

ROMISH MIRACLES.

Romish Occult Influences. An Interesting Chapter of Personal Experiences.

Years ago I went as an invalid to a hygienic establishment, to put myself under the care of hygienic practitioners. On arriving at the place I was surprised to find that the physicians, Dr. T. L. Nichols and his wife, Mrs. Mary S. G. Nichols, who had been somewhat noted "liberal" Spiritualists, had become converts to Rome. Their conversion had been effected through the influence of a Catholic spirit, whose name I do not now with certainty remember, who appeared to Mrs. Nichols, and effected the conversion of herself and husband to the Catholic faith.

The new converts were zealous in their efforts to bring others into the fold of the "true church," and met with a degree of success. Soon after, we removed to the immediate vicinity of a convent not far from Cincinnati, Ohio. Between Mrs. N. and myself a strong attachment existed—she was very kind, full of motherly sympathy, and was a woman of strong magnetic attraction; and I as a patient clung to her as almost my only hope for life. She was exceedingly desirous to secure my conversion to the faith—the "only true church." In those days I was quite orthodox—after the Protestant pattern; and when she would argue with me, or try her fine persuasive powers to turn me to the "true fold," I would meet her with Scripture quotations, as I was indeed unusually conversant with the Bible, and with general theology as well. Some of our kindly encounters were rather amusing. On one occasion she tried to gain me to practice "invocation of the saints,"—going through a well-rounded argument supplemented with coaxing persuasion. As usual on such occasions, I fell back on the Bible, telling her that I dared not swerve from the teachings of that book which was to me the authoritative word of God. I had read and re-read the Bible through, and the only recorded instance of praying to the saints was that told by Jesus concerning the rich man in hell, who prayed Father Abraham to send Lazarus to cool his (Dives') parched tongue; but from the poor success of this prayer, I did not feel encouraged to invoke the saints. The grim humor of the reply was too much for her—she sprang up from her chair, trying unsuccessfully to look very serious, gave me a "love tap" with her hand, and saying: "You don't know much,"—marched off laughing in her sleeve. She never broached that subject to me again.

I could relate many anecdotes concerning herself and other members of the family; but they would be mostly aside from the point at which I am aiming—which is to elucidate to some extent the peculiar psychic influences set at work by Romish spirits, both embodied and disembodied, as noted in my own personal experience.

As I have already said, Mrs. N. was earnestly desirous of my conversion. It was soon evident that she had got the convent people, nuns and resident "fathers," or priests, interested in my behalf. Being sent one day on some errand that took me into a harvest field belonging to the convent, I was approached by Father—, a French priest attached to the convent, who threw his arms lovingly around me and gave me a warm embrace. Being sent to the convent one day, the Mother Superior "smiled sweetly,"—like Hudson Tuttle's Mother Superior in his "Convent of the Sacred Heart,"—but it is only fair to say that she did not embrace me, unless in a spiritual sense. If she had only embraced me as lovingly as the "fathers" did, I might have been converted right then and there (miraculously, of course). But the sweetly-smiling sister neglected to "embrace" her opportunity, and it passed by forever. If she is living to-day and should read these lines, no doubt she could say, with Whittier:

"Of all sad words of tongue or pen,
The saddest are these: 'If might have been,'"

[As I write these lines, sitting in the shade of a tree, in Toledo, Ohio, I look up and see two "sisters" clad in their black garb and with a white band around their heads, passing over a bridge close by, and I have a warm and kindly feeling for those sisters—notwithstanding the dislike I have toward the old church. I do not hate THEM—I hate ROMANISM.]

Mrs. N. had them all praying and repeating their rosaries, etc., etc., for my conversion; and her faith was so strong that I would become a son of the church. Indeed, she said to me, in all earnestness: "You are sure to become a Catholic before you die."

She gave me a rosary that was said to have a piece of the wood of the true cross, and tried to teach me how to use it. She asked me to repeat "Pater Noster," the "Angelic Salutation," "Hail Mary," etc., and other Catholic devotional things of like nature, and to please her, I complacently repeated the words after her dictation.

In the light of further experience and study I can see, as I could not and do not then see, the deep intent and object of all these proceedings. It was to effect a union of visible and invisible forces, to prepare my mind more especially to feel the influence of Romish spirit powers, and to lay me open to the influence of their attacks; to expose me, in as far as possible, to a condition as possible to the psychic assaults of the combined Romish

forces of the two worlds, the seen and the unseen. It was to work upon my isolated Spirituality and Veneration (phenologically stated), isolated from reason and judgment, and by this method overpower my mind and capture me by hypnotic or semi-hypnotic psychic force. Thousands have been thus captured—as the mass of Romish "miraculous" conversions attest. That I was not captured seems almost a miracle to me.

My reading had given me some knowledge of the psychic influences—perhaps, in a way, it had. But, read on. The result of the proceedings before related was by-and-by felt by me in a strange and peculiar manner. I was much accustomed to walking alone in the woods, and along the streams, in meditation, and often giving vent to my aspirations, in prayer to God, according to my then orthodox ideas. While thus walking and meditating alone, an influence would come upon me, and I would find myself taking on the thoughts and feelings of a devoted Catholic—the words of intense Romish devotion would be in my mouth and on the point of open utterance. Sometimes for the moment I would be, as it were, a Catholic. Sometimes it was as though the words of the devotional exercises were spoken in my ears by a voice in the air above me, devoutly, with intense feeling of love and worship, "Holy Mary," and other Catholic exclamations, so oft uttered by devout Catholics. It seemed, indeed, that by the influence of Romish spirits I was being psychically Romanized, even against my will.

I knew little about Spiritualism at that time, and was consequently the more open to this assault of the unseen Romish forces. However, I rallied, by the aid of my confirmed habit of falling back upon the Bible, as before stated. Romanism was not in the Bible, as I understood it; and so I would not surrender. The struggle was not without result. I was broken and driven back; but to this day, from time to time, I am beset by Romish spirits seeking to win me to the church; miracles of the Romish stripe are performed to bring me around; but Spiritualism gives me an insight into and knowledge of their work and methods, and is a safeguard and an effective weapon both of defense and offense as against Romanism, from whatever source, seen or unseen. By the grace of Spiritualism, not only am I not "converted," but I have learned to hate the Romish hierarchy and its methods, its falsities, its frauds and its lies, as I hate the "devil" or spirit of evil itself. When these unseen (so-called) emissaries of Satan come to me now I can discern them clairvoyantly, and by the light and aid of Spiritualism, I can say to them, "Get thee behind me, Satan!" and they go. The sort of miracle which converted Mrs. Nichols has no converting power over me, though the priestly "father" expatiates never so unctuously, argumentatively or persuasively. Unless I am very tired and weary, I always listen to what they have to say; and I am always inspired to answer—usually with blunt directness, calling a spade a spade, and a lie by its shortest name.

We read of the devil tempting Jesus, offering him all the kingdoms of the world if he would worship him. Similarly, the Romish emissaries "go one better" than the devil's offer to Jesus, and tempt me to say, "I will worship thee, if thou wilt give me the kingdoms of the world to come to those who will bow to the Romish church." "Get thee behind me, Satan," is the proper answer again.

Heretofore, for these many years, I have kept these things locked within my own mind; but now, it seems to me, the fullness of time has come to give them to the world, and I do so through the chosen medium of THIS PROGRESSIVE THUNDER, which seems to be the specially-authorized instrument raised up to combat the forces of Romanism.

No doubt to some these things will seem wild, and Romish priests and others, who are "behind the scenes," will outwardly rail at them; but they are the words of truth and soberness, and intelligent thought, spiritualism and others, may profitably study their import, and learn a valuable lesson concerning the dark ways and psychic influences set in play by the Romish church—and which have been in the past ages, as also to-day, one of its most important and powerful methods of making Romans, by occult, as well as known, psychic influences, taking often the form and name of miracles.

Indeed, it is a saying among Catholic proselytes, and it was said to me, that if one is earnest to know the truth (of Romanism) it will be made known to him, even if it requires a miracle to convince him. It is apparent that the false "truths" of Romanism require—and receive—the aid of false or Romish miracles to establish them; and the church, by virtue of long practice, has acquired extreme facility in "getting up" miracles as occasion may demand! We have only to read Romish histories and biographies to demonstrate this fact in the most palpable manner. As an instance in point, let me here copy the Romish account of a miracle performed by Saint Anthony of Padua. The reader is requested to allow no unhalloved smile or ungodly snarl to distort the sober Catholic seriousness of his visage as he reads.

THE HORSE THAT WORSHIPED THE HOST.
It is related by Bellarmine [Catholic] as sober history, in his book "De Sac. Euchar. Lib." 3, Cap. 8, that Saint Anthony of Padua had an encounter with a heretic touching the change of the wafer into Christ's flesh. "I have a horse," said the heretic, "to whom I shall give nothing for three days. On the third day do you come with the host; and I shall come with the horse. I shall pour out some corn to him; but if he forsake the corn and go and venerate the host, then shall I believe." On the day appointed Saint Anthony addressed the horse: "In the virtue and in the name of thy creator, whom I truly hold to my lord, I command and enjoin thee, O horse, to come, and with humility, receive him." "No sooner were the words uttered," says the grave Bellarmine, "than the horse, unbridled of his corn, hastens toward the host, in the priest's hand, inclining his head, and devoutly kneeling on his fore feet, he adored his Lord in the best manner he could, and confessed the heretic."

It is no wonder the man was converted; I have seen horses and donkeys perform tricks fully as wonderful as this, and the well-known "Learned Pig" beats this miraculous horse feat beyond compare, with telling the time of day, playing a game of cards, etc., etc. A Chicago friend of mine had a horse that would sit upright in a chair, and smoke a pipe. If the blessed saint had only made the horse do something difficult—such as flying like a bird; or climbing up a tree, tall foremost; or even talking, like Balaam's remarkable ass—, but then, the ass does not do these things, and the miracles of later years foretell the infidel doubts of later years. Hence their miracles fall far short of meeting the wants of modern investigators. But we must not blame them—doubtless they did the best they could; or, if they did not, their veracious historians did it for them! Either way, the effect is all the same on the "true believers." Great is the power of "the truth."

It seems to us that the blessed saint, or his historian, ought to have wrought a miracle that would at least transcend in impressive dignity the wonderful deeds of "Mother Hubbard and Her Dog," or "Whittington and His Cat," or "Jack and the Beanstalk," and other noted miracles, renowned in nursery lore.

The query remains, whether this devoted horse was allowed to "eat his Lord in the host," as a reward for his piety? This miracle is a sample of the sort of spiritual pabulum gravely set forth by Romish historians and biographers for the delectation of the faithful. With a few exceptions, this is being written, there is published in the secular press an important item of scientific news, relating to a new discovery made by French scientists, which completely knocks all the props from under some of the most famous and wonderful miracles ever wrought in the Romish church. It is a way that science has, to worry the old church with its discoveries, but then, such is the wicked and perverse nature of science. It has always had a habit of knocking out the underpinnings of the old Romish fraud; and that is why Rome has ever fought by inquisition and flame those whose discoveries have antagonized the dogmas of the church.

The discovery alluded to is the new science of Dermography, which explains the marks called "stigmata" by which some devotees of the church have gained great renown and reputation for sanctity, as being the specially-favored ones of Jesus and Mary, because of the appearance on the body somewhere of a cross. In the St. Antoine hospital was found a woman whose skin reddened at the slightest contact, but without any feeling of heat or irritation. With a French Dr. Dujein-Baumert produced calligraphic inscriptions on her skin; and so astonished was he that Dr. Mesmet's attention was called to the subject. Dr. Mesmet says: "If we take a well-sharpened pencil and write on the arms, shoulders or chest of this woman, we see a bright red line follow the pencil immediately. This redness lasts from six to eight hours."

Since the first experiments, the doctors have found many new subjects, some suffering from no disease; others who are subject to hysteria. Army doctors are now performing experiments on their soldiers, and it is found that many have skins so impressionable that inscriptions may be read at a distance of fifty feet and during five or six hours. The bearing of this important new scientific discovery upon the Romish assumed miracles of the "stigmata" order, is plainly evident, as establishing their probable fraudulent and wholly unsatisfactory character. Like all the other miracles of Romish invention, the stigmata will have to be relegated to limbo.

Next to electricity, no branch of science shows such progress as bacteriology. Prof. Rudolph Emmerich has proved that nine-tenths of all diseases of man and animals are caused by bacteria, and the whole energy of nearly a thousand of the greatest modern scientists is directed to ridding mankind of the cause of infectious diseases. The researches of Koch, Kitasato, Kreigler, Huppe, Salsbury and Scholl have not only pointed out the bacilli of tuberculosis, influenza and tetanus, but they have successfully killed the germs. Salsbury's prescription for influenza and Nenke's for tetanus have been proved specifics—good in all cases. Koch's inoculation for consumption failed at first to give the hoped-for results, but perfect success is only a matter of short time.

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ma bacilli" in the intestines. They must be introduced through the mouth or nostrils into the stomach. They live in boiling milk and die in one hour in cow's milk. With proper sanitary treatment, this once dreaded scourge need no longer be feared. To know the cause is to find the cure. Ninety-five per cent of cases in the first stage and seventy-five per cent of cases in the second stage are cured by the new treatment—an injection of boric acid crystals.

Bacteria were found in the great hall-stones of April 26, 1890—from 400 to 700 to the cubic centimeter, but mainly of one species—showing that they were as abundant in the upper strata of the air where these hall-stones formed as in the lower atmosphere. The "pure air of mountain-tops" is a myth. The advancement in sanitary science has greatly reduced the death-rate of cities. For the decade ending 1890 in New York it was 3,300 per 100,000; for the decade ending 1900 it was 2,524, an average increase of longevity of nearly ten years. The decrease in mortality may be expected to continue, for science has turned its attention to the question of food, and not only the deleterious nature of certain preparations is made clear, but the Legislature are yearly called upon to make adulterations statutory offenses. The researches of Salsbury show that nearly every disease can be produced, even without adulteration, by diet, and the proper preparation of food is now a regular study.

The cure of dyspepsia by nitrate of strychnia or bichloride of gold injections has been one of the wonders of the decade. Over one million persons have been cured by the Keeley treatment, and every city and town in the world has its club. In medicine and surgery there have been great advances. Hypnotism has been superseded by the use of anesthetics; harmless anyone is used in place of chloroform. Hundreds of new remedies have been found. In astronomy the ten years have added a fifth moon to Jupiter, discovered by Prof. Barnard, Sept. 10, 1892; gives Venus one revolution on its axis in seven and one-half months instead of in twenty-two hours and twenty-one minutes. The problem now is how to take the electricity directly from it, to make it the storage battery for all material force of every kind necessary in labor and have it as free to the manufacturer who owns the machinery as the air and sunlight to the agriculturist.

Electricity was not "practical" until it could be fed on coal instead of zinc; until a pound of coal produced one horse-power per five minutes. It has in ten years almost reached one horse-power per hour. In the past five years it has been applied to 40 per cent of the street railways of the country. In factories, in mines, in mills, in metal working, wherever drudgery is to be done or force exerted, the new servant does better and cheaper work than the old. It is used in place of dynamite even for blasting rocks, and the "dot brush" now gives light and heat without consuming any material—reproducing the sun and explaining its nature.

The inventions and applications in the electric field are too many to even tally. Ten patents are granted daily, a hundred new applications are made hourly. Ten years ago the electric plants in the United States numbered thirty-nine, had a capital of \$1,200,000, employing 549 persons. Today the plants in the United States number 3,000, having \$700,000,000 capital invested and 623,000 people engaged in the work. It has increased in ten years a thousandfold here, and we are not ahead of other civilized countries. But this is as nothing to the future progress, when the Welsh converter, by which a feeble current can be raised to an enormous voltage and a Grove battery actually emptied in a minute, are surrendered to commercial uses. The "transformers" are now in use, and by them a current can be carried over a hundred miles with a loss of but 28 per cent. As the power producing the current costs nothing usually, as in the first power-house established at the water-fall of Luffen-on-the-Nock, this loss is of little moment; but here in New York harbor an iron bulk in the salt water of the bay has been used to light and heat a house on shore. The faint current running through the wire, felt only by a Thompson's galvanometer, was sufficient when passed through converters to show a voltage of 120. The dynamo may have, after all, but a brief reign. Gothenburg, supplied with electric power from the falls of Trollhatta, set an example which twelve other towns have followed, and Niagara Falls will soon cease to be anything but a natural force owned by a private corporation and sold to the public at voltage rates. It is a race between the transformer and the converter.

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O SCIENCE!

You Have Made Mighty Strides:

Spiritualists Should Study Your Ways.

TELEGRAPHING WITHOUT WIRES AND TELEPHONING ALONG A RAY OF LIGHT ARE SOME WONDERS DEVELOPED IN TEN YEARS.

In science, says the New York World, there have been few really great discoveries in new fields of research during the past decade, but the number of minor discoveries and their applications to human wants and pleasures have been greater than during the preceding ten centuries. It has been a decade of development in every direction and on every line of material progress.

The growth in electricity has been marvelous, incredible to one who has not gone along with it. Twenty years ago there were only five books on electricity in the United States, today an ordinary expert's library numbers a thousand. The telephone of ten years ago bows to the photophone, for the scientists are now talking with each other along a beam of light—a few hundred feet today, a few hundred miles tomorrow. Telegraphing has been done without wires and has been proved practical. By induction the message is now sent from a moving train, or an electric lamp is kept burning while being carried by hand around a house from room to room. An inexhaustible store of energy, which may be used without generation or transmission, has been found and its use at small cost is the problem now being solved.

The earth has been proved to be a "dynamo," generating electricity by its revolution before a great magnet—the sun. The bold suggestion of ten years ago that it might be a thermopile has been shown to have been too modest. The problem now is how to take the electricity directly from it, to make it the storage battery for all material force of every kind necessary in labor and have it as free to the manufacturer who owns the machinery as the air and sunlight to the agriculturist.

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The inventions and applications in the electric field are too many to even tally. Ten patents are granted daily, a hundred new applications are made hourly. Ten years ago the electric plants in the United States numbered thirty-nine, had a capital of \$1,200,000, employing 549 persons. Today the plants in the United States number 3,000, having \$700,000,000 capital invested and 623,000 people engaged in the work. It has increased in ten years a thousandfold here, and we are not ahead of other civilized countries. But this is as nothing to the future progress, when the Welsh converter, by which a feeble current can be raised to an enormous voltage and a Grove battery actually emptied in a minute, are surrendered to commercial uses. The "transformers" are now in use, and by them a current can be carried over a hundred miles with a loss of but 28 per cent. As the power producing the current costs nothing usually, as in the first power-house established at the water-fall of Luffen-on-the-Nock, this loss is of little moment; but here in New York harbor an iron bulk in the salt water of the bay has been used to light and heat a house on shore. The faint current running through the wire, felt only by a Thompson's galvanometer, was sufficient when passed through converters to show a voltage of 120. The dynamo may have, after all, but a brief reign. Gothenburg, supplied with electric power from the falls of Trollhatta, set an example which twelve other towns have followed, and Niagara Falls will soon cease to be anything but a natural force owned by a private corporation and sold to the public at voltage rates. It is a race between the transformer and the converter.

Next to electricity, no branch of science shows such progress as bacteriology. Prof. Rudolph Emmerich has proved that nine-tenths of all diseases of man and animals are caused by bacteria, and the whole energy of nearly a thousand of the greatest modern scientists is directed to ridding mankind of the cause of infectious diseases. The researches of Koch, Kitasato, Kreigler, Huppe, Salsbury and Scholl have not only pointed out the bacilli of tuberculosis, influenza and tetanus, but they have successfully killed the germs. Salsbury's prescription for influenza and Nenke's for tetanus have been proved specifics—good in all cases. Koch's inoculation for consumption failed at first to give the hoped-for results, but perfect success is only a matter of short time.

Asiatic cholera has been proved by Koch to be a malignant disease of the blood, caused by myriads of the "com-

ma bacilli" in the intestines. They must be introduced through the mouth or nostrils into the stomach. They live in boiling milk and die in one hour in cow's milk. With proper sanitary treatment, this once dreaded scourge need no longer be feared. To know the cause is to find the cure. Ninety-five per cent of cases in the first stage and seventy-five per cent of cases in the second stage are cured by the new treatment—an injection of boric acid crystals.

Bacteria were found in the great hall-stones of April 26, 1890—from 400 to 700 to the cubic centimeter, but mainly of one species—showing that they were as abundant in the upper strata of the air where these hall-stones formed as in the lower atmosphere. The "pure air of mountain-tops" is a myth. The advancement in sanitary science has greatly reduced the death-rate of cities. For the decade ending 1890 in New York it was 3,300 per 100,000; for the decade ending 1900 it was 2,524, an average increase of longevity of nearly ten years. The decrease in mortality may be expected to continue, for science has turned its attention to the question of food, and not only the deleterious nature of certain preparations is made clear, but the Legislature are yearly called upon to make adulterations statutory offenses. The researches of Salsbury show that nearly every disease can be produced, even without adulteration, by diet, and the proper preparation of food is now a regular study.

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who found a resting place in the Nile Valley after a cataclysm had destroyed the pyramid builders. The Atlanteans were descendants of a selected few of the more spiritually developed Atlanteans who fled beyond the Himalayas. The preceding, or Lemurian race were builders of the Cyclopean walls found at different places and makers of the giant statues found on Easter Island. The age is explained as the half animal decadent line of the wicked Lemurians, but no fossil remains of the ape have ever been found on this continent, although heads of anthropoid apes finely carved from basalt have been unearthed in Oregon.

In engineering there have been great strides. The quadruped expansion engine and the compound locomotive are but two of twenty-five mechanical devices that have increased man's power over machinery. In electrical engineering the degree of E. E. has been made at many colleges. To fill the demand for war vessels the quadruped expansion engine and the compound locomotive are but two of twenty-five mechanical devices that have increased man's power over machinery. In electrical engineering the degree of E. E. has been made at many colleges. To fill the demand for war vessels the quadruped expansion engine and the compound locomotive are but two of twenty-five mechanical devices that have increased man's power over machinery. In electrical engineering the degree of E. E. has been made at many colleges. To fill the demand for war vessels the quadruped expansion engine and the compound locomotive are but two of twenty-five mechanical devices that have increased man's power over machinery. 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A DEAD-BEAT RELIGION.

It Furnishes a Majority of the Criminals.

But Pays No Taxes to Take Care of Them.

We learn from the *Daily News* of this city, that from the extremely valuable twenty acres of property lying between Halsted street, Fullerton, Sheffield and Belden avenues, the city does not receive one cent of taxes. There are on the property seventy-five residences, each rented and bringing in a handsome revenue. This large block of land is owned by the Presbyterian Theological Seminary of the Northwest, known as the McCormick seminary. The block is worth nearly \$1,000,000, and although bringing in a revenue of over \$50,000 a year, its owners do not contribute anything to the city treasury.

There are in all seventy-one houses on the grounds, besides the seminary buildings. Three of these are used as residences by members of the theological seminary faculty, while the other sixty-eight are rented to the best advantage.

The houses are all three-story, brick edifices and contain about twelve rooms each. They have been built gradually and it is likely that more will be erected, as there is land enough to accommodate. They rent for from \$200 to \$300 a year, so that the income amounts to at least \$50,000 a year. Twenty-four of the houses face on Fullerton avenue, twenty-four on Belden avenue, while twenty are on the private street known as Chalmers place. So fearful are the seminary authorities of giving something to the city that one side of this private street is almost blocked by notices warning the passer-by that the grounds are private and that the street is not for the use of the public.

The houses are on the open renting market and are in direct competition with other property, although not paying any taxes. The land is not used in any way for direct seminary purposes, but simply for the money there is in it. The property owners of that locality view the vacant ground with apprehension, for at any time the seminary may construct a few rows of houses on the vacant portion of its land and put them in the market at a price lower than the tax-paying owners can afford to lease their premises. Paying no taxes, the seminary can reduce its rent below that of adjoining property and still receive more than the owner who is called upon to pay both his own taxes and a share of his theological neighbors'. There is an additional expense spread over each resident on the North Side owing to the dislike that the seminary people evince to paying taxes.

In years past the North Town assessor has attempted to collect the trifle of \$8,000 or so that would be due for taxes on the land used as a money-making adjunct, although the seminary has always been regarded as properly exempt under its charter. But through some legal machination the seminary has contrived to have its name taken off the roll and up to date it has not paid one cent into the treasury.

THE ASSESSOR IS FOILED.

When the subject was mentioned by a *Daily News* reporter at the North Town assessor's office, it was plain that it was one well known there. Chief Clerk Richards, to whom the reporter applied for information, had had experience in collecting—or, rather, in attempting to collect—taxes from the seminary, and was fully posted.

"It is an outrage and a shame," he said, "that rich property does not pay a cent of taxes, while every other property-owner in the neighborhood has to put up his share and part of that the seminary should pay. Notwithstanding this the theological institution is in open competition in the house-renting business and can afford to let its houses for much less than the men who pay taxes."

"The property is known as the north half of block 3, Sheffield's addition to city of Chicago, and covers twenty acres. About five acres are occupied by the seminary buildings, while fifteen are used solely for renting. There are seventy houses which are rented. It is on this part, from which a great revenue is derived, that taxes should be paid, but the theological men do not want to part with even enough of their income to pay the taxes. The amount that would be due from this is about \$8,000 a year. Time and again effort has been made to collect this, but in every instance the matter has been taken into court and the name of the seminary has been removed from the rolls. The last couple of years it has been given up as a bad job and there have been little hopes of getting anything," and Mr. Richards turned to a bulky volume which bore the entry:

"N. 1/2, blk 3, Sheffield's add., 20 ac.—Presbyterian seminary—EXEMPT."

"However, this year we will put them on the assessment roll and endeavor to have them pay their share. I do not believe that the charter of the university exempts anything but the land actually used for seminary purposes. I am informed that a special act of the Illinois legislature was passed regarding this, but am sure that if the matter were taken into the courts such an act would be declared unconstitutional. The seminary has at least five acres of property still available and may put up more houses and increase their revenue without paying any taxes. The thing is a burden to North sides—it is a disgrace and a shame."

Last week we published an able article from the pen of Dr. H. V. Swarth, showing the great necessity that exists for having church property taxed, in confirmation of the facts he presented.

ed, we give this above. It is a most startling arraignment of what may be designated as a dead-beat religion, one which occupies a very prominent position before the people. Just think of the large amount of property in this city that is not taxed, contributing not one cent towards sustaining the state or city government. Anyone with the simplest bit of common sense can readily see that to exempt church property from taxation, is only rendering the burden of taxation still heavier for those who are in poor circumstances, and who belong to no religious body. The time has certainly arrived for action. The simple fact that the churches furnish a large majority of the criminals of this country shows conclusively that there is something wrong in what is designated by them as the "providence of God." The idea, too, of exempting the property that belongs to the various churches from taxation, is at the same time, a challenge that their God is all-powerful and, of course, from that point of view requires no favors from any one, is absurd from every point of view. A religion so weak that it has to draw sustenance from the masses who take no interest in it, is a delusion, confusion and a snare. The action taken by the liberals of Massachusetts, and which we published in No. 181 of THE PROGRESSIVE THINKER, was timely, and cannot fail to have a beneficial effect. From the very nature of things, a church represented by God himself should have financial strength sufficient to pay ordinary taxes, and thus be able to contribute something in behalf of good government. A church that acknowledges its inability to cope with sin, at once admits that its God is a weakling, and has found an adversary that He cannot overcome. A movement should be made all along the line, in order to so change the laws that all religious institutions shall be compelled to pay their regular share of the taxes, and thus assist in maintaining good order. Furnishing, as the churches do, nine-tenths of all the criminals of our jails and penitentiaries, they should be taxed to sustain them.

Truth.

There's a hand on the rudder that will not flinch.

There's a fear in the pilot's face

As he guides the world, like boats in a storm,

Through the rocking seas of space;

And whether they make the harbor at last,

Beyond the shoals and the swell,

Or fall forever a shoreless sea,

I know that all is well—

And I learn these things from the heart of the wood.

From the solemn soul of the sea—

From the pulse of a wire-bound cage

Told all these things to me.

And the soul of man is a sunward bird

With wings made for the sun and the sky,

To pierce to the fount of the shining day

And float through the depths of night;

And I read these things in that Bible of God

Whose leaves are the spreading sky,

And the legible face of the dark green sea,

Or all force a shoreless sea,

For truth is not closed in the lids of a book,

For the chainless soul is free;

And never a bird in a wire-bound cage

Told all these things to me.

For truth surges into the open heart

And into the willing eye,

And streams from the breath of the steaming earth,

And drops from the bending sky;

'Tis not shut in a book, in a church or a school,

Nor cramped in the chains of a creed,

But lives in the open air and the light

For all men in their need!

But the fish that swims in a goldfish vase

Knows not of the sea and the sky,

And never a bird in a wire-bound cage

Told all these things to me.

'Tis the Voice that comes from the glided peaks,

From hills that shoulder the sky,

Through the topless heights of a man's own dreams

This Voice goes wandering by;

And who roams the earth with an open heart,

With an ear attuned to hear,

Will catch some broken chord of the sound

Whenever the voice comes near,

But not past the prison of custom or creed

Will the voice of the vision see;

And never a bird in a wire-bound cage

Told all these things to me.

—Sam Walter Foss.

A World-Wide Circulation.

THE OPINION OF A PROMINENT PHYSICIAN.

TO THE EDITOR:—Evidently the PROGRESSIVE THINKER must have a world-wide circulation, for I am in daily receipt of letters from all parts of the world, and am really surprised at the number of letters I receive daily, and if I did not employ a stenographer or type-writer to receive my dictations, I could never properly or promptly answer them.

As a spiritualistic advertising medium, THE PROGRESSIVE THINKER covers a field I have never before been able to reach.

Thankful for the rapid increase of its circulation, the liberal patronage and grateful expressions of its readers, and thankful above all for the manifest aid extended from all spiritual mediums, I remain ever faithfully yours,

DR. R. GREER,

Psychopathic Physician.

Chicago, Ill., May 10th.

There are different ways of gauging the value of a paper—it may be done from the standpoint of a student, a reader in search of amusement; or of profitable as well as interesting matter; etc., etc. Each judges from his own vantage ground. Dr. Greer occupies the standpoint of an ADVERTISER; and the satisfaction he expresses at the copious results obtained argues much in favor of THE PROGRESSIVE THINKER as an advertising medium and of himself as a physician, and also indicates an unusually large number of readers. His letter was wholly voluntary on his part, hence is greatly appreciated by us, showing as it does that THE PROGRESSIVE THINKER leads in circulation.

The Liberal and Spiritual Society, Oakland, Cal., has Mrs. Sarah Seal for lecturer at its Children's Lyceum; 2:30, lecture, followed by phenomena and circles; 7:30, lecture. Meets at Fraternal Hall, 1156 1/2 Washington street.

Mrs. H. S. Lake, pastor of Cleveland Spiritual Alliance, will speak during the season at Lake Brady, Cassadaga, and Parkland. Permanent address, 319 Huntington street, Cleveland, Ohio.

Samuel Cramer, First Vice-President of the Spiritualist Society at Aspen, Col., was in the city last week. He received some remarkable tests from different mediums.

Learn to hold thy tongue; five words cost Zacharias forty weeks of silence.

Fuller.

NATURAL MEDIUMS.

Remarkable Infantile Prodigious.

Children Who Are Exceeding the Wonder of the World.

Mediumship is all ages of the world has played a most important and significant part. In ancient times, spirit communion was conspicuous in shaping the affairs of nations as well as individuals. Jesus himself, when a mere boy, possessed remarkable wisdom, and that was obtained through the instrumentality of his mediumship. As is well known, he greatly astonished the doctors of the temple, and judging from the responses given to questions, he was regarded by them as possessing divine wisdom. With some, mediumship in the later years of life is cultivated and developed, and remarkable manifestations of spirit power sometimes flow therefrom. Mohammed, Zoroaster, Buddha, Confucius, Plato, and hundreds of others in the past were closely allied to the Spirit-world, and held communion with its wise sages. Their mediumship was probably of the normal character, or the resultant or ultimate of their own natural organizations. The perfectly normal medium is always in close rapport or sympathy with the spirit side of life, and judging from appearances, there is nothing abnormal connected with them. Edison's mediumship is largely of this normal character. His greatest inventions, though they have their birth on the spirit side of life, are projected through his brain as naturally and easily as water flows through a pipe. Among our normal mediums may be found our greatest philosophers, scientists and statesmen, nearly all of whom never recognize the true source of their knowledge, but entertain the idea that their grand thoughts, remarkable outbursts of oratory, and, at times, expressions of sublime poetry, are all purely the result of their own internal intellectual mechanism, resulting, as they think, from spontaneous cerebration. Such, however, is not the case. Take, for example, those who are regarded as infant prodigies. They were never so common in the world as today. They are simply mediums, natural-born mediums—normal mediums—mediums by virtue of birth alone, and a peculiarly constituted force of the nervous system and the brain. As set forth by the *New York World*, the ranks of "infant prodigies" are increasing to an extent which is positively alarming to adult virtuosi. For what chance has the veteran piano-player or fiddler against the astonishing feats of those small boys who, we are told, leave their tops and balls in the dressing-room to come on the stage and electrify an audience.

Master Rhyl, Bowen, a five-and-a-half-year-old violinist, with an astonishing technique, has just made his second public appearance in London, and is said to reveal a greater talent than did Sarasate at the same age. It is not unlikely that this small Welsh boy will really develop into a finished adult artist, as his public appearances will be rare, and his father, who is a musician and instructs him, will not sacrifice him to rapacious management.

But then there is the pianist wonder, Raoul Kozalski, a poor little boy of eight, about whom the tops and bells and hoops can only be the horrible myth, since the child is embarking on a London season after a series of 150 recitals on the Continent during the past year. The "overpressure" system in such a case must naturally be in full force.

Another eight-year-old prodigy, Freda Simonson, will make her first London appearance in June under the management of Mr. Daniel Mayer. She is said to have begun to play the piano at two and a half years, and at five performed a Clementi sonata in public in Berlin.

At seven she performed Beethoven's first concerto with orchestra at Kissingen. This small maiden seems to have developed the commercial instinct in due proportion with the artistic, her first query on entering a concert-room being: "Are the critics here?" If the body is not out in full force she remarks on the ill effect it may have on the next recital.

There is yet another prodigy pianist, the nine-year-old Poldi Spielman, who has won the heart of the great Rubinstein, who hates prodigies. This small boy is delighting the Germans, but is not yet booked for England or abroad. Not only is he a marvelous technician, but his discussion of the music he plays and of art in general is called phenomenally intelligent and critical. He answers his questions to an art catechism on the part of Rubinstein that he worked himself deeply into the affections of the musician.

Recently there has been a prodigy brought forth in New York, Isabella Bressler, the twelve-year-old child harpist, winner of the first prize at the Paris Conservatoire in 1891. The little girl made her debut at Steinway Hall on April 19, and jumped into favor at once. That she is a genuine "wonder-child" there can be no gainsaying; not only has she the mechanical skill, but her instrument is perfectly under control, but the evinces true musical instinct and judgment. Familiar numbers like Bragan's "Serenade" and the "Carnival of Venice" (the latter arranged with elaborate variations) were played with uncommon feeling and grace and an unerring technique. The little lady was greeted with storms of applause, over and over recalled, and at the close of her recital had to hold an impromptu reception behind the stage to receive the enthusiastic congratulations of her admirers. She is a native of Lima, Peru, but speaks French as her language, and, besides being a remarkable little artist, is a very sweet, modest and intelligent child.

All of these prodigies are simply natural-born, or normal mediums, and owe their remarkable powers to advanced spirits.

A BLACK SPOT!

It is in Iowa This Time.

And Not a Spiritualist Connected with It.

There is, judging from a report that comes from Independence, Iowa, to the *Chicago Herald*, bearing date May 13th, one very dark spot in Iowa, and we venture to say there is not even one Spiritualist connected with it. The world is civilized! Alas! Alas! The report goes on to say that if the affidavits of reputable persons count for anything, vice of almost every description is rampant within the walls of the Iowa State Hospital for the Insane. Sworn statements show that murders have been committed, that patients are maimed and battered by brutal attendants and outrages of various kinds committed in the institution. They also show that the doctors are incompetent, criminally ignorant, that the food is frequently totally unfit to eat, and that weak and sickly patients have been compelled to work on the farm of the superintendent, and that when paid for this labor at all they were given money from the fund of the institution. Now that an inquiry has been set on foot, many people who claim to have long known of gross irregularities in the hospital are coming forward and volunteering to testify. Their evidence in some cases is sensational as that filed with the governor. There is an affidavit from an attendant, who, by the way, is still employed at the hospital. It relates a story of brutality and torture. The paper in substance contains this:

KICKED INTO SUBMISSION.

He was in a bathroom one day giving a patient a bath. He refused to put on his clothes. Just about this time two other employees of the hospital came along. They went up to the man and tried to force him to dress. He refused and they grappled with him. He refused to throw him to the floor, and as he fell he struck his head on the bathtub, making a big splash in his head. Then he struck the slate floor with great force and became unconscious. While in this condition he was given several severe kicks in the face and in the ribs. He was black and blue in many places and blood was flowing from his many wounds. He was finally taken to his room and the doctors sent for. They brought him around. The next day the board of visitors was announced. It would not do to let them see the mangled patient, and there was much discussion as to what to do with him. Somebody suggested that he be locked in a closet, but an official said there must be no locked doors when the board of visitors was around. It was finally decided to go out walking with the man, and another attendant and myself were detailed to take him out on the lawn. We had to lift him from his bed and carry him out. The poor fellow could scarcely stand. We dragged him about the lawn and succeeded in getting out of the way of the committee.

WAS A CORPSE IN FIVE DAYS.

Another bathroom story more horrible than the above is related in another affidavit. It is the sworn testimony of an employee of the hospital. It says a patient was brought to the asylum one day who was very crazy. He was exceedingly violent. The doctors were called upon to quiet his ravings, but they were unable to do so. One of them finally suggested that the man be taken to the bathroom. This was done. Here he was stripped of his clothing and put into a tub of freezing cold water. The man fought the attendants, but he was finally subdued and made to lay in the tub, only his head being above the water. This had a quieting effect on the madman. The next day, however, he was again violent and he was again escorted to the bathroom, where, despite his piteous appeals and his frantic efforts

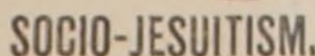
Notes by a Prominent Worker.

consciousness well explained in
mystery, so-called. The elder
child controlled the younger one;
ceased her, and there was no
at all. Only one at a time.
Individual who owned the body,
peep spirit found the opportunity
body and mind, hypnotize it,
time being, and that one kept
the living child suppressed, and
as though there were two
that child's body—one day

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Suggestion to Mediums.

ounces of gold are sufficient to gild
would encircle the earth.



The Autocrats Met and Parted at Rome.

will be time to look either for an- In
erview between the kaiser and the flower

Borneo there grows an insect-eating
which has the smell of carrion.

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Oh, how delighted I am to
see you in various ways, and to

...and she wrote him many pages on slates and materialized her the very best conditions, until he came to give in and acknowledge it was his mother. Some time after she was again quite unwell, but while she was out the house, I prepared some medicine—a tonic—and supposed she had it, until after her death, when I

all and proved that he had powers possessed by all; then Mrs. Flora Brown of Portland, Oregon, deals philosophy and phenomena in a convincing way and impresses all with earnestness and sincerity. Hal Davis, of San Francisco, is adding more to the interest of the meetings, with platform tests.

It never troubles the wolf
the sheep may be.—Virgil.
By sowing frugality we reap
golden harvest.—Agesilaus.
A frog enjoys himself in water
not in hot water.—African proverb.

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