

# THE SPIRITUAL REPUBLIC.

CHICAGO, ILL., SEPTEMBER 14, 1867.

To the Stockholders of the "Central Publishing House," Subscribers and Readers of *The Spiritual Republic* and *Little Bouquet*:

BRETHREN: By direction of the Board of Directors of the "Central Publishing House, it becomes my duty to address you.

The unwise course that has been pursued during the last nine months, by the executive and editorial departments of that which once was a prosperous and greatly admired institution, has been made, to a considerable extent, apparent to you, by the inferior quality and downward tendency of its publications.

It is not deemed advisable to recount all the wrongs that have been perpetrated upon all true friends of Spiritualism, as well as upon the stockholders.

At the close of the undersigned's administration, in the latter part of November, the RELIGIO-PHILOSOPHICAL PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION occupied an enviable position before the public, and was the pride of Spiritualists generally, and especially admired by all who visited the institution. But a radical change in its management accompanied the change of administration. There seemed to be a desire on the part of the new administration to entirely ignore all of the leading characteristics of the RELIGIO-PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL and LITTLE BOUQUET.

Spiritualism has been a matter of secondary, instead of primary consideration. The corporation was warped to base and mercenary purposes, instead of receiving the fostering care of those who should have been the guardians of the rights and interests of the stockholders.

The papers were shorn of their beautiful and attractive appearance; the names of the papers and corporation were changed, without consulting the stockholders, whose money was being used and sunk; a large portion of the paper was made the vehicle of glaring advertisements of a half-crazed fanatic by the name of Seth Paine, who has from time to time, for the last thirty years, imposed upon the credulous with his pretenses of the great things he was soon to do—but never accomplishes. He has been permitted to prostitute the columns of the SPIRITUAL REPUBLIC to the false pretense of publishing a paper called a *Co-operator*, which he probably never intended to do.

We are determined to put forth that energy that shall protect the stock, and build up the Publishing Association on the same sound and business-like basis upon which it was instituted and operated under its first administration. That administration has been most fully vindicated by the Board of Directors, at their recent meetings on the 2d and 3d of the present month. The recent administration, which so perverted the objects of the institution, has resigned, after receiving the seal of condemnation from stockholders and directors by being shorn of power.

At least fifteen thousand dollars were lost within the last nine months, by an administration that appeared to have far more love for self than regard for the rights of stockholders, or the principles of Spiritualism. It is a fact which has developed itself to the readers of THE SPIRITUAL REPUBLIC, that the editor, F. L. Wadsworth, apparently sought opportunities to deride Spiritualism, and bring reproach upon mediums. To such an extent did he carry his opposition to Spiritualism and mediums, that "the Illinois State Association of Spiritualists" refused to recognize THE SPIRITUAL REPUBLIC as a Spiritual paper, at its recent annual meeting. If he and the President had avowed themselves open enemies to the cause of Spiritualism, and still occupied the same position, they would have done the institution far less harm.

It is but justice to say that they foisted themselves into power at an unguarded moment, when such a course could hardly have been anticipated by the stockholders.

It was while the former President was greatly depressed in spirit by the recent death of his only son, the Secretary of the institution, and while that terrible disease, the typhoid fever, held two other members of his family at the very gates of death. It was under such circumstances that these two men concocted the scheme, by deceiving others, to supplant that President by whose labors and energy the charter was procured, and the institution inaugurated and developed into a brilliant success. By secretly procuring proxies, they succeeded in foisting themselves into power by a vote of 554 to 551, only three majority and one fourth of the stock unrepresented; every share of which unrepresented stock would have been represented, and given in favor of the old administration, if the stockholders had anticipated the scheming of these men. Mr. Merritt Munson, a former director, who owned four thousand dollars of full paid stock, and which was not represented, was left off to make a place for F. L. Wadsworth, who had paid into the institution but fifty dollars. Theirs was a scheme to make places for selfish men, at the expense of integrity and the very life of the institution; and yet they have continually sought to cover their own short-comings and derelictions of duty by heaping reproach upon the administration they had thus supplanted, even down to the day that the very men they had deceived into their support discovered the deception, and became exasperated at the wrong perpetrated. The Board of Directors being fully convinced of these facts, ousted them from further control of the institution. But this was not done until it was incumbered with mortgages, and the job office, press room and bookbindery were closed up and sold out, leaving not a dollar for stockholders, and yet a large amount of indebtedness unpaid, with only a small list of subscribers, whose patience has been thoroughly tried for the last nine months, but whom we hope will hold out a little longer, until we can again supply them with as good a paper as the RELIGIO-PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL was in its palmy days.

Under these trying circumstances and most unfortunate conditions, the undersigned has been called upon to aid in resuscitating and bringing into life our institution. The last administration talked about "reconstruction." They did reconstruct with a vengeance—upon the stockholders and the public. I fear our task will be greater than at first; but *we will try*, and with the aid of friends *we will succeed*.

At the sale of the property under the chattle mortgage above referred to, Bro. John W. Smith, a large stockholder, became the purchaser, and now holds the property, and desires all of the old stockholders to join with him on equal terms in rebuilding the institution.

The various departments are already being plied with nimble fingers, and the steam engine is propelling the presses with its wonted vigor, as in days of yore, and I am directed to inform you that the friends intend to publish two first class Spiritual papers, the one for adults and the other for children, in accordance with the original plan, and to say that our weekly paper shall be, in spirit, to the West, what the BANNER OF LIGHT is to the East, an ever welcome guest. Side by side we will send them out, laden with words of consolation, from great, good and loving men, women and children, of both the mortal and immortal spheres, to the hungering, thirsting and sorrowing souls of earth.

We will labor incessantly to make our papers everything that may reasonably be desired by the readers.

We ask every Spiritualist throughout the length and breadth of the land to aid us in this enterprise. Let us have your kind support. We will give you mental and spiritual food that will gladden your hearts.

We aim at no rivalry with that noble paper the BANNER OF LIGHT. That is a spirit-projected, heaven-born institu-

tion, and so is ours. The terrible ordeal that ours has just passed through was foretold in its very inception; but we have ever been assured, by the invisible, but all-potent friends, that it would come out therefrom like the gold from the refiner's fire, purer, better and stronger.

We assure our friends that the papers and books that may be issued from this institution will *ever hereafter* be the true exponents of Spiritualism in its multifarious phases. We shall ever stand as sentinels on the watch-tower, and be prepared to ward off the unjust attacks of the enemies of our faith.

Our mediums for spirit manifestations have been persecuted and maligned in all ages of the world. To-day they suffer indignities quite as intolerable as the self-righteous practiced towards the gentle Nazarene, crucifixion excepted; and yet it is too often the case that some of our brethren join in the cry—"crucify, crucify."

Our papers shall hereafter be devoted *primarily* to the promulgation of the fundamental principles of Spiritualism—philosophical and phenomenal.

In conclusion, we ask all of the old subscribers to the RELIGIO-PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL and SPIRITUAL REPUBLIC to renew their subscriptions immediately. Those whose time has not expired will be supplied with the new paper. The new will begin where the RELIGIO-PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL left off. THE SPIRITUAL REPUBLIC was an excrescence which, at an evil hour, like other foreign and fungus growth is wont to do, nearly ate out the very vitals of the true. It has sluffed away, and we trust our *true paper* will have a healthy and vigorous growth.

Until the subscription list will warrant it, our weekly paper will be very considerably reduced in size, with nearly all original and choice matter. The price will be reduced to two dollars per year, and thereby brought within the reach of every Spiritualist. The Message Department will be restored, and we have assurances from the spirit world that the department will be fraught with more than usual interest.

In conclusion, we ask Spiritualists everywhere to aid us in our enterprise. We especially invoke the influence of mediums and speakers to use their influence in supporting the advocate of Spiritualism in the West; not as a rival of any other Spiritual papers, but as a co-laborer in this great field of reform.

Again, I return thanks to the many true men and women who, under my administration and editorial charge, helped to bring the RELIGIO-PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL and LITTLE BOUQUET prominently and favorably before the public, for their past favors, trusting in a continuance of similar support in this trying hour, and urgently request all old contributors and friends to our cause and beloved principles everywhere, to send us contributions for publication. We ask for truthful reports of Spiritual seances—mental and physical—and also mediumistic experiences, as we intend to publish a true journal of passing and ever varying Spiritual events. Remember that "brevity is the soul of wit." Our new paper will be a compendium of mental and phenomenal Spiritualism—just what every seeker after Spiritual truth will admire. To that end we shall need reports of remarkable spirit manifestations from all parts of the world, and shall depend upon Spiritualists to furnish the same.

A few weeks will intervene before we issue any papers. In the meantime, we hope to have a bountiful supply of contributions to select from, and a goodly number of subscribers.

All letters should be addressed to J. C. Bundy, Sec., P. O. Drawer 6325, Chicago, Ill.

I remain, fraternally, thy brother and co-laborer in the great cause of Spiritualism and every reform.

S. S. JONES.