prof. Rowland has been prosecuting his work with money obtained from the Rumford Foundation, the Academy of Arts and Sciences, and from the fund given by Miss Bruce to the Howard Astronomical Observatory for promoting research in astronomical physics.

The Slimy Catholic Octopus.

The following, from St. Joseph, Mo., speaks for itself:

"The Catholic and Confederate element of the School Board has not spent its efforts in vain to prevent the raising of the American flag on the High School by the members of the Patriotic Order Sons of America, and by a majority of 9 to 4 the School Board has refused to allow the ceremony to take place. Public indignation over the act of the board became so great that the opposing members felt the necessity of hiding to some extent, and offered as an excuse that to permit the order to hoist the flag would bitterly offend the Catholic element of the city, and would prevent a disturbance that the refusal was made."

The Romish Octopus in Buenos Ayres.

Spiritualists in Buenos Ayres do not find their path strewn with roses. The Spiritualist paper published in that country, *La Verite*, says that it has received a letter signed by twenty prominent Spiritualists, asking advice as to what country they had better emigrate to, to avoid the unbearable persecutions of the Catholic priesthood, who have learned nothing and forgotten nothing, and were it not for the arm of the government would burn the heretics with all the zeal they did in the past.

The same paper also reports of a seance at which a Catholic priest communicated, which gives a fine lesson to the Spiritualists on the condition of the spirit in spirit-life. This priest retained all his former narrow-mindedness, intolerance and superstition, and characteristic bad temper when his statements were opposed.

Something New.

It is proposed to have the upper house in the Parliament of New Zealand composed entirely of women. The contingent of the Southern Cross is famous for new things, and having given us the Australian ballot, may yet show us how to dispose of women-suffrage.

A paper sustained on its merits, and not by advertisements, and we cordially welcome from Spiritualists. In THE PROGRESSIVE THINKER you have just such a paper, and it is sent out 16 weeks for 25 cents.

## Suggestions for the Thoughtful.

That this age is largely more intelligent than any preceding one is owing to the fact that the world's literature is no longer shut up in cloisters, accessible only to the religious recluse, to be doled out to the people as a special favor of heaven, but it is now in the hands of the masses, and is read of all men. The Bible itself owes more of its sacredness to the pretensions of those monks who claimed to hold the Word of God, but was too sacred to be allowed in hands than hallowed hands, than to any internal merit. Luther's great effort was to wrest this fetic from the clergy and give it to the people, to the end that they could see and judge for themselves its value. It is to be regretted that the new recipients of the book had not been instructed to receive it as the production of priests in a barbarian age, a compend of traditions, legends, facts and fictions, to separate the true from the false—in short, to receive it as they would any other book written in those times and treasured only by persons interested in perpetuating their own power. Had this been done, then, as an aid to the interpretations of the inscriptions on the monuments which have remained to our time, it would have had sterling value. Held as a "Thus saith the Lord," it belittles the Creator in the interests of the priests. God, whatever is meant by that term, is too high above humanity to engage as an author, even with the aid of an amanuensis. If all the mighty universe is the product of his overwhelming power, we may well question if he would descend to the minutiae, and make laws, with penalties foreign to the creature, for the conduct of the Franklin in his autobiography states that his ancestors embraced the Protestant faith, and held it through the bloody reign of Mary. He adds:

"They had an English Bible, and to conceal it and place it in safety it was fastened open with tape under and within the cover of a joint-stool. When my grandfather wished to read it to his family, he placed the joint-stool on his knees, and then turned over the leaves under the tapes. One of the children stood at the door to give notice if he saw the apparition coming, who was an officer of the spiritual court. In that case the stool was turned down again upon its feet, where the Bible remained concealed as it before."

The compulsory reading of any book by school children is a violation of the constitution of its possessor. The Bible, held for two centuries as the word of God, and only accessible to the clergy, preserved to them in a dead language, which the populace could not read—can we wonder that when it reached their hands it was laid aside?

To all our readers we would say: Receive and treat the book like any other human production. Embrace its truths, reject its follies, practice its virtues, and eschew its vices, always having in mind that it is the production of priests, who pretend to be the word of God in an age when education was almost wholly limited to the priesthood; then the reader is in little danger of being led astray.

Slandering a Philosopher.

"Socrates praised virtue, but expired as a suicide."—*Talmage*.

The fame of Socrates is the property of the world, and the educated portion of it should see that it is not impaired by the slanders of a religious mountebank, or the mouthings of a blatherskite; not even to magnify the greatness of Paul. Socrates was no more a suicide than is every other person suffering capital punishment by the officers of the law. He was convicted of "not worshipping the gods whom the city worships, and of introducing new divinities," the penalty of which was death. The jury consisted of 501 persons. He was convicted on a majority vote of five, and the accuser, after the manner of the time, attacked the jury, and the judges approved, that he should drink of poison hemlock. If drinking the fatal draught prepared for him was suicide, then all who voluntarily step upon the gallows, in obedience to the decree of a competent court, and without making any resistance, are suicides. If such persons are not suicides, then Socrates was not a suicide, and Talmage, in his utterance, was a—what?

Villainous Practices.

A year ago Robert Brennan, of Harrisburg, Pa., a devout Catholic, being on his death-bed, sent for his priest, Father McBride, to administer the last rites of the church to him. This the wily priest refused to do, he signed a will bequeathing him his entire estate. The will has just been set aside for undue influence, and the property, valued at \$7,500, passes to the two nephews of the dead man.

Voices from Spirit Land—One Great Truth.

A friend of THE PROGRESSIVE THINKER says that amongst his numerous spirit friends is a mother who has been in spirit-life over sixty years, and a brother who has been forty years over there, and they say that the guardian spirits are greatly concerned about the misery in earth-life caused by selfishness and monopolies; and wishes him to say that there is one great truth that should be made known to all men; that is, that there is a life after the death of the body, and in that life the shortcomings of earth-life have to be answered for; and thousands in that life, if they could, would gladly return and undo the wrongs they have done to others here; therefore they say: "We charge you who understand man's responsibility and the law of inevitable retribution, to tell it to everybody and open every door that the light may enter and all may see it."

We have long been convinced that Spiritualists who know this great truth (and they all know it) should proclaim it boldly and warn the world against the oppression and misery which attend the terms of which the greatest sinners (the monopolists, the misery-makers) can, by merely accepting it, go to heaven after accumulating his unnecessary millions and leaving untold misery behind him, caused by his avarice and avarice and unrelied by his abundance. At last he finds himself in spirit-land, confronted by the victims of his avarice and selfishness, with his sins not atoned for, as he expected; but to be atoned for by himself before he can be happy.

THE PROGRESSIVE THINKER cheerfully accedes to the request of its friend, and asks all its readers to proclaim this great truth to the world and warn all to do justice to their fellowmen.

During one week the Hon. L. V. Moulton delivered two funeral discourses at Sturgis, Mich., Nov. 29th he lectured at Allegan, Mich.

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## SPARTANBURG, PA.

## The Veteran Spiritualists' Union.

Discussion and Concussion.

PROF. H. D. BARRETT.

Prof. H. D. Barrett has left an enduring impression for good among the people of Spartanburg. There was an effort made against him at the first meeting of the Veteran Spiritualists' Union, in announcing himself a Spiritualist, but the bigots were in the minority, and he took the school. His ability and integrity soon won the respect and esteem of nearly all, even in the olden days, and he warm affection of his pupils. Since he resigned to accept a call from Cassadaga the scene has changed. His successor, apparently actuated by an insane jealousy and conceit, reversed things. He required scripture lessons to be recited daily. A large portion of the students rebelled and a dozen or so were expelled from school for disobedience. A general feeling of unrest prevailed and a free expression of preference for Prof. Barrett was given. "True inwardness" of the children. Finally the School Board took it in hand and called a halt, and pupils are no longer bulldozed into wasting time to memorize scripture for the edification of the teachers.

The Baptist Church still discredits the stupid few who imagine they are doing God service by holding it against all usefulness, empty, idle, and a perpetual reminder of the demoralizing influence of sectarian Christianity. Infidels want no better argument against the moral influence of theology. People who do not know the difference between the golden rule and a Baptist funeral are always ready to illustrate and defend their ignorance when they are in authority and ignore their Temple of Idolatry. But the Adventists made a successful raid on them last spring by securing the church for a stipulated time, and then opening it on the Christian Sunday. Out of this debacle in which, report says, the Baptist minister was killed, the Adventists have emerged victorious. From the accounts I judge the spirit of Christ was on the war-path, for the angry passions of the warring parties grew so stormy that an open church fight and pious knock-down was barely prevented by the wisdom of a high interference of lookers on. When ignorance championed error, and religion rubs it in, look out for smoke.

The discussion evidently did good. Some of them probably discovered that the sacredness of Sunday, that is giving no worldly business to the day, is in the Bible. Prof. Barrett added to his laurels by giving the troubled bigots the benefit of his scholarship and showing a generous spirit toward those who had spurned him because he was a Spiritualist. They not only discovered that the moral purity of the Bible was all of them, but that he was just and generous towards his inferiors, and frank and fair in allowing every argument its full weight; and all quarrelsome saints their just credit for every merit they could beget. He is greatly missed in this community.

Mrs. M. A. Baker is a faithful worker and medium whose gifts are growing and helpful in various ways. The Spiritualists of Spartanburg are a superior class of people and represent the brains and moral stamina of the town. The conduct of the church is a credit to the use of their buildings for the general good hurts them and their religion vastly more than it does the Spiritualists and the people whose rights they ignore. All sensible people see in their conduct the unmistakable evidence of the moral purity of the Bible. They show by their conduct that their religion blinds them to every principle of justice and the demands of the moral law. Meanwhile the great body of intelligent, honest people drift toward Spiritualism as the most consistent, just and inspiring religion in the world.

LYMAN C. HOWE.

Letter from Grand Rapids, Mich.

To THE EDITOR:—During the past month Mrs. Colby-Luther has been with the Progressive Spiritualist Society, and has given very general satisfaction, though some who still believe in the word of God, and expect to be saved by the blood of the Lamb, think that she is too radical, and for this reason, perhaps, the hall was not as well filled as it should have been. It seems to me that such an exceptionally good speaker should be more generally heard.

For this month we are to have J. Frank Baxter; in January Lyman C. Howe, and Helen Stuart Richings in February; so you can see by this that the lectures that were begun a little over a year ago are "to be continued in our next."

During the past month I have been to a number of materializing seances, the medium being Harry Archer, of New York, formerly of San Francisco, Cal. I have had an unusually good opportunity to study the very interesting phenomena. The number of spirits showing has varied from eighteen to forty-three. It is a very common thing to see two spirits at the same time, and on one evening I saw three with their friend, all talking at once. I have seen a cabinet, and while holding the hand firmly (done at his request), the form would change from male to female; from dark clothes and grey hair to white, gauzy lace for clothing, and long, dark hair, and the beautiful form of a young woman in his place. Aunt Becky Jackson, the colored contralto of Mr. Archer (she says she was once a slave in Georgia to Mr. Archer's father), will change the medium's face to coal black, and dress his form in white clothes, come out of the cabinet, and shake hands, and talk with each one in the room. One spirit, who gave the name of Aristotle, after greeting each one present, reached up over our heads and took hold of the electric lights, and then he backed majestically to the cabinet; he was robed as a high priest of the ancient order of the Magi. Ammarona comes out at almost every seance in robes of the order. Spirits have materialized outside of the cabinet and outside of the circle. Spirits have danced rigid to the music of the piano. One spirit cut off a lock of her red, frizzly hair, about six inches in length, and gave it to her sister, but it disappeared on the next day. These things seem incredible to those who have never seen them, and are equally mysterious to those who have.

C. M. POTTER.

German Spiritualist Society.

The Germans who are interested in Spiritualism in this city have organized a society which will meet for the first time at 3 P. M., at 116 Fifth avenue, the former place of the Peoples' Spiritual Society, Dec. 13. Peter Knauer, Secretary, is Secretary of the society. The society is a most excellent man. He can be addressed at the above number by those interested in the movement. This meeting will, no doubt, prove a grand success. Further particulars next week.

J. M. Ables, of Knoxville, Mich., writes: "I love to say that I admire the paper, the Editor, and the course he is pursuing. I am especially pleased with the position you have taken, and your remarks in a late paper, upon the subject of a convention for the purpose of forming a National organization of Spiritualists."

Mrs. H. S. Lake, regular speaker at the First Spiritual Temple, Boston, recently addressed large and enthusiastic audiences in Lowell and New Bedford. She will speak in the Temple during December, January, March and May, and in Washington, D. C., during February and April. She is already filling her Camp Meeting dates, and parties will be given at the Temple during the winter. Permanent address, 150 West Chester Parz, Boston, Mass.

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Yes, now is the time to get subscribers for THE PROGRESSIVE THINKER. They should roll up all sides, and they will, too, as the next year dawns.

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