AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, 1922

N XIX.

# REASON QUARTERLY

PUBLISHED NOVEMBER, FEBRUARY, MAY AND AUGUST Subscription(Five Quarters) \$1.00, Foreign \$1.25, Single Numbers 25c

## **LEADING ARTICLES IN THIS NUMBER:**

Sorbanne Professors See Materialization. B. F. Austin. Man and his Mind. Dr. Julia Seton. Character and Work of A. J. Davis. F. Wake Cook. Cremation vs. Earth Burial. P. A. Jensen. **Psychic Experiences** Ella Wheeler Wilcox. Easter Resurrections in N.Y. City. J. F. Steckeureiter. Miracles of Vibration, Color, Sound. Artie Mae Blackburn. Reincarnation. L. W. Rogers. Evidential Psychic Experiences. Russel H. Conwell. Mrs. Wilcox speaks thru Mrs. Wickland. **Reported.** 

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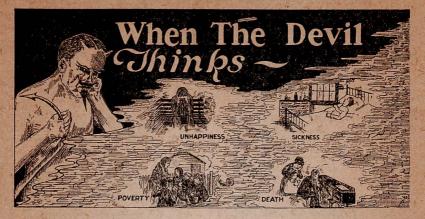
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#### IF THE DEVIL WISHED TO SERVE YOU THE VERY WORST **POSSIBLE TURN, HE COULD ASK NOTHING BETTER THAN** AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO YOUR THINKING FOR YOU

In that way he could quickly rob you of your health, destroy your prospects of success, reduce you to poverty, cheat you of love, plunge you into unhappiness, and send you down prematurely to the grave. He would not have to think victous or immoral thoughts in order to do these things, but merely the *wrong kind* of thoughts.

Even though you do not believe in the existence of a personal devil, you at least realize that the name stands for everything that is evil. Regardless of your beliefs in this respect, it is solemnly and terrible true that

#### YOU MAY PLAY THE DEVIL

yourself by thoughts and states of mind that will be just as destructive of your health, success and happiness as any thoughts that a personal devil might think for you. If you are not abundantly well, successful and happy, you are playing the devil by your way of thinking.

On the other hand, it is easily within your power to assume a method of thought and an attitude of mind that will make you free from disease, failure, dis-appointment and unhappiness, and that will bring you into possession of whatso-ever things you desire—money, health, success, renewed virility, love and happiness.

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## Sorbanne Professors See Materialization

B. F. AUSTIN

A "Flesh and Blood" Woman, Eight Inches Tall, Was Developed Out of Space, Floated, Turned Somersaults,, While Eminent Scholars of the University Gasped at an Astounding Seance.

A living human form, breathing, moving and responsive to the command of a scientific witness, has been materialized in empty space, before the eyes of the professors of France's great University, the Sorbonne. So wonderful have been the manifestations that one leading New York paper, *The Herald*, sent a reporter over who not only succeeded in getting the signed attestation of the Scientists to what they had witnessed, but also in penetrating the exclusive circle that surrounded those miracles and witnessed them himself. From the twopage report, illustrated, that appeared in *The Herald* of June 4th, we give a summary that will be read with deep interest by our readers.

#### THE FORMAL REPORT

The process verbal, or formal report, of this epoch-making seance in psychic science was drawn up the following day by M. Jeanson, a highly reputed scientist, who also is an eminent engineer, and signed by four other witnesses, including Jean Le Febvre, Jean de la Beaunville, Mlle. Anna Barbin, Rene Duval and Mme. Bisson, all of whom, because of their high position, command the instant attention of France and all Europe. This official record tells the details more clearly than could any interview and is here appended:

#### BY M. JEANSON

It was about half past four in the afternoon of May 25, 1921. The medium was placed under control and was put to sleep by Mme. Bisson. We waited three-quarters of an hour, and at the end of that time the respiration of the medium commenced to accelerate, we heard guttural sounds and in the hands of Eva, held on the right by Mme. Bisson and on the left by myself, there suddenly appeared a little of a grayish white substance, the volume increasing until it was about the size of a small orange; it then became oval about eight inches in length. At this moment the substance, in full daylight. disengaged itself from the hands of the medium and hovered a little above her sleeping body. Every one could see the left portion of the materialization transforming itself into very fine lines and that the central portion became white and brilliant.

It modeled itself very rapidly and we could recognize, admirably formed, the contour of a woman who seemed to be enveloped in a sort of filmy gauze. The clear color increased from right to left, and the substance transformed gradually into a little, undraped woman, of impeccable form and beauty. We saw emerge successively the hips, the thighs, the legs and feet.

This little apparition was of the utmost finesse, with long blond hair reaching to the hips. All the lower part of the body was of striking whiteness. The materialization was not more than eight inches tall, but it was perfectly lighted by a large window and plainly visible to all. At the end of *two minutes* it disappeared, then showed itself again, with the hair this time covering the face. We noticed that the legs had the power of usual movement; one of *them bent* and brought into play the articulation of the knee and hip. The apparition disappeared suddenly, and reappeared in the hands of the medium, to be materialized almost immediately in the form of a woman's face, remarkably beautiful, five times the size of the preceding materialization. We were able to admire the blue of her eyes and the red of her lips.

Then this apparition faded away. When I reached into the sack to assure that the control of the medium was perfect and that there was nothing foreign there, I felt something resembling contact with a cobweb. We opened the mediumistic sack and there on the little apron worn by Eva lay the body of the little woman—in her original form, but somewhat smaller. She was resting on her stomach, with her head turned to the left, her arms now freed from her long blond hair.

Mme. Bisson commanded the apparition to move in order to show that it was alive, continues the process verbal.

Immediately the little form moved, and without changing its place, turned slowly from side to side, finally resuming its original position. The legs were crossed. Suddenly, as though in a gymnasium class, the little woman leaned on her hands, raised herself up and again reposed but with her head turned to the right.

The little form continued its evolutions, jumping up and down vertically before the medium. At this, moment the medium shook off our hold on her hands and seizing the little body placed it in my hands at least fifteen inches from the sack. It remained there 10 seconds and we were able to confirm the perfection of its members. It possessed weight, it felt dry and soft but gave neither feeling of heat nor cold.

It returned to the medium's hand, and in order to prove that it had an intelligence, I told it to repeat a movement which would show that it was alive. It turned a complete somersault and landed in the hands of the assistant for a few seconds. Then it returned to the knees of the medium and gradually melted away as though absorbed into her flesh.

#### MME. JULIET BISSON

It may be well here to consider the identity of the woman who is the principal figure in these experiments and weird manifestations which the Sorbonne is examining.

She is Mme. Juliette Bisson, who occupies a studio in the Passy quarter of Paris, where for several years she has indulged in quiet but persistent psychic research.

Mme. Bisson is a sculptress of considerable note, and numbers among her friends and intimates many of the foremost figures in the intellectual life of France. She has never associated her investigations with any financial considerations whatever, and such results of her endeavors as have been made public have been announced not by her, but by well established organizations of scholars and students.

Mme. Bisson is essentially a student. She announced some time ago that she was convinced that human life would some day be thoroughly explained to mortals. She declared her belief that intellectual progress had reached such a stage that a full understanding of the foundation of life, its inspiration and its aftermath, were required by the human race if it were to continue the development which had reached such heights as to reach virtually an impasse without further light upon the mystery of human existence.

Study and experimentation by Mme. Bisson have continued through eighteen years. During this period she has been assisted by the same psychic medium, who has progressed with her through the various stages of her investigations and accomplishments. Every experiment conducted by her has been held under the strictest auspices, with all human forces under the most rigid control of spectators whose names and authority always have been highly honored throughout the scientific world.

Research organizations of England, France, Switzerland, Germany, and even the United States have looked eagerly forward to such reports as have been made from time to time from Mme. Bisson's studio, and her progress has been considered the progress of all psychic research.

Her announcement made to a limited circle of scientists last year that she had succeeded in producing a living form from the flesh of her medium, a living form that breathed. moved at her command and displayed all the characteristics of a complete human body, with even human intelligence, was considered so astounding and so worthy of the attention of even the Republic itself that upon the authority of no less a figure than Camille Flammarion, the great astronomer and academician, it was at once reported to the Sorbonne.

To say merely that the professors of the Sorbonne gasped may be regarded as putting it mildly. Such an announcement from Mme. Bisson, supported as it was by Prof. Flammarion, who had undertaken to be convinced by a demonstration in his own laboratories, demanded immediate action on the part of the university. Arrangements were made at once for the materializations to be repeated and further experiments continued in the presence of a committee of the Sorbonne and in the Sorbonne laboratories. News of this development was withheld from the public and only now is it disclosed.

For several years it has been generally known Mme. Bisson has had remarkable success with the minor forces of materializations. Her experiments always have been conducted in the presence either of Prof. Flammarion or some one of equal standing in the world of science. It has been her custom to have her medium held by either hand, tightly, so that all spectators might be assured of wholly involuntary action.

At first, following in the footsteps of other investigators, such as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Sir Oliver Lodge and Stead, these experiments, generally called "seances," were held in the dark, with the customary wooden cabinet almost wholly inclosing the medium. As her research deepened, however, Mme. Bisson and those who were watching the results obtained were not satisfied with manifestations which seemed to require darkened rooms. "There can be no belief, no satisfaction, as long as the element of mystery and secrecy is contributed to the process of materialization by an envelope of darkness," Mme. Bisson declared.

Gradually the lighting in her studio was brightened until, since the war, all of her experiments have been conducted in the full light of the sun that streams in through her studio windows. It has been in this full light that photographs repeatedly have been made of the faces and forms which have emanated from the flesh of her sleeping medium. All these photographs, some of which are reproduced on these pages, have been made with spectators sitting by—with the hands of the medium clasped tightly. Mme. Bisson has failed to recognize in any of her materialized forms any particular person of her past acquaintance—which is contrary to the reports made by others engaged in psychic research. Virtually all of the latter have claimed that the faces they reported as materialized at their experiments were those of individuals closely associated with their own lives. Doyle recognized his son. Stead recognized a child he had known. Lodge recognized his "personalities from the spirit world."

Mme. Bisson attributes her startling recent successes to the complete psychic harmony, as she describes the condition existing between sincere investigators since the war. "The tragedy of the war, its experiments and its conduciveness to deep thought," she says, "has given those who are interested in psychic research complete conviction. They no longer are skeptic. Also they no longer are led astray by false explanations. They admit there is no explanation as yet of the strange results obtained. They have persuaded themselves to postpone explanation of the problem they seek to solve until after the solution is arrived at. They have learned to ignore criticism and disbelief. With such a mental equilibrium they are approaching their investigations in full harmony with themselves and the mystery they seek to penetrate."

"The forms which Mme. Bisson materializes all are composed of some definite substance—so definite, it is declared, that they are susceptible to examination under high powered microscopes and to complete scientific analysis. The purport of this report, made by Flammarion and others who have been her witnesses, may best be imagined when one considers that the materializations of all other experimenters have been wholly visionary and of no substance responding to the touch." Her materialized forms float at some distance from the body of her medium, it is affirmed by her witnesses, leaving traces of moisture when they chance to touch the garment of a spectator. This moisture, when analyzed, seems to be composed of cells known to the physiologists as epithelial."

#### THE AMAZING RESULTS OF THIS MATERIALIZATION UPON SCIENTIFIC MINDS

It is said that when Camille Flammarion, the noted astronomer and spiritualist, reported the marvels that were occurring in the Scientific Test Seances under the auspices of Madam Juliette Bisson to the faculty of the Sorbonne, the scientists gasped in astonishment at his recital. Space will not permit individual testimonies from many, but the complete change of mental attitude on the part of one widely known critic of Psychic phenomena may serve as an illustration of the effects already produced and likely to be produced by this miracle upon scientists in general. We refer to

John D. Quackenbos, M. D.

This man has been regarded by many as the foremost critic

<sup>\*</sup>Editorial Note: This statement of the Herald reporter is an amazing one since for 70 odd years spiritualists in America and Europe have witnessed materializations not only visible but tangible.—Editor.

of psychic matters in the United States. His attitude has been hypercritical and squarely opposed to the Spiritualistic theory. He, like Thompson Jay Hudson, preferred to find in the real or asserted powers of the sub-conscious mind a full and satisfactory explanation of the psychic phenomena, and scouted the idea of spirit return. Here is what he says:

"During a quarter of a century of investigation I have never heard a creditable spiritualistic medium say anything that was not comprehensible on a psycho-logical theory. I have never seen a creditable medium do anything that could not be rationally explained as due to the action of that supersensible force just referred to and fully attested by scientific investigations."

But now he sings a different song, and declares: "But this manifestation before Flammarian and the faculty of the Sorbonné is the most astounding event the modern world has witnessed. . . With this account before me, I can only say that it is evidence we are facing a revelation of the hereafter . . The demonstration of immortality on scientific grounds would seem, in this age of waning Christian faith, to be vital to the integrity of our institutions and the endurance of our civilization. . . Psychical science thus conclusively proves that spiritual existence is independent of bodily organism." He goes on to say that a "Spiritual Millenium" is at hand.

Thus Psychic Investigation goes on and gradually but surely the Spiritual Theory of interpreting the psychic phenomena gains ground. The scientists are falling into line. The clergy fear either to attack or defend Spiritualism. The general public are settling down to a conviction of the great central truth of spirit return. "The earth rolls freedom's radiant may," as Gerald Massey wrote. And "out of the shadows of night" the world moves into light," and soon it shall be "daybreak everywhere."

#### MY BELOVED

Little blue-eyed child my tears are falling, Little white lamb my heart is calling. I miss you so as the years go by, And this world goes on with never a sigh; I am sick and so weary and lonely withal, Now I know you can never more answer my call,

Dear little baby who went on alone Through the "Valley of Shadow" to find your lost home. 'Twas the only long trip that you left *me* behind, And in this world's darkness your smile I can't find, But I have its sweet memory, with that I'll ne'er part. My beloved, my angel, my little sweetheart.

-CLARA M. BRITTEN.

## Man and his Mind

#### BY DR JULIA SETON

Dr. Julia Seton has been kind enough to forward a newspaper report of her lecture in Angus, in the banqueting hall, which seats 500, and her many American friends will be glad to hear of her continued work and success in foreign fields through the report following:

"Thoughts are things. There's nothing either good or bad but thinking makes it so."

This was the burden of the address given in the Banqueting Hall last night by Julia Seton, M.D., to as large an audience as the hall has ever held. Every seat was occupied soon after the doors opened, and long before the hour announced for the lecture to begin the rest of the available space was taken up by a standing crowd, while many were content to find seats on the floor near the platform.

Dr. Seton, who was introduced by Miss Burney, and spoke impressively for an hour and a half, was listened to with the greatest attention. In the course of her address she pointed out that truth had existed from the beginning, and would always exist. It had been revealed to man in the dawn of reason, and was always with us, waiting for interpretation, though sometimes it had been almost lost in the voices of those who tried to interpret it. Whatever we called it-Truth, Life, God-we all felt there was something greater than ourselves, and the development and prosperity of both individuals and nations depended on their thoughts about this greater Being who ruled "Thoughts," said Dr. Seton, "are things, and the universe. whatever a man can think he can become. He can fashion his own material universe by the simple, correct control of his own thinking.

"It is our own fault if our lives narrow down to limitations, and our hopes to petty confines. It is our own fault if our work degenerates into the deadly routine of drudgery, in which we do always what others want us to do in order to build up their success, in which we can have little part. It is our own fault if we do not recognize our immortal birthright of freedom, but go on in paths where we hear only the death-knell of success and personal attainment. It is not given to all to be equally great, or there would be no longer an expression of growth on this plane; but it is given to everybody to know the truth of his own latent possibilities and to develop them to the uttermost—to have high ideals and ambitions, and to work them out into the highest form of energy."

We were living hourly in a world full of glorious opportunities, full of a substance from which we could fashion our own environment. There was no limit set for us save the one our own understanding placed upon us. We might have and hold and use all that there was in just the hour that we awakened to our own natural power of creation. For man is a discoverer, a creator, an unfolder, as has been evidenced through the ages. First he discovers the plan of his life and relates it with the universal life, and then he creates the form in which he must express himself. When thinking has not passed into form, it is of little value, but when it is consciously used for a fixed purpose, it can open the portals to divine discoveries and creations, which become the foundations for wonderful expressions in our life, and a help to generations yet to come.

The great secret of success was concentration, by which we could learn to own our own field of consciousness. Only about half the world did this now, and this accounted for disease, failure, unhappiness and poverty.

Thought being everything, it followed naturally that whatever we thought we were. Think health and we would be healthy, think success, wealth, love and happiness, and these would be meted out to us. We had an immortal birthright to an abundant supply of all good things and no one limited us but ourselves.

Dr. Seton pointed out that in the new way of thinking, which she advocated, everyone thought about the good to the exclusion of the evil. Even in the case of Ireland they tried to find the good instead of the bad; they thought of employment, not of unemployment, of happiness, not misery, of the law of universal harmony, which we were too apt to forget. Ill-health, poverty, failure were only the result of bad thinking. If we would try to think in a new and right way life would change for many of us. New friends, new opportunities, new work, renewed health would be attracted to us. There were no shut doors, and nothing was impossible with the Infinite Mind of God, which was our possession. We would be in a new world fashioned by our new thoughts, filled with the things of our hearts' desire. God was tenderer for us than we were for ourselves and wanted to give us our hearts' desire. Each human life held in it the gems of beauty and of love which, seeking, we should find.

After a collection had been taken, there was an impressive silence for a few moments, at the lecturer's request, during which the audience were asked to concentrate on the thing they most desired.

#### A BRIEF MESSAGE FROM CARLYLE

Dear Dr. Austin:-

(Spirit) Thomas Carlyle has just dictated the following to me-for the general public: "Scruple not to do the courageous act of helping all who are still un-

"Scruple not to do the courageous act of helping all who are still unaware of the presence of angels in their midst, because the reward is great, and the benefit which they derive from the new revelation of Spiritualism is great, incalculable, and of permanent value."

## Character and Work of A. J. Davis

#### ADDRESS BY MR. E. WAKE COOK.

"Andrew Jackson Davis, the father of Modern Spiritualism," was the subject of an eloquent address given by Mr. E. Wake Cook before the members and friends of the London Spiritualist Alliance in the hall at 6, Queen-square, on the evening of the 4th inst. Mr. George E. Wright occupied the chair. The veteran artist captured the eager attention of his audience at the outset with a vivid word-picture.

"Spiritualism," he said, "is a stupendous subject, and a man will see in it just what he is big enough to see. Personally I feel like an explorer standing at dawn before the mighty masses of Mount Everest. The darkness becomes spiritualised by a palpitating roseate glow, when high in the heavens appears a point of light which expands until it reveals a majestic peak in solitary grandeur. Then another appears, then another and another emerge mysteriously, until a vast glittering world is revealed of bewildering splendors: while all the lower world sleeps in lingering night. So Modern Spiritualism appears to me after more than fifty years' study of it, full of dizzy heights and vasty depths of meaning. It branches out into infinity in all directions; permeates all history, is the basis of all the spiritual religions, and its Pentecostal manifestations are the credentials of all the great founders and reformers of religions. It is at the root of all esoteric teachings and religious mysteries. It inspired the oracles, the Sibyls and the prophets of old, and the saints and martyrs throughout the dark ages. So neither history nor religion can be understood in their true inwardness without a knowledge of the facts and manifestations of Spiritualism.

"The highest peak," the speaker continued, "in the heavenkissing heights of Spiritualism, the one which first caught the sunrise, was Andrew Jackson Davis, who was thus the father of the greatest movement of all time. This must be distinctly borne in mind, as the idea is common that Modern Spiritualism began with the Hydesville rappings (in 1848) but Davis came first, and he prophesied the coming of that outbreak of spiritual activity of which the Hydesville rappings were the beginning. Thus the book which was the commencement of our great literature, "The Principles of Nature: Her Divine Revelations; with a Voice to Mankind," dictated in hypnotic trance by Andrew Jackson Davis, was the first and greatest work of all, and it differs in character from all that followed it, being more scientific and much wider in range."

Mr. Wake Cook proceeded to relate some of the incidents in Davis' early career, from his birth of poor and unlettered parents in 1826, up to the time when at the age of nineteen he announced in trance that a work of importance to mankind would be given by him, selected his hypnotist and scribe, appointed responsible witnesses and made other needed arrangements—all in trance. The lectures, of which there were 157 in all, were delivered in New York before the appointed witnesses and occasional visitors, and made a volume of nearly 800 pages. The work ran through forty-six costly editions in America (a forty-seventh was now in the press), but it was very little known in this country.

Taking the main divisions of the book seriatim, the lecturer said that in the first section, entitled "The Key," Davis gave the most profound analysis of the evils then afflicting Society, and from many of which we were still suffering, that he had ever seen. Here were set forth the rationale of animal magnetism and clairvoyance, the proof of a spiritual existence, and the eternal progression of all things through circular or spiral lines of development. "In no other work," declared the speaker, "have I ever seen such a unity of principle as in this first work of this uneducated youth. He described a perfect and orderly system of evolution long before Darwin. The unity underlying the multitudinous variety of details is the best evidence for the supernormal origin of the work. Had it been a compilation by ordinary means, then it would have needed a superlative genius to have conceived and planned such awork and a lifetime to have collected the materials for it."

The second section, "The Revelation," traversed nearly the whole circle of the sciences, and in the last part of this section which dealt with the beautiful process of "death," and the seven spheres, Mr. Wake Cook held that Davis easily transcended all the science of his time, quoting in support of his view a glowing eulogy pronounced by Professor George Bush. He added:

"This part of the book is the sublimation of Swedenborg's views, but the description given by Davis of the Spheres is more like that in the Vale Owen Script of 'The Lowlands of Heaven' and 'the Highlands of Heaven,' given seventy-five years later. But Davis says nothing of that Dante-like Inferno which startles us in 'The Lowlands of Heaven.' He represents the second sphere as the natural progression from this world, and bearing much the same relation to it that our ideals bear to grim realities. From this he ascends step by step, each sphere the sublimation of the preceding one, the matter becoming more and more spiritualized and displaying ever-increasing splendors; the uneducated youth transcending all the poets in wondrous descriptions until he returns dazzled and blinded by the merest glimpse of the ineffable glories of the Seventh Sphere, which is the great Spiritual Sun." The third part in the table of contents dealt with diseases of the great social body and the remedy. One point in the proposed remedy, Mr. Wake Cook thought, should be specially noted. This was the proposal to reconstruct the social body on planetary principles, the principles on which the whole universe is constructed. Those fundamental principles were greater and more scientifically sound than any of those of the Utopia-builders from Plato down to Rousseau and Karl Marx; and sounder and more profound than those of our political economists.

Here Mr. Wake Cook referred to an aspect of these principles which came to him twenty years ago when writing on "The Organization of Mankind" in the "Contemporary Review." He saw that Nature had a definite purpose of her own which she achieved by over-ruling all mens actions, good, bad and indifferent, to her end. That purpose was to unite and organize mankind into a rough analogy of the animal organism, in which the roads, rails and ocean ways should be the arteries, and the wires the nerves, and each individual corresponded to a molecule which fulfilled a definite function for the good of the whole.

Another phase of the same idea appeared in that remarkable work published last year entitled "The Process of Man's Becoming" by "Quæstor Vitæ," which for the severity of its philosophical style of exposition was, in the lecturer's view entitled to the very highest place. In the chapter on "Sociology as Based on Microcosmic Process," it urged that the State should be organized as a microcosm, a miniature universe, as man himself was said to be. The speaker dwelt on this point because right principles of social and conomic reconstruction were second only in importance to the supreme question of an after life, and because Davis and the inspirers of "The Process of Man's Becoming" were the only teachers, so far as he knew, who had dealt with this side of the world's work. Wherever the principles enunciated by Davis had been applied, however partially, they had been uniformly successful, and had they been generally applied they would have saved us most of our labor and other troubles.

Davis was the author of over thirty other volumes, produced, like "Natures Divine Revelations," in what he called the "superior condition." The first of these were the five volumes called "The Great Harmonia." The lecturer went on to give a brief outline of the teaching contained in this work, which might be said to complete the Seer's message to mankind. It spoke well for mediumship that Davis, though delicate in childhood, lived to be eighty-four. Mr. Wake Cook met him in Boston when he was eighty, and he was then straight as an arrow and as alert as a young man.

In religious matters Davis was very advanced, and he severely criticised the theology of his time for its narrowness and the bigotry and intolerance it caused. The war of narrow, God-belittling creeds was a potent factor in the harsh discords with which the world was jarred; and Spiritualism, which was a unique blend of science, philosophy, and religion, was sent as the great reconciler. We could not yet picture the grander, all-embracing religion of the future. But we could best approach it by embodying what was called the "Spirit of Christianity," which was the finest flower of the religious consciousness." (Applause.)

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Dr. Abraham Wallace, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Wake Cook for his admirable and inspiring address.

## Tolerance

All roads that lead to God are good; What matters it, your faith, or mine? Both center at the goal divine Of love's eternal brotherhood.

The kindly life in house or street;

The life of prayer, and mystic rite; The students search for truth and light; These paths at one great junction meet.

What matters that one found his Christ In rising sun, or burning fire;

If faith within him did not tire, His longing for the truth sufficed.

Before the oldest book was writ,

Full many a prehistoric soul Arrived at this unchanging goal, Through changeless love that led to it.

Before our modern hell was brought To edify a modern word,

Full many a hate filled soul was hurled In lakes of fire by its own thought.

A thousand creeds have come and gone; But what is that to you or me?

Creeds are but branches of a tree, The root of love lives on and on.

Though branch by branch proves withered wood, The root is warm with precious wine;

Who keeps a faith must leave me mine; All roads that lead to God are good.

-N. E. W., By "NIUS."

## Cremation vs. Earth Burial

#### P. A. JENSEN

"I have the purpose to help forward progressive movements, even in my last hours, and hence thereby decree that the earthly mantle which I shall drop ere long, when my real self passes onward into the world unseen, shall be swiftly enfolded in flames and rendered powerless harmfully to affect the health of the living."—Frances E. Willard.

Cremating the dead is gradually gaining favor in the United States. San Francisco has two crematories, and out of the yearly 8,000 dead toll of this city more than 1,000 are cremated. In the fourteen crematories of Great Britain less than 2,000 were cremated last year. Great Britain is conservative, the United States is liberal and progessive.

A few weeks ago I went out to the Cypress Lawn crematory, at San Francisco, to witness a corpse cremated. The corpse belonged to the well-to-do. The coffin cost not less than \$250; the flowers that laid on top of it cost many dollars. After a short service in the crematory chapel, the mourners departed, some crying; one woman among them got hysterical. The coffin contained all that was mortal and tangible of the dear one; the spirit is *non est* and represents but an unknown quantity to the physical senses.

When the mourners had left the chapel, all became business; the attendants took the beautiful wreaths of flowers that laid on the coffin and threw them out the back door, unscrewed the metal plate from the lid of the coffin and rolled the bier to the door of one of the crematory ovens at the side of the chapel, which had been hid from the mourners by a curtain. Then they slid the coffin from the bier into the over on three iron rollers. The coffin does not actually stand on the botton, but on two ledges on the sides of the oven, leaving a space underneath that the flames can pass around it.

After the front door of the oven had been closed by Mr. Carlson, who has charge of the crematory furnaces, we went around to the back of the ovens from which the burning operation is directed. At the back end there is a six-inch hole through the bricks of the oven for the pipes that contain the oil and the air blast to be put through. The whole of the cremating process may be observed through this opening.

When the pipes had been placed, Mr. Carlson turned on the oil and the airblast and then ignited the fire in the oven by thrusting a lighted torch through the hole. Instantly the oven became a roaring mass of flame and for several minutes nothing could be seen but a dense fire. But there was no smoke and no odor. Gradually the outlines of the coffin became discernible, but it was fully ten minutes before the flame pierced the end of the coffin on which it was directly playing. Ten minutes more, and the coffin began to drop to pieces and the white bony structure of the skull became visible, but no flesh was seen at any time during the cremation. The heat in the oven was between 2,000 to 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit and the flesh melts off the skeleton.

After half an hour the whole white skeleton became visible—the eyeless skull might suggest the condition of the damned to an orthodox Christian—but fire is swift to destroy and purify. The vertebrate column and the large bones of the legs were the last to crumble into ashes. And the corpse, after being subjected to the great heat for one hour and ten minutes, was reduced to its primitive elements—so many bases, so many minerals, so many elementary substances, and so much sacred dust.

Cremation is both old and new. It was in use in the East many centuries before the Christian era. From the East, the practice extended to the West. It was in use by the ancient Scandinavians, by the Germans, by the Romans, and by the Greeks. Many of the celebrated men of Greece were cremated — Solon, Plutarch, Pyrrhus, Plilopoemen and many others.

Some of the North American Indians cremated their dead; it was also used by some of the natives of Alaska. But cremation is practically a new innovation among the civilized races. There were only five crematories in all Europe and America in 1881—two in Italy, one in Germany, one in England, and one in America. The crematory at Washington was built by Dr. Julius Le Moyne, and the first cremation took place there 1876.

Cremation is scientific and sanitary; earth-burial is unscientific and unsanitary. Cemeteries the world over present one of the vexed problems today; the large cities, as their population increase, are continually forced to close them up and open up new ones in the suburban districts. These old cemeteries within the residential area are a grave danger to health. Many sensitive people contract ailments from graveyard gases—diphtheria, dysentery, and pulmonary afflictions.

The dead pollute the earth, the water, and the air. All cemeteries about the large cities are overcrowded to a state of saturation. The purifying power of the earth is limited and it cannot always transmute the great number of corpses that seek burial. During the influenza epidemic, the coffins had to be placed in tiers in some of the cemeteries. The potter's field of New York, where 250,000 dead are interred, is full. There are but two more plots left to be filled. Each plot is trenched and holds 150 bodies, the coffins being placed three deep.

Those who die with contagious diseases, if buried, may become the means of spreading the disease to the living. The life of disease germs is tenacious and the germs may lie dormant, but not dead, in the wet soil of the grave for years, even for centuries, and come to full life and vitality again when the grave is dug up. The germs may even rise to the surface of the grave before being dug up and spread contagion, which was demonstrated both by Robert Koch and Luis Pasteur, two of the greatest bacteriologists of modern times.

When the cholera made its reappearance in Egypt in 1826, it was traced to an old, disused cemetery at Kelioub, a village near Cairo. And the outbreak of cholera at Modena, Italy, 1828, was due to the upturning of a burial-yard in which victims of the plague had been buried 300 years before.

The length of time required for a corpse to decompose in the ground is uncertain. It depends on conditions that are variable—"on the disease that caused death, on the manner in which the body is coffined, and on the nature of the soil in which it is placed."

"It takes a human body," writes Prof. Samuel Gross, "50, 60, 80 years—yes, longer than that—to decay. If more was known about the human body while undergoing decomposition, people would turn with horror from the custom of burying their dead. People turn with dread from the subject of cremation. Why, if they know what physicians know—what they have learned in the dissecting room—they would look upon burning the human body as a beautiful art in comparison with burying it."

And Dr. Hugo Erichsen, one of the best writers on the subject, says:

"When a corpse is embedded in a soil that is very wet, a curious change takes place. There is no decay, but instead a fatty metamorphosis, giving the body a waxy appearance and preserving its original form. . . . The process by which the body is changed into this stearine mass is entitled 'saponification.'

"In 1874, the cemetery board of the burial ground at Zurich, Switzerland, discovered that the bodies interred in the graveyard since 1849 had not decomposed but had undergone saponification. This horrible discovery made cremation popular in Switzerland. And when eight bodies were taken up in a cemetery at Worchester, England, the undecayed body of a nineteen-year-old girl was among them who had been buried for 51 years." Cremation is a swift and sure method of disposing of the dead so that they cannot harmfully affect the living; the ashes that remain are wholesome and sweet and can be preserved in memory of the dead. Cremation protects the dead from every kind of vandalism—from desecrating the graves and from body-snatching for anatomical institutions. It is also a protection from being buried alive. Incomplete death, or cataleptic trance, is a possible condition, and there is historical evidence enough to show that occasionally people have been buried alive. The New York Herald, June 3, 1891, writes:

"When the remains of Miss Alice Woodward, at Douds, Iowa, was unearthed today, the young lady's body was found to be lying face down in the coffin. The appearance clearly indicated that a terrible death struggle had taken place in the grave. It is believed that the young lady was buried while in a trance."

Another instance of burying alive was reported in the London Lancet, December 8, 1877. It took place at Naples, where on opening the grave shortly after burial the desperate struggle of the victim had been so great as to tear the clothes from the body and even to fracture some of the bones. "The physician who granted the death certificate and the mayor who permitted the burial were imprisoned three months each for involuntary manslaughter."

I have looked into the open grave and asked myself the question, How would you like to be down there, and shuddered at the thought. And now I have looked into fierce flames of the crematory and propounded the same question. And the flames of the crematory are no more inviting than the damp and dismal grave. The difficulty in determining a question of this nature lies in the fact that a person cannot very well think of himself apart from his physical body. The spirit, the real self, is invisible and is never known to the individual until his bone-and-muscle garment is shed. The essential thought then is to endeavor to realize that the real and everlasting self will neither be in the grave nor in the crematory. But if an individual should be so unfortunate as to be buried while in a trance, his death would be instantaneous and painless in the crematory, while in the grave his suffering would be intense and fearful, possibly for several minutes.

They physical body represents the whole of life to the great mass of the people, and most people pamper their physical senses with every foolish and evil thing. After death many will certainly grieve the loss of their bodies, which was about all they cared for during life. And if there be no restrictions placed on the spirit's return to earth may will hover for a time at least, over the burial places of their bodies. But if the body is cremated, the spirit and the physical body become severed at once and forever. The most pleasing thing I saw at Cypress Lawn was the new mausoleum, where the urns containing the ashes of the dead are kept. It is a structure which indicates the approach of a new age of science and sanity. There are several corridors in this building, in the walls of which are crypts where the urns containing the ashes of the dead are kept. The interior of the building is very beautiful and many of the urns are fine works of art. Mourners of the dead visit the building daily and place small bouquets of flowers around the urns. It is there where the body of W. J. Colville, the world-famed writer and lecturer, was cremated.

The modern funeral is expensive and many poor people cannot afford to die. Cremation is cheaper, and when it becomes popular the price will be nominal. In England the price for each cremation is about \$30; in the United States it is \$50. But every city in the future will have its municipal crematory instead of its potter's field and cemeteries. The time has already arrived when the dead of the large cities menace the health of the living. The modern cults have no religious or sentimental restrictions placed upon them and they should take up the subject of cremation and make it popular.

#### SOUL SURVIVES, SAYS SCIENTIST

PARIS.—Conclusions of Camille Flammarion, French astronomer, from the study of a few hundred cases along purely scientific lines, and apart from religious or spiritualistic viewpoints, are that the soul lives after decomposition of the body, is endowed with faculties still unknown to science and can manifest itself at a distance without the mediation of the senses.

"I have spent fifty years studying the question," the astronomer said, "and have applied to it the same rules as to scientific research. I excluded every example which would not stand the test of scientific verification."

Among proofs offered by Dr. Flammarion are cases of dead persons fulfilling promises, appearing to others and telling of their own demise and giving warnings of events which afterward materialized, even such as the execution of vengeance for wrongs through mediums previously unaware of the wrongs done. Among proofs cited are the following:

The late composer Saint-Saens, just before his death, related the fact that on the last day of the War of 1870, while he was dining gaily with his comrades at an advanced post, he distinctly heard the chanting of the theme around which he later composed his famous requiem. From this phenomenon he had a presentiment of misfortune, and later learned that his friend, the great artist, Henri Regnault, had died that same instant.

## Easter Resurrection in N. Y. City

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Easter, the day most sacred to christendom, has come and gone. The beautiful story of the resurrection of the Master of Galilee has offered the hope to multitudes that they likewise may attain immortality when their pilgrimage through this life has reached its end.

This hope, however, is unfortunately based merely on faith and while this faith may be most beautiful and strong, it rarely meets the test of a positive conviction when we are about to lay away the body of some loved one to its final resting place. This uncertainty as to the "Whither" of the soul after death has filled the world with untold agony and despair.

The revelations of Modern Spiritualism—philosophy and phenomena—have removed every reasonable uncertainty as to the change called death and that which comes after and there is now no longer even a shred of excuse on the part of the clergy for crass ignorance of the subject. Clergymen, as leader's of the Father's sheep, who deliberately mislead their following as to the meaning of these God given revelations have a sorry time ahead of them when they land in that world in which "they shall know even as they are known." Their excuse that spirit communications are "so trivial" or "they tell us nothing new," or again that they are due to "wicked spirits" needs a radical revision. They need to learn what they do not seem to know or want to know that in these things they are likely to get just what they desire or are looking for.

These thoughts were called forth by some of the pulpit criticisms of Spiritualism during Easter week, which comments were inspired by the arrival of Sir Conan Doyle in New York City. His lecture during the week was well received by all the local papers, which devoted ample space to the man and his message and all with unprecedented fairness. And, naturally, this courteous attention which our distinguished visitor received at the hands of the press caused "much wailing and gnashing of teeth' among the "won't-be-convinced-at-anyprice" clergymen.

A pastor of a local church which claims the largest membership in America said, in referring to Conan Doyle, that there was a time when scientists laughed at the preachers, but the time now has arrived when all right minded people ought to laugh at some of these so-called scientists. Spiritualism, he continued, has swept over all Europe and while Eddyism is on the wane and dying in this country, Spiritualism is now coming to the front and soon will sweep over all America, and he strongly urged that every christian man and woman come to the front and resolutely face and head off the awful menace. Such talk we still get to hear in this twentieth century from our prominent pulpits when any child may know that Modern Spiritualism is merely a revival—suitable to our time and age —of the spiritual gifts of early christianity as recorded in the Bible—the spiritual gifts of wisdom and understanding; of healing, gift of tongues, DISCERNING SPIRITS, prophecy and miracles.

And so it was most fitting in the face of all this babel of confusion concerning an elemental fact of nature, the immortality of the soul, that Charles V. Miller held a materializing seance in the afternoon of Easter Sunday. It was to prove once more to those privileged to attend, as did Jesus to his disciples in that upper chamber, that the dead, so-called, can come back and take on a temporary body to manifest in a tangible manner for a brief time while voicing their dear messages of love, good cheer and encouragement.

Mr. Miller, who is a big business man in his line, is well known to the older spiritualists, having lived in San Francisco for years, and in his trips to Europe has held seances in Paris and elsewhere. He accepts no fees for his seances, which he holds at irregular intervals as the pressure of his business affairs permit. He has met every reasonable scientific test in the past and he is always most anxious that one examine the room and cabinet most carefully. The room is never in total darkness, but a diffused glow pervades it which is furnished by a small lamp that is regulated in accordance with instruction given by the cabinet spirits.

The first manifestations are usually etherializations. From one to four of these shadowy luminous forms may appear at one and the same time as if projected against the curtain of the cabinet, while Mr. Miller, perfectly conscious, sits in front or outside of the cabinet and at times aids in delivering the message of the spirit should its voice be not very strong. These shadowy forms may or may not speak and it would seem that these manifestaions require less spirit power than the more solid manifestations which appear later on.

Mr. Miller then enters the cabinet and passes into a trance, when shortly after forms begin to appear which step out of the cabinet. About twelve spirit forms appeared this day, a few of which held converse with friends in the circle. But what was rather unusual, some seven spirits materialized without being identified by anyone. By questioning them as to who they were, they would give some name which no one present recognized. For instance, one of these spirits, after looking over the room for about a minute in a dazed sort of way, and after being repeatedly asked whom she come to see, finally asked, "Where am I? Tell me where I am." This spirit was told that we were engaged in doing the Father's work, trying to prove to mortals and to spirits that those thought to be dead still live, when at last she said, "Now I begin to understand," and then she left without further comment. It was explained that the cabinet spirits had devoted the seance largely to helping spirits out of darkness.

"Mother Sadie," one of Mr. Miller's spirit guides, and who, it is said, was a priestess of the Temple to the Sun in Egypt some 6000 years ago, materialized for our benefit and instruction in all her spiritual array. The white mass of drapery which clothed her form and which hung in folds from her shoulder to her feet was of a white, flossy, foam-like substance intersperced from head to feet with innumerable spots of brilliant light of about the size of a dime. This thus illuminated form ought to have lit up the room as light as day, but the brilliant spots of light were of a mysterious nature that had no noticeable effect in dispelling the prevailing darkness.

Mother Sadie was followed by "Amorando," whose gown was equally brilliantly illuminated. She spread out her drapery sideways or fan-like for our better view, as if to show that the brilliant spots of light passed through the filmy material of which it was composed; that is to say, they were seen inside as well as outside of the material. While doing this she called our attention to something luminous she held in her left hand, which was of the size of a large china door knob, but of a pale violet color. Amorando explained that this violet light was composed of "materialized spirit atoms." After speaking to us a little while, this violet light as well as the luminous spots on her gown began to loose their lustre, when she retired into the cabinet for a few moments and then re-appeared with the former lustre fully restored.

"Aunt Betzy," one of the cabinet spirit guides, closed the seance. It was noted that she appeared considerably shorter in height than usual. She requested us to watch closely. Then for a moment, as Mr. Miller made his appearance, Aunt Betzy was seen at the same time and as Mr. Miller stepped out of the cabinet, Aunt Betzy disappeared into it.

Verily, angels from heaven condescended to visit us this day, once more to urge upon us the importance of leading an upright life with more of love and charity toward one another. And yet the world is filled with intellectual ignoramuses who teach and preach that such wondrous manifestations are the work of wicked spirits.

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## Miracles of Hibration, Color, Sound Artie Mae Blackburn, B.L.I.

Every now and then the world is electrified by some "new" idea or discovery, when delvers in ancient lore, seekers in forgotten mines, show that the new idea is ages old.

Facts are ascertained, demonstrated, taught and—forgotten.

Illumined souls, those in a measure disenthralled from the bondage of sense, have long foretold the day when instruments would be devised whereby light would be made to yield sound, the prismatic rays of the spectroscope producing sound as well as heat, so that the "flames" of the Sun and Stars should be translated into terms of color and sound, thus making visible and rendering audible the "symphony of spheres."

Color-music is, roughly, the use of color instead of sound to affect the human emotions. It is based on the relation of light to sound, the vibrations of which are not only connected mathematically, but have a remarkable similarity in the effect upon your feelings.

An instrument called the clavilux has been for some time employed in the Neighborhood Playhouse of New York. Devised to demonstrate that every sound has its corresponding color, the clavilux is structurally comparable to the pipeorgan, light being manipulated on it much as air is used on the latter, color being thrown upon a white field with ever variety of control in movement, intensity, tempo.

"Writing of the clavilux in the New Republic and Theatre Arts Magazine, Stark Young says: "The whole thing seems to have the convincingness of physical reality, the abstraction of mathematics, and the motion of music. All description of the effect must sound vague or merely loose and sensuous; for we have no words beyond a few simple triangles and ovals and squares to express form, and few words that carry any but general images of color. This mobile color is as impossible to describe as music is. And, because so much of the theatre is visual, mobile color suggests even more vividly than music does the essential character of the dramatic."

The great Scriabina, in anticipation of the construction of such an instrument, wrote music to be played upon it, recording notes which in his dreams he sensed in color and not in tone—color symphonies.

Light was the universal and secret medicine of the ancients who understood its properties as applied to healing far better than modern science has succeeded in demonstrating. Through knowledge of planetary vibrations operating through color, wondrous cures were wrought. Application of the medicinal properties of light and color were among the most carefully guarded secrets of the Kabalists, who knew how to condense or fix color so it could be administered in wine or oil.

The idea of the clavilux is in no sense a new one; interchangeability of color and sound—an ever existent principle is merely a reincarnate unfoldment, a fact new only to this age. Atlantis knew that light correctly resisted gives out sound, that sound expresses color, and that the dark rays of the solar spectrum could be made to yield metals for use in the various arts.

Important instruments have recently been devised demonstrating the practical possibilities attaching to an understanding application of the laws of vibration—particularly as they affect the realm of healing.

In our age, new aspects of color-healing are being employed, one system being based primarily upon restoration (through color) of normal rates of vibration.

Radiant light (color) and sound are both employed by Dr. White of Los Angeles. The variation of tone (vibratory rates) given out under percussion, together with the auric color emanations of patient, gives this famous color-specialist the clue to nature and location of disease which he treats with rays of complementary colors.

Dr. Abrams of San Francisco, who will one day rank with the world's greatest scientists, is astounding the medical world with his wizardry in vibration known as "The Electronic Reactions of Abrams."

By the vibrations of a few drops of blood from an unknown patient, sent perhaps from a great distance, he diagnoses disease, determining, says Dr. Cave in his concise presentation of the Abrams theory, "the existence of conditions of malignancy or infection, even in their very incipiency, before clinical manifestations are in evidence, and furthermore can localize them definitely in any part of the body. And perhaps, most amazing of all, the degree of their virulency can be mathematically determined, and as improvement is made, the degree of improvement can likewise be definitely determined." (By vibration.)

Dr. Abrams himself says: "A drop of blood with its countless billions of electrons is a condensation of the multitudinous vibrations in the body. The mineralogist finds it unnecessary to examine a mine to determine the nature of its products. The fundamental problem of astronomy is to determine the nature and composition of celestial bodies. Now, these bodies cannot be brought to the laboratory for analysis, but the energy which they emit (light and heat rays) may be investigated by the spectroscope, and the knowledge thus furnished is as accurate as if a sample from a distant star were tested with chemical reagents. This method of radio-analysis was commenced more than 100 years ago and is practically the same method which is now pursued in securing the Electronic Reactions of Abrams."

Continuing, Dr. Cave says: "The drops of blood from patient carry within themselves the radio-active qualities which, when properly interpreted, convey an accurate picture of the physical condition of the patient in the same manner that the point of the needle of the phonograph carries the tunes of the entire orchestra, from piccolo to bass-drum. Dr. Abrams has worked out the normal vibratory rate, or degree of radio-activity, of healthy viscera and has found that when an organ or tissue becomes diseased, its vibratory rate is immediately changed—and the degree of change is accurately measured in such a way as to determine definitely the type of the disease. For instance, the vibratory rate of carcinoma is 50; of sarcoma, 58; of tuberculosis, 42, etc., etc." Vibratory rate-changes in disease are measured in such manner as to give positive electronic diagnosis of disease, its location and virulency. Dr. Abrams' cures are also effected through restoration of normal vibratory rates.

Beloved fellow-student, have you ever stopped to consider that *you* are an instrument, more delicately constructed, more finaly attuned and more exquisitely sensitive than any of these wondrously constructed mechanical instruments for the measuring, recording and transmission of vibratory rates?

Your dense and finer bodies are constantly affected by the harmonies or discords played upon you incessantly, day after day, by the colors that ensphere you and, *more particularly*, by the colors and vibratory rates of your name, for nothing is so closely associated with you as the *name* you bear.

Every created thing bears in its physical sheath the key to color vibrations which will harmonize with its exterior life, just as it carries in its higher vehicles, symbolled by the birthdigit, its musical keynote.

Caruso would take a wine-glass and, determining its vibratory rate by tapping it, he would sing that tone into the glass, shattering it instantly. This is precisely what happens in the Abrams method of treating disease—he imposes upon the diseased tissue something yielding to its own vibratory rate, thereby disintegrating it—and it really makes no difference if that "something" establishing the desired vibration be color, sound or electric current. We all know that if one approach an object with a vibratory rate the same as its own, the object will also be set in vibration—as shown by the response of the harp to the tuning-fork.

"The sixth sense is the psychic sense of color. The seventh, that of spiritual sound." (H. P. B.) Some day we shall all sense the relation of names to color and sound, but in the meantime we should know that every letter of every name has a definite color and tone and so realize the tremendous importance of name-influence in our lives.

Picture a discordant name in its effect on the entire complex human organism through its two-fold agencies of color and sound, its every repetition a fresh jangle of discord rasping the nerves, irritating the mental body, disturbing its normal functioning, wearing on the psychic forces and establishing destructive vibratory rates throughout this wondrously delicate mechanism of ours.

Only when you pause to consider that every letter of your name corresponds to a definite organ or function of the dense body (with infinitely finer correspondences on higher levels), do you begin to grasp the enormous constructive or destructive force your name is constantly exerting in your life-expression.

The ancient Kabalists attained a mastery of Nature's secrets we moderns have never succeeded remotely in approaching. They understood that health was the inevitable result of normal vibratory rates, and that anything which disturbed this natural rhythm resulted in disease, which, continuing beyond a certain point, resulted in disintegration. Consequently, when their sick and afflicted were brought into the presence of the adept, his miraculous cures were wrought through the simple process of restoration of the patient's normal rhythm by *change of name*, substituting a constructive, harmonious name vibration for the stricken one's former name with its discordant, disease-producing undulations.

Mistaking pin-feathers for plumage, enthusiastic beginners in the study of number-mysticism, glimpsing perhaps a half-truth in their superficial skimming of a profound subject, glibly urge "change of name" on the assertion that certain letters are extremely "evil," using the suggestion as a catchpenny pretext to secure patronage.

How can any letter be "evil" when each one is a symbol of an eternal principle expressive of a Deific emanation too profound to be stated in words?

Just as no planet (not excepting the much-maligned Mars and Saturn) is really malefic in its influence, so no letter is actually evil, but in our present stage of evolvement our RESPONSE to them may affect us adversely because of the difference of vibratory rates. A name is individually harmonious or discordant to us as its keynote harmonizes with or strikes a discord with the keynote of our own being.

Changing the vibratory rates of a human being entails prodigious responsibility; in every case there should be brought to the task reverence, expert ability to judge not only the natal chart, but to calculate and progress the horoscope that auspicious influences may be chosen for establishing the new vibration which must accord with prevailing influences operating through the individual's progressed planetary aspects for, to quote Dr. Llewellyn George, "when anything is once commenced, its existence will be of a nature (and duration) corresponding to the condition in which it was begun."

## Mexican Girls Examined for Occult Forces

HERMOSILLO, Sonora, Mexico.—Three Mexican girls, rangilng from 18 to 22 years of age, were brought here today on orders of Governor Francisco Elias, for official and scientific examination of alleged occult forces said to be afflicting them.

They are Senoritas Paz Villareal, Refugia Madrid and Maria Viallreal. All are on the verge of nervous prostration.

They arrived today from Bacerac, an isolated mountain town in the fastnesses of the Sierra Madres, on the Bavispe river.

The asserted manifestations began four weeks ago, in the middle of the night, when one of the trio was awakened by feeling a "cold hand" upon her face.

At the moment of her awakening unseen hands are said to have pulled off all the bed coverings.

The girls fled the room, screaming.

Similar manifestations are said to have continued at all hours of the day and night.

While at the table unseen hands are declared to have snatched from their grasp dishes conveying food they were about to eat.

The girls are said to have suffered severe punishment from invisible whips, and to have been slapped and knocked to the floor by unseen fists.

Careful investigation of the asserted phenomena was made by Rev. Father Silva, parish priest, the Bacerac school master and a former general in the Mexican army.

A certified report by the army officer to Governor Elias resulted in the state's taking official cognizance of the situation and ordering the trio of girls brought here for scientific investigation.

#### Evidential Psychic Experiences BY RUSSEL H. CONWELL BAPTIST DIVINE AND HIS DEPARTED WIFE Spiritualistic View of Death

[Dr. Russell H. Conwell has had a wonderful career. For many years he has been pastor of the Baptist Temple in Philadelphia, the largest Protestant Church in America, at a salary of 10,000 dollars a year. He has delivered about 10,000 lectures all over the United States at an average net profit of 150 dollars each, and he has turned over every cent to poor boys who were trying to work their way through college. Over 3,000 young men have been the beneficiaries of Dr. Conwell's generosity. If the money Dr. Conwell has earned and given away had been invested at six per cent. compound interest at the time it was earned, he would have over 5,000,000 dollars today, and yet he says that, apart from his life assurance policy, he is not worth more than 1,000 dollars—about £200. At the end of each month he balances his books, pays his bills, and gives away the residue. This, then, is the type of man who addresses the reader in the accompanying extract from an article reproduced from "The American Magazine" for July. He is 78 years of age, and the joy of his life consists in making money and giving practically all of it away for the benefit of those in need of assistance. His personality is of special interest to Spiritualists inasmuch as he knows what it is to "hold communion" with friends who have "gone before" and has had some remark-able experiences which have been published in volume form.]

I wonder whether you will understand me if I tell you a very personal incident. There is so much loose thinking and talking on the subject of our relations with the other world . . so much Spiritualistic rubbish, that one hesitates lest he be misunderstood. And yet I speak only of what I myself have seen . . . I do not presume to draw conclusions.

Some years ago I had a dream that recurred every morning just before I awoke. It seemed to me that the figure of Mrs. Conwell appeared each morning and sat smiling at the foot of my bed. I said nothing about it to anyone; it must be, I thought, a delusion of age . Yet the figure was as real as life. smiling and asking questions and answering my own.

One morning I said, or seemed to myself to say, "I know you aren't really there."

"Oh, but I am," she replied.

"But how can I be sure?" I persisted. "Are you willing that I should test you?"

She nodded, still smiling. "All right," I said. "Tomorrow I will ask you a question. Will you be ready for it?"

She nodded again, and with another smile disappeared. The next morning she was there again.

"I see you have come," I said. "Are you still willing?" She smiled and nodded, seeming to enjoy it all immensely.

30

"Tell me, then, where is my army discharge paper?" I had not seen it for years, and to the best of my knowledge was utterly ignorant of its whereabouts. In a voice that seemed as distinct as though she had uttered the words aloud, she answered, "Why, it is in the black japanned box behind the books in your library."

I got out of bed and went into the library. There, after some search, I found the box, hidden away behind a row of books; and in it, under a varied collection of documents, was the discharge paper.

Again the next morning she appeared, with a little smile of triumph, as if to say: "You see it was there, just as I told you, now will you believe?" But I was not satisfied, of course. I asked her if I might make another test, and with the same happy smile, as though the game entertained her greatly, she promised again.

#### \* \*

That morning, at breakfast, I spoke to one of the maids, who had lived with us for fourteen years.

"Mary, you remember the gold fountain pen that Mrs. Conwell gave me years ago, I want you to take it off my desk today and hide it. And you are not to tell me, or anyone else, where you hide it. Do you understand?"

Again the next morning the figure appeared, and we seemed to joke about it for a little while, finally I said: "Do you know where Mary hid my pen?"

"Of course I do."

"Can you tell me the place?"

"Get out of bed and come with me," she answered laughingly.

I rose, and seeming to hold her hand, was led to one of the closets in my room. The top shelf of the closet had been built into a little closet with a door which covered only a part of the closet front. She motioned me to it, and I took a chair and climbed up. I ran my hand over the shelf this way and that, but without encountering the pen. I felt then that the whole thing must have been a delusion, and turned to step down from the chair.

But she was still in the doorway and pointed again to the shelf, shaking her head emphatically, as if to say "It is there! Look again; you will find it."

I did look again. I stretched my hand far in behind the door on either side, and this time, to my amazement, I found the pen.

I told that simple incident some weeks later in private conversation to a friend. He told it to another friend. And so somewhat to my embarrassment, it came back to me one morning on the front page of the morning newspaper. Since it has been published once, I feel no reticence in repeating it—only a certain reluctance lest some readers should force into it an interpretation which I myself do not pretend to give.

\* \*

"If a man die, shall he live again?" Youth asks the question half in hope, half in dread. But old age hardly asks it at all. Quietly, peacefully—conviction creeps into the spirit as a staying guest. The assurance of another life lies deeper than the Scriptural texts. Half a century before the birth of Christ, in "pagan Rome," as we are wont to speak of it; wise brooding old Cicero looked deep into his own heart and read the answer to his hopes. You remember he said: "I do not wish to depreciate life, as many men and good philosophers have done; nor do I regret having lived, for I have done so in a way that lets me think that I was not born in vain. But I quit life as I would an inn, not as I would a home. For nature has given us a place of entertainment, not of residence."

"But I quit life as I could an inn." Was ever a finer sentence penned by the hand of man? We sit here, you and I, in this hotel. In an hour I shall check out and go to meet my next engagement, in a year, or five years or ten, or twenty at the uttermost, I shall check out of this hotel, which I call my body, and start on the last and greatest and most thrilling trip of all. And I am ready. My bags are packed, my friends have all gone ahead. I shall be going to those I love . . . leaving the inn and going home.

#### EPITAPH TO MR. BULLOCK

He has used his last brush, he has read his last poem, His soul has returned to his bright Spirit home. He with the loved ones that have gone on before, Is waiting our coming to that beautiful shore. Then why be sorrowful and think him dead, When he has just gone on a few days ahead? Then let us rejoice and cheerful be, Knowing friend Bullock again we shall see.

-JASPER P. JAMES.

A belated letter addressed to Rev. Dr. J. M. Peebles has reached this office. It is from Blackburn, England, congratulating the Doctor on the completion of his hundredth year and his long service for Spiritualism. The writer, Richard Wolstenholme, an octogenarian, who tells of his first seance in 1853, and casually mentions Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's recent visit to Blackburn, where he spoke to 2000 people. The letter was dated 14th Feb., 1922.

## Mrs. Wilcox speaks thru Mrs. Wickland

#### FORIED

Los Angeles, Jan. 28, 1920. Dr. Wickland: Good evening, friend! Who are you? A.: Good evening.

Dr.: Just try to talk, you can if you want to.

A.: That is so easy to say. I thought it would be easy, but friends—I call you so—I have not been here before. I have heard of you; and have also heard of your work and have also read your pamphlet. Yes, friends, we shall gather at the River of Truth of Understanding, that beautiful river which should flow in everybody's heart. We should all try to understand the true meaning of God, but, friends, how few try to understand the real truth. Truth is always crucified. Truth should be known, and not clothed with all sorts of dogmas and creeds.

Friends, when I was on earth life, I was once a bondservant with wrong ideas and foolish thoughts of truth, but toward the last, the simple truth of understanding of the real life beyond was shown to me, and I accepted it.

I gave it out as well as I could, but the real truth had to come to me through sorrow. Friends, we do not seek for the real truth until we have had a deep sorrow, such as losing a dear husband or friend, then the heart seeks after truth and will not let dogmas and creeds stand in the way. We are hungry to know about the life beyond and to know if our dear ones and friends are with us to guide and help us. I felt the loss of my dear husband so keenly that I was broken-hearted. I could not think I should not be with him and near him again. but the light of truth that there is no death came to me and I felt him around me. This beautiful truth will come to every one who earnestly seeks after it and after finding it we must stand for it in all honesty and sincerity, because if we do not, doubt will come in and fear, and then that shuts the door for our dear ones who have only gone ahead to prepare our home everlasting.

How we mortals are clothed with doubt, and when the truth is presented to us, then we doubt. The Bible is full of the beautiful truth which is revealed to us, but still we all doubt. Friends, when I found the truth, I wanted to give it out to the world, but my physical body was not strong enough to give it out as I should have liked to do. I tried to give it out to the soldiers, because I knew to them the truth would be a God-send, because they were here today, and tomorrow there.

#### THE INVIGORATING POWER OF TRUTH

Should I not, when I had found the truth, give them the spark of light that there is no death. Then they felt they could

go on and fight because they realized that no matter what happened, it would mean the real life. It would be only the clothing of the body that would be destroyed, but oh! friends, how courageous and how happy they were when I said to them that there is no death, only a transition to a happier and more beautiful condition, and I wished so much that I could give them more. I spent my life in dogmas; all my life trying to do good. I did good, but my thoughts were clothed with dogmas of different kinds. At last I found the truth. Oh! my dear Robert had to go to open the door for me before I could realize what was before me. I did some good after I had found the truth. Let us all do the same, after we find the truth, give it out. People will scoff at you at times, but never mind, never mind, just give it out a little stronger, and still a little stronger. By so doing you will get stronger and you will find it will help you to get more.

Friends, one thing I want to say to you all, and that is, after you find what you believe to be the truth, be sure it is truth, and beware of what you find. I found the truth, but it is dangerous; I had to struggle as well with that. The Ouija Board is a dangerous thing and I found it out. It greatly weakened me.

I want to say again, friends, that after you once find the truth, give it out and spread it all you can. Be very guarded in seeking for the real truth, for it is a dangerous road. We must learn the way so that we will have help and guidance. I had struggles with others because I went into the midst of earthbound spirits as well as the soldiers. If you could only realize once the dreadful pressure around the soldiers. They wanted light on one side as well as the other. It was too much pressure on my physical body and I gave out. I could not stand the pressure, or the thoughts that were centered on me.

I gave out the truth to the soldiers on earth, but I did not realize how many I lectured to who had gone before. The pressure was too strong for me to battle with so I came home, not weak in spirit, but in body, still I feel happy that I was enabled to help. I found the world of spirits where I could be with my dear one whom I loved the most.

#### OUR REAL LIFE IS OVER THERE

Friends, you wonder where is the real life. The real life is on the other side of the grave as you call it. This life is only a temporary school, the school of learning to know ourselves. We must learn to know who we are and what object we are here for. God will reveal Himself to Himself; we are a spark of the Divine, we are a part of it. It is like people who think when they die they will see God, but how few realize what God means. God is the life of all things. How little people can think of this earth plane and what it really is. It is like a pin head—not even that much in the Universe. You would not miss it from all the other planets and suns which comprise the Universe. Once I thought of reincarnation. I was once a Theospohist. It is all right so far, the thoughts and teachings are beautiful, but why should we reincarnate on this little planet. I would not care to come back to the earth-plane except to teach you of the higher and real life that is ahead of you. I would not like to come back to this earth plane again to be a little baby and I do not see why I should, for what would I learn? Could a soul like me or you come back into a child again and feel satisfied? After you have learned the higher things of life you do not care to come back to matter again. Would you care to come back again to learn your A-B-C's again? It would be very hard to think of that. You can all read now, so why come back to learn the A-B-C's?

This world is a school to learn the A-B-C's of life and when you pass on from this school of A-B-C's you want to go on to another world and learn from that life. You want to learn while here and gain enough knowledge so that when you pass on you will not want to come back to learn it any more. You can learn about the otherside of life while here and when you pass to the spirit side of life you will learn more and more of things regarding which you could not learn here because we could not understand them.

Oh! the world of worlds! If you could only travel to the beautiful worlds beyond and see the beautiful things there are when we realize.

Friends, we also have to serve. We have to help our fellowman to bring them to the same harmony as we are, so we all have to step down. We cannot step down and be a baby again, but we step down to earth life to help our loved ones and friends.

#### REINCARNATION

There was a time when I thought I had reincarnated, because when I would write I felt I had been here before, but I find it was only the spirits who sent the thoughts to my mind and gave me strength to write and in that way I felt I had been here before. It was only the other person's mind reflecting on mine. There are many people who think the same way I once did.

Friends, the work you are doing here is one I wish I had known about and could have helped with because it is so much needed. The poor unfortunate ones need help and enlightenment. We cannot reach many from our side of life because they are bond-servants with creeds and desires of different kinds that attract them to this earth life, so we cannot do much. We must have stations where we can bring the unfortunate ones so that we can open their spiritual eyes for them to see, and then they will see us and we can help them to a better understanding.

Let us all try to concentrate for stations here, there and everywhere.

Friends, you may be surprised to think I came to you here, but I have tried to come through Ouija Board, and I have tried to come other ways, but now I have found a way where I can step in and talk like you talk, just like talking through a telephone, and I feel strong. At first I thought I could not say a word, but I gained strength, and I feel now that I am amongst you really in body and in spirit. We must all unite. We must unite and do all we can to further this work, because we want stations here, there and everywhere, and there will come a time when we will have telephone wires—No, not telephone wires, but receivers which will record messages from our side of life.

#### AN AWAKENING MESSAGE IS ON THE WAY

It will not be long before there will come a message on the wire of this receiver from the other world that will awaken the people from their dogmas and creeds. They will conquer the churches. Churches will be empty, but it will be only for a short time, because there springs up a new religion, a religion which will be founded on truth and not on creeds and dogmas. People will help their fellowman and will not be in a position where they grab all for themselves. The churches will be for the people and not for the church. People will pay money toward the church, but it will be to further the work of the beautiful truth of the life beyond. There will not be any salvation, but you will learn to know that we are with you, and there will be churches which will have open doors for the spirits as well as the mortals. This will be in time to come.

I wished if I had lived long enough that I could come to California. I wanted to come to California to see your work as I had heard of you and I was very much interested in your pamphlet and your work. I wrote a little about it, but I thought I could do more if I could see you in life. However, I went to the spirit side of life before I could get here again. Now I am here to see your work. If you could only realize what people there are outside the door who are waiting for a chance to come in to know the truth of life, and how they are crowding each other for help.

Now, I cannot take more of your time, but I do thank you for letting me come. I am glad if I can be of some service to you in your work. Have courage. People are down on obsession because they think it hurts the cause. I believed in it thoroughly because it is true and I knew it. I am Ella Wheeler Wilcox. I wanted to come here to give you encouragement in your work. Go on with your work with obsession because it is so much needed and we will give you help from this side of life.

I was hungry for the truth, as many more are, and I now have it. Having found it I was very anxious to give it out. I worked very hard to give out the truth to the soldiers and it was too much for my poor physical body.

Please understand I would have been here in your Concentration Circle before, but, friends, if you could only realize how the door is crowded with people who are waiting for an opportunity to come. We have to come one by one. This evening, I am very happy to say, was my turn to come here.

#### CONCENTRATION CIRCLES

There is only one other that I know of, who has such Concentration Circles, where the medium allows the earthbound spirits to control them. The work is so much needed to help humanity.

Many of the mediums are for tests, and tests, and people want tests, but to do the work as you do by allowing earthbound spirits to come in and handle your wife, there are very few indeed. For my part I do not know any of them and I have been hunting and hunting to see where the work could be done. The work of obsession, as carried on by you, should be done in every town and city. Every medium should be willing to do this line of work. Spiritualism would then be known all over the Universe. The truth cannot be spread in the way they are doing things now. There is one little church here and one there, and one hall here and one there. Mediums do not seem able to harmonize with each other because if one medium does a little more than another, they say you cannot come to my circle, and you cannot come to mine, and they are constantly fighting and fighting instead of harmonizing and uniting. One seems to be jealous of another because one gets a little more money than another.

If they could only realize that they attract and are crowded with earthbound spirits because of this antagonism. Spiritualism cannot rise, it comes down and down, but the spirit of truth will rise and all isms will come down. There will come a time when every minister and priest will speak regarding the philosophy of life and spirit return and all isms will be done away with. Each and every one should live up to their highest ideals of life.

Friends, I cannot stay any longer, but I thank you very much for the privilege of coming, and shall come again some time I hope.

# Bepartment of Theosophy

By L. W. Rogers

President of American Theosophical Association

Reincarnation

Readers who are at all familiar with the subject are aware that spiritualists are divided in opinion on the truth of reincarnation. The French Spiritualists appear to be pretty much united in favor of the hypothesis, but elsewhere they seem to be generally divided into two schools of thought. Since reincarnation is one of the fundamental teachings of Theosophy indeed it may be said to be something like a keystone in the arch of the philosophy—it may well be that a theosophical presentation of the subject will have much of interest for the readers of REASON.

In the very nature of things, the hypothesis of reincarnation cannot be established by evidence. There is indeed personal testimony to be given on the subject but, to my mind, the strongest argument that can be made for it is that it is a thing which is inherently reasonable. All thoughtful people have long since accepted the idea of evolution. That does not necessarily mean that they agree with all that Darwin wrote, but they accept the fundamental fact of evolution-that is, that whatever exists has come to be what it now is through a long, slow evolutionary process. People who say that have, of course, abandoned the old notion of sudden, miraculous creation by the Supreme Being. That does not in the least mean. as some people seem to assume, that they are materialists. It does not indicate that they reject the idea of a Supreme Being. It rather means that while they believe that what now exists has been created by God, the process of His Creation was evolutionary. It is only another way of saying that they believe in orderly processes instead of the old absurdity of miraculous creation.

Now, reincarnation is merely that portion of evolutionary creation which relates specifically to human consciousness. It is the method by which the original spark of the Divine Life involved in matter evolves until it has become man, and continues to evolve until it has reached the level of the superman. Let us state the hypothesis.

It is that the human soul or consciousness is a fragment of the All-Consciousness, or an individualized portion of the Universal Mind. No terms that one can employ can ever fully

38

describe a thing that is utterly beyond the grasp of language and is so entirely foreign to the material world. This spark of the Divine Life, which may be said to bear somewhat the relationship to the Supreme Being that a rain-drop bears to the ocean, has potentially within it all of the attributes of the Deity from which it comes, but these powers are latent. Another simile that may help is to say that the relationship between that spark of the Divine Life and the Supreme Being is somewhat like that which exists between an acorn and the oak tree from which it came. It is not a tree, it is not even yet a sprout; nevertheless it has potenially within it all of those characteristics which by growth and development shall make it a tree. It is literally a tree in the making. It is in that sense precisely that we Theosophists say that man is a god in the making. He is not yet a god but he is potentially one. It is by the process of evolution that he ultimately reaches his goal.

What are the godlike characteristics within the human beng? Some of them are power, wisdom and compassion. By what process are these evolved? Clearly it is through experience in life. It is by contacting other souls and through that association in life's complex experience gradually developing the latent characteristics; but is it possible for that evolutionary expansion to be completed in the short period of a lifetime? Looking at the problem as we see it being worked out between the lowest and the highest level of humanity, it means changing the savage to the saint and evolving the ignoramus into the genius. There is certainly nothing strange in the idea that the most limited intellect of primitive people shall gradually expand through the evolutionary process until it has reached the level of the most intelligent of civilized peoples. It is equally clear that so great a change can be accomplished only by the lapse of an enormous period of time.

The theosophical hypothesis is that we spend the larger portion of the whole vast period of the soul's evolution from spiritual infancy to godlike power on inner planes. Occasionally the soul comes into outer, material expression. It does that by the method of over-shadowing and taking possession of an infant body. It is born in the world with it, grows through childhood to maturity and old age. Finally death destroys the physical body, and the released consciousness which is, of course, the real man, returns to the invisible world. There, through a longer or shorter period of time, dependent upon the manner in which the person lives here, the soul broods over the activities of the material life and extracts from it the gist of that experience and transmutes it into wisdom and power for future expression. This work of the inner planes finished, the attention is turned outward again and once more the soul overshadows and takes possession of a baby's body-which isn't anybody at all until the soul enters it and makes it somebody. Again it is born in the world, with this new instrument of its activity, which is only a vehicle for its consciousness, enabling it to get further experiences. It does not go over the same old, beaten path, but, like a child returning to school after the rest of the vacation, it necounters different lessons, higher, broader, deeper lessons-lessons which it would not have been able to understand so well in its previous incarnation, for then it was at a lower point of mental and moral development. Finally death comes again to the physical body, and now the consciousness with a great harvest of new experience passes back into the invisble world whence it came and once more digests and asssimilates that experience. This process of repeated lives in a material body is continued until the soul has mastered all the lessons that may be learned in the physical realm. It then passes on to the superphysical evolutions to return here no more.

Frequently we hear people who are not quite ready to accept such ideas declare that they believe in evolution but not in reincarnation; that they are quite willing to evolve but wish to make their evolutionary progress in the beautiful spiritual realms and to know nothing more of physical life; but when we look closely into the subject we see that that would be an utterly inconsistent thing. It would be very much like a boy of ten years declaring that he is quite willing to be educated, that he fully believes in education, but that he has found life in the grammar school so unpleasant, monotonous and laborious that he prefers to finish his education in some university. Why should his parents object to his going immediately to the university? The answer is clear enough to us, but it might not be to the boy. The father would most reasonably say to him. "My son, until you have mastered the lessons in the lower schools, it is quite impossible for you to learn anything in the university. You would not even know what they are talking about. Your intellect must be gradually developed until it is able to grasp university studies. Only by slowly building up to that comprehension will you be able to get any benefit from a university." Those who insist upon having but one term in the life school that we call the physical world are as illogical and inconsistent as the boy who insists upon one term in the graded school before he leaps into the university. Nature does not do things by leaps and bounds. A savage can become a saint, and an ignoramus may become a genius, but only by gradually developing his intellect, and

there isn't time enough in one incarnation. If reincarnation is a fact in nature, it is easy to account for Thomas Edison or William Marconi. Given incarnations enough, they could have been evolved from the savage level of intelligence.

## THE ANTIGONISH GHOST

On the one hand you have a multitude of reports from the afflicted family, reporters and others to the occurrence of varied phenomena of the poltergeist order unaccountable except on the spiritual hypothesis of spirit manifestation. Dr. Walter Prince of the Psychic Research Society makes an examination and fails to find any phenomena, but concludes on what seems to us very inconclusive evidence that "Mary Ellen" is the ghost, for a certain part of the strange occurrences.

But what about the rest of the mischief wrought?

The folly of much of the so-called scientific investigation is the failure to recognize the fact that no genuine psychic phenomena occurs, or can occur, except in the presence of a medium. Dr. Prince spent a night alone in the house and got no manifestation. This to many will be conclusive proof that while a scientist he is not a medium.

Let some developed medium spend a night there manning the necessary conditions for manifestations, and let us have the report, which may be of more value than that of Dr. Prince.

John Neil, said to be the best medium in New York City, is spending five weeks in the workhouse for prophesying. Yet a Christian people (supposedly) can tolerate an old law against prophesying and inflict five weeks of drudgery and humiliation on a man endowed by heaven with the gift of prophesy for exercising his gift as did Jesus and his apostles.

### DOYLE CAME AS A PROPHET

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle came to America as a prophet, not an evangelist, he said in an interview after his arrival. He then declared that within ten years there would be religious landslides in this country and Australia and that when the dust clouds lift spiritualism will be the prevailing religion.

During his tour Sir Arthur said he had sought merely to interest his audiences and then let them look further into the mysteries themselves.

Spiritualism is filtering into the churches and spreading rapidly over the world, Sir Arthur declared.

"A striking example," he said, "was the remarks of former President Wilson on the unknown soldier, that he was not alone; that hovering about were the souls of thousands who had given their lives in war."

# Peace, Health and Happiness

Beautiful words! Wonderful words! Wonderful words of life! and how few there be who *realize* their potency! Yet all are diligently seeking them—and often know not where to turn for the true fulfilment of what they represent.

The nations have, from all time, and still continue to establish a state approaching international peace—yet their failure only prove that their methods are based upon a foundation of sand. To the spiritual vision it seems absurd and ridiculous—like placing wild tigers, lions, bears, wolves, dogs, cats, sheep and goats in a huge arena together, and expecting them to lie down together—in peace.

All beings seek diligently for health in numerous ways by exercise, patent medicines, baths, the numerous systems of therapeutics advocated, by mind and faith, by diet, raw or cooked—and yet we are told that diseases are more numerous today than ever.

Happiness—why, to be happy seems to be the greatest accomplishment in life, yet what is happiness to one is misery to another. A good home, a fat bank account; the possession of property, of an automobile, of good clothes to wear—or a thousand different other things—constitutes the supposed happiness of millions, but time makes them again worthless and new desires take their place, and, like Solomon the wise, we can exclaim, "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity and vexation of spirit."

When considered seriously one cannot surpass the wisdom of Jesus when he said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of heaven and its righteousness (rightfulness) and all things else will be added thereto," and "The kingdom of heaven is within you."

What is this "kingdom of heaven"? The life of Jeuss demonstrated it in its completeness—calmness, peacefulness, non-resistance, even in his most critical and trying moments before Pilate and the mob—were divinely manifest.

We have examples of other saintly men who have shown a similar attitude in trying times, revealing the true Christ spirit.

We are realizing more and more, with the advance of spiritual science and philosophy, that true spiritual growth must begin *from within*. To seek God is to seek within—in the soul where He abides awaiting recognition. To *seek peace* is to seek within, by meditation, concentration, and prayer. The habit of daily meditation upon the higher ideals of life, has a potency little understood by us today, for we are constantly seeking *without* for the things that are only to be found in the "great within" in the recesses of the soul. "Commune with thine own heart upon thy bed and be still." The inspiration that has been given to those who benefited the world most in religion, science, philosophy, art, music, literature, mechanism, etc., has not been given in the turmoil of active life, but in the quiet and silence where "Mind speaks to mind, and soul to soul hath kin; the outer God he findeth not who finds not God within."

Seek then, above all, *peace*, *peace*, *peace*, find it within. Listen first to your heart-beats, to the pulse-beats. Heed the thoughts that pass unbidden through your brain—discard all unwelcome visitors that are not in harmony with your highest ideals of right thinking; bid all that is pure, good, true, holy, restful and harmonious come to you, for he that seeketh, findeth. Seek peace, breathe in the words of peace until they become a part of the mind, and soon your mind will find its soul response, and mind and soul will act in perfect harmony. The soul of itself is absolute perfection and peace, because a part of the divine and universal spirit.

When peace is found, all else is found; for peace makes for health and happiness; for without peace there cannot be perfect health. We can hardly imagine an irritable, irascible, excitable person enjoying good health; nor are these states of mind (and many others) consistent with a "peaceful" life or spiritual ideal, and where there is not good health there can be no true happiness: hence it follows that to seek *Peace* is the first essential of a well ordered life.

The mind and the soul, the intellectual life and the soul life, which prompts, directs and often guides us, must balance, before we can expect to attain the best and highest results in our spiritual unfoldment.

The soul is the only true reality of our being. Attuned to the Universal Spirit, it possesses a power and vitality that can accomplish all things. It is the power that directs and controls mind and body. It is the power that *heals*. Direct the mind and soul current, through concentration, upon any part of the body—a weak or diseased vital organ—and it can be healed. The more constant the effort, the greater the faith, the better the results. This is true healing—Selfhealing.

Andrew Jackson Davis in his Harmonial Philosophy has taught this fact: that "we should direct our thoughts strongly to a diseased member and command it to do its duty." This he taught many years before the advent of Christian Science. The sum and substance of Jesus' teaching upon this question shows that: "Peace is the forerunner of happiness, prosperity and health." "Peace is that which should be sought after most diligently, urgently, and confidently, until it is found, for, when it is found all else is found with it."

D. D. REESE.

### MY LOVE! MY LOVE: MY OWN

#### S. A. NICHOLS, DANBY, VT.

It was early June, and the world all a-bloom, When they called my bonnie bride,

They drew her away from my clinging arms To dwell where there the angels bide;

With a sad, sweet smile on her fair young face, She vanished from my side.

#### Chorus:

They led her away, but she could not stay, And leave me all alone;

So she comes to me in the land of dreams, My Love! My Love: My Own.

The days are long, without light or song, And the night falls chill and gray;

My heart would break with its weight of woe But Love has found a way—

And the light of her love shines thru the gloom And the night is fairer than day.

#### Chorus:

I sit alone in my desolate home, And weep for my vanished bride, Till the angel of sleep unbars the gate And opens the portals wide; Then the angels smile at her flying feet— As she hastens to my side. Chorus:

## STEAD SPEAKS FROM THE SPIRIT REALM

In 1912 William T. Stead went down on the Titanic. Later in the same year his daughter received the following message from him:

"When I see for myself the extraordinary difficulties in getting messages through from THIS side, I marvel, not that we got so little but that we got so much as we did in our searchings when I was with you. For it is you, your conditions which make the barrier. Preconceived ideas, sticking like wedges in your mind, preconceived prejudices and superstitions —all these must be hammered and battered down before the two worlds can combine."

# Teachers of Truth

"Thou must be true thyself, if thou the truth wouldst teach. Thy soul must overflow, if thou another's soul wouldst reach. It needs the overflow of heart to give the lips full speech.

Think truly, and thy thought shall the world's famine feed; speak truly and each word shall be a fruitful seed; live truly and try life shall be a great and noble creed."

The Great Teacher, Jesus of Nazareth, is reported to have said: "I am the Truth, the way, the life." "No man cometh to the Father but by Me."

When Jesus was arrested and taken before Pilate, He replied to some remark which Pilate made:

"Yes, you say truly that I am a King. For this purpose was I born, and for this purpose I have come into the world -to give testimony for the truth. Every one who is a friend of the truth listens to my voice."

"What is truth?" said Pilate. But he did not wait to hear what Jesus would reply, but went out and told the mob that he found no reason for punishing him. What did Jesus possibly mean by the Truth?

At another time he said, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Whatever else it is, it is a way of living that secures freedom from bondage.

We know a state of bondage is very undesirable, and a condition of freedom very desirable.

To be a master is much more desirable than to be a slave or a servant. A true life is one which is lived according to the highest conceptions of right, a life which is free from selfishness, from impurity, which finds pleasure in ministering to the needs of others, which is lived in harmony with the will of God. the Creator.

A man who makes no sacrifices for others, who does as he chooses rather than as the Creator wishes him to, is never free from an accusing conscience, he does not know what spiritual freedom is, he is a stranger to spiritual joy and peace.

Looking at truth from another standpoint, it refers to what are facts, or not facts: what is true regarding Spiritualism, Christianity, Mohammedism, and all other isms.

We have to admit that to find the truth is often very difficult.

Suppose two or three persons who were present at some seance tell us what was said and done.

If they are persons possessing only ordinary memories, how probable that they will not give us exactly correct accounts, no matter how much they desire to be truthful.

That shows how desirable it is that often there should be a shorthand person present to insure accuracy.

Take the case of Christianity. For years the disciples of Christ went about telling people what they had seen him do and what they had heard him say. Can we suppose that after a long time had elapsed and he had not come back to judge the world, as they supposed he would, and they thought it best to write down an account of his words and deeds, that they would remember with absolute accuracy?

They say that he promised that the Holy Spirit would help them to recall his teachings.

Did the Spirit so help them? When we read what they have left on record, we feel sure that, unless divinely aided, ordinary men, as they were, never could have remembered all that they have given us. Nevertheless, when two of them tell us about the same occurrence, we find there is not absolute agreement, but the differences may not be important.

Take the account of Christ's life and teachings which Dr. Luke wrote—the third book in the Bible—and see how much he has given us which he would not have been knowing to, and must have obtained from others.

I speak of him as Dr. Luke, for scholars feel sure that he was a physician and that he wrote the book between the years 63 and 100 A. D.

He does not claim to be writing under inspiration. He says that as many others have been writing about these things he felt inclined to do the same. He claims to have made careful investigation before he wrote and believes he is giving facts.

When Zechariah, the priest who was the father of John the Baptist, was burning incense in the temple, and an angel appeared to him and told him that he would have a son, and what kind of a man he should be, and that he would prepare the way for the coming Messiah, no one else was present. What Zechariah told about it was not recorded until many years later, probably.

When the angel appeared to the Virgin Mary, and predicted the birth of Christ, there was no one present to hear the conversation, and it was not recorded until many years later, probably.

When Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth, the wife of Zechariah, she said a hymn of praise, which is recorded in the first chapter of Luke. From what source did Luke obtain this? Mary or Elizabeth, or both, must have told it to others, but for years it probably went unrecorded.

After John the Baptist was born and brought to be circumcised, the father, Zechariah, was filled with the Holy Spirit, and spoke in a rapture of praise. Luke tells us, in the first chapter, what he said.

Is it likely that any record was made of it? Is it not more probable that it remained in the memory alone, occasionally being referred to and recalled.

If that is the fact is it probable that we have the exact words which were spoken by Zechariah?

And so with many other sayings which Luke has recorded, the question will arise, can we depend upon this record as absolutely correct in detail, or only in a general way?

When we read a book of fiction, we know the writer is not attempting to give us actual conversations between the characters, but when we read what purports to be a record of facts, we never feel sure that discourses and conversations are reported with absolute accuracy.

Christ could have written down his teachings and given them to the world in that way. At first thought it seems as if that would have been the best way, but God, who sent him, thought not. It was better that he should show by his life what his idea of true religion was, and let his followers tell what impression it made upon them.

Regardng Judaism, he said the law and the prophets were until John the Baptist. After that came a new order which did not require so much ceremony.

He paid a high compliment to his great forerunner, when he said a greater than he was never born, but he said that he that was least in the kingdom of heaven was greater than John.

He taught that his coming was predicted by the Jewish prophets and pointed out the prophecies which referred to him and the kingdom he was to set up.

His teachings undermined the religious system then prevalent, and the chief priests saw that Mosaic institutions would disappear if people gave heed to him, and therefore they determined that he should be put out of the way. They tried to lead him to say something that the Roman government would consider disloyal to the emperor.

They succeeded in hiving him arrested and tried, but he was not found guilty; nevertheless, they so worked upon Pilate, the Roman Governor, by telling him he was no friend of the emperor if he allowed him to be set at liberty, that Pilate gave orders to have him crucified.

After his resurrection his disciples attempted to carry out his wishes and make known his teachings to all mankind. One of these teachings was that he would come again to judge the world, and those who had lived selfishly, without sympathy for their fellow men, would be punished, and those who had interested themselves in the welfare of others would be rewarded.

Any man who does not take interest enough in his fellow man to help him when in need, can feel sure that the future has something in store for him which he will not relish, and any man who has a heart of sympathy which shows itself in efforts to relieve and help his fellow man, may feel sure that he stands well in God's esteem.

For proof that this is the case read Matthew, 25th chapter.

W. S. BROWNE.

# WM. JENNINGS BRYAN AND EVOLUTION

The fight goes on merrily between Bryan and the Evolutionists, as the following newspaper clipping will show. But one thing is easily observable in the controversy and that is—a strange lack of exact thought and careful definition in the use of language.

Why talk of man springing from the ape? Does the most ardent evolutionist believe it for a moment? The question is solely how man's body originated and came into its present marvelous perfection. Man sprang from God, but just how God built his body by gradual perfecting of the lower forms or by a miraculous act of creation outside of the usual operation of nature's forces—that is the question.

Mr. Bryan is willing to put money into the controversy and Prof. Spangler is not ashamed to accept it. May the best man win.

#### PROF. WINS ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS FROM BRYAN BY ADMITTING HE SPRANG FROM APE

Morgantown, W. Va., June 13.—(United News)—Professor R. G. Spangler, biologist at West Virginia University, is willing to admit that he descended from a "sprawling, squealing quadruped."

Bryan, in his attacks on the theory of evolution, challenged Spangler to tell what sort of animal he claimed for ancestors, after Spangler had won \$100 offered by Bryan to any college professor who would openly state his conviction that he "sprang from lower forms of life."

"I am very proud of my ancestors," Spangler wrote. "More has been written about them than has ever been written about you and your struggle to keep the people ignorant of the facts about them.

"You do not believe in the literal translation of the Bible, do you, Mr. Bryan? Tell me honestly, do you believe the earth is flat and motionless, that the skies are a roof to hold up the waters above the earth, and that the heavens are opened to let it rain?"

# Woman Artist Claims Spirit Guides

Mrs. Irene Bell, of 1076 Gardena Avenue, Long Beach, Calif., claims that a Spirit intelligence is giving her a style of architectural drawings, new to this age, yet old as time itself. Her drawings are said to be strongly like the sculptured wonders in buried temples in the shadows of the pyramids. She says these drawings are not her own, but her hand is moved by one long since dead.

The Los Angeles *Examiner* has a lengthy account of her experiences and claims, written by Don H. Eddy.

#### "I died 5000 years ago."

Thus wrote the moving pencil in the vibrating fingers of Mrs. Irene Bell. She sat at a table in the dining room of her home. She was alone. A broad piece of cardboard was under her hand. "Who who are you?" she asked and her voice echoed in the silence. Immediately her stiffened fingers moved and wrote:

"I am Euling Mawlinge, craftsman of old Egypt. The works of my hands are long ago crumbled back to dust. The shell of my body is no more; yet I live on. Many things are plain to me and shall be plain to you.

"The cunning of my fingers shall never die. My hand shall be your hand; my skill your skill."

#### BEGINS DRAWING

The pencil stopped. A violent trembling began at the elbow of her right arm. The pencil quivered. Her hand jumped convulsively to another broad sheet of cardboard, moved in a sweeping circle—and on and on.

Fifteen minutes later her arm relaxed. Under her hand was a completed drawing like nothing she had ever seen. It whispered of ancient temples, forgotten times, a vanished race. It was amazing as the catacombs, absorbing as the night sky of a brooding desert.

"What is it?" asked Mrs. Bell, "and why?"

But the power had gone from her hand as mysteriously as it had come, and there was no answer.

That was a year ago last April. The incident has been repeated time and again. At high noon and in the silent watches of the night, always without warning, the spectral "power" has come into her arm like a vibrating current of electrical energy; always there has been evolved a mystic drawing from the echoes of ancient times. There are some 300 in the possession of Mrs. Bell.

#### GETS COPYRIGHTS

They have been drawn on the dining table, on the drainboard of the kitchen sink and on the dressing table in her bedroom. She now believes they are intended to illustrate a book which she declares is coming to her from the master craftsman on "the other side." So she has obtained copyrights on most of them.

Margins of many of the drawings are embellished with scribbled signs which apparently mean nothing. Yet Mrs. Bell declares she has been told these scribblings are Sanskrit, oldest of known written languages, and Arabic, dating back to periods earlier than any found in modern explorations.

She now declares she has cryptic messages which lead her to believe the ghostly craftsman is reproducing through her the story of the "lost continent" Atlantis of mythology. She believes some of the weird drawings are copies of chiseled wonders on the temples of that fabled land.

Students, she declares, have told her some of the drawings are similar to ancient Aztec inscriptions. And recent explorations have unearthed in Mexico drawings smacking of the works of the vanished races of Egypt. The "lost continent" was believed by the ancients to connect the Mexico and Egypt of the present day. At any rate:

#### FOUND PSYCHIC POWERS

"Several years ago in Denver," Mrs. Bell said, "I attended a dinner party at the home of Dr. John H. Gower, noted psychologist. A number of Denver newspaper writers were present. After dinner we decided to have a 'table,' then popular among occult searchers. It was the first time I had attended or taken part in anything of the kind.

"According to custom, we placed our hands upon the table and waited. In a very short time I became aware that Mrs. Gower, who sat at my left, and Mrs. George Sole Spencer, who sat at my right, had fallen into what appeared to be a deep sleep. I could not understand why.

"Dr. Gower, who had been watching, broke the spell by informing me I had remarkable psychic power. I scoffed at the notion, but it remained in my mind after the party was over.

"A week later there came an irresistible impulse to write. I took a pencil, sat at a table, and these are the words the pencil formed:

"'Mamma, I am so happy you are going to take up this work, because through it we will prove to you there is a continuation of life and that we have a communion with you on earth.' It was signed 'Matthew,' the name of my baby son who died with my other two children eight years earlier.

#### "NO TIME THERE"

"Still I scoffed. This thought formed in my mind: "Why, Matthew, you can't write. You were only six years old when you went away—just a baby." And immediately the pencil wrote:

"'There is no time here. I'm a big boy now. I can write and I will write. Believe in me.'

"Many times since then Matthew has sent messages. Once a message came from some other person, who said he spoke at the request of 'one called Matthew.'

"Still later, in the presence of Mrs. Harry English, who was overseas with an ambulance unit, I received a number of messages I could not understand. I could see they were in some foreign language. Dr. Gower and Mrs. English said they were perfect French and apparently from a French soldier who was killed in the Argonne and wanted to communicate with Mrs. English. I do not know one word of French.

"I now believe these messages were preliminary to the drawings, which began a year ago in April. I was being constantly more perfectly attuned with the vibrations from 'the other side,' more perfectly qualified to receive the mystic drawings.

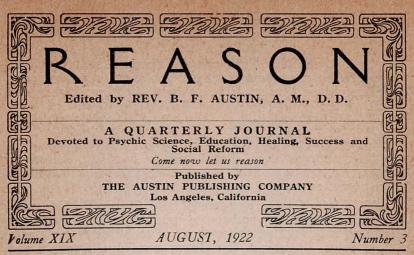
#### HEARS AERIAL MUSIC

"Several weeks ago I was sitting at the dining table. One of the drawings was being made. Suddenly the pencil began to jump and quiver erratically and finally stopped. Simultaneously I became aware of faint strains of music in waltz time. While I listened my hand jumped to one side of the drawing and began making straight lines—one, two, three; one, two, three; one, two, three. Then it drew the beginning of a bar of music, all without conscious volition.

"The music stopped and my hand went back to the drawing,

"I do not pretend to understand the phenomena unless my body, attuned to the vibrations from 'the other side,' suddenly caught a radio station's concert being broadcast at approximately the same wave length as the messages from 'beyond.' I have never heard of anything like it."

Mrs. Bell said she was born April 11, in the eleventh hour, and that psychics have informed her she was under a "mystic sign," thus gifted with coming into contact with things mystic.



Subscription Price from United States, \$1.00 the year; from Canada. \$1.25; from elsewhere, \$1.50.

Reliable Advertising will be given space at reasonable rates. Advertising rate card will be furnished upon application.

All communications should be addressed to REASON, Los Angeles, Calif.

[Entered as second-class matter August 1st, 1913, at the Postoffice at Los Angeles, Cal., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.]

# Editorial Notes

A letter just at hand from Bro. John C. Rowe of Rochester gives an interesting account of a recent Memorial Service in Plymouth Spiritual Church in which are touching references to Beloved Beatrice, former Assistant Editor of "Reason." We give an extract for Reason readers, knowing that every line will be eagerly scanned by her multitude of friends:

The first candle lighted was for our beautiful "Beatrice Austin." Mrs. Tillie U. Reynolds eulogized her character in a beautiful and truthful manner, and assured the people assembled that Beatrice was present in spirit, listening to the discourses emanating from the different speakers, and the singing, and with all the grace and charm of personality of her flesh temple, and "even more transcendentally beautiful." \* \* \* \* \* And then the half could not be expressed in words by any human being. Only God, and her dear mother could comprehend as expressed in her "Psalm to Dear Mother."

#### THE POWER OF TESTIMONY

Humanity has ever been slow to believe in the power and demonstration of the spirit world. Early Christians testified to the miracles and resurrection of Jesus only to meet with scoffing and ridicule but, undaunted, they repeated in the face of bitter opposition their amazing story of what they had seen with their eyes, handled with their hands of the word of life until a doubting world was overcome by the power of their testimony.

Today Spiritualists are meeting with the same stony skepticism, but the multiplied and repeated testimonies to the truth are gradually wearing down all opposition and the future promises certain victory. Here is one of those clear-cut and direct testimonies that bear the impress of truth:

"I have built more than 3,000 miles of railroad," said Arthur E. Stilwell at a meeting of Spiritualists in New York City recently, "and every part of the route was determined by spirits who came to me in my dreams and told me what to do.

"When I was building the Kansas City Southern I was warned not to build the terminal at Galveston, because it would lead to disaster. They told me to terminate it at Lake Sabine, where I built the terminal of Port Arthur. Four days after the terminal was completed the tidal wave wiped out Galveston."

Mr. Stilwell has been president of several railroads and for seven years was president of the National Surety Company.

## SPIRITS GUIDING THE ARTIST BRUSHES

In another column we give an account of the alleged spirit pictures now on view in the Anderson Art Galleries, New York. The undisputed facts seem to be: 1—That the hundred "spirit" paintings seem to be unique, and of superior artistic ability, the color scheme in some of them being the envy and despair of the regular artists. 2—The claim made that all who have produced these pictures are devoid of artistic training and ignorant of art technique is undisputed. 3—The only explanation, outside of spirit agency, if explanation it can be called, is that advanced by Nathaniel Ponsette-Dart, an artist, who says:

"There is the child-stage, when the pure inspiration, unhampered by any knowledge of technique, guides the individual. Astonishing work is sometimes done by young children.

"The second stage is that of technique, when the materials must be mastered. Then there must be a return to the childstage of inspiration, which in this last stage is guided subconsciously by the technique.

"These so-called spirit painters may prove to be only matured persons in the child-stage of art."

Mr. Ponsette-Dart's explanation needs explaining . He gives away his case when he admits that "pure inspiration, unhampered by any knowledge of technique, guides the individual"—the pure inspiration in this case being that of experienced artists in the spirit realm.

# IS MARS SIGNALLING?

No wonder the Scientists are interested in the possibility of communication with other worlds. Communication, since the dawn of human history, has grown with man's growth and has been one of the largest contributors to human advancement. Communication between our planet and another planet would be an immense stride in human progress and incidentally it would make the idea of Spirit Communication seem more natural and acceptable. The following telegraphic communication to the Associated Press will interest our readers:

"En route to the United States on his yacht Electra, William Marconi, projector of wireless telegraphy, is seeking to pick up what he calls 'wireless messages' from the planet Mars, according to the New York World.

"Marconi, it is said, has been of the belief for five years that signals are being sent through space from Mars. Last year, while cruising in the Mediterranean on the Electra, the inventor picked up a wave of 150,000 meters length, the greatest ever recorded.

"Mars is now approaching the earth and next Sunday will be 42,000,000 miles away, closer than it has been since 1909. Marconi, therefore, is attempting solution of what he believes to be the most fascinating mystery held by science."

# GERMANY INTERESTED IN OCCULTISM

Like other countries that felt the strain of war and for the terrible four years were held in the grip of material conditions, the German people now are turning their thoughts to things spiritual and seeking solution of the Psychic Phenomena so widely recognized today. A recent dispatch from Berlin declares:

"Germany, like many other nations, is turning more and more towards occultism, mysticism, spiritualism and all the other isms as a reaction from the war, and the revolution with its concrete and actual horrors.

"The soul shut up in a prison house longs to break its fetters and go forth into a world, visionary and nebulous it may be, but, nevertheless, comforting by reason of its very speculative and contemplative character."

Dr. Aigner, lecturing before the "Society of Psychical Studies," calls this increased interest and study a "psychical epidemic." Dr. Aigner thinks that it should be a socialhygienic duty neither to throw a veil over such things, but openly to confess that there are things in the world not dreamed of in the philosophy of the laity, and courageously to probe these phenomena.

## MORTALS AND SPIRITS JOIN IN FILM PRODUCTION A recent article by Dr. Guy Bogart, who is Secretary of the Cosmopolitan Film Company, claims that in the new screen drama, "The Bishop of the Ozarks," written by Congressman M. N. Howard, and now being produced in the Fine Arts Studio, Hollywood, the laws of the inner world are understood and used. He testifies to seeing clairvoyantly the spirits among the actors, impressing, counselling, guiding the production of the picture. He claims the story was written under direct inspiration of the spirit world.

This will appear somewhat astounding to those not versed in psychic studies and under the blinding influence of creedal teaching, but to all who know the sources of human inspiration, and the nearness and power of the spirit realm, it will be accepted not as a possibility merely, but as a natural inference from well-established facts in psychic science.

Surely if the spirit world can inspire a story or a drama that it might be printed and reach through the printed page or the stage a limited number of human minds with its moral teaching, the motive to help its proper production as a screen drama and reach the untold millions would be much more powerful and compelling.

### **GERTRUDE MARY ROGERS**

Healed a few years ago, after suffering and sickness for 20 years, and brought into the light and love of the Spiritual Philosophy, a wonderful healing power has come into her life, and for three years Mrs. Rogers has healed the sick of nearly every ill that flesh is heir to, and now there is coming to her poetic inspiration, music and some highly inspirational writings which will assist enquiring souls in their search for truth.

We give below two brief extracts from per pen and more in later issues:

#### SELF EXAMINATION

Turn thy eye inward, search well thy heart, for why, and for what are you doing the things you are doing today? Is it greed? Is it praise, the false praise of the world? Do you wish to stand high and approved? To win? Do you work just to live—or live just to work? For we know there is naught but receiving and giving. Once again let me ask thee: Search well thy heart, for whom are you doing that which you are do-GERTRUDE MARY ROGERS. ing today?

#### A PRAYER

An understanding heart, My Father, God, I ask. The prayer that never shall grow old, though old as time it be. In wisdom's way, I fain would walk. Though feet and heart may bleed. The way is rough, the thorns they pierce, I stumble and I fall. But why should I fear? For hands of love reach from above, to sooth and heal my pain. CEPTRUDE MARY POCERS

GERTRUDE MARY ROGERS.

#### INTO LERANT BIGOTS

In Zion City it is heresy to believe the earth moves around the sun, or that the earth is not a flat plane with four corners. Spiritualism, the Higher Criticism, all forms of Liberal Religion are taboo. A man was recently arrested on the streets of Zion City for whistling. What a cheerful, happy place it must be to live in!

It has one good feature in surpassing excellence—it can solve all the problems of life for you quickly and infallibly by a "Thus saith the Lord." Voliva, the Dictator, will tell you what you want to know about anything and everything. He is the only man on earth who can.

Perhaps there is no creature in the universe over whose existence there has been so much speculation, questioning, mystery, and about whom there is so little certainty as—His Satanic Majesty, the Devil. Ask Voliva and he will tell you all you want to know and much more. Here is the

#### LATEST NEWS ABOUR HELL

Hell is a lake of fire under the earth, but the devil himself never goes near the place.

That is the latest news from hell, sent out by Wilbur Glenn Voliva, Supreme Dictator of Zion City. The same informant reassures us, lest we worry over the devil's loss of a home, that Satan hovers over the earth directing murders, suicides, wars and general crime, and directing his squads of evil here and there to grab some damned soul as soon as it leaves the mortal body.

However, the devil will not always have his own way. The time will come, according to Voliva, when the Prince of Evil will receive homeopathic treatment. At the end of the world he will get back into hell and be destroyed in his own lake of fire.

Meanwhile, says this hot wireless, hell is in charge of a prince who represents Satan. But it is a bit disturbing to know that His Satanic Majesty is personally in charge here on earth.

#### MRS. MILDRED SWANSON

Our readers will recall the story of the spirit messages given Dr. Austin on cards in our editorial on Wonderful Psycography, in the November issue of REASON.

Since then a committee of five was formed to hold seances with Mrs. Swanson under test conditions and make a public report. From a member of that committee I learn that the formal report is not yet ready—though four out of the five members are ready to sign it—one member desiring further tests which at present are not advisable. However, "each member of the committee has expressed himself as confident of her integrity and satisfied that no fraud has been practiced at any of our sittings."

Mrs. Swanson's book, written under inspiration of a former literary celebrity on the mortal plane, and entitled "The Victory of Love," will be published shortly.

#### B. F. AUSTIN.

# Book Reviews

"COMMUNICATION WITH THE NEXT WORLD." The Right and Wrong Methods. A text book given from "Beyond the Veil," by W. T. Stead thru Madame Hyver. Edited by Miss Estelle Stead. W. T. Stead, the noted Spiritualist Editor and Publisher, of London, world known advocate of Peace and Purity, went down on the Titanic in 1912, and now thru a widely known, capable and trustworthy Psychic gives out to the world a remarkably candid and most valuable treatise on the subject of Communications with the Spirit World. The book is a sincere expression of a Spiritualist who has had the great advantage of experience in both worlds, treating of the difficulties, dangers and limitations of spirit communication and showing the way to the conditions necessary to safe and sane communication. We know of no other single volume that gives so much valuable instruction on spirit communication. Every Spiritualist should read the book. In addition to the clear and forcible facts and views set forth by Mr. Stead there is added a Symposium of Opinions on the value of these messages by Sir Oliver Lodge, Rev. G. Vale Omen, Dr. Ellis T. Powell and others. The book sells for \$1.00.

"AMETROPATHY." A Study of the Causes and Cure of Nervous and Chronic Ailments and Visual Defects. By Rudolph H. Gerber, Physician, Los Angeles.

"THE GHOST OF SIR FRANCIS WHYNNE, BARONET." By Mrs. L. A. Griffin Brownlee. 129 pages. The Austin Publishing Company, Los Angeles, Calif. \$1.00. A thrillingly interesting Ghost Story in which a murdered Baronet, after a long time in the Spirit Realm, comes back, equipped with knowledge of Psychic Laws and experience in both worlds and capable of controlling material forces, to vindicate his good name from false charges, secure and correct some false defamatory records and lay a foundation for reconciliation and a lasting peace with his bitter opponent and murderer. While the manifestations attributed to this returned spirit may indeed seem marvelous, they are all within the range of possibility to those understanding the Psychic Laws that govern materialization. The story is told by the medium, Austin, thru whose psychic powers the Baronet was able to work and the concluding chapters give Sir Francis Whynne's narrative of the events in the earth life of himself and his opponent leading up to his beautiful romance and tragic death. The book is not merely an interesting ghost story, for in its disclosures of Psychic Laws and Principles it is full of valuable instruction. It is the most interesting ghost story we have ever read.

#### "CHRIST OR BARABBAS"

We have a half dozen of this interesting Psychic novel by Dr. Austin, with slightly-soiled covers. We will send one prepaid for *half price*, 50c. THE AUSTIN PUBLISHING CO., Los Angeles, Calif.

# Spirit Planes

My other self—stood there apart. A wall unpiercable by human eyes, Kept those about the bier from seeing me.

#### Yet I was not dead,

As I had known of death. I stood outside The body that was lying there: I was In contact with the world, and it with me— Although my friends about me, did not know The conscious soul, that stood beside the bier— The thing that was myself they could not see.

As though a master hand Had splashed the curtain of the east with hues From all the spectrum, suddenly there burst Upon my view a wondrous painted sky Of colors unsurpassed. Pink were the veils Of haze—for 'twas not clouds—and where there hung A nebulae that took on shape, there seemed To be a layer of gold upon its edge. And all between, as though 'twas poured from out The molten pot of artistry, there streamed Great bands of gold and brass, afloat in lakes Of green and blue, which sparkled as though jewels.

The daylight grew apace, and also grew The golden fan, that stretched along the east. The kaleidoscope of colors quickly changed, Until at once the sky was as a bowl Of gold; and then the sun rolled up, a ball Of flaming metal. Hills and vales that had Been cloaked in shadow, now blazed forth in green, And o'er the grass were jewels scattered thick.

#### The change

Called death, is but another birth, and when The change is made, you then become—like us— Amenable to that great law. There is No difference between what you call life And death—except in vibratory waves.

Some earth-bound beings still Are clinging to their bodies, as they lie Interred in the cold earth. Also are there earth-bound, who still possess Desires and tastes, that they possessed on earth. They do not stay about: they are around The city's marts—the world's centers—where greed, Desire for gain, ambition, rule the world. There do they stay. There do they prey upon The living, who know not the law, and make No attempt to learn; so these base menaces To their advance in spirit growth do prey Upon their ignorance.

Man's character's alike Whether he live in palace or in hut. It matters not, if civilization, With soft and tender touch, should shape his life; Or if in far off untracked savagery He lives, the good or bad desires will rule His life the same.

Man does not change from age To age. The same cravings—thirst for power and wealth— That wrecked the empires and destroyed the states Of Greece or Rome, the same ambitions, that Produced a Shakespeare or Napoleon, rule To-day, in greater or in less degree, According to the strata where he lives.

The wondrous light that streamed o'er all Was not the light of earth. It was as though The sun was shining, and there was no shade. The universe was bathed in liquid light. The hues upon the landscape were beyond The power of painting. None of the bold Colorings that stain the earth were there. There was A toning down, as though the universe Was stained by colored glass. Then again, It seemed to take on hues that oft we see When gazing on the mossy, pebbly bed Of crystal pools, when sun is shining. In The colors on the verdant hills and vales, Were stainings rife, and of such shadings and So varied in their hues, it seemed as though A rainbow had been shattered, and the pieces Had then been strewn with careless hands about.

These homes are built by deeds Of souls deserving. Each good act on earth Is here recorded, in the home where some Soul will live. Their designs are simple or Are grand, according to the deeds that brought It into being. For it matters not How trivial the act may be, or yet How small the charitable thought, they all Make jewels—ornaments—upon the homes, Which they will occupy while on this plane.

Then know: that age As age, is but material. 'Tis but The body in which's encased the soul, That ever seems to age. And here, upon These planes, you see but soul—and that is the Substance that ne'er will age.

Man in his great pride, And his great egotism, built up a wall Across the pathway of souls with vision, Who would have led him into paths of progress; And as result, succeeded only in the Destruction of what small advance was made Towards intercourse with higher planes.



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#### I'll explain the plan

On which the various soul-planes are arranged. The earth-bound one is planned so that each soul May realize its own aim in the great Evolution. Progress is never made Obligatory, but is left, alone To choosing of the soul. Upon this plane Man's made to see his duty, and the choice By him, is made, to linger in the dark And ignorance of that vibration, Or choose to step into a higher plane, Where consciousness is given and he may Associate with those he's known.

#### The next

Plane is a purifying one. There he Must begin to see that personality, And the desire for things material Is but a reflex of the earth influence. It is his duty there to gain this view Of his soul's destiny.

'Tis there he is Prepared to enter the plane we now Are on. Here are given the first lessons On laws that operate for Infinite Intelligence. Here is his true destiny Unfolded to his understanding. Here He's molded into form that may be used Not only in the higher planes, but here. He's taught the laws, whereby souls, from The higher planes, may be enabled to Go out, and act as guides for those crossing The border-land; and also, in ways That spirits know—alleviate many of The pains and sorrows that come to man there. CHAS. SCOTT NEWMAN.

San Antonio.

The Rev. A. R. Crewe (U.S.A.) has an interesting article in "Pearson's Weekly" entitled "The Wireless of the Mind," in which he records some successful tests of his own in telepathy. He says: "There is nothing supernatural about telepathy. The faculty of communicating thoughts and ideas from one mind to another without signs or speech can be explained as logically and as conclusively as a problem in arithmetic. I have on several occasions proved that two persons of the right type of mind can communicate with one another by thought alone." After relating instances of this, he concludes, "And if we believe, as so many people do, that what we call the soul goes forward after our bodies have perished, it becomes a matter of simple reasoning to believe in the ability to communicate with the so-called dead without speech—in other words, by telepathy."—Harbinger of Light.

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### EXPERIENCED ARTISTS MARVEL AT WORK DONE BY PERSONS UNTAUGHT AND IGNORANT OF ART TECHNIQUE WHO CLAIM DEAD ARTISTS INSPIRED THE WORK

Mr. Grant, Curator of the Anderson Galleries, New York, where 100 of these paintings are on exhibition, is deeply impressed by their artistic beauty and worth, and says of some of them that they are the "envy and despair" of regular artists. The following United News dispatch by Raymond Clapper asserts:

This exhibit has set the entire artist colony debating whether the geniuses of the spirit world have outgrown their childish "mamma loves you" kind of messages and taken up art seriously, or whether somebody has outdone the famous Madame Palladino and hoodwinked the art critics.

The pictures range from simple geometric designs to the most complicated compositions done in vivid oils. One large painting, depicting the Spanish court in its 16th century splendor, was done upside down by Mrs. Helen Wells, under the control, she said, of Eswald, an Italian artist who lived many centuries ago. She also did several flower studies under Eswald's control.

"I don't know a thing about art," said Mrs. Wells. "But I did those pencil drawings of flowers. They are Italian flowers, as I learned from some Italian workmen who came to my house afterward. They called them all-spice blossoms and managua, which was what Eswald told me they were."

Mrs. Wells said the spirit directing her usually ordered her to place dots at certain places on her canvas and then filled them in.

Many of the visitors who crowded into the gallery to see the strange exhibit gathered around a small landscape drawn in five minutes by Miss Marian Spore, a young woman in her 20's, who is a dentist and a graduate of the University of Michigan. She is a trim, business-like young woman, who never went in for art. Then one day a spirit, who declined to disclose his identity, put her to work.

"When I went to buy materials, I had no idea what to get," Miss Spore said. "For a long time I tried to draw on glazed paper, which would not take color. I mixed my water colors in a pail. Then the spirits began to direct even my buying. They chose only imported colors—very expensive for me. Lately, I am glad to say, they are getting more economical."

She has done a group of oriental temples, in brilliant scarlet, gold and blue, which resemble the work of the great Russian, Roerich. Miss Spore also has developed a new technique which is the marvel of artists who have seen it. She has been

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Artists interested in color combinations were attracted to the work of a housekeeper, Miss Emily Talmage. With red, blue and yellow pastel crayons she achieved color effects which Director Grant said artists have been trying for years to get. Her control is a Scotch architect named McNab.

"I know very little myself about psychic phenomena," Director Grant said, "but I cannot explain this work in any way except by spirit control. None of these persons had worked with colors before."

#### THE SILVER CHORD

## By S. C. HIGBEE

#### Dedicated to Beatrice, the Beloved

#### Air: "The Silver Chord."

Some day the silver chord will break, And I no more shall dwell on earth, My soul released from mortal frame, Rejoicing in the higher birth.

And I shall see them, face to face, My angel loved again embrace. And I shall see them, face to face, My angel loved again embrace.

Oh, joy beyond all power to tell, No tongue can speak, no pen portray, The bliss of greeting all again, To journey on the heavenly way.

For we shall see them, face to face, Our angel loved again embrace.

And sweetly comes the solemn thought, We're one day nearer "over there," We're one day nearer to our home, Where heaven's glories we shall share.

For we shall see them, face to face, Our angel loved again embrace.

A little while we journey here, How swiftly pass the fleeting years, As one by one, our loved ones go, And joy and smiles are turned to tears.

But we shall see them, face to face, Our angel loved again embrace.

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66

# Psychic Experiences ELLA WHEELER WILCOX (Continued from May Issue)

# THE GOAL

# CHAPTER ONE IMMOLATION

A scorching heat, a blue mist, a tinkle of rippling water within the shelter of their cave. Par and Ilia rest. How came they here? Æons ago, on Saturn, a Monad's thought took shape; form, newly donned, seeks resting place. Search stirred into being, by divine discontent, senses vibration. In sympathy he vibrates, and lo! motion is born. He rolls, rolls, rolls, unsatisfied. But what delicious softness is this! He sinks into her yielding embrace. Ages pass. O sweet mud! Though you cling to me forever, yet we are not one body. Stirred by a great devotion, mud vibrates. The Lord of Will accepts her sacrifice of Ego, and bestows the gift of growth to solidarity upon mud. Ages pass in the process. She yields her attribute of softness to his hard substance; folded each within the other, they become one at last. Her immolation complete. Mates in Primos, nodules in matrix.

# End of Chapter One.

It was not until this very remarkable dictation was read over carefully, that I realized its purport. It was a condensed exposition of the first descent into matter of the Divine Spirit, and "thought," which had become mineral and had been embedded in soil, "sweet mud." After aeons of time, the mineral and the mud became one substance. And this was the first incarnation of Pan and Ilia.

As a result of an accident to their motor we had only a hurried sitting with Mrs. B—— on October 21st, -917, at "The Barracks." There were present V. W. B. and Mrs. Randall. He began at once, "Ella, dearest, you are with me." I said, "It is too bad, Isis can only stay a few minutes." Reply, "She will come again soon."

Then he began again on the book. I interrupted and said, "You'd better not write on the book today; we have so little time." "But this is so important; wonderful impressions, peculiar combinations of atomic forces give Manu of Race this opportunity of sending truths hidden from mankind."

I then asked if he could not give some one nearer me power to go on with the work when Mrs B\_\_\_\_\_ could not be here. "I have no control." Then I said, "I suppose it just happens

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that Isis has the power with me to get your messages." Nothing ever 'just happens.'" I asked if May could not be given the power. "May is not Isis." I asked if I could in any way develop myself to receive the messages alone. "Yes, go to our room, sit in my chair. Empty your mind and I will fill it. The pitcher that goes to the well, full, gets nothing. Keep trying, do not tire. Power comes with use." I asked for messages for each of us, beginning with V. (I did not use his name.) Re-ply, "V., you old robber!" This caused a great laugh, as at the card games Robert often called him that.

For Isis, "Graciousness personified." For May, "A more joy-filled future." For Ella, "For you, my soul's bond."

The next sitting was with Mrs. B----- at her home October 24, 1917.

First sentence, "Isis has on my gift." Mrs. B----- said, "Yes, you see I am wearing the pendant Robert brought me

Then, "Take off your wrist watch, Ella." I took it off.

She said, "I have no watch, only a bandage on my wrist. where I have a burn. The doctor told me to keep it covered." He said, "Take it off; the Lords of Love will protect it." Then he began on the second chapter of the book.

#### CHAPTER TWO

#### SUTTEE

(I asked if he had made a change in the order of the chapters. "Yes." Then followed:)

A long rest in cosmic sleep. The hardness of our physical bodies is dissolved; we become pure spirit. Then comes the call into being. The Lords of Wisdom summon us to our station in the sun. Our chosen path leads finally to earth. Impulse to push permeates us with a quivering stream of compulsion. We respond and the stream flows through us with accumulated force. We push through that which on Saturn was ourselves, now far above it in evolution. We feel air for the first time.

O joyous sense! Around us are vast thick clouds of gorgeous color, filled with angel forms. We grow, grow, two in one, when lo! upon our life-filled stem unfolds a lotus bud, first offspring of Ilia and Pan. Our Lord of Wisdom smiled, well pleased with our sacrifice of sap and strength, and his smile took form. In that form clung our inestimable gift, our etheric self. Sesame to higher planes.

End of Chapter Two

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#### CHAPTER THREE

#### JUGGERNAUTH

(On October 22nd was dictated the third chapter.)

Cradled in the womb of Time, we develop though we sleep, had when our time is fulfilled, the Lords of Motion summon us. We stir and struggle into astral birth on the moon. We roam, we breed, we leap, we sleep. Within our forest home, beneath his wattled hut, dwell Milidh and Scota, with their two sons, Eiram-Hon and little Arannan. They fear us not, nor fear we them. But to play by day and guard their sleep by night, become our greatest joy. In return we give them love and thought, and in their likeness we develop fast.

At length there comes a fearful night. From out the forest depths an horde of ravening beasts with slimy scales and deadly fangs. They storm the hut, with horns and claws and horrid din. Heedless of selves, we leap into the fray. Mighty Milidh gives battle to the monsters, but all in vain. He falls, pierced by many wounds. Before our very eyes little Arannan's bones are crushed to pulp. The sturdy Eiram-Hon, in terror, clings around the neck of Ilia, and cowers in her thick soft fur.

With one tremendous leap Ilia gains the topmost branch in safety with the boy. With the fainting Scota clasped tight in his hairy arms, Pan follows. Sudden to our ears comes the dying groan of Milidh, "Save him," in anguish Scota cries. With one impulse, animated by a desire to serve and save, we leap to earth, and cast ourselves protectingly on his prostrate body.

The maddened monsters, with jaws agape for flesh of man, thrice angered by their loss of victims two, deal us our death blow. With dying blessings of Milidh in our ears, we feel a mighty flood of power from the vast Cosmos of love through us flow.

On wings of flame, the Lords of Personality appear, and on us bestow the great gift of Ego. Key to the goal. Humans at last we die.

## End of Chapter Three.

Again I realized that this was the exposition of the progress of divine spirit through vegetable to animal life, and then to human through service and sacrifice. Pan and Ilia would be reborn in their next incarnation as human beings. We were all filled with a madness of desire to know in what way they would appear, and in what era, when we next sat at the Board on October 30th. With great force the Board wrote, "Ella, momentous things are upon us. I have come to a new path. I had to decide; I will tell you all. The 'Deva' who protects us.

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called me to a choice of paths; there were two. One would open a glorious service for me. I could be a messenger for the Logos, one of his agents." I said, "What is the other path?"

"Helpfulness toward earth dwellers, and those newly arrived."

I said, "You must not give up the higher work for me; I will be able to go on alone now, if you are called onward."

"I could not leave you; millenniums are before us for service and development, so why should I go ahead? I give you tonight this great proof of my love. I had to plead our cause with Deva, who carried the prayer to Logos. Can you not feel how I was torn by struggle between duty to God and love for my mate, my Ella? I pleaded our oneness from Saturn to Earth and gained the favor of a little reprieve."

I asked how long he would be able to continue giving me messages.

"I do not know; they did not tell me." Then he said,

"I want to tell you about the book. The next chapters naturally grow more complex. My idea is to give you a synopsis of each chapter, thus saving time and strength. You can elaborate later. For me, time is limted; means, clumsy." I replied, "No, I shall give just as you send it to the public when the time is ripe. I wish to state positively that I had no part in it."

We asked for personal messages and he wrote:

For May, "That which the fountain gives, into the fountain returns."

For Isis, "A splendid destiny."

For Ella, "Strength divine for the goal."

Asked for a word about the war, he wrote, "If all nations were wiped out, yet in the plan of the root and seed Manu this were as naught. Everything that is, is right."

Sitting with Mrs. B—— at her residence, November 12, 1917,

"You are doing finely, Ella; courage!" Then, "I have part of the new chapter ready."

I said, "Shall you give it today?" "Not all; it takes time to evolve a chapter." I then asked, "How do you evolve it?" "The next chapter was revealed to me by the gracious-

"The next chapter was revealed to me by the graciousness of Viavasate Manu by means of pictures stored in the archives of the universe, made by vibrations. Each object, each act, each thought which ever existed in any world, is recorded in indestructible films of etheric matter by means of vibration.

"Viavasate Manu permitted me to see unrolled the whole picture. I saw myself and you, and all the multitude in the way here. When they find they cannot they seek the same Golden City of Atlantis, and our daily lives, our friends, our

74

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bridal couch, the pathetic sacrifice of Rhada, High Priestess of the Sun, who gave herself for love of her sister Isis, the temple dancer, beloved and branded by Eiram-Hon, Crown Prince, and only son of Emperor Milidh and Scota. You were the lovely Princess Ilia, and I was Pan, General of the Emperor's army. You were the star far above my head. I saw the hosts of Arhinan. Lord of Evil, ruler of the nether world. advancing upon the city. I saw us die, murdered on our bridal couch. One blow severed our two heads, so tightly were we clasped togeher. I saw the incomparable Isis dragged from the temple crypt, and torn to bits before the eyes of Eiram-Hon. I saw the rod of the four Kumuras raised to destroy all this evil. Floods, earthquakes, storms, electricity, volcanic eruptions, convulsed the earth, until with one fearful shudder, it was swallowed up in the oblivion of the sea. Holocaust of the Kamuras. This is the truth."

One month ofter these dictations had been received he asked one day, "Let May read aloud my chapters of the story; I will point to 'No' where there are errors, and correct them." This was done, and like the most careful proofreader he went over every phrase, and corrected many punctuations and changed some passages.

It was not until some months after this dictation had been given me, that I began the study of that remarkable book, "The Secret Doctrine," and found in the "Stanzas of Dzyan" the following description of the descent of the soul from the first cause into matter.

My husband had never read this book or any other on that particular phase of our creation, so his knowledge must have come from the infinite realms. The stanzas read as follows: "The Spark hangs from the Flame (God) by the finest thread of Fohat (creative thought). It journeys through the seven worlds of Maya (seven globes of the planetary chain). It stops in the first and is a metal, a stone. It passes into the second, and behold, a plant! The plant whirls through seven changes and becomes a sacred animal: from the combined attributes of these Manu, the Thinker, is formed. Who formed him? The seven lives and the one life. Who completes him? The five sons of Mind. Who perfects the last body? The Immortal Being."

At the next sitting his message began:

"I wish you could take May to France with you; you may need an earthly friend, and May is so unselfish and devoted."

Then suddenly, "Do you remember the time I sent you a telegram before we were married? You were at the hotel in Chicago."

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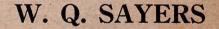
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I said. "Yes, with Mrs. Talman."

"Tell me aloud what was in the telegram."

I replied that it was to announce his coming. Answer, "Yes, and I was late. Do you remember the time, shortly after our marriage, when I had to make long trips; how we missed each other, and how often I wrote to you?"

I replied, "Yes, I do, and I remember the day before you started, the 29th of July, how, love-like, you told me there were no other women who could compare with me, to your thinking."

Answer: "Same yet, and there are angels here."

Mrs. B—— remarked.

"Doesn't that sound just like Robert?"

Answer, "It is I."

I said, "You know, do you not, that this is my last sitting with Isis, and so my last chat with you for a long time." Answer: "This is not our last meeting. "You will talk to me many times in the future?" "As long as you are in the flesh "

I asked if I should use the Board, and also pencil and paper, to try and get messages. "Yes, both."

"Is there any other way?"

"A blank mind, so I can make a record, like the Hindoo seers and adepts. Practice every day." "How long?" "Begin with ten minutes."

Then we asked for good-by messages.

"My devotion and gratitude for our Isis."

"To May we owe more than you know."

I asked for a little good-by word for me. "Never a goodby for us! Take with you, my only love, the supreme watchfulness of a husband and of a lover."

On December 19th I again visited T. G. The Board which had done great work for us in October now refused to move; a relative, L\_\_\_\_, a church member and deeply religious woman, placed her hands on it and at once it was seized with the same tremendous power which Mrs. B----- had brought to it. L----- had never experimented in such matters before. The pointer wrote with great force, "Ella, listen, stay where you are until Monday. Vitalize your physical powers for the great adventure, Monday next. Scota will come and talk." I asked what the great adventure might be.

"Your message; it will give comfort to many. The Comforter will come, but you must be patient; Scota bids you wait. The ethereal body at this moment is in control: it is very near now; Robert is here. Comfort will come-patience. Tomorrow L----- will receive a message from me: remember, and vitalize for the great adventure. Your message will come, and give

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comfort to all mankind now in darkness. Listen, wait, vitalize."

December 11th, 1917. The pointer wrote at once, with great force, "Ella, listen, Heaven is opened to me: I am moving in the circle of Divine Essence, in the transcendent Source of all Being. God is infinite love, and His manifestations infinite wisdom. Nature rises out of Him and we sink into Him. Scota had brought me into contact with Jacob Boehm, a great soul who has given messages. He bids me tell you, that you are far along on the path. The path is long and difficult, but you are farther along than most, and your Chela is sure that you will soon be an Independent Soul. Remember always our hour at dawn, and worry not, as I am with you. Nothing is gained by worry. Sleep well. I am to learn from Jacob Boehm things that you taught me first, but I shall see them in the full daylight now. His words make it seem like sunlight in the Flower Room."

"Can you give us any idea when and how this war will end?"

"God, the center of all, controls; and the end will justify all."

I attempted several more questions about the war, and was interrupted with, "Stop asking questions; I will return in two days, Ella; wait and rest."

We had none of us ever heard of Jacob Boehm. We looked in the Encyclopedia and were amazed to find two pages devoted to him. His philosophy was given in these words, "Nature rises out of God, and we sink into Him.". This struck us as a remarkable evidence of the absolutely spiritual source of our messages; our subconscious minds did not hold this knowledge.

December 13th there was a hurried sitting, and for the first time the messages contained references to business. Once I had asked if he approved changes made in my will, and the reply had come, "Yes, ingratitude is abhorrent." Again, when questioned about business and its outlook, the Board had written with seeming impatience, "This is not fortune telling." But on this evening I had been talking after dinner regarding my possible death abroad, and had mentioned what seemed to me wise disposition of my own small personal patrimony. A message had come to L——; then suddenly this came, "Tell Ella not to be in a hurry about disposing of her possessions. There are greater causes waiting." Asked to suggest them, the reply was, "I will come in two days, and advise you. Wait, rest, vitalize." But circumstances beyond my control rendered it impossible for me to remain where I was until Monday; I could

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neither wait, rest, nor vitalize. Instead I was obliged to take a railroad trip in zero weather, and in a crowded train where there was standing room only. The next two days found me quite ill, and so I was not enlightened regarding the Great Adventure promised.

It seemed like scorning the voice of Heaven, but it could not be helped. Just as one on earth cannot transmit a telegram without an operator who understands telegraphy, so a spirit must depend on one who has the right vibrations to get the messages on earth. After I left T. G. and L\_\_\_\_, many friends desired sittings with me, but all failed to bring any convincing results until, some three weeks after this, Miriam French, a beautiful and gifted woman, with whom I had had some correspondence, called on me at the hotel. Deeply interested in all spiritual matters, she was much impressed with my experiences. I asked her to try the Board with me, and, the moment her hands touched it, it wrote rapidly, "Keep this woman with you; I can work through her. She has the power." Mrs. French was obliged to leave, however, but came again the next day. The first sentence was, "This lady is the one for our work in hand." I then introduced her to him as "Miriam," and he continued, "Miriam's purpose is pure; she can help you to develop so that you can use pencil and paper; try a few moments every day; it must come. Scota knows Miriam's incarnations. Be of good courage, for the God of the Ages is with you."

An old friend, Lida Melhuish, had come in during this sitting, and was watching the messages for me. I asked for an idea regarding the poem Robert wanted me to write. Suddenly this came, "You might write on 'The Birth of Two Souls,' a few lines to the twins." Mrs. Melhuish started up and cried out, "Why, my niece gave birth to twin girls yesterday: do you suppose Robert means that?"

He said, "Lida is a good sport, and Ella is the dearest thing on earth. Time will reveal God's plan to you. Goodnight."

In the next sitting with Miriam French, a very interesting message came. The first was, "Scota says Miriam was a priestess in the Temple of Rameses in the Egyptian period. Scota was then a hand maiden in the temple. She has never incarnated since." I asked about the husband of a friend, and said she was breaking her heart, because no messages came from him.

"I never knew him on earth; it would help if you had a picture of him. If he came here wthout God in his heart it would make it harder for him to communicate and she must have God in her heart to succeed. Many come here who had

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only material desires in their hearts: they try to live the same vibrations of those on earth: they live in a cloud near earth. Intense love and desire is the only way out. Desperate grief of those on earth makes the burden heavier for souls here." I remarked that this seemd a flaw in God's system, as without some direct ray of light to prove immortal life, and with our dear ones wrenched away, we could not help the bitter grief. He replied: "It is the greatest proof of unselfishness a human soul has to meet." Then added, "I take you with me every night in your sleep, and show you the higher realms, and you see all I do."

"But why do I not remember any of it?"

I asked about Christ, and what he knew of Him.

"Christ is at the head of the spheres which belong to the Christian era. To see these spheres we have to ascend; a band of Devas took me, and then I only glimpsed His glory."

"And do you know if Buddha, who went from earth 500 years before Christ, has spheres belonging to this era?"

"Yes, the region is so high that we have to raise our vibrations to approach it, and then only sense its radiance."

Suddenly came this message: "Ask Miriam to show you the small Buddha in her handbag." Miriam, who had been sitting with closed eyes during the coming of these messages which were taken down by Mrs. Randall, started up in surprise and took from her handbag a small silver Buddha no larger than a pea. "Ask her to open it." Opened, it revealed five tiny dice. I exclaimed with pleasure over this unexpected stunt! "I wanted you to know I could look into handbags!"

I remarked that I wished he could give us more quotations to verify, as he did in the Jacob Boehm incident; at once came this,

"Thou for me at Allah's shrine,

I at any God's for thine." Moore.

We were not familiar with the words, but afterwards found them in Moore's poems, with only one word changed. I asked if he lived in a house. The answer was, "We only have houses when we desire them; I am moving constantly." I asked, "Is it from realm to realm you move?" "Yes, and from glory to glory." I reminded him that once, standing on our veranda at the Bungalow in the moonlight he said he wanted no more beautiful heaven than a duplicate of our Bungalow. "Well, then, we will build a Bungalow," was the answer, evidently meaning that when I came we would desire a house and that we would at once build it.

I asked if beautiful Aunt Hattie could sometimes come and talk to me. There was a pause, then, "Bless you, my child, this is Aunt Hattie." I asked whom she was with over there

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Then Robert came and wrote, "Unless souls are in the same work they do not meet. We are so busy, we seldom see each other; our lives are devoted to duty and service." I remarked that Miriam had to go, and asked for a parting message. He came directly to earth matters, and to his earth habit of looking after my health. "Take care of yourself, and do not take cold when you go to the country; wear rubbers, take fresh milk and fresh eggs every morning. My beloved, I am always with you, asleep or awake. We shall see each other again: have patience. Sit every day, alone in the silence, until you learn the use of the higher laws, then you will not need the Board. Fill yourself with God; when you are developed enough I will appear to your sight; be patient."

Then—"You must not call for Scota, she has gone to higher realms to prepare for initiation. When she has finished her studies she will speak to you.".

At the next sitting I asked, "Did you see me reading over your old letters last night, and crying to think I never saw any more letters in your penmanship?" Answer, "You will not make any progress until you give up wanting letters." Then----"I have very important things to say to you."

"Well, our minds are very peaceful and ready to receive."

"That is good; some one has said the Infinite is always silent, the Finite only speaks, but I want you to prepare for very vicious attacks made by the world on the gigantic work you have undertaken; many will be jealous and vindictive. You must write an article saying you have not received these messages through professional mediums or clairvoyants."

"But you must write another short article at once; to be published right after you go away. Get Mr. Brisbane of the Journal to publish it without fail." I replied that I would do so before I slept. "Remember, your promise is recorded in the soundless sound."

I spoke to Miriam then, and said with a good deal of emphasis that the world would have to listen to my story of messages received under test conditions, and their absolute proofs of life beyond. The Board wrote. "Tige!" Miriam asked what that could mean, and I replied, "It is one more proof, another link in the chain. Robert used to call me that, when I showed a bulldog tenacity of purpose. It is the first time I have heard the word, or thought of it since he went away."

Taken from "The Worlds and I" by Ella Wheeler Wilcox. Permission of Geo. H. Doran, New York, Publisher. (Continued in next Issue)

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# Ordination of Mary Alice Mortensen

#### CHURCH OF SPIRITUAL UNITY, SEATTLE

At one of the most beautiful and impressive services ever held by the Spiritualists in this city, Mary Alice Mortensen was ordained into the Spiritualists Ministry, June 18th. The Carpenters' Hall was filled to almost the last chair by members and friends of the different Spiritualist Churches. On the rostrum the old and new workers took their places beneath the folds of "Old Glory." On the wall at the back of the rostrum the initials of the Church of Spiritual Unity were picked out in purple pansies, nested in a trellis of pink and red roses. On either side of this the letters N. S. A. and S. S. A. were done in golden poppies; the effect was glorious. The walls of the hall were strung with roses and the windows were banked with greens.

A very beautiful musical program was conducted by Mrs. Estelle Mahr, including a solo by herself and one by Mr. Dudley of the Mountain View Church and a guitar solo beautifully rendered by one of our young members, Miss Clementine Little, who is also giving a splendid service as the secretary of our Church. After short and inspiring talks by each of the workers, Mrs. Mortensen came down the aisle, robed in white and accompanied by Mrs. Julia Royle, our worthy President, and preceded by five little girls each carrying huge bouquets of pink and red roses. She was met at the Rostrum by the Rev. Bertha Watson, who performed the Ordination. At the close of the ceremony Mrs. Mortensen was presented with a beautiful silver urn by the members of the Church of Spiritual Unity of which she has been the pastor since the first of the year, serving jointly with Rev. Bertha Watson as resident pastor.

The speech of presentation was given by one of the oldest workers, Rev. Jennie F. Johnson, and was so impressive as to bring tears to the eyes of many.

The workers on the rostrum during the services were Revs. Jennie F. Johnson, Ester T. Bosley, Bertha Watson, Mrs. Myrtle Shannon, Mrs. L. A. Brownlee, Mrs. Vera Noble, Mrs. Curllen, Mrs. Resencranz and Mrs. Laudermerk. The Church of Spiritual Unity is growing splendidly and counts among its members some of the best mediums in the city.

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efficient Advisory Board, is making our Church a happy success.

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The wonderful Psychic Pictures obtained by Mr. [Editorial Note] Kanouse arrived too late for preparation of electros to be inserted in Reason. Dr. Peebles and President Barrett graced the occasion with many distinguished workers.

# "By Wireless from Venus"

"By Wireless From Venus, or the Primal Elements," by Charles H. Taylor, B.S., is the title of a new book just coming from the press through the Austin Publishing Company of Los Angeles. This book purports to contain twenty Wireless Messages from a person now living upon the planet Venus who formerly lived upon the Earth. The work assumes to be based wholly on analogy and scientific premises, and announces several new Laws of Nature, heretofore unrecognized, whereby it is shown that the Sun is not a burning body, but a cool and habitable one, and that its light is due to electrical radiance that surrounds it, similar to the Northern Lights over the polar regions of the Earth. The book is a large volume containing nearly 400 pages, and involves a new theory of Creation and of the Creator, and of the Life Hereafter, and an explanation of the Unexplained in Physics and Metaphysics, and also an explanation of the Occult Manifestations. The Author treats of the Science, Philosophy and Religion of Spiritualism, and declares Spiritualism to be the supreme religous teaching of the present day, while at the same time assuming to explain away much of the psychic phenomena on which this teaching has been supposed, by many, to be based.

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