

REASONS GIVEN.

Why I Am a Spiritualist.

A person who knew me long and well said: "I don't see how you can be a Spiritualist; you seem to be very clear-headed on every thing else." I told him why I was and why I should always be one. This old friend knew nothing about Spiritualism, only that it was unpopular, a superstition, and that it was a waste of time for an intelligent business man to give any attention to it. I told him, briefly, why I was one, and I told it earnestly, and I am sure I interested him, if I did not convert him. Many people having written more or less in detail why they had become Spiritualists, my conversation with this old friend suggested that there might be others who would like to know my reasons for being one, so I will try to tell them.

experiment to be successful, and would have been ashamed to have any one suppose I was seriously trying it, and I don't think I was serious in doing it. The message I asked for was a peculiar one, a chamber expression that she would remember, but would be hardly proper to put in print, so I will call the message *E pluribus Unum*. I not only said it audibly, but wrote it, and put it on my desk. When my wife returned some two or three hours later, she had had a sitting at a medium's and she gave me a slip of paper, saying: "Our little Hattie sent this message to you," which was exactly what I asked for, when I was alone, and no living soul knew I had asked for it, or written it as I have stated, and I must say I was more than astonished; I was thunderstruck! It took me so by surprise.

OUT WITH THE YEAR.

The Pathetic Struggle of a Small Boy.

"Only waiting till the shadows Are a little longer grown." It was a trembling child-voice that hummed the words softly in the chill winter twilight while the snow fell all around, piling up the great drifts everywhere.

CHRISTMAS.

Is There One in Heaven?

The merry Christmas bells ring out their joyous chimes, and high and low, rich and poor, meet, greet, and give good gifts, as this season of gladness recurs again. I picture the happiness, rest, music, and the whole charm of the festive time, and meditatively I speculate about the great spiritual realm we are accustomed to call heaven. Why we regard some future state as heaven, I conjecture may be that, while all may be blest at times, with brief snatches of happiness here, yet the greater share of our lot is dominated by trials, clouded spiritual skies, too often tears of sorrow. Thus it comes about that the great heart of humanity cries out for a state somewhere and time in which peace, rest, and unfeigned love reign supreme; where no storm of envy, malice, and greed, ever comes. This earnest desire would seem born in us, from the foreshadowing of a reality, lying in the dim future, as the sure retreat, after all our striving is ended here. With this thought, like an impulsive child, I exclaim, "I wonder is there Christmas time in heaven?" When, lo! out of the ever-veiling air, there steals upon my consciousness that peculiar voice that makes no sound to outward ears, but penetrates me like a rich perfume, at once a blessing and an inspiration of love and wisdom, and I am answered thus:

conqueror. Without adornment, beautiful. Without elevation, exalted. In all essentials complete. Creator, blessed forever. "Thus, dear mortal, would I teach thee to compare thy present state with that of the highest, and wherein thou art at variance with the Divinity thou wouldst emulate, seek earnestly to correct thyself. Only by thine own endeavors, assisted by thy higher teachers, dost thou grow into life, light, and love. Evermore let the voice of the higher life call after thee, interpenetrate thy being and daily express itself through thy ministrations."

THE ATONEMENT.

The Reflections of a Criminal.

The clock had just struck twelve, midnight; the moon was upon the meridian; the dew sparkled upon the grassy lawn, and the flowers, with closed petals, nodded to the whispering breeze which barely shook the sensitive leaves of the young branches. By the brookside, in the little dell, hidden by a cozy clump of elms, stood a small cottage. As the last tones of the old clock on the mantel died away, the door cautiously opened, and a strong, manly form trod silently forth. A closer view showed that he was masked. Just two miles above this point stood the dwelling of the wealthy miller. The young man knew that upon the day before this miller had received a large sum of money; he knew that the money was in a lower drawer of a mahogany desk in the room where the miller was sleeping. He drew from his belt a glittering knife, and as he examined its sharp edge he whispered: "If the old fool should make fight I must finish him with this."

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

To THE EDITOR:—Allow me to wish a merry Christmas and happy New Year to THE PROGRESSIVE THINKER, and that means yourself; for the paper is only your thoughts materialized; it also includes your correspondents and all who have contributed to its existence and perpetuity, as well as the angelic powers who first projected it through your brain and are still the interested and happy overseeing witnesses of its prosperity and usefulness.

R. NEELY.

THE PROGRESSIVE THINKER not only has the largest circulation of any Spiritualist paper on earth, but it is able thereby to do a correspondingly greater amount of good. In order to publish such a paper at so low a price, we need your hearty support and sympathy. Call your neighbors and friends' attention to the paper, and get them to subscribe. Sent 13 weeks for 25 cents, or \$1 per year.

THE PROGRESSIVE THINKER.

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J. R. Francis, Editor and Publisher.

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Take Notice.

At expiration of subscription, if not renewed, the paper is discontinued. No bills will be sent for extra numbers.

A Bountiful Harvest for 25 Cents.

If you want a more bountiful harvest than we can give you for 25 cents, you must do it for yourself.

CLUBS: IMPORTANT SUGGESTION!

As there are thousands who will at first venture only twenty-five cents for THE PROGRESSIVE THINKER...

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1891.

A Merry Christmas!

Christmas, or Christ-mass, is the mass celebrated in commemoration of Christ's birth.

The day of his birth is not positively known. It was celebrated at different times by different churches till near the close of the second century.

It was originally a religious festival, and is so yet to some extent among Catholics and kindred sects; but is repudiated by some reformed churches as a Romish superstition.

We hope that all of our readers are doing what they can for the comfort and elevation of God's poor.

We often met her venerable father—he is a grand old man, and the mother, his peer in all respects.

It leads in everything. It has one Spiritualist paper—not venerable with age—but the liveliest newspaper babe you ever saw!

To our contributors, who have given us their best thoughts and the benefit of their laborious research and study.

To Spiritualists everywhere who send fraternal greeting, hoping that by united effort in the cause of human progress we may be instrumental in bringing about a day when, instead of looking back into the dark and dead past and exhibiting with child-like ceremony a babe in a manger to the gaze of an ignorant multitude.

there will be one universal brotherhood; and not one day in a year, but every day will be a jubilee of millennial happiness and peace.

HAVE YOU A SOUL?

A Testimonial to Mrs. Anna Lord Chamberlain.

There are some Spiritualists who never do a deed of kindness; whose pockets are always carefully locked, fearing they might assist the undeserving.

Now we are going to pass around the "hat" this Christmas, to every one of our readers! It is well to give sometimes; it does good to open one's heart to a benevolent deed.

I have confidence in the patrons of THE PROGRESSIVE THINKER. I do not believe they will ignore my call. If they do, in the "some time coming" they may be stranded, and cry for help.

In writing as we do, we have in mind a most excellent medium, formerly a resident of this city, but now a resident of one of the suburbs of Boston.

We make this appeal to our readers—all who have souls—(those pressed for means are not expected to respond), to assist this medium, and thus make the burdens of her life lighter.

We often met her venerable father—he is a grand old man, and the mother, his peer in all respects, and we feel a deep interest in their welfare.

ANNA LORD CHAMBERLAIN, Box 56, Mattapan, Mass.

We shall make another important call in the New Year's number of THE PROGRESSIVE THINKER.

Chicago Leads. It leads in everything. It has one Spiritualist paper—not venerable with age—but the liveliest newspaper babe you ever saw!

Harlow Davis, platform test medium, traveling from place to place, writes as follows from Portland, Oregon: "Your paper is always spoken of as the most popular Spiritual paper issued."

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This Number of The Progressive Thinker.

It is magnificent—grand! It is a magazine of advanced thought! A light to illuminate the world!

Now turn to the 2nd page. Judge Holbrook, W. J. Innis, U. G. Figley, "R," and A. Patriot unite their talents to make that page all that could be desired.

Now glance at the 3rd page. Thereon is that noble man, John Wetherbee, who never tires in the good work.

The 4th page is not without interest. The appeal for a Testimonial for Anna Lord Chamberlain should awaken every heart.

On the 5th page, Dr. R. B. Westbrook, Willard J. Hull and Mrs. Cora L. V. Richmond unite their energies in making it scintillate all over most beautifully!

Keep on, you are not through yet. The 6th page is not behind the times in value. Dr. J. H. Mendonhall, U. G. Figley, "Q," Hudson Tuttle, M. T. C. Flower, Anti Dogma, Dr. R. Greer, Mrs. M. Schofield, Truth, and Casual Observer, come up serenely and present valuable thoughts, and reflections.

Behold! the end is not yet, and not one advertisement! Look at the 7th page. Like the others, it is superb!

Now we come to the last page, the 8th. Besides Hudson Tuttle's charming story, O. W. Barnard, Mrs. Emma Rood Tuttle, Lyman C. Howe, come forward with refreshing thought.

Is not this paper all that could be desired in quantity and quality? Only \$1 per year; sent 13 weeks for 25 cents.

A Very Common Question.

If the Darwinian theory of evolution is true, why do we not observe the higher forms of life evolving from the more lowly, even in our times?

Philosophy, with such rude data as can be gathered from geologic changes, have traced the existing stultified rock, made up, in part, of still earlier formations, back through the ages, from 300,000,000 to 1,526,750,000 years, during all of which period there are evidences that life in rudimentary forms tenanted this earth.

The historic age covers less than 5,000 years. See how man has developed since then, the civilized races making giant strides; the savage, arrested in his development, presenting but little progress physically or mentally during that brief period.

Look at Your Purses! We mean just what we say!—look at your purses! Take an inventory thereof!

It Costs You Nothing. The New Revelation in newspaper enterprise costs you nothing; it does, however, cost us a good deal of money, which we expend without a murmur.

On January 1st Mrs. A. D. Wiggin, an estimable lady, will take possession of the Cosmopolitan Hotel, Nos. 100 and 102 Fifth Street, San Francisco, Cal. She writes: "We are all Spiritualists."

D. D. Robins writes: "The leading article by H. V. Swearingen is a pen picture of facts, and the number I have been lent until it is worn out, and I am not yet through."

D. D. Armes, of Garden Grove, Cal., has been getting up some meetings there. Mrs. Mary A. White and Ella M. White were the attractions.

Mrs. Dr. Still speaks in Susquehanna, Pa., the last two Sundays of December. She would like engagements for the winter months. Address her at Georgetown, N. Y.

General Survey.

The Spiritualistic Field—Workers, Doings, Etc.

A. J. Champion, of Lansing, Mich., writes: "We are still doing all we can in our humble way, to spread the light of our philosophy and religion."

C. H. Eaton, of Detroit, Mich., writes: "December 6, at Row's Hall, 263 Michigan Ave., this city, Mrs. Lena Bible held the first of a series of meetings which she will conduct through the winter, at such times as her services are not in demand abroad."

The Bulletin, of Bloomington, Ill., says: "Dr. J. H. Randall lectured yesterday afternoon on the subject, 'The Principles of Spiritualism.' He is an eloquent speaker, and his large audience was greatly interested in his ideas."

"Seeker After Truth" writes: "There is a revival in Spiritualism on the South Side. There seems to be quite an inquiry as to whether we live after death: 'Can you bring any proof?'"

Mrs. M. E. Akers, of Bloomington, Ill., writes: "The Spiritualists of this place have been visited by the State missionary, and it has resulted in organization. Three meetings were held in Dr. Water's office. We organized Dec. 7. We have for our officers the following: President, M. W. Packard; Vice-president, Dr. Z. Waters; Secretary, Mrs. M. E. Akers."

C. V. N. House, of Spring Hill, Kansas, writes: "We are having some glorious phenomena here through the mediums W. W. and Mabel Aber."

A. B. French has been lecturing at Meadville and Butler, Pa., and Jamestown, N. Y. Glad to see him in the field once more.

Prof. W. M. Lockwood is now lecturing at Council Bluffs. He will lecture there three times each week.

Mrs. Mabel Aber is now at Springfield, Mo., holding seances.

C. E. Winans has again visited Darien, Wis.

Moses Hull finishes his work in New Orleans on Sunday, Dec. 27th. He speaks in Fort Worth, Texas, from January 1st to January 13th; in Stuttgart, Ark., from January 14th to January 21st; in Louisville, Ky., January 24th and 31st. He is sorry he cannot answer other calls to lecture in the South at this time.

R. B. Dean, of Knapp, Wis., writes: "I am sure if a good lecturer and test medium should come here and lecture and give tests a week or two, a great many would be convinced."

Mrs. Helen T. Brigham speaks in Washington during January. Andrew Prosch, of New York, sends \$2 to assist in sending THE PROGRESSIVE THINKER to those who are unable to pay for it. Thanks, Brother Prosch.

We are out of the back numbers of THE PROGRESSIVE THINKER containing Hudson Tuttle's story, "The Convent of the Sacred Heart," and hence cannot send back numbers as requested.

J. F. Walker, of Ferris, Cal., writes: "We are holding developing circles here and I think will soon be prepared to show the people in this vicinity that their departed friends still live."

A. A. Barnes writes that the Hon. L. V. Moulton delivered three discourses at Lyons, Mich., to crowded houses.

On January 1st Mrs. A. D. Wiggin, an estimable lady, will take possession of the Cosmopolitan Hotel, Nos. 100 and 102 Fifth Street, San Francisco, Cal. She writes: "We are all Spiritualists."

The State organization meets every Thursday evening at the residence of the President, Mr. Jenifer, 220 W. Monroe Street.

AN ADDRESS

To the Spiritualists of the United States.

Spiritualists of the United States, we wish to assure you most emphatically that we do not, in order to ingratiate ourselves in your favor, boast of the venerable age of THE PROGRESSIVE THINKER; on the contrary, we often refer to it as being young in years, and endowed with that vigorous nature and elasticity of spirit which enabled it to ascend at once to the head of its class in point of circulation, and also in general usefulness.

Spiritualists, you see what we have done. We herewith present A NEW REVELATION in the literature of Spiritualism, something never before attempted on the part of any one connected with the spiritualistic press, and which heretofore has been deemed impossible.

We present you this week A NEW REVELATION; it will not only astonish you but please you, and you will to a certain extent partake of the enthusiasm which animates us in our efforts to redeem the world.

"Ye are the salt of the earth," said one. No one needs to be told the value of salt as a preservative of meats and all that enters the stomach to sustain life.

With no other object in view than to combine CHEAPNESS and EXCELLENCE in THE PROGRESSIVE THINKER, we have never solicited advertisements; and, as a general rule, only desired those that related to mediumship, or which had some philanthropic object in view.

Spiritualists, you know the age of THE PROGRESSIVE THINKER. Having succeeded in placing it in the very front ranks of Spiritualist publications, leaving one, at least, venerable with age (not many blocks away) so far in the rear that we attach no significance whatever to its existence, have you not the right to expect in the future most marvelous results from our work?

minds comprehensive enough to realize that success is just as easy with any other priced paper as one furnished at one dollar per year, providing that the spirit of enterprise is thoroughly infused into it, and they should know, too, that the imitator can never be first-class.

THE PROGRESSIVE THINKER has been a continual surprise to the people. Without any particular "flourish of trumpets," it launched itself on the great sea of human life, seeking a recognition which was spontaneously granted by an appreciative people.

Spiritualists, to you we are devoutly thankful, for your generous support and untiring enthusiasm in our behalf. Have we not, after two years of unparalleled success, gained your confidence? We think we have. The Spiritualists who have never taken, and will not take a Spiritualist paper; who are not accustomed to reading our literature; who stands as it were, with arms folded, and gaping mouths, waiting for the "good time coming," are only half-fledged—half-unfolded—half-spiritualized.

Spiritualists, we ask you to carefully peruse this paper (with no twelve or thirteen columns of advertisements to disgust you), chuck full of interesting reading matter, and then all unite in making one onward movement, each one obtaining an additional subscriber!

A word to our imitators: We feel kindly, generously towards you. We will give you enough to do to follow in our pathway, which will be continually blazoned or marked with innovations, new schemes, grander purposes, and higher aspirations, and all will be so prominent and startling that even the dullest intellect can perceive their potency and the astonishing results that must follow; you will have no trouble in seeing our pathway, grand with effects, scintillating with comprehensive methods, and filled with those who are enthusiastically aiding us in the work; but you will be compelled to employ additional intellectual steam to keep within speaking distance.

It is Christmas time now; and Spiritualists, I appeal to you to give this paper a grand boost; let it be said when another Christmas rolls around that THE PROGRESSIVE THINKER not only leads in circulation all other Spiritualist papers, but has a larger circulation than any of the so-called religious papers now published.

Spiritual Salt.

"Ye are the salt of the earth," said one. No one needs to be told the value of salt as a preservative of meats and all that enters the stomach to sustain life. The purpose of earth-life is to unfold the soul and spirit. Whoever does that is the salt of the earth; but whoever fails to do it is like the salt which lost its saltiness and is good for nothing.

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