



"THE AGITATION OF THOUGHT IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM."

VOL. VII. NO. 24.

WHOLE NO. 326.

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EVIL SPIRITS.

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About nineteen years ago, I lived a remarkable spiritual manifestation in Philadelphia, where I resided. My business required my attention at an early hour in the morning. About nine o'clock a. m. I retired to bed in an upper room. The doors and windows were all closed, and no symptoms of sleep had yet taken hold of me, when three persons, standing near each other, appeared before me. They were more beautiful than any mortal, male or female, that I have ever seen, but their countenances did not give forth a gleam of light, for they in a loud and hoarse tone, uttered the words that I deliberately and calmly uttered in my writings. They spoke in a language entirely unknown to me. They were clothed in robes of fire, with long flowing locks of ash-colored hair hanging over their heads. A powerful spiritual influence came upon me, and rendered me and me during the manifestation, and it kept me in a perfect calm state of mind, and in a still small voice informed me that these were evil spirits. Their eyes were intently fixed upon me, and when they passed away, it was through a closed window. Then my inward sense told me that they would return again. I waited calmly, and saw them return, and conduct them eyes as before. Then they re-appeared the third time, with the same result. When they had disappeared the third time, I was informed that they would appear no more.

Then I went down stairs and commenced to tell what I had witnessed. The calm influence which had sustained me, left me.

[illegible]

That many evil-spirits, demons, are exorcised, and are cast out, by many who have no other power than the power of Allah. Sectarianism teaches that none of that class of spirits are called evil spirits and devils (in the Bible); have ever had an earthly interest; whereas, Jesus, speaking of Judas Iscariot, said: "Hath not I chosen you twelve, and one of you hath sold?" John 6:70.

Another spiritual idea is that that God is the origin of the
the creation of Adam and Eve. Now I cannot
that Adam and Eve were created by God. It does not say that
he is the creator of our spirits. He is the creator of our
spirits, then, to make of us a not yet created the
spirit of life to pass. It is a true saying that he is the
Savior of Adam and Eve. We need to know that that created
man in a new image, in the image of God, created he
him as man and female created in them? It is not the crea-
tion of their spirits that is spoken of but the organization of
the body and its union with a pre-existing spirit, that is spoken
of. It is the earthly part of his organization which is called
man in Gen. 2:7, where it says the Lord that formed man
of the dust of the ground? The union of his pre-existent and
uncreated Spirit with his body, constituted him a living soul.

In further proof of the pre-existence of Spirits, I will refer to the record of the pre-existence of the spirit of John the Baptist. In John 1: 1, 3, which says: "There was a man sent from God whose name was John. The same came for a witness." If he was sent from God, he must have had a pre-existence in the presence of God in some other part of the universe, distant from the location of his earthly abode, which was the place of his nativity. He could not have been sent from God if his Spirit was made upon the earth in conjunction with his body. It would be folly to suppose that John and Jesus were distinguished from all mankind in regard to their pre-existence. If the Spirits of any had a pre-existence, the Spirits of all men, both good and bad men, had also.

12:7 - "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was, and the spirit shall return to God who gave it." Our Spirits can not return where they have never been; but just as our

[illegible]

TIFFANY ON SPIRIT INFLUENCES.

M. E. 3:

last evening Mr. T. May addressed the citizens of Princeton giving his experience in Spiritualism. After giving some very interesting statements in relation to his subject, and proving his influence over and over again, during which a remarkable display of power and manifestations of immortality, was shown, he then turned his subject over to the very experienced and famous seer, J. W. Smith, one of the best mediums, and especially true, respecting mediums. He said, as far as he was acquainted with public mediums, and he knew a great many, who advertised and took a fee, further over, that they without any exception, would lie and cheat. He also said that, as a general thing, and with few exceptions, public trance-speaking mediums were much debased, and were on the downward road, being influenced generally by low spirits. He also said that mediums had told him that when they were under the influence, it was hard work to keep from stealing; and he also said that the influence themselves was generally debasing and bad, and that these things were known and acknowledged by nine-tenths of the Spiritualists in our country.

Now, Mr. Editor, there are grave and serious charges, and if true we want to know it. I, for one, can not believe it; it is contrary to my experience. I have found spiritual communion to be very cleansing and purifying to my spiritual nature, leading me onward and upward in the beautiful path of peace and purity. I have also found it to be the case with all of the books dictated by Spirit which I have read; and I have read a great many volumes, most of which Mr. Bailey has reviewed in the various papers that were ever published.

In conclusion, I would call on the young men of our country to give us their cooperation. Have you this daydreamed and dreamed by commiseration with the Negroes? I think you.

SPIRITUAL LYCEUM AND CONFERENCE.

TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION.

Dr. ORSON made some preliminary remarks on the wisdom of the mind to accept the fact that Spirits communicate more perfectly than hitherto. He said that the Church had for some public sentiment covering them, and they begin to turn a different ear to the Spirit world. The Bishop of London had recently preached a discourse in which he fully admitted the facts of spiritual intercourse, and a prominent preacher in this city had uttered himself, in a recent sermon, very respectfully toward modern spiritualism.

The topic for the evening was the same as at the last session.

“WHAT IS EVIDENCE THAT SPIRITS COMMUNICATE?”

Dr. Orton said that he had before stated to the Conference remarkable facts which had occurred in his and Mr. Redman's (the medium's) office. A year or more since, Mr. Redman attended medical lectures in Philadelphia, and when he and other students were dissecting a body, and while Mr. R. was at work on one of the hands it grasped the knife, and the body otherwise moved. A Spirit—claiming to be the one which used and animated that body—subsequently communicated, and, among other things, said he wanted Mr. R. to have his bones. The students, as usual, drew lots for the skeleton and Mr. R. drew it. Drs. Orton and Redman opened an office in this city about a year since and Mr. R. brought a few of the bones of the skeleton to their office, and left the balance at the house of his father-in-law, in Hartford, packed in a box, and put away in the garret. The bones in the office were kept in a closet, and while Drs. O. and R. were sitting there on one occasion (Mr. R. with his back toward the closet), Dr. Orton saw one of these bones come out of the closet, and hit Mr. Redman on his back. On inquiry, the Spirit to whom the bone belonged said he did it as an experiment to see what he could do, and Dr. Orton then asked him if he could not bring the balance of his bones from Hartford. He said he would try; and since then, bones have been coming to them. Some were thrown in their windows; others have dropped before them from the ceiling, while others have fallen on the sidewalk as they were walking along the street. On one occasion, one was brought to them in an eating saloon, which they did not know until they passed out into the street, and were walking away, when suddenly Mr. Redman's hand was seized and shaken violently, as if to write. A pencil was handed him, and his hand wrote, saying that the Spirit had carried them one of his bones while they were eating, and placed it under his chair, and requested them to go back and get it, which they did, when they found it as the Spirit said.

But said Dr. Orton, one week ago to night, when I went home to our office from this Conference, as Mr. Redman was about retiring, we heard a noise in one corner of the room, like that of a stick rattling about the floor. The Spirit of the house, (Cornelius Winay, as he called himself,) said he had brought them another bone. On going to where the noise appeared, they found one of the long bones of the leg. The window opening into the yard, was at the time a little down at the top, and another bone came whizzing in and fell on the floor, which was a bone of the arm. On looking in the yard no person was found and no seeming probability, and hardly possibility, that any person had been there, or had thrown the bones into their room. But last evening, said he, Dr. Redman, my self and others were standing on the piazza, and in the course of half an hour, sixteen bones fell all around us. We gathered them up, and went into the office, the time having arrived for Dr. Redman to hold his usual circle. The Spirit said, "You had better not hold your circle this evening," and they did not. A statement of what had transpired was then written out, and all persons present subscribed to it. Other persons had then come in; and while they were examining the bones and conversing about what had transpired, bones began to fall again in the room all around them, and whizzing into the room from different directions. This shower of bones numbered thirty. To-day, said he, I went into the office about 10 o'clock in the forenoon, when Dr. Redman was engaged with a circle. About half past 11 o'clock, bones began to whiz across the piazza into the office, some twenty-five or thirty feet to the far side of the room. We picked them up and placed them on our table. About half past 12 o'clock, the whole company were standing around the table, examining the bones, when a bag of sixty one small bones fell on the table before us, in the back part of the room, apparently from the ceiling. This bag and bones were the same Mr. Redman had left in the garret of his father in law in Hartford. Subsequently, Dr. Orton went out and returned to the office about 3 o'clock; and as he had passed into the hall some twenty-five feet, and was about opening the office door, a large thigh bone fell, or seemed to be laid, in his arms, which he carried into the office and laid on the table with the others. He then said he heard a crash in or near the closet in the corner of the office; and on examination we found that a large bone had fallen on a violin case which was there. All the human bones received this week, number 109, and all evidently belonging to one human skeleton. The Spirit (Winay) says the bones are his, and that he, with one hundred and two other Spirits, (twenty-three of whom chiefly) have assisted in bringing the bones from the garret of the house in Hartford.

Dr. Orton was searchingly cross-examined by the audience, and his answers may be summed up substantially as follows: He said that during these showers of bombs, they had used every possible means of discovering the origin of them, and the force which brought or threw them. ~~Next~~ ^{Then}, Mr. Redman, the office boy and others, had all stood together in the back end of the office, and they had seen these bombs come in through the window as well as the open in, while others came in slowly, as if being brought by some invisible being; and on searching outside, they have never found any person, neither any appearance of a person.

falling from above or thrown to the table. They had also been thrown dropping apparently from the ceiling over the boards, and the table was found to contain a moderate quantity of dust or leaves which they were not there as if scattered on the ceiling or ceiling as has been there and falling right on every four inches and other directions from the ceiling, and dropping perpendicular and angularly on the floor. The bag of sixty one leaves dropped from over the heads on the table, which bag could not possibly have been there any length of time, to cause they had all been watching the leaves coming in, and examining every part of the room, and particularly the ceiling, which consisted of plaster of Paris. The table on which the bag of leaves dropped, stood in the rear of the room, some three feet from the window, or any other opening through which they could have been brought in. The office is some eight feet above the yard, with a piazza of about eight feet in width, over which the leaves must have passed, and through the windows including the piazza and the window of our office from the yard, the distance from yard being some thirty feet, the course of the leaves preclude the possibility of their having been thrown. Finally said Dr. Orum, I believe it is impossible that these phenomena could have been produced by mortals, and from the most complete examination and criticism of the facts and claims of the subject, I fully believe it to be a spiritual manifestation.

Dr. ORAY related some facts which occurred in his house, which were in some respects analogous. He said mediums had been raised up eight feet or more from the floor nearly to the ceiling, and passed through his parlors; also that wooden blocks which his children played with, had been sent furiously about the room, striking and injuring people, by some invisible power, but never hit any one. His furniture had been moved by invisible agents, and his large, heavy dining table had been lifted up and otherwise moved, sometimes with persons on it, and various other experiments had been successful in proving the presence of an intelligent force always claiming to be a Spirit, and which claim the facts forced him to concede.

Dr. Gray wished the report of his remarks in last week's paper corrected. He did not say as reported, that Zerkowke, the German writer, had the power of delineating the incidents in the life of strangers, while in his normal state; but, on the contrary, he believed that he was in an abnormal, that is, in a degree of the trans-

A lady present was influenced to speak a Poem which seemed to be a criticism of the popular superstitions, to spiritual intercourse, and good, earnest endeavor. This Poem we could not report.

THE CHILD BITTEN BY A CAT.

A few weeks since, says the *Spiritual Age*, we published a statement in relation to a case of hydrophobia, and of the bite of a cat, which occurred in Peoria, Ill., and of the relief of the child by medicines prescribed to her by the Spirit of her sister. Some additional particulars are contained in the following letter, written by the father of the child to Mr. William Bassett, of Berlin, Mass. :

Mr. Bussell - I am sorry that I do not have time to answer before.

"I would not now write merely to gratify idle curiosity; but I consider the circum-
stances connected with the death of my child of such a marvellous nature that I do not hesitate to give to the world its truth. In the first place, then, the child had three of the most horrid fits that were ever witnessed, and as she came out of the third one she exclaimed, "O! another sister has come, and will tell me what to take so that I shall have no more fits—let me get off the bed and fix the medicine." She then called for nitric acid, blood root, sweet oil, winter-green, rose water, camphor and slippery elm. She mixed the medicine herself, in accordance with her sister's directions, and took it, and, strange to say, she had no more fits. She commenced taking the medicine about 7 o'clock in the evening, and died about three in the morning. She continued to say that her sister was with her up to the moment she died.

"One circumstance which is connected, is more strange than all the rest: Soon after taking the first dose of medicine, she said, 'Pa, you must pull one of my teeth, for sister says the tooth is poison.' I asked her to wait until morning, but the little innocent looked up with tears in her eyes and said:—'Oh! Pa, sister says you are afraid I will bite you—but I won't bite nor scratch you, but if you will not pull it out sister says she will put something on it to eat it out.' She was then standing upon the floor, with some five or six of the neighbors in the room; she placed her hand by her side, and stood in silence for two or three minutes, and one of her teeth dropped upon the floor. She exclaimed, 'I told you sister would eat it out.' She, not more than five minutes before she died, sat in my lap, put her arms around my neck and kissed me: wanted to lie on the bed with her mother; turned to her and laughed, and died without a struggle or a groan, were I to write the history of the child's life, it would fill a volume, but I have given you a brief outline of her last hours.

Yours,
HENRY S. WOODWARD.

More persons are drowned in the wine-cup than in the ocean. What a sad commentary on Christianity, and this boasted enlightened nineteenth century!

We paint our lives in fresco. The soft shell plaster of the mountain hardens under very stroke of the brush into eternal rock.

HCYTB FORMS

[Faint, illegible text at the bottom of the page]

It can be readily seen that a portion of these large stones, the upper part of which is the middle of May, has been in place since the building was being erected. By its position, Mr. H. is the author of the book was a serious sufferer. He had just had a lot of ground and was in process of working upon it a few blocks from the Foreign, and which was very conspicuous when it was removed by the power of the raging winds. It was completely removed from its foundation and totally destroyed. Mr. H. is a person of great intelligence, and the purpose of doing this is to show to the people of the city in respect to the fact that the building was not a structure to be built and destroyed. Mr. H. is a person of great intelligence and character in his nature, and when at an early age, and we hope that the city of New York will be extremely patient on the ground of his own health, that he is suffering, except to repair, in some good sense, the severe punishment. Mr. H. is a person of great intelligence, of a serious, earnest character, often highly spiritual in his nature. For instance, the poem entitled, "The Angel" will be read with pleasure by all who appreciate what is pure, strong and lovely. We give the following quotation, which will be found to awaken a chord of sympathy in the hearts of many readers, both old and young:

O S B.

A TALE OF LOST AND FOUND

Is the days when I was young,
Just a ripple on life's sea,
For the course of mankind long,
That dark numbers never see:
What my eyes was so light
As my own heart numbers say
And my hopes were all so bright
As the numbers shining there.
Oh, how long it took I know -
For I knew, and so would you
Had you seen our valley here,
That sweet sweetest of them.

She was kind, but she was odd,
And when I came out
To find her in the room
The window was all wide open;
And the look of her face
Would tell me all I
Like the first time I saw her.
When she was in the day,
Ah, how she loved me;
And, for once myself and mine,
She would sometimes make it clear
That she was not alone, but I

Oh, how often have I said—
All alone beside the brook,
And have not seen my first
With a sudden look:
And I might have plunged me in,
Had not some thing whispered—say
And preserved me from that sin:
To be happy there to day.
Ah! the morning is a thing
I were wiser not to do,
As I've often heard her sing:
That sweet nightingale, my Sue

And how often have I strayed
With the birds along the bay,
With many a pretty maid,
Yet ah, none of these for aye
For I love, oh - I love the sea
Is the groups could ~~make~~ ^{make} ~~me~~ ^{me} ~~me~~
No contentment is my lot,
No delight upon the grass,
But there was a garden such
With its tower just in view,
And still caught my heart and eye,
That even ~~now~~ ^{now} there, my ~~own~~ ^{own} ~~own~~

One evening, beside,
When the flocks of day were o'er,
She was sitting at the table
Near the little cottage door:
Then I pressed my out again
Like a pilgrim at a shrine,
Which was not all in vain.
She consented to be mine:
In a moment, with a sigh,
For the priest was I then,
And that gentle, joyous girl,
Was my sweet heart's own, my love.

And I love her all the more,
Now that she has come to be
Like the very young ones
This old gray-grown turret, me
Neither have I lost sight
As I mark the flying years,
For each year is closer yet
As the faster fall the years,
And she looks with me
With a clear and true
For an endless life of
My sweet bride into

PHILANTHROPIC CONVENTION,
HELD IN UTICA ON THE 10TH, 11TH, AND 12TH, SEPT. 1858, TO CONSIDER
"THE CAUSE AND CURE OF EVIL."
AUTHENTIC REPORT
PREPARED BY THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE.
LAST DAY.—FORENOON SESSION.
[CONTINUED.]

Mr. G. B. STEBBINS, of Rochester, N. Y., said: He deemed it a great use of this Convention to send forth ideas which should aid in the work of man's growth. Ideas rule the world in the end. Looking at this life alone, we gain but an imperfect conception of human existence. An immortal life hereafter, a state of higher conditions, broader wisdom, and richer enjoyment, gives still greater preponderance to good. We must comprehend principles and ideas, as well as have knowledge of facts. Here is the great principle or law of progress; an instinct in nature and the soul of man; a Gospel preached in the slow yet sure development to higher beauty and richer use, of rock, and vegetable, and animal; in the great facts of human history; in the opening of man's soul to higher views of life and immortality—to-day in the Atlantic telegraph flashing the mandates of mind across the ocean, more eloquent and prophetic than the dull drone of a thousand pulpits. Progress is but growth toward harmony, health and wisdom. Good must ever be overcoming evil, to make it possible; and hence we gain a rational faith in the positive and superior power of good, its final triumph over every successive phase of error. How cheering such a faith to the reformer. He can well

"Learn to labor and to wait,"

conscious that the mightiest powers in the universe work with him, and must conquer at last. As we study the constantly-repeated lessons of nature and human history, we see error, suffering, discord, evil, imperfect development, slowly yet surely yielding, and passing away; and right, health, harmony, good, higher development, gaining ground. Thus we see that evil has no permanence. But all great principles and ideas are permanent, innate and instinct in nature and the soul of man, gaining in glory, taking stronger hold on life, more perfect in influence as time goes on.

For instance; in mechanism, the fact that, as the arm of the lever to which power is applied is long in proportion to the arm between the fulcrum and the weight to be moved, or the resistance to be overcome, the results of that power increase in a regular ratio, is a principle lasting and permanent. As it is known and skillfully applied, we recognize the power and beauty of mechanism.

The idea of man's inalienable right to freedom has ever been innate in the soul, and has given power and earnestness to every protest or struggle against tyranny, making tyrants feel on many a battle-field

"The might that slumbers in a peasant's arm."

As it is more fully appreciated, we rejoice in the triumph of free principles, the upbuilding of free institutions, and the overthrow of oppression.

But where, within us or about us, can we find any principle of evil, or idea of wrong? As for the personality of evil, although the shade of such belief still lingers, the man who should fling his inkstand at the Devil, as did stout Martin Luther, would get laughed at for his pains, and told, perhaps, he had eaten too many cucumbers for supper. Knowledge and obedience of great principles and noble ideas—or, in other words, of the eternal laws by which the universe is governed—is wisdom, helping man to harmony within himself, with his fellow-man, with nature, and with God, the soul of nature—thus producing good.

Thus we find that evil is but imperfect development, ignorance, perversion, disobedience. To feel, to appreciate, to gladly obey those innate ideas, universal, everlasting, pointing on and up, to know and act with those great principles, also universal and eternal, which put man in harmony with Nature, and make him master of some of her great forces, is to "Overcome Evil with Good," and thus help humanity on its glad pathway.

Start from the inmost recesses of your own spiritual nature, and carry out this thought, and its bearings and relations are infinite. It is earnestly practical. It teaches spiritual harmony and health, revealed in purity, beauty and symmetry of body. It reveals the laws of parentage, by which coming generations shall have within themselves inherent harmony and power. It says to woman, "Right is of no sex." Use freely for all noble purposes your high gifts. Transcend the narrow bounds of custom. Use the

"Mild arms of Truth and love,
Made mighty by the living God."

to destroy the tyranny of evil and unequal laws. Enter the broad field of thought and action with thy brother man, each as mutual helpmeets, doing the work to which each soul prompts, and each heart and hand is fit. It sheds light into the prison-house, inscribing on its walls, "Teach, develop, harmonize, but never punish vindictively; seek to reform the erring by wise guidance." It writes, in letters of gold, over every judicial

tribunal, "Vengeance is crime." It reforms education. It humanizes commerce. It banishes the gloomy fictions of theology, and the devil departs, annihilated by a spell more potent than the priestly exorcism of "bell, book and candle," in by-gone days. It reaches beyond life to immortality, and sees the joy and glory of spiritual life as results of love, wisdom and higher development, such as we but faintly imagine here.

As the best gifts are liable to abuse, so men sometimes enter into abstract and barren speculation touching the "power of circumstances," until one comes almost to think of human beings as cogs in a wheel, moving blindly on, and gains no inspiration to a higher life of earnest practical effort.

This may be a fair matter of intellectual exercise; but Shakespeare truly says, "Instinct is a great matter," and in this life of ours not only intellect, but instinct and intuition are to be satisfied, so far as may be; and a certain quality of moral indignation against wrong is a wholesome stimulus to action when wisely guided. Men will realize the old statement of Pope, "Whatever is, is right," and declare that "bad men do the best they can under existing circumstances, and it is of no use to be fighting error and institutions that oppress mankind; they will disappear as you create better circumstances, and show a better way."

To say that "whatever is, is the best possible under existing circumstances of external condition, organization and internal light," is to speak the truth; and seeing all events as part of the general plan, tending toward higher conditions and a nobler fortune, we may hold that Infinite Wisdom "doeth all things well." But in practical life our instincts of freedom of choice in action, and our moral consciousness, will ever be the guides.

Absolute right, is that thought or action, in full harmony with the laws of the Universe; for each person, his right, thought or act is in harmony with his highest ideas of justice, love and wisdom. Do men always act thus? Every one's moral consciousness answers no. Better circumstances for men, are well and most desirable; but it often happens that we are compelled to expose, with searching power, the evils that exist, in order to show the need of their abolition. We have Slavery, with its awful tyranny and suppliant victims, its corruptions through Church and State, its pliant tools all over the land. Every instinct of humanity, as well as every dictate of wisdom, protests against cold inertness. Neither will abstract reasoning about "creating better circumstances," meet the case. It calls for the earnest expression of every right motive and native sympathy, of every sense of justice and power of intellect, in words and actions fraught with the weight of sincere and intense purpose. True, men must be taught better views, and influenced by better circumstances, but this can often best be done by making these foul misdeeds beacon-fires which shall not only warn of evil, but light the pathway to good.

But amidst most searching plainness of speech, and keen exposure of individual crime, let there be a pointing toward the beauty and safety of freedom—a spirit that would call to mind the adage, "Faithful are the wounds of a friend." Thus our words shall send no thrill of dread to the innocent soul, and shall make the guilty tremble only that his inward darkness may be disturbed, and light dawn in its place.

As in this, so in every reform; varying in method, as events may dictate, sinking into no sickly sentimentalism or empty abstractions that will weaken our efforts, losing nothing in strength of purpose, or power and directness of rebuke; but gaining in a spirit of charity, that shall smite but to heal. This is waiting and working for better circumstances; this is practical wisdom inspired by rational faith in man's capacity to overcome evil with good.

The important question is, "What can we reasonably expect from the spread of these views of the 'cause and cure of evil,' and of some kindred opinions among mankind? We should bear in mind that

"The nearer to the practical men keep,
The mightier their power; God writes his thoughts
In facts, in solid orbe, in living souls;
His revelation is the concrete world."

We want true theories which shall respond to the needs of humanity, and yield good deeds as their natural fruits. Surely we need a better life on this earth, full of beauty as it is. Well and truly did Gerald Massey—England's young and noble poet,—coming up from the din of the factory and the grime of the coal mine, with soul all aglow with genius, and heart throbbing for the poor, say, "God's world is worthy of better men."

The Church has sown some seed-grains of truth, and then stunted and stopped their growth by its cringing bigotry. It has given us fruit bitter as that of the fabled Uppas tree—War and Slavery—twin monsters baptized by its priests, and cherished by its powerful supporters. It fails to be the power "wise unto salvation" in the world.

We need a rational and world-wide charity which shall banish all vindictiveness toward the weak and wicked, and see in their faults the result of low development and want of culture; leading us to make such effort in their behalf as love and wisdom may dictate.

We want wisdom, perception of principles, and ideas of the fitness and relation of things; of the influences to be brought to bear to elevate man by obedience to the laws of his being, as they link him to earth and heaven, to the finite and the infinite, to his brother man, to nature and to God. We need that wis-

dom joined to the love, of which the life of Jesus gave such beautiful example, to redeem the world and "work out our own salvation" from error and crime.

The world needs better brains in better bodies. Freely and gladly must we seek for harmony and purity of soul and body by walking in the royal road of knowledge and obedience to the laws of our being; thus helping now, and still more in coming time, to alleviate pain and suffering, to increase moral and physical health and power.

Rational faith in the power of good to overcome evil, will inspire men with that moral courage we so much need. *Be yourself, bravely and serenely*, is the lesson for each man and woman. We must have freedom of speech, thoroughness of candid investigation, on all topics. Tyrants and cowards only fear it. Some truth is in every soul, and thus shall we widen and quicken our perception thereof.

We need better and higher religious ideas. Accepting as truth only what finds a response in our own souls, the assumptions of theology and the sway of authority will end. With reason, conscience and intuition free; with an insight of the great law of progress, as revealed in man's growth to wider knowledge; with the idea that evil is but perversion and imperfection, the dogma of total depravity, so full of gloom a despair; the doctrine of a vicarious atonement, so wickedly making the innocent suffer for the guilty, and setting aside those moral laws the violation of which must bring its penalty; the obedience to which must insure to each a sure reward; the mystery of the Trinity, that remnant of Hindoo mythology, and kindred doctrines, must pass away. In their place we shall have freedom of the soul's aspirations toward higher spiritual light, illustrated by lives of active and wise benevolence.

We need a view of life, so linked to immortality, that the instinctive call of the soul for "Light, more light!" shall still be heard in a higher sphere, where there shall be room for earnest work and helpful deeds, where growth of spiritual power and beauty shall go on more or less readily and joyfully as the work on earth may have been more or less truly done; but where, as here, good shall overcome evil, and the degraded, aided by higher influences and conditions, shall rise above their degradation, instead of being "plunged into a gulf of dark despair" forever, as unjust and cruel punishment for the misdeeds of a brief life of weakness and ignorance.

Facts responding to our interior instincts are giving this view; and a belief, too, that so intimate is the connection between life on earth and beyond it, that Spirits in higher spheres may commune with and aid those yet clad in flesh, and that the spiritual eye of man may, at times, be opened, and rich glimpses of the life to come gladden and strengthen the soul.

With a rational faith in the great law of progress, we open the way for a broad and just view of reform, as the constant process of progressive change by which evil is to pass away, and good take its place; applied to all institutions of Church and State, all laws and customs of social and domestic life, *here and now*: banishing the timid fear and moral cowardice of blind conservatism; making us feel that

"The outworn rite, the old abuse,
The pious fraud, transparent grown,
The good held captive to the use
Of wrong alone—
These wait their doom from that great law
Which makes the past time serve to day;
And fresher life the world shall draw
From their decay."

In the moral warfare ever waging against the old and powerful institutions behind which oppression, slavery and bigotry entrench themselves, we shall thus gain in power. We should ever seek to destroy the useless and evil in the old, that the new may rise in beauty on its ruins.

"For wisely taught the Hindoo seer—
Destroying Siva, forming Brahm,
Who wake by turns earth's love and fear,
Are one, the same."

We shall see the unity of truth, the oneness and concord of all real reform—each clear perception of truth in one direction making the sight clearer in all others—each vital growth in any branch of reform flinging back healthful sap through the whole tree, which might well be pictured like the tree *Yggdrasil* of Scandinavian mythology, with its roots all through the earth, its branches filling the sky, and reaching even to the abodes of the gods. Thus must we be saved from that sectarian narrowness and devotion to *isms* which so belittles theology.

The advocate of the equal rights of woman need not protest against a fair hearing of the great question of marriage and parentage. The truth in each shall help the other; and how learn it, except by free and candid speech?

The friend of human liberty need not say: "Away with this spiritual delusion; I'm freeing the slave, and have no time to look at fine theories." Let it have a fair trial, rather, and what he finds true in it shall help his good work for humanity.

The Spiritualist, rejoicing in the blessed ministry of angels, cheered, as he believes, by messages from the Spirit-world, need not cry out: "I don't want this glad faith weighed down by extraneous topics; it must be kept pure, and not mixed up with Abolitionism." Better far give earnest heed to the glad Gospel of impartial freedom, and its truth shall make his spiritual

insight clearer, helping him to see that light from the free home of spiritual beings should shine into the dark places of the earth, and that it is his work to follow it, and smite down the barriers of oppression, which hide the brightness of its glory from the slave. So of all other movements in education, morals or social life. The moment we seek to build up any theory, however excellent, by ruling out of sight and hearing all other theories or practical works, or to carry on any one reform, however good, by ignoring all others, we defy Nature, grow weak in soul, poor in moral courage, and follow uselessly in the wake of all miserable bigots.

Suppose the inventor of the power-loom had said to the builder of the first locomotive, when both were struggling against the stupidity of dull conceit and the power of vested interest: "Don't sully my invention by talk of your dingy steam-horse; I don't want it mixed up with such things; it will save mankind, if left alone to do its blessed work."

How absurd! but far more so to man, by kindred narrowness in reform, the effort of others, since the practical development of true ideas is of more moment than the din and whirl of mechanism. From force of our natures, and of circumstances, some will be specially engaged in one branch of reform, some in another; of course, the examination of various subjects, the prosecution of different works, must be at such times and occasions as order and the fitness of things may dictate. *But let us ever feel the fraternity of all true reforms, and keep a healthful interest in all.* This must be a great help in the growth of the race.

We see the discoveries of science blessing the world in practical benefits, and enlarging the scope of men's thoughts. Geology and Chemistry are improving the modes of agriculture. Charts of ocean currents and prevalent winds, in the past few years have done much to shorten sea voyages, and lessen "the perils of the deep."

This is the result of freedom of mind, seeking to know, to obey, and to gain the sure reward of obedience.

Lieut. Maury nobly says, in the introduction to his most useful and eloquent work on "The Geography of the Sea," "As may be supposed, facts are sometimes misinterpreted or misunderstood when first developed. Whenever subsequent research shows such to have been the case, I have not hesitated to tear down whatever of conjecture or theory may have been built on unstable foundations, and to reconstruct according to best light. Truth alone is my object."

This is the broad and fearless eclecticism of science. Carry it into the domain of man's religious and spiritual life, and what an overthrow of Superstition! what a rattling among the dry bones of theology! what blessed triumphs of truth! Carry it into reforms, and we "overcome evil with good," our efforts blooming out in higher freedom and happiness for humanity.

Truly does Longfellow say,

"Were half the wealth that fills the world with terror,
The treasures lavished upon camps and courts,
Given to redeem the human mind from error,
There were no need of arsenals or forts."

So of prisons and "criminal laws"—often criminal enough, putting one in mind of dame Partington's description of a court-house, as "the place where justice is dispensed with." The cost of courts and prisons, expended in education in accordance with an enlightened idea of the "cause and cure of evil," would banish both from the world.

Seek to raise men above the blind perversion of depraved appetite, by showing the joy of health and purity; and as we succeed, the hungry are fed, the naked clothed, and a wise self-reliance would banish want in coming time.

What millions are yearly spent, even in our country, to sustain the warring jargon of conflicting sects, and ring doleful changes from thousands of pulpits on old dogmas, that earnest men and women have long out-grown, and which should be buried beside the mouldering bones of their authors! Let but a part of this be expended in fostering and guiding freedom of thought and speech, and what good might be done!

We especially need to encourage and increase schools of various grades, in which education shall be conducted on the rational principle of healthful and harmonious development of every faculty of mind and body, and the young of both sexes, shall stand side by side as companions and mutual helpmeets.

We need look for no miracle by which wrong shall cease, and the world at once become a Paradise. Such is not the order of things. As a German has said, "The mill of God grinds slow, but it grinds exceeding small." We are to remove the rubbish of conservatism which blocks the wheels that their motion may be more perfect and speedy.

Surely the advance of reforms, the realizing in home and school, and social life, and religion, of wiser plans, based on truer ideas of the "cause and cure of evil," are but reasonable conclusions men are even now beginning to draw from excellent premises. Helping them on by earnest word and work, is far better than to be the tools of tyranny, the servants of bigotry, the hirelings of perverted appetite, the abettors of war and slavery, which men and women may be and are, and yet stand as pillars in the Church, bulwarks of the State, and honored ornaments of our so-called "best society."

But this field of thought and illustration is endless. I rejoice that these opinions are gaining ground. I trust they may go on, changing, reforming, developing and ennobling; and especi-

ally that men and women may through them, learn more of the joy and excellence of TRUE MARRIAGE—may see that,

"The harmonic man
From infancy unfolds a balanced brain,
In a well ordered form, which no excess
Has injured ere its birth."

He is the saint
Of nature, and the earth's angelic child,
And, as the seasons grow, from each he draws
Its ripened ripeness; with a subtle sense
Of harmony and discord, he rejects
All opposites of harmony, and draws
His pure celestial happiness alone,
Through loving and bestowing."

And thus their children may owe their being to wisdom and love, not to ignorance and passion, and be so richly endowed with harmony of spirit, with purity and health of body, with golden temperaments—fit mediums to manifest the soul's high attributes—as to be better fitted than we are to "Overcome Evil with Good."

After commending the author as a man worthy of high fame, although little known, he closed by quoting a poem by M. H. Cobb, of Wellsboro, Tioga Co., Pa., commencing,

"If men cared less for wealth and fame,
And less for battle fields and glory."

Mr. J. M. STERLING, of Cleveland, offered the following:

Resolved, That the great study of man should be to know himself, and to develop all his outer and inner faculties, and that when he has done this he has a key which shall unlock all mysteries; that to wisely attempt to reform others, he must first reform himself, become in body and spirit in harmony with the Divine; and then, and not till then can he see and feel that *whatever is, is right*.

Mr. LOWELL rose and said he felt impressed that if he said anything from the Spirit world he must say it now. [Laughter.]

The PRESIDENT: Let the Spirit world keep in order as well as this! [Cheers.]

Mr. RANDOLPH moved the printing of Dr. Hallock's speech.

Mr. FOSTER moved to lay on the table. Lost.

After more discussion, the Convention adjourned to 2 P. M.

LAST DAY, AFTERNOON SESSION.

Miss HIGGINS favored the Convention with a song, when,

A. J. DAVIS acknowledged the receipt of a variety of letters and communications, (to be published or further noticed hereafter.)

On motion of Mr. Stebbens, the following was adopted.

Resolved, That this Convention become an annual anniversary of all who seek wisdom to "overcome evil with good," and that the time, place and arrangements for the next meeting be left to a Committee consisting of Ira S. Hitchcock of Oneida, Dr. R. T. Hallock, and Andrew J. Davis of New York, and Amos Rodgers of Utica.

Mr. NEWTON, of Boston, delivered the opening address, prefacing it with the following resolution:

Resolved, That practically considered, the cause of evil in human actions is an excess of blind animalism, and hence its practical cure is to be found in an increase of enlightened spirituality.

[We have not yet received a copy of Mr. Newton's speech, but hope to be able to give it in our next issue.—Ed. TEL.]

Mr. JOHN LONDON, of Rutland, Vt., offered the following:

Resolved, That as all taxes for the support of government, are a burden, the imposition and collection of all unnecessary taxes is a direct nuisance and insult.

Resolved, That, whereas, the expenses of war, and its appendages, has reached the enormous sum of \$40,000,000, for the past year, we recommend to the next Congress, their immediate attention to devising a more economical mode of killing men and destroying property.

Resolved, That to bring this subject more directly before the attention of the American people, all moneys collected for war and its appliances should be done by military officers in full uniform accompanied in every instance by a file of soldiers, moving under martial music; and that for every tax collected a receipt should be given, stating the amount per head actually required for killing men under the present expensive system.

Resolved, That the earnest attention of the next Congress be called to this subject, and some new plans be immediately placed before the American people for serious consideration.

Miss RICHMOND, of Columbia county, presented the claims of the Report of the Rutland Convention, upon the audience.

The HARMONISTS next gave one of their most affecting songs.

Mr. RANDOLPH, said that his high Virginian blood would not allow him to remain longer quiet. He must set some of these gray-headed philosophers right. Single handed and alone, and black at that, he would tell these reformers they were wrong. The unwise action of the abolitionists had done more to degrade the slave than all the slave owners in existence. The printing press was his earthly god, and he denounced those who denounced the press. Some men on this platform, have blasphemed the God of the universe, in declaring that man and woman can create human souls; but I deny it, even if Andrew Jackson Davis does approve it. A woman (Mrs. Britt) said her last night that God, in creating man had made a mistake; that some souls would not be immortal. This the speaker denounced as a libel upon God and upon humanity. He would handle the free love question without gloves. Mrs. Branch's resolution that all children be declared legitimate, must not go out into the world uncontradicted, to encourage prostitution and profligacy. If the prejudices which now exist against illegitimacy were removed, a thousand evils would spring upon society. The evils we labor under are not to be swept away by patent specifics, conventions or Spiritualism, but by explaining to men their duties to themselves. Those who are trying to abolish slavery by means mentioned on the platform, will only rivet the slave's chains. People denounce the union between the North and South, forgetting

that this union is the impregnable fortress against despotism, the only home of pure and liberal sentiments. Science alone, can not reform the world; the harmonical and all other philosophies can not do it. Religion, and nothing else, can reform the world. Yet men and women come up here, and ignore the existence of God. You may talk against Bible, religion and God, as much as you please, but it is the only power that can move the world. Pure, unadulterated religion is the only cure for evil.

Mrs. HAZEN expressed the pleasure she had felt at witnessing the agitation of great questions here, and alluded in fitting terms to the interest felt by those in a higher state of being. She appealed to the audience to open their souls to the reception of influences from above.

Mrs. Dr. HALL offered a resolution, but failed to give a copy to the secretaries or reporters.

A portion of the audience at this time were inclined to interrupt the proceedings by noisy demonstrations.

Mr. LOWELL obtained the floor, but gave way to a person in the gallery, to offer a resolution.

The person declined to give his name, but subsequently gave the reporters the name of George H. Heath, of Brooklyn, though his real name was understood to be HUGENBORN, of New York. The resolutions were long applauded by a portion of the audience.

Whereas, we judge of that which is good by that which is evil, and good and evil are relative terms, the one growing out of and depending for its existence, on the other, and the virtues of to day may be misdeeds in a more perfect organization; therefore

Resolved, That it is simply absurd to talk of curing evils throughout the world; but as intelligent beings, we are, on a principle of self protection, bound to struggle against evil.

And whereas, intemperance in anything is one of the greatest infringements of the moral law, as leading to unnatural excitement and morbid sentiment; therefore

Resolved, That rum, anti-saltolism, intemperate temperance men, and mouthed abolitionists, disunionists, women's rights men and Philanthropic Conventions, deserve our unqualified condemnation.

Resolved, That mind dwelling on pet bobbies makes a rack of the brain, where harmony previously existed, and this is the source of all the eccentricities we have encountered in this Hall.

Resolved, That while there is seams and beauty in the bloomer costume, especially when it clothes the mover of the resolution offered in this behalf, (Mrs. Dr. Walker) still we can not think that through it mankind are to be regenerated, or reclaimed, by the fair votary.

Resolved, That Mr. Tooley's trouble with his wife is his own affair, and he exhibited great folly in asking the Convention to indorse his treatment of her; and we think it would be unwise to change the law of divorce so as to enable him to free himself. The world would be full of Tooleys wanting to leave their wives.

Resolved, That the Union ought not to be dissolved, Peter Pepperscorn or Parker Pillsbury to the contrary notwithstanding.

Resolved, That women ought not to be jurors or generals; their artistic procreative work would seriously interfere with the performance of these duties.

Resolved, That there is nothing new under the sun, and the bobbies of this Convention have engrossed the eccentricities of all ages; Swedenborg, Volney, Voltaire, Tom Hobbs, Tom Paine, Hume, Goodwin, Betsy Gamp and Beckey Sharp, have discussed all these things to the final disgust of a once admiring audience.

Resolved, All that produces most happiness is best, and the true Christian enjoys more true and substantial happiness than any other faith can administer. While the man who attempts to fathom, or finally adopts the isms and vagaries of human philosophers, finds himself in a whirlpool of doubt, depression and misery.

Resolved, That ignorance is the cause of the greatest evils, and the only cause of evil that can be overcome, and that on adjourning, this Convention ought to go home and go to bed, and after a refreshing sleep, enter into the work of educating the masses.

Mrs. BRITT next took the floor, and pointed out the source of the opposition manifested by a part of the audience to the sentiments of the Convention. Very radical ideas had been advanced, and the opposers were dishonest in their hesitations and applause as was the Hindoo in defence of his faith (his). He who has the truth need not fear. All who can not appreciate the views of others, must of course reject them. How speedy the change in the feelings of the audience were the roof to fall in! Who then would be most calm and tranquil?

Mrs. B. then proceeded to give some of her personal experience, of an interesting character, to which the audience listened with a good degree of attention. She closed with an appeal to those present to allow of any sentiments being expressed, whatever might be their opinion of them. [The disquietude of the assembly which was very great when Mrs. B. began, was gradually lessened by her persuasion, and soothing power, till at the hour of adjournment quiet was restored.] TO BE CONTINUED.

WHAT A PIN CAN DO.—Sometime ago an argument was started against the great *Zetia* now being finished at the London docks, that it would be useless as a carrier of freight, on account of the enormous tonnage she would require, which could not be gathered in any port in time to render her voyage regular or frequent. This set an English mathematician to work to show what a pin could do in the way of freight. He made known the result of his calculation, which proved that by dropping one pin into the *Zetia* to-day, two to-morrow, four next day, and so on for one year the aggregate would sink that monster to the bottom of the ocean. M. A. Brewster, of Lancaster, Penn., taking the statement, took pains to work it out, and the following is the result of his labor:

Allowing 200 pins to the ounce, one pin the first, 2 the second, 4 the third, and so on doubling for 365 days, or one year, would give 876,970, 367, 370,000 pins, which at 200 pins per ounce, would amount to 4,384,852, 838, 852 ounces, or 271,853, 302 2/3 pounds and 4 ounces; and allowing 2000 lbs. to the ton, would be 137,626, 651 tons, 303 lbs. and 4 ounces. Only think of the enormous weight from the pin! Enough to sink not only the great *Zetia*, but the whole British Navy. It is a neat little question for boys to look at, and calculate how much they would be worth, suppose they can save in forty years, by laying up one penny the first week, two the second, four the third, and so on. It is calculated to instruct them how great fortunes are made.—*Eastern Express*.



"Every man be fully persuaded in his own mind."

CHARLES PARTRIDGE,
Editor and Proprietor.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1858.

THE MARRIAGE QUESTION.

The law, or absence of law, governing the union of the sexes, or seems to be, destined to become the most exciting topic of our time, and one which we shall earnestly and fearlessly discuss. We hope to avoid shocking the most fastidious, but to instruct all, and especially the young, in this most sacred and important relation of human existence.

The enemies of Spiritualism seem to be intolerably misrepresented as to the means they use to render our glorious cause unpopular, and to check its influence and progress. The first scheme of the opposers is to represent it, or rather to misrepresent it, to be the degrading cause of the "Free Loveism," so called, of our day. This we deny, and challenge proof. Those who seek to attach all the odium of our time, and especially Free Loveism, to the skirts of Spiritualism, seem to be either comically condemned for their stupidity, or wofully ignorant of the subject. They have in no case, to our knowledge, made anything like a decent attempt to prove their accusations. They simply blab out as a parrot might do, "Free Love, Spiritualism, Spiritualism, Free Love," etc., and this is the sum total of their knowledge, especially on the subject of Spiritualism, its teachings and influence.

The indecency, irritability and recklessness manifested by the enemies of Spiritualism, are characteristic of states of mind induced by "Free Love" practices. But we have the charity to hope the cause is more hereditary than that, though we must not overlook the fact that delinquents always seek to justify themselves by charging the more moral and respectable with the sins they are guilty of. The desire being to popularize their proclivities. We have a large acquaintance with Spiritualism, and have been in frequent communion with Spirits during the last eight years, and we have yet to learn that modern Spiritualism is a basis or leads to promiscuous intercourse of the sexes.

The conduct of the friends of Spirits, so far as we have learned them, and as able to express them, are that marriage is the most important and sacred relation of human existence; that throughout there is an eternal blending of the male and female element, each contributing to the other's glory, and finally their mingling is perfect unity. Each individual has special duties of its own, and violations of the marriage relation introduce personal antagonisms, and engender discord, despair, instability, inner beauty, immorality, carelessness, selfishness, unpopularity, and finally early death of the physical body, and these consequences do not end with the earth life, but flow on and become more fearful to the Spirit in retarding its progress and determining its character and degree of happiness in the world beyond, if not throughout eternity. There is no one in which enters so deeply into individual constitutions, and involves so fearful consequences in time and eternity, as promiscuous intercourse between the sexes. Personal happiness and progress here and in the world to come—the best interest, progress and perpetuity of humanity are jeopardized by it, and Spirits constantly rebuke mortals of the consequences of violations of natural and moral laws, and exhort them in all affection and earnestness, to be just, pure, holy and happy, and to strive with all diligence to recede the wanderer from the path of virtue back to moral rectitude.

This is, in brief, our faithful expression of the teachings of Spirits on the subject under consideration. So far as their teachings relate to the earth life, the condition of mind and body of those who violate nature's laws in these particulars, after their death; and as to their influence and influence as can be gleaned from our communion with Spirits, they are also verified.

There is no doubt that marriages are too often a mere farce of mutual deception; and marriage contracts growing out of these, are much to be deplored. The psychological element is

also entering largely into the contracts, and producing most unfortunate results. All contracts thus formed are, in rightness and in law, subjects of mutual coercion and arbitration. But those who form marriage contracts through these influences should exercise much forbearance, and seek harmony and reconciliation, rather than hastily resort to the dangerous expedient of breaking up relations thus contracted.

It may be said that unconsensual marriage contracts are made and broken in accordance with the advice of Spirits. This we deny, and challenge the production of any unequivocal spirit communication to that effect. It will, we believe, be found that communications of the kind, if there are any, are the product of what is called psychology, or the transfer of the proclivities of one person or one mind to and through a psychological subject. Moses, for example, thought he had communications from God to cut, slash and slay his neighbors; but who believes they came from the same source which engraved the Decalogue on stone? But even if they did, and if equally immoral precepts came from Spirits in our day, shall we allow the *opprobrium* of an immoral God or Spirit (if you please), to swerve us from the path of virtue and known right? If it can be shown that such things come from Spirits, or from God, so much the worse for them, and so much the less respect should we have for their assumed authority. But what is verbal authority in any case in comparison with demonstrable scientific facts? We say it bears no respectable comparison, and that there should not be, and in reality is not, any authority for man outside of himself. The moral basis of our people is the theological teachings of authority, set up by Moses or somebody else, and the creation of depraved men and women to bow to it, or be damned. No amount of law or authority outside of man can longer hold him, as our quarantine operations, the lying, cheating and stealing by our public officers, and the growing proclivities of the people, show. All moral delinquencies have a common origin, and to say that modern Spiritualism has engendered them, is simply and profoundly foolish.

The people are merging from a state of childish submission to outside authority, to manhood wherein humanity seeks to utter itself, not as a slave, but as a man outwardly expressing an interior reality. In this transition state, we must expect some errors will be committed, which will not be corrected by simple complaints, but by instruction. Modern Spiritualism is the natural unfolding of a progressive providence, and it is folly to treat it as an enemy. Spirits are here of their own accord, communicating what they will, and with whom they please; and the phenomena and teachings should be examined and criticized like any other subject brought before the human intellect. It should be rejected for just what it is worth, and no more, but it is the crown of foolishness to stand aloof from it, and hope to bark it down, or to subvert its influence by misrepresentation, or charging it with imitating immoralities which it repudiates. This treatment may for a time retard its progress, and circumscribe its influence but it will ultimately redound to the glory of a just and righteous cause, and to the shame and utter contempt of its wretched traducers.

"A Day's Shooting."

We were glad to meet the gentleman, Mr. Higginbottom, who offered the arena the resolutions from the gallery of the Utica Convention, published in the report in this week's paper. We found him gentlemanly as I remember. Himself and two others were making "a day's shooting" on John Brown's tract, and they stopped at Utica to make the first shot at the Convention. Mr. Higginbottom was sorry immediately after he had read the resolutions to the Convention, and when his name was called for, he gave the name of one of his companions; but he concealed himself by the religion in which he had been educated, which allowed men to indulge in sin and transfer the punishment to an innocent party. The kindness and toleration of the Convention toward him, was not taught in his religion, and he felt it to be the unkindest cut he could have received, and at the same time favorably disposed him toward the Convention. He assured us that after his "day shooting" was over, and on his return to New York, he should come to our Spiritual Conference, and otherwise investigate the subject. We parted with him in a hopeful condition. We are thankful the Convention had the magnanimity to reject these resolutions, which will stand as a perpetual record of the spirit of our adversaries and of the spirit in which their opposition is met.

"The 'Angel Movement.'"

We have received another communication from Mr. Lawrence Vanhook, of Williamburgh, in respect to the allegedly furnished room which he is prompted to arrange, for the purpose of facilitating communications from what purport to be angelic messengers. We have not room for his communication entire, and can only give the following summary of its substance. Mr. V. is still deeply impressed with the importance of the knowledge that is about to be offered to the world, and which he represents as of such a nature, so far removed from the merely external desires of the mind, that it can only be properly brought into externals by correspondences or hieroglyphic representations. The room and its furnishings, therefore, will be based on the same principle which gave rise to the Jewish Tabernacle, though in no wise resembling that in details. He thinks that the common views and teachings of Spiritualism are destined to be brought to some severe tests by this movement, and that its result, if successful, will be to establish the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. He still solicits aid from those who may feel disposed to contribute for the furtherance of his object, in which he has no pecuniary interest.

Polygamy and the Missionaries.

The *Christian Index*, published at Macon, Ga., and the organ of the Baptist Convention in that State, is occupying its columns with an animated discussion upon the question whether converted polygamists ought to be baptized and received into the Christian Church, without first being required to give up their supernumerary wives or husbands. One of the disputants, in entering the arena, says, "I stand ready to maintain that converted polygamists and their wives, in heathen and Mohammedan countries, where polygamy is permitted by the law of the land, ought to be baptized in obedience to the great commission." It is just to say that the negative side of this question is also maintained with much zeal. It comes out, in the course of this discussion, that "some of the eastern missionaries do baptize polygamists, and that all, or nearly all, missionaries baptize the wives of polygamists."

A Spiritualist at the Polls.

At Ypsilanti, Mich., it appears that the public sentiment in reference to Spiritualism has become so far mollified as to permit the mass of the inhabitants to justly regard, in some good degree, the personal merits and qualifications of one of their own spiritualistic citizens, who was recently a candidate for their suffrages. We are informed by a correspondent writing from that place, that Mr. E. Samson, a noted Spiritualist of that place, was recently elected to an office in the Board of Education, by a majority of votes over a Methodist man who ran against him.

Plymouth Church, New Building.

We see by the *Independent* of last week, that measures have just been instituted by Rev. Henry Ward Beecher's congregation, to erect a new church. Their present building, which will hold about three thousand persons, has for years been far too small, hundreds, and even thousands, having to go away on some occasions, unable to effect an entrance. The building proposed to be erected, is intended to be sufficiently capacious to seat six thousand persons.

MR. DAVIS'S MOVEMENTS.

Editorial Telegrams:

Manassas, N. Y., Sept. 20.

We are now holding a meeting in this beautiful rural region, with good audiences.

Mr. Davis goes to Boston to-morrow to see about a pamphlet on "The Cause and Cure of Evil," which will soon be published. Mr. Davis goes to Utica to speak next Sunday. Our future, after again meeting, will probably be to Oswego, Friday, Oct. 10, to Fulton, Phenix, Syracuse, Auburn, Seneca Falls, Pultneyville, Holley, Lockport and Buffalo, leaving for Ohio early in November. This is not certain, but most probable. Truly your friend, C. H. FORTY.

Where? This Intelligence!

THE NEW ENGLAND REVIEW, the most conservative of the American literary standards in the course of a protracted article on Spiritualism, put the above inquiry. The obvious implication is that, if the phenomena evince an intelligence not visible, and yet reliable for a perfectly candid and reliable exhibit of these phenomena, visit 6 Great Jones street, New York City, near the corner of Pennington Street, from 9 to 6 daily, (private); and from half past 7 to 10 P. M. Tuesday and Thursday, (public). CHAS. H. FORTY, in the.

72. In our News Items on another page, will be found a brief account of the burning of the steam packet *Audrey* and the loss of several hundred passengers. Just as we are preparing to go to press, a telegram comes from Quebec, stating that a vessel had just arrived at that port with twenty-two more of the *Audrey's* passengers on board. These swell the number of the saved to eighty-nine in all.

WHAT'S THE GOOD OF IT?

When the question is asked in regard to any trifling thing, as a part of a novelty, for instance, it admits of a short and satisfactory answer; but when applied to matters of larger scope and wider interest, any answer from a finite mind must be imperfect, and must exhibit the unwarlike back of knowledge rather than the fulness of God's wisdom. "Take light, or heat, or water, or attraction, or 'the communion of the saints'—what among us can tell, except in a very imperfect manner, what is the good of either of these? Yet there are thousands of converted fellows who, because they can not get an inventory of all the blessed results that flow from this latter source at a minute's notice, draw the safe conclusion that it can have no good results whatever.

At an early stage of our investigations into the phenomena of modern Spiritualism, we remember saying to a co-investigator of considerable note in the political world, "If the fact that Spirits can communicate with men shall be fairly demonstrated to the world's senses, it will revolutionize not only the religious world, but the political and financial, and change the whole aspect of society." We felt this clearly, though we could not then have given the rationale of our conclusion. But we now begin to see how this result will be brought about. Experimental Spiritualism translates the verities of the soul's immortal life and growth from the domain of authority to that of proof. It transforms the possessors of the religious faculty, from blind swallowers of dogmatism, into mathematical investigators of spiritual phenomena and laws—from atoms of an unreasoning mass, into individualized thinkers and men. Is it not so? And has it not already begun to tell, with immense force, upon all our church members and churches, in spite of all manner of priestly opposition?

As yet, the investigators of Spiritualism have seldom got much beyond its religious bearings; but it can not be long before these individualized thinkers will subject their political authoritarians and usages to the same mathematical scrutiny. They will treat the demagogue's appeal to their party prejudice or passions as coolly as the note-haver does all appeals to his sympathies, when he is reckoning up his usury. "Party managers" will find it no easy matter to regulate men's votes by the *drove*, as they have done hitherto; for each one will form his own ticket, according to the best light he can get, the same as he forms his own creed. As a consequence, the Peter Funks of party will find their occupation gone; none but men of honesty and virtuous industry will be thought of for any office; and we shall have "all things new."

We wish our readers to ponder and carry out the foregoing reflections. If they throw but an imperfect light upon the same question as to what good there is in Spiritualism, they will yet explain the true cause of much of the opposition and shudder which it has had to encounter, not only from our sectarian, but our political "managers," and from their presses or "organs."

RELIGIOUS ASPECTS OF THE AGE.

This is the title of a book of one hundred and eighty pages, just published by Messrs. Thatcher & Hutchinson, on good paper, with good binding. For sale at the office of this paper, 125 Maiden Lane.

This book contains a brief history of

The Young Men's Christian Union, and a report of the proceedings of their first Anniversary, held in New York on the 13th and 14th days of May last, and the speeches made by the following gentlemen on the following subjects:

- Samuel Oggood, D. D.: The Catholicity of the Church of the Future.
- Rev. B. C. Barrett: The True Basis of Christian Union.
- Rev. B. Peter: Worship—Its Necessity.
- Hon. Horace Greeley: The Christian Spirit of Reform.
- Rev. A. D. May: The True Grounds of Christian Union.
- Rev. T. W. Higginson: Woman in Christian Civilization.
- Rev. C. Mack: Christian Union.
- Henry W. Bellows, D. D.: Influence of Theological Theories upon the Practical Conduct of Life.
- Rev. Henry Blanchard: The Religion of Fear and the Religion of Love.
- Rev. O. B. Frothingham: Proper Treatment of the Infidel Tendencies of our Day.
- W. J. Sawyer, D. D.: True and False Views of Evangelical Religion.
- E. H. Chapin, D. D.: Tendencies of the Age Friendly to Larger Views of Christianity.

We are indebted by the *Spiritual Telegraph* to the *Providence* for the following account of the late Mrs. Belzoni, who was a Christian Unionist, but the subject of the *Providence* is self-styled evangelist. The *Providence*, quoted rules and regulations which exclude all persons who did not believe, as they did, in the Trinity, total depravity, the infallibility of the Holy Scriptures. Those who held more respectful views of God, and more generous ideas of his works, of the good of man, feeling the need of freer thought and expression formed the Union with the design to call together men and women having various shades of religious belief, and to afford them an opportunity to "sit down and reason together." We are now with a view of propagating a more dignified and true Christianity. It is the wish of every one to unite and strive to bring down the kingdom of heaven to earth—not in any merely visionary or theological sense, but really and truly, so that every man's life shall attest the truth of his profession." We make the following extracts from Dr. Oggood's remarks:

"We meet here, not as individuals, but as members of certain denominations, but as Christians and upon common ground as ground—on a ground that should not be false, and yet it is common ground. We meet here as Christians upon common Christian ground and what is very remarkable, is the fact that this ground of common Christianity does really put us in a true antagonism to the great majority of the Christian world. The great majority of Christian people as represented in New York this very week (Autumn) do not seem to believe that there can be any religious common to all Christians. Their views are so antagonistic to each other, that they can not meet as Christians to any large extent, upon any central platform, and they are organized to the extent of being the sects by the very specificity of their purpose the want of their own principles of Christian charity without which there can be no union."—Page 17.

"The rest of the Ancient Church was faith in God as a power with true love, and a close fellowship growing out of that faith. The essential idea that was accepted is to be always reverently regarded; and however much we may enlarge our ideas of the true Christian life, we can never slight the dignity and reverence of this institution. It is men by the Ancient Church, in its progress through Abraham, Isaac, David and Isaiah, and at last through Jesus Christ and his apostles to the communion of Jerusalem, Antioch, Ephesus, Alexandria, Rome, Constantinople, and all the great cities of Christendom. The rest was of God, although the will and culture may have been of man."—Page 18.

"Calvinism is now in the way of humanity, and they who profess to wear its mantle are, almost all of them, the enemies of its support. It is our own God's service, not to be arbitrary, partial, and to set up the king of the elect in place of the Father of the world."—Page 20.

"I might say, adding another to the number of churches I have named, that there is another division of the Church, or party of individual liberty, which starts upon the idea of entire individuality, and believes, in popular phrase, in 'going upon one's own ground.' I suppose, if we take the representative of the High Church to be the High Church, and of the Low Church to be Calvin, there is no better type for what may be called the No Church than our own gifted Ralph Waldo Emerson. He may be truly called the prophet of the first person singular."—Page 21.

"If we were to ask ourselves, where is the truest humanity, least of exclusive churches or outside, the answer would be quite different. If we were asked where we would place our chance of salvation, with the great body of honest, unpretending worldlings who are outside of the Pharisee Church, or with the *Pharisees* of exclusive who shut themselves up, there is no doubt, and call themselves the elect people of God, our chance might be as good with the worldlings, although the worldlings are placed in a position of disadvantage."—Page 22.

"The Church of the Future, in its Catholicity, is to be progressive. It is to grow out of its own root; it is to branch up in its own liberty through every legitimate manifestation of its own power under the providential circumstances of its own position. The man who denies that the true Catholicity is to be found in the man who maintains that there can be a growth without a root. The Apostle asserted the true principle of conservative reform when he maintained, 'They have not the root, but the root branch them.'"—Page 23 and 24.

This book is worthy of perusal by every earnest progressive mind. We may make farther extracts and remarks hereafter.

MADAME BELZONI.

As I have mentioned Belzoni's name in my article on "Funeral Rites," in the *Spiritual Telegraph* of September 26, I can not help relating the delightful intercourse I had with his aged widow:

During my sojourn in Brussels in 1849 and 1850, Madame Belzoni presented me with the right hand of the priestess her husband discovered in the tomb of Pharaoh, in 1818. This hand, together with sundry manuscripts and documents of Freemasonry in those remote ages are now in my possession. The body of the priestess is in the Brussels Museum, under her hand. Among other pleasant recollections of this energetic and independent lady, I shall mention the delicate manner with which these articles were presented to me. The evening before our departure, she came and invited my wife and me to take tea with her. We went with infinite pleasure. We were the only guests. As she took a warm interest in the stirring events of 1849, 1849 and 1850, she conversed freely about them, but archaeological discoveries and researches, and their kindred sciences and arts, such as geology, architecture, etc., were evidently her forte. She spoke of Mr. Graham and his writings on Egyptian antiquities. She observed that she traversed the Holy

Land with only a golden wand, but without doing so she was in Egypt. But that was, she had only one desire, which was to visit America, to visit to see Niagara, and these Indian records described by Davis and Rogers. From such conversation on the part of one nearly three weeks old, it can easily be inferred that she was still young in mind. You do fully enjoyed and appreciated all that was going on in the world and the future. She was in her affairs, had preserved, as it always does, her lively vigor. I saw her daily, and she was very kind, taking much exercise, which gave her a good and well proportioned frame, a healthy and cheerful look. She was very kind, and especially desired the welfare of her country, and she did not wish to see any countryman generally do, that there is no way to be living out of England. This is the only way, and we were about taking leave, when she said to me in a most winning manner, "Madam, will you do me a favor?" As I had previously given her medical advice, I thought her request was of a professional character. "Certainly, Madam, I will do anything in my power for you." Then you will wrap this hand: I have known it about me for twenty-two years, as a remembrance of my husband and his discoveries. I am the last man to separate myself from a relic of the past. You just now said you would do anything in your power for me; it is certainly in your power to reserve it as a remembrance of me." As such, Madam, I will gratefully accept and keep it."—I took the hand, and the manuscript, and we took an affectionate leave of one who had seen the world, and all its phenomena and disappointments, and was yet so fully willing to continue living in it as long as it might please Divine Providence. In 1851, the British Parliament voted her an annual pension of £100, a yearly reward, to be sure, but, as she saying, "Better late than never."

The good lady said that, if she could, she would not have to be disappointed again. To support herself, she had a large house, and collected the best part of it. She told me that she had spent twenty-two years in Brussels. When I became acquainted with her, she lived in the upper floor of a house near the Boulevard de Waterloo. Her only society at home were two small Italian negroes, the most intelligent animals I ever saw. They not only understood human language, but even books and instructions. I always remark the great appearance in their moral development would be in the shape of bright, intelligent children. It is not dissimilar to a great country like England, that teaches children upon an idle and over-pampered manner by and industry, to have entered one of our bravest and noblest daughters thus to pass away in a foreign land, while her national museum and galleries bristled with Holman's discoveries!

But I must not omit here the interesting anecdote that was told me by the remarkable old lady. She said: In 1822, I was in Paris. I went to bed, and fell asleep, but was suddenly awakened by two or three very strong knocks at the head-board of my bed. It immediately struck upon me that something must have happened to my husband, who was in Africa, and on his way to Timbuctoo. I saw the curtain of my bed move; I jumped out of bed, thinking I perceived a human figure; I felt as though something was going by me. The moon was shining very bright. I opened the door, walked all around the bed, and looked under it, but I saw nothing. I looked at my watch, it was two o'clock. I do not feel like going to sleep again; so I dressed myself, feeling very much agitated, and sure that Belzoni was dead. I sat down, wrote the day and hour, the circumstances under which I wrote together with my feelings and impressions. Several months after, I received the sad news that my beloved husband had expired the very night and hour he had so mysteriously manifested himself to me in Paris. This was but a confirmation of what I knew. Twenty-two years have elapsed since that heart-rending event; and I recollect it as vividly as if it occurred last night. I shall never forget it." This was told me in Brussels in 1849, when neither Madame Belzoni nor I had heard anything of Holman.

Mr. William Leighton, the first investigator of Holman, has for some time past been publishing in Philadelphia with great success, assisted by the power of a young clairvoyant who is said to be a subject of great susceptibility, and whose perceptions are infallibly accurate. The Holman has moved to this city, and has taken rooms at 267 Hudson street, where persons desiring clairvoyant communications can find him and his subject during the usual hours of business.

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