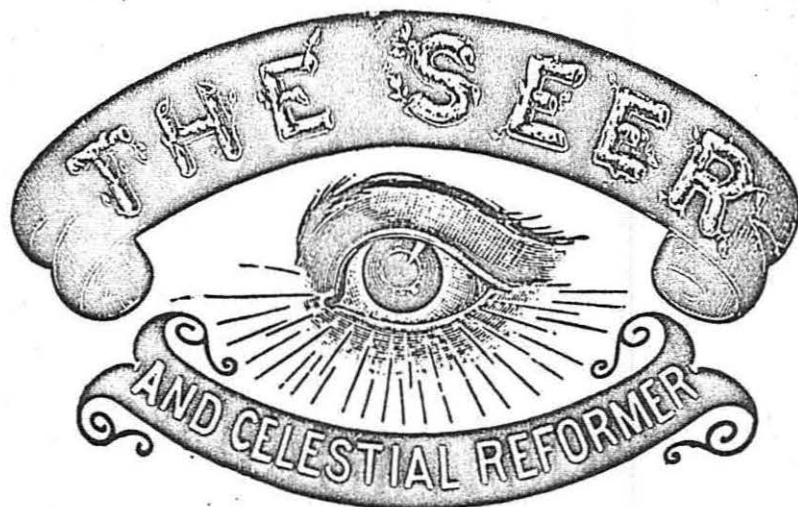


PUBLISHED

EVERY

MONTH.



POST FREE

1s. 6d.,

PER ANNUM.

No. 5.—Vol. I.

NOVEMBER, 1884.

ONE PENNY.

## THE SEER AND CELESTIAL REFORMER.

NOVEMBER, 1884.

IN consequence of illness and absence from home, we must apologise for the lateness of present issue.

DURING the present month we have been enabled to give to mankind another sample of spiritual or psychical power in the perfect restoration of a young woman who was insane, to a sound state of mind. This constitutes the fourth case of the kind we have been instrumental in bringing right. And yet little minds still ask for tests.

IN our peregrinations of the month we visited a house, and were not long before we discovered a poor spirit in a most wretched condition, attached to the place. We perceived the place was haunted.

We made no remarks, as the inmates were perfect strangers.

After some minutes we were impressed to go outside the house, so we pretended that we wanted to look around, but not with any real object in view. The master of the house came with us. We went in a certain direction, but on looking back toward the house saw the spirit beckoning for us to go in another direction. We went, and on crossing over a certain place, we asked the master had he any knowledge of anything in particular about this place.

The man looked bewildered, and then stated that his house was haunted by strange noises, groans, &c., and that something particular had been seen about that part where we now standing.

As all this appears to corroborate our own experience in this matter, it is our intention to look further into it, and report to our readers if there be anything of importance.

### GLADSTONE AT A SEANCE.

MUCH excitement has recently been created among the materialists because the Prime Minister chanced to have visited the house of a friend, in the company of three or four of his acquaintances, for the purpose of witnessing some tests through slate writing. The medium, as it now appears, was Mr. W. Eglington, in whose presence short and long messages are written by spirits, and that very frequently in languages unknown to the medium or the sitters. And such seems to have been the case upon the visit of Mr. Gladstone. Messages were given in more than one language. We can say nothing as to the contents of those messages, seeing such was secret. But whatever the contents might have been, it is evident the honorable gentleman was well satisfied with the proceedings, as it is more than probable he got more than he had anticipated.

But what then? Has Spiritualism derived any real advantage from this event? We cannot find that it has, as Mr. Gladstone did not say at the close of that seance that henceforth he should believe in the power of spirits to communicate with mortals. Much less, he did not even say that he believed in spirits at all. The Prime Minister said the very *least* thing he could have said under the circumstances. What he said was tantamount to this: That there is *something* in this thing, and that something was of sufficient importance to elicit investigation. This same thing has been said scores of times, notwithstanding all the *bona fide* statements that have been made. Each one of the opponents of Spiritualism will still demand *tests*, and call out for investigation; as if all the great minds that have waded through the evidences were fools. It was just the same on this occasion; as a put off, Mr. Gladstone recommended slate-writing as a subject for investigation! As if it had never been thought of

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before! So we must, after all, suppose that all that had been witnessed in the past goes for nothing with such a one as Mr. Gladstone. The testimonies of Howitt, the Varleys, Cox, Judge Edmonds, &c. are of no account! But some one may say that after all the honorable gentlemen *was* convinced, and that he *did* believe; if so he is dishonest to his conscience. He is guilty of moral cowardice. Any man that says one thing and yet believes the contrary, is not one of the most unexceptional of characters. Upon the whole, then we consider that the materialists need not be alarmed at having lost one of their supporters, nor have Spiritualists any cause for congratulation.

## THE DEATH OF JOHN FOWLER, ESQ.

SINCE our last issue the cause of Spiritualism has sustained a great loss through the death of one of Liverpool's wealthiest merchants. This gentleman was one of the right stamp. He became convinced that spirit communion was a fact. After that he never feared to state his convictions. He was one of Nature's true noblemen. He feared not the frowns of "Mrs. Grundy," like many persons in position at the present day.

The little band of Spiritualists who meet at Rodney Hall on Sundays, will miss Mr. Fowler very much, as this gentleman was very seldom absent from his post, and his purse was ever open towards the support of the cause in that place. We give a full report of the funeral, which we copy from the *Liverpool Mercury*, 31st October, 1884.

"The remains of the late Mr. John Fowler, 57 years of age, provision merchant, who carried on business in Victoria Street, and resided at St. Ann's, Croxteth Drive, Sefton Park, Liverpool, will this day be interred in the cemetery of the native place of the deceased, at Brookborough, Ireland. In order to meet these arrangements, the body of the deceased was removed from his late residence yesterday afternoon. At three o'clock service was conducted at the house by the Rev. Thomas McCullagh (ex-president of the Wesleyan Conference), after which the funeral *cortege* proceeded to Lime Street Station, from which place the mourners, with their charge, travelled via Holyhead to their destination. Preceding the hearse, a large number of the employes of the deceased, and several gentlemen closely connected with the late Mr. Fowler in business, walked to the station. In the mourning coaches were the Rev. James Fowler, vicar of East Hanning Field, and Mr. W. Fowler (brothers of the deceased); Mr. G. W. Fowler (only son); Mrs. William Fowler, Miss Fowler, and the Rev. Thomas McCullagh (Wesleyan minister). The mourning

coaches were also followed by a large number of private carriages belonging to merchants in this city. Accompanying the procession from the house were Messrs. A. Hoskin, J. H. Brown, W. Challoner, F. Clarke, G. Fletcher, J. Fitzpatrick, G. Wall, G. Brandon, T. J. Warrington, G. Heapy, J. T. P. Parkinson, J. Jukes, J. Hooton, W. Carson, J. Campbell, T. J. Kyne, George Harris, William Dunkerley, Thomas Quinsey, J. Marquis, J. Hargreaves, and others. On the *cortege* arriving at the station it was met by Messrs W. Adams, N. Adams, J. Honeyford, G. F. Jackson, W. Coffey, J. Harley, J. Mulgrew, J. Fern, John Heapy, T. Doyle, W. Ringland, J. Bowker, J. C. Balfour, W. Thomas, Walter Windsor, J. Ogle, R. Chatham, J. Berry, Marple Jones, J. Bennett, J. Catlow, J. Coates, J. M'Envoy, E. Bamford, Gormer, Hudson, Fletcher, and other gentlemen connected with the provision trade. There were also present a large number of ladies and the wives of the employes of the deceased. The coffin, which was of polished oak with silver mountings, was covered with wreaths of flowers. The following gentlemen accompanied the mourners as far as Crester:—Mr. A. Hosking, Mr. J. H. Brown, Mr. Challoner, and Mr. F. Clarke. The funeral arrangements, which were highly satisfactory, were carried out by Messrs. G. H. Lee and Co., Basnett Street."

## WHAT I HAVE SEEN AND HEARD: OR THE EXPERIENCES OF A SEER.

I AM sorry to have made a very great mistake in figures in my last paper relating to the lapse of time since the departure of the "life wave" from this globe, up to that period when the return of the same again became manifest. Instead of it being 100,000, it should have been 100,000,000! as this is the nearest approximation to the truth that can be attained to.

Such a lapse of time surpasses all human conceptions it is true, yet it must be borne in mind that such a period is only a small fragment of vaster cycles, which revolve around each other like the wheel in Ezekiel's vision *ad infinitum*.

It is stated that the heavens looked dark and sombre, a complete darkness at one time, without a glimmer of light for millions of years!

I supposed this dense and gloomy haze to have been charged with humidity, but since writing my last I have made the discovery that such was not the case, but that the cause of this darkness was the surface matter of this globe in a state of sublimation.

That some tremendous force had been applied which disintegrated the particles, depolarizing the same, and finally hurling the whole beyond the atmospheric



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region thousands of miles. Hence it is that I saw naked rocks but no soil or debris of any kind.

These particles kept floating around this globe for millions of years without showing any tendency to descend, until the return of the "life wave," and since that advent cosmic matter has kept falling, sometimes in the form of imperceptible dust, and at other times in meteoric showers of aerolites; nor will this earth have attained its majority, or its primitive glory, until every grain of its original dust returns from its long exile amid the realms boundless ether.

Yes, brothers, that dust upon which angels once walked, angels of whose greatness we can form no conception of in this day, this same must be restored ere this world will be a fit platform for such beings to tread upon again.

We often hear persons speak of the "end of the world," even men possessing much intelligence have in the past wrote upon this subject, supposing that such might take place at any time.

But such is puerile weakness. For such would be impossible at the present stage of the world's development.

The Great Architect works all according to a plan. That plan is the design of infinite wisdom, a wisdom that leaves no room for an accident to come. He doeth all things after the order of His own will, and this omnipotent will is guided by infinite wisdom.

I feel it necessary to give a perfect sketch or outline of this earth's surface up to its perfected stage in the present paper, and afterwards I shall devote my pen to details.

I have already alluded to the necessity for every particle of cosmic matter to be restored before this globe of ours becomes perfected.

At this stage it might be asked is there yet much more to fall? Or, will the time be long ere the whole be perfected?

My reply to such is as follows: The past year of 1883 was rendered rather noted, in consequence of those gorgeous sunsets and sun-risings, which attracted the attention, and elicited the admiration of mankind over the world; for in every clime this phenomenon was witnessed.

Many have been the surmises both of the vulgar crowd and of the scientific world.

I believe that some of our men of science have come very near the truth in supposing it to be showers of "cosmic dust" falling, and the sun's rays falling upon the same.

Such a supposition is true, for such it was. But whence came that dust? There science is at a stand, it cannot conduct its votaries any further.

Here, then, I would introduce *another* science, based upon the existence of another sense. I have *seen* this cosmic dust. I know whence it came. The polarity of those particles had been reversed in the far past, which rendered them repellant to the earth, and in that state this dust defied the laws of gravity.

But when the life wave returned, the floating particles began to resume their former mode of existence.

At the first, showers of stones of immense size fell to this earth in all directions. After these stones of smaller dimensions, and at the present time it is rarely that a very large aerolite falls.

The fact is that the grosser matter has nearly all descended.

Last year constituted one of those epochs in the age of this world. This epoch began in 1880; it extends to 1900.

During this interval showers of cosmic matter will be falling more frequently than has been for 8,000 years!

The people of this earth will witness grander displays of meteoric showers by day and by night than has *ever* been witnessed by mankind. But the last shower will fall before the end of 1,900.

Then the cosmic conditions will be perfected, and our race will enter upon a new era, the nature of which will be dwelt upon in future papers.

One particular I may here point out: That a great change is taking place in the order of vegetation, in consequence of this surface becoming more and more approximated to the higher conditions.

The grosser species of vegetable food, consisting of root crops now provided for animals as well as ourselves, will gradually go out of existence.

Such vegetables have only a forced existence even now, and it has been stated by men of science that such articles as are forced are not as nutritive as others that are produced in a more natural way. Yet mankind heeds not; he goes on in the same old way, in spite of every warning.

But we will ultimately find that those laws we now disregard and infringe with impunity, will at last compel us to submit. The fact is that if mankind does not conform to what nature is now prescribing, he will ultimately find it an impossibility to hold property in animals. For the more food becomes forced, the less is it nutritious; and the less nutritious, the more poisonous.

It is a law of nature that the grosser must give place to the more refined. At the earlier periods of this world life existed in more unwieldly forms, beings then existed of more gigantic proportions. But these gross forms have died out. Even so will it eventually

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be with a great proportion of what is now called food both for man and beast. It will pass away, and if we cling to what is doomed we shall share the same fate.

ALBUS MAGUS.

(To be Continued.)

## SKETCHES OF GREAT MUSICIANS.

No. I.

### HANDEL (CONTINUED).

As these papers are only intended to be a sketch of his life, I have already gone into detail sufficient, as others will have to come. I shall now briefly dwell upon the principal features of the great composer's life. He first visited London in December 1710 and became as one of us. His whole life then to the close was one scene of struggles and triumphs. He was at one time the lessee of Drury Lane Theatre, and he wrote many Operas, among the most successful was "Rinaldo." This was received with a degree of enthusiasm quite unprecedented in England. The original M.S. no longer exists in a connected form.

On the 6th February, 1713 he brought out his "Birth-day Ode," and a little later the Utrecht "Te Deum," first performed in St. Paul's Cathedral in commemoration of the Proclamation of Peace, afterwards followed his "Jubilate," both these compositions were highly received at Court, and during the next thirty years it was used at St. Paul's alternately with Purcell's "Te Deum," for the benefit of "The Sons of the Clergy," when it was laid aside.

On 22nd August, 1715, the Royal Family accompanied by suite, proceeded by water from Whitehall to Limehouse. While the progress of this water party was going on, Handel's "Water Music," a series of instrumental movements for two solo violins, flute, piccolo, two hautboys, one bassoon, two horns, two trumpets, supported by a full string band, was performed, and it was very graciously received; for that afterwards he received a pension of £200 a year in addition to the one granted by Anne of Denmark. The greater part of this M.S. seems to be also lost.

His next oratorio was "Esther," which was performed at Cannons, 1720, on which occasion the Duke presented Handel with £1,000. "Esther" was a very fine specimen of the contrapuntal art. Also "Acis" and "Galatea" were composed shortly afterwards. Numerous other pieces were composed of which the world knows not except by name.

It was about this time that he wrote his first set of lessons for the harpsichord; the fifth lesson terminates with the celebrated "Harmonious Blacksmith." Tradition asserts that walking to Cannons, through the

village of Edgware, Handel was overtaken by a shower of rain, that he took refuge in a roadside smithy, heard the blacksmith singing at his work, and beating time to the performance upon the anvil at which he was hammering, and then went home and wrote a set of variations upon the tune the blacksmith sang. The name of this humble songster is said to have been Powell. This anvil became the property of William Snoxell, Charterhouse Square, London, and was sold by auction to Mr. Maskelyne, Egyptian Hall, for £14, 12th July, 1879.

The "Coronation Anthem" was composed for the accession of George II. 1727.

The first performance of "Saul" took place at the King's Theatre, 16th January, 1739.

The next great oratorio was "Israel in Egypt." This is one of the most gigantic constructions in the contrapuntal art. A series of colossal double choruses, depicting scenes to which they refer with irresistible power. The cry of the oppressed Israelites; the once bright Nile, now rolling downwards in waves of loathsome gore; the clammy reptiles forcing their repulsive presence into the king's chambers; the swarm of flies; the crashing hailstones; and the fire that ran along the ground in burning streams, represented by the long dragging passages of quavers, each digging a blazing furrow as it passes along; the destroying angel; and then the calm beauty of the departure of the chosen people. No artist could paint better, or no words could express the grandeur of this oratorio, one of the great composer's best.

(To be Continued.)

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## CHRIST

By J. M. PEEBLES, M.D.

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London: J. J. MORSE, The Progressive Literature Agency, 201, Euston Road, N.W.

Printed and Published for the Proprietor by J. J. MORSE, at The Progressive Literature Agency, 201, Euston Road, N.W.