

THE SUNFLOWER

AN EXPONENT OF THE SPIRITUAL PHILOSOPHY: ITS SCIENCE, AND ALLIED SUBJECTS.

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THE NEED OF SPIRITUALISM

Unity of Press, Medium and Sup- porter.

ARTHUR F. MILTON.

The province of a Spiritualist paper is to bring such information as concerns the other world as well as that pertaining to its affairs in this.

If its cause was termed Mortalism, there would be reasons for holding to this sphere exclusively. But being termed Spiritualism it embraces a supra-mundane code of ethics, a science and a wide-world philosophy known as mediumship.

On the latter the whole structure is built—thus the most important feature in the summing up.

The study of mediumship is the study of the law that governs Spiritualism; and, as mediumship is a cause, it cannot be studied as an effect. And furthermore, as none can understand a law except through a personal contact with it—an individual consciousness of the fact—mediumship can only be studied and understood by those possessing the faculty. Therefore, it is also the province of mediums to explain themselves through their organs—the Spiritualist press, which, at the same time, is the record book of Spiritualism.

But to do this, a medium must know himself—must be able to feel his inner consciousness as a loving thing—a spirit.

When this is known or understood, he can discourse from experience. He knows. There is no speculation or theory about his assertions.

He may not know everything that concerns Spiritualism, nor what mediumship stands for outside of his special phase or phases. But thru self-study he can have absolute knowledge concerning himself, and, what concerns himself, may concern thousands of others as mortals or spirits.

We judge by the habits of one pair of sparrows what concerns others. So we may judge by the trials and experiences of one medium as a mortal being, what may befall others in the same strait—that is, the same habits, characteristics, or passions. And what applies to mediums as mortal beings, applies to other mortals.

Nature's law touches all alike—and touches them where it is mostly needed. Guides can but modify nature's stringency. Their mission is not to relieve us of our burdens, but to lighten them—adding to this a code of ethics suitable to circumstances, which code, too, may be generally applicable. And the highest mission of a guide is to bring his medium up to his own standard, or that which is being taught as a philosophy or science through that medium. Consistency is thus the first principle of mediumship. The press ditto.

Consistency in mediumistic teachings (whether by inspiration or indirect messages as in slate writing or otherwise) is to practice what is being taught—that the medium presents himself or herself before the world as an exemplar of such teachings. In fact, a representative of the spiritual philosophy.

Can any medium object to this proposition?

The spiritual press comes next to the medium—one cannot live without the other now. (It may have been possible before the age of printing. But the press must be supported by all who believe in that which has come out of mediumship. In fact, it is their duty, in payment of the assurance they have received of a future life. Press and medium, therefore, should be one—the press presenting the Cause in its true light; the medium living the truth presented.

If not, the cause must go down. Supineness on the part of the read-

ers of the papers and supporters of the Cause, is always an indication of weakness in the fundamentals—inconsistency somewhere. It has been frequently asserted that this is a Spiritualism, not a mortalism. If the former, the spiritual in it must be observed, upheld, practiced exemplified.

When the press neglects this and ponders to individuals or to sensationalism, it does not benefit the Cause as a whole. It limits its influence to individuals and intimidates the big majority. It is not the want of moral courage that causes secession, but the surplus of self-respect—the fear of ridicule or censure by the outside world.

When mediums try to impress on investigators that they are the only or best in the world, instead of trying to convince them of the truth of Spiritualism, they reduce the Cause to individual limitation.

In either or both cases it makes Spiritualism a small affair; its grandeur is effaced; its light hidden; its consolation suppressed; its true meaning lost.

Honesty with self is the first essential. With our neighbor the next. Fraud, of course, is not mediumship. That must be dealt with according to deserts. But we may deceive ourselves, and thus deceive others—only that some knowingly deceive themselves first, and imagine they can pass the same deception on to others. Self-respect or a superior love for the Cause, engenders a feeling to be charitable—often silent, but one supporter less, and, as an influential one draws others in, he also draws them out again.

Let consistency govern the issue involved; let the individual be true to self; let supporters be active in eliminating individual feelings; let each endeavor to elevate the other before self, and the influence will go forth, mostly needed at present, to generate the lacking enthusiasm and unity in our ranks.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Harding Passes Away.

After an illness that has stretched over a period of nearly two years Mrs. Elizabeth, wife of Thos. Harding passed away at her home in Allen township Monday morning. She had been suffering with a complication of diseases. Mrs. Harding was of the Spiritualistic faith and death came to her peacefully with a full realization that it was but the passing from one sphere of existence to another. She had lived with her family in this vicinity for the past seventeen years and she had many friends and was highly esteemed by all who knew her. She was 60 years of age and is survived by her husband, one son, William, and two daughters, Mary, and Mrs. Hannah Riley.

Mt. Tabor Church was kindly tendered for the services and Rev. McKain of the M. E. Church and Rev. Day, of the Allegheny Spiritualists Church, both delivered masterly addresses, dealing with the soul's migration to the spirit world. The services were beautiful.

Interment took place at Mt. Tabor Cemetery.

GEORGE BROWN.

Geo. Brown, a pioneer Spiritualist, passed to the great beyond last Sunday. He was a man of sterling quality, and was well known to all the Spiritualists. He lived the grand truths which our philosophy teaches. Hon. Chas. R. Schirm, president of our church, gave a splendid eulogy of Bro. Brown last Sunday at the close of the lecture. Thus our veteran Spiritualists are leaving us one by one, and others are filling up the gap made by their transition.

D. FEAST.

Baltimore.

Do you want a Fountain Pen? See page 2.

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL.

Human Rights in Relation Thereto.

The law case concerning this matter referred to in your issue of November 25th, does not appear to me to be new in principle tho cases of that nature are rarely brought into court.

The first impression is to say emphatically that the knowledge one has is always exclusively his, to be used in the employ of anyone he chooses so long as it is not used for immoral purposes. This is the true view, provided the knowledge has not been acquired with an agreement or understanding of limitations, and all contracts continue to be fulfilled. If I contract to work for one day, a week or a year, it is my business to live up to that contract.

A person goes to a mechanic to learn a trade, the mechanic to which he applies is under no obligation to teach the new-comer and so create a new competitor. He gives the applicant to understand that if he teaches one his art he wishes to make in the transaction. This readily, consented to, and he agrees to put in two or three year's work at a nominal figure, for the sake of learning. In a short time he earns two or three times as much as the stipulated wages and if he breaks away from his employer and goes to another he can get it.

He has acquired a knowledge and skill that he would not have had if he had not made the contract he did. Has he a right to desert the one who imparted it? I think there can be but one answer to this; let him do as he agreed.

If one has a valuable secret in any kind of business which he reveals to another on condition that this other one uses it for him in his interest for a stipulated wage, five, ten or twenty years, or as long as he wishes to conduct his business, I see no reason why this contract should not be lived up to the same as any other.

There is no doubt that the injunction was issued on the statement that a contract had been violated, and that the trial will be, not for using his knowledge in the interest of another, but for using it to the disadvantage of plaintiff in violation of an agreement.

If plaintiff substantiates this claim he will win his suit, and he ought to.

I do not say an agreement should always be lived up to. It should be violated if one in weakness or overpowering fear consented to the commission of crime, or if the contract had been made under a misapprehension and misrepresentation, but speaking in general, our word should be held sacred.

SAMUEL BLODGETT.

Does a Man Own His Knowledge?

There are many ways of acquiring knowledge and many ways of using it, all of which it seems to me have great bearing on the question.

In the first place What is knowledge? It is one of the few things that the more you give away the more you have left, hence if I give you of my knowledge is it not yours to do with as you please?

Knowledge is purchaseable and salable through the selfishness of man only, as Knowledge is universal and all that man has is but through observance of the laws of nature and deductions therefrom, hence it is and should be free to all.

The union of knowledge with skill is another thing, skill comes only thro repeatedly applied knowledge, the process taking up one's energy time and material, hence skill should command commensurate recompense and does.

Some years ago I was asked to buy a method of protection against errors in accounting, realizing the value of it to me and recognizing the time energy and patience exer-

cised by the Author in evolving it I was willing to pay the price viz: \$10.00 until I was called upon to sign a pledge never to show it to anyone else, needless to say I refused to purchase that which I could not do with as I saw fit.

The knowledge I have I own, and have the right to dispose of as I see fit (unless it is of someone else's business affairs given me in trust.) If I enter someone's employ and these learn a trade or business I receive wages commensurate with my knowledge, which as I become more proficient are advanced in accordance until, if I become skilled my earnings become those of a skilled workman. Do I not own my knowledge? Assuredly, and have undoubted right to go out into the world and ask the price of skilled labor. Had I have received skilled wages at the start when a novice there might be a question about this, but the Firm for whom I worked hired me to work at lower wages, the knowledge I gained being incidental and part recompense for my effort. Did I prove lazy or dull I should speedily be replaced for it is well known that it is cheaper to teach a man a trade in the above manner than to have all skilled workmen.

There remains however another side to this question. Suppose I have knowledge of a crime. Is it mine, and can I properly retain the same? The law says it is a crime to conceal a crime, hence my knowledge in such a case is not legally mine.

Again I have knowledge of some deadly poison or destructive agent which in the hands of the unscrupulous would be a public menace, have I the right to sell or give away indiscriminately such knowledge? No the knowledge is mine and I must retain it, for morally I am bound.

So in answer to the question I say that a man's knowledge is his own to do with as he will, there is no question about that, but let him have a care how he uses, retains or disposes thereof, for being universal, it is his in trust only and he will be held accountable for his disposition thereof.

ARTHUR J. MARCHANT.

OUR RIGHTS.

We have a right to our own way if it is a right way, and if we can take it without infringing on the rights of others, but there are many better methods of clearing our path than by striking down all obstacles with a club. Persuasion is better than antagonism, and diplomacy, in its best sense, is an art worth cultivating.

To many persons, especially quick-tempered, candid-speaking persons, the idea of diplomacy is linked with duplicity. It is a sort of shrewd covering up of real designs and a watchful scheming for selfish advantages which nations may perhaps find necessary, but which is not to be tolerated in individuals.

Yet the word has a better meaning, and that which it represents has its righteous use.

"I never bring wills to a clash when it is possible to avert it," said a wise woman in authority. "The conflicts avoided today may not arise tomorrow. A pleasant word or a gentle suggestion will soften, while a sharp demand would have raised a barricade. Agree heartily so far as possible, is my rule, and skilfully avoid disagreeing so long as possible."

There are two classes of skeptics that Spiritualists have to contend with—those who don't know enough to understand truth when they see in, and those who think they know a great deal

JOTTINGS.

MATTIE E. HULL.

At present writing I greet you from Winfield, Kan., and desire to reach as many of our eastern friends as I can through the columns of your paper, as it is impossible to write as many personal letters as I would like to do. We are engaged in holding meetings nearly every night when not en route to appointments.

We left Whitewater the 10th. Our first work was in Farmer City, Ill. From there we came to Kansas, and commenced work in Wichita the 17th. We remained in that city one week and held several meetings. Our work seemingly aroused a great degree of interest, not only among those who are identified with the movement, but those well known in church circles were among our listeners and called upon us. Verily the people are more nearly ready for the truths of Spiritualism than many not of.

We regret that the Spiritualists in this section of the country have been so late in sending the call to "come over and help us." Letters have been received, stating that our services were desired in several towns within a radius of fifty miles. We have forwarded our dates to Texas and California and cannot change them. In fact there is not time enough ahead of us to do the work that is wanted by our friends in Texas and California and reach points in the Northwest on the coast as soon as we are wanted. Our announcement was in the papers for several weeks before we had arranged the winter's program. We are sorry we cannot respond to every call.

We commence our work in this city tonight, the 25th. As we have attended campmeetings at this point, we expect to meet many old friends.

We expect to go direct from this place to Fort Worth, Texas, where we intend to eat Thanksgiving dinner with my sister and family. My sister and husband are old-time Spiritualists; my good brother-in-law handed me my first salary as a "regular preacher" for the society in which he held position as treasurer. I would say to my readers I might say just how long ago that was, but it might make me seem like an "ancient." I would say, however, I think I had scarcely evolved from short dresses. This sister and mother have been loyal to Spiritualism these many years, and always loyal to the little woman who writes these lines.

I cannot state exact dates in Texas at present writing.

We shall probably spend the first ten days of December in Fort Worth. We are to hold a few meetings in Dallas, and stop at El Paso late in the month en route to San Diego, Cal.

Letters addressed to us at Fort Worth, Texas, will meet us there for the present. Will send definite dates soon. Permanent address is Whitewater, Wis. The postmaster in our home city always knows our whereabouts, and mail from that point is forwarded promptly.

With best wishes to all who are working for the cause, I am, cordially,
MATTIE E. HULL.

Low Rates to Chicago.

Over the D., A. V. & P. R. R. Dec. 16, 17, 18 and 19, account Live Stock Exposition. Tickets good to return until Dec. 24.

243-4t.

What is really wanted is to light up the spirit that is within a boy. In some sense and in some effectual degree, there is in every boy the material of good in every boy the world; in every boy, not only in those who are brilliant, not only in those who are quick, but in those who are solid, and even in those who are dull.—William E. Gladstone.

Do you want a Fountain Pen? See page 2.



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NOTES:
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 When you want the address on your paper changed, always give the address to which it has been going, as well as the new address, or we cannot find the name on our subscription list to make the change.
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 Address all communications and make all money orders payable to The Sunflower Publishing Co. Don't neglect to sign your full name and address plainly in every communication. Don't send your personal check as it costs 15 cents to collect it, and we must deduct it from the amount you send.

W. H. BACH, Managing Editor.

KILLING MISSIONARIES.

THE SUNFLOWER is in favor of all good work and does not condemn the missionary work of the churches as a principle, but it does not approve of it as it has been carried on by the arbitrary missionaries.

"A wave of indignation" spread over the country when the report came of the killing of missionaries in China, a couple of weeks ago, but after the sober senses of the people got to work, it is reported that even the missionary societies have concluded not to ask indemnity.

Notwithstanding this, the Chinese government has arrested some of those supposed to be connected with the affair.

We certainly sympathize with the sufferings of the missionaries in their mistreatment, but we ask in all candor, If the Chinese sent missionaries here who interfered in the religious exercises of the Christians, could they expect much different treatment? Perhaps we would not tear them limb from limb, or throw them in the water and gouge their eyes out, but we would mob them and carry our persecution as far as the customs and laws of this country would permit.

Suppose a Chinaman entered one of our churches and undertook to take away some of the "sacred relics." Would we stand idly by and see him do it? Not a reader of this article but knows we would not. We would command him to desist and if he did not obey our order we would kill him under the law that permits us to defend our property from destruction or theft.

As near as can be learned these missionaries undertook to interfere with a religious ceremony of the Chinese. Naturally they resented it and their barbarous ideas permitted them to do the act as they did. How much worse is it for an uncivilized nation to permit that than for this civilized nation to permit lynchings, burning at the stake, etc?

We think this government, and the government of any civilized nation, is very much at fault when they attempt force to permit missionaries to interfere with the religious rites of any people. Their religion is as sacred to them as ours is to us, has just as much chance of being right as ours has, and they have as much right to the free exercise of it as we have. We would not stand interference and we don't blame them for not wishing to.

PREACHERS, A SPIRITUALIST AND A NEWSPAPER.

The Columbus, Ohio, Press-Post devotes six inches, double column, or twelve inches of space, to tell that a certain woman, a Spiritualist who holds classes, had applied for a divorce from her husband, who, it seems, did not provide for her as a good husband should.

There is nothing strange in this as one class is as likely to have domestic difficulties as another. The strange part is that in relating the fact that during the present month three ministers of the gospel of Christianity have arrived at the Ohio State Penitentiary to serve sentences,

only six lines in an obscure corner of the paper are used.

"Straws show which way the wind blows," and this illustrates the fact that crime is so much more common among the ministers and church people than it is among Spiritualists that where a Spiritualist goes wrong it takes twelve inches and a picture on the first page of the paper, while when three preachers go wrong and go to the same penitentiary in one month, six lines in an obscure corner of the paper are sufficient to exploit it.

This reminds us of the case where a Columbus minister announced that he would preach a series of sermons on "The evils of the stage." He had only preached one or two of them when the report of the penitentiary came out showing that while there was one actor confined in it, there were sixteen ministers.

A star attached to the actor's name called attention to a reference showing that he was in under a combination of circumstances and was about to be pardoned out. No such mark decorated the name of a minister, and the series of sermons stopped right there.

CAMPMEETING AT LAKE HELEN.

Bond Factory and Depot in Ashes! Excursions, Etc.

The demand for carpenters to rebuild the depot and Bond factory, as well as the new cottages at the camp ground is very great just now, as the depot and factory were burned November 17th.

Geo. P. Colby has begun his Sunday evening meetings at his farm house. His week days are filled with busy care for his hundreds of chickens.

There are four new houses on the Steven's property—not all finished yet as more carpenters are wanted.

Hotel Webster is to be managed by Mrs. Oakley under the new name, Pine Grove Inn.

The artesian well on the Steven's property is nearly ready for pumping.

People are coming fast to the camp. Bright moonlight nights to walk, the Lake Colby and the pines glistening with silvery light. The weather is as genial as a Northern June.

Among the late arrivals are: Abner S. Wheeler and wife, who take the new Hurley cottage, Mrs. Hardenburg, Mr. Skeels and wife, H. M. Clark, J. D. White and wife, J. D. Palmer and wife, (Mrs. Palmer has the letting of the rooms in the Apartment house), Dr. Sarah Brigham, manager and owner of the Brigham hall for lodgers, Mrs. C. C. Bacon, the Kellogg family, Mrs. J. E. Vogt and Mrs. Witters who are as happy as two lovers in the Budington cottage.

Arthur Underhill has gone to Canton, O. to attend the funeral of his father, Judge Underhill.

The Pratt cottage on the Huff peninsula is nearly completed. Other lots on the peninsula are being engaged.

Mrs. Thatcher and daughter are to build a large cottage on the lot next south of the Harris cottage.

Mr. Bartholomew has built a fine three-room cottage to rent.

Mrs. Spencer's house is full of table boarders. Hotel Cassadaga is ready for guests, some have come.

H. S. Twing and wife sail on the Comanche of the Clyde Line, November 28th. Mrs. S. G. Stull of Rochester, N. Y., will be with them, also H. L. Brigham of Northfield, Mass., he is a paper hanger. Also A. Norman and wife.

Mrs. G. H. Swift of Utica, N. Y. expects to sail for Lake Helen early in December, as do also Mr. Wolcott and daughter. Laura Fixen is expected soon.

EXCURSIONS.

My excursions for December will sail from New York City about December 12, 15, 22, 29, can ticket you to any part of Florida.

Write me for special, low, party rates, enclosing 4 cents in stamps for postage on Clyde folders etc.

H. A. BUDINGTON.

91 Sherman St., Springfield, Mass.

It is the broad-minded, well-developed man that occupies the position of honor today; listen to the advice of older experienced people.

No nation can be destroyed while it possesses a good home life.—J. G. Holland.

Do you want a Fountain Pen? See page 2.

PREMIUM BOOKS? YES.

We still have a few.

They are well bound, most of them have gilt tops, and they are something everyone wants to read. They are yours for 25 cents each, one or all of them, when the order is sent with a year's subscription to THE SUNFLOWER.

SARTOR RESARTUS. This is Thomas Carlyle's greatest work on the Philosophy of Life. If you have not read it you have missed a treat that you now have an oppor-

tunity of enjoying for a very modest sum

HEROES AND HERO WORSHIP. A series of lectures by Carlyle on this interesting topic, given in the inimitable style of the author, and it makes an interesting book; one that is calculated to throw light upon the myths of the present and past. No verbiage is necessary regarding any of Carlyle's works.

ROMANCE OF TWO WORLDS by Marie Corelli. One of the most interesting romances ever written and as it deals in a practical manner

with many abstruse points in occultism, it becomes more than a story to the student of such.

Men are always wanting to do some great thing. Let them overcome themselves, for that is the greatest conquest.—Henry Drummond.

When I see a man anxious, I say, "What does this man want?" If he did not want something which is not in his power, how could he be anxious?—Epictetus.

DECEMBER PREMIUM OFFER.

The Sunflower one Year and The Puff Self-Filling Fountain Pen **\$1.60**

This is the unparalleled offer that we will make our patrons during December.



A 14 KARAT SOLID GOLD, SELF-FILLING FOUNTAIN PEN, WITH SOLID RUBBER HOLDER, AND THE SUNFLOWER ONE YEAR FOR **\$1.60**

We have made a deal with the Puff Self-Filling Fountain Pen Company so that we can assist our patrons materially with their Christmas presents. This Fountain Pen is of the latest pattern, self-filling. You do not have to use a dropper to fill it. When the holder is empty, all you have to do is to place the pen in a bottle of ink, blow in the hole at the end of the holder, one good strong blow, then let it remain in the ink for two or three seconds and your pen is ready for use. It is plain to see that by this plan you can not drop ink all over yourself, the floor, and soil a whole lot of things.

It is not a cheap pen, and we guarantee every one of them to be exactly as represented, or money refunded. We can furnish you with fine, coarse or stub point, as you prefer, and remember that it will cost you only \$1.60 for the pen and "THE SUNFLOWER" a year.

DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS TO SEND YOUR ORDER. SEND IT NOW AND YOU WILL BE SURE TO GET IT ON TIME.

Send today and be in the swim. If you want it sent by registered mail, add 8 cents for registry fee.

The Sunflower Publishing Co.,

Lily Dale, N. Y.

The Sunflower's Winter Campaign.



OLD weather will be with us soon and then you will want reading matter. Then THE SUNFLOWER will come in handy when the wind is blowing and the snow is on the ground. * * * * *

WE HAVE SOME RARE TREATS

in store for our readers this winter.

PROF. W. M. LOCKWOOD

will give us a series of articles on the Brain. You know the Professor takes the practical side of everything, and ends by proving Spritualism by what he has forced all the best thinkers to accept.

J. N. LARSON

is a well known Astrologer. We will have a series of forecasts from him. Mr. Larson has correctly forecasted the seasons at Lily Dale for a number of years, and his forecasts of the stock market have been called for very widely.

MYRTLE HYDE DARLING

will also continue the series of articles that have been running in THE SUNFLOWER for the past two years. They are short, practical and to the point.

CHARLES DAWBARN,

whose articles have caused such widespread comment and interest, will continue to favor us.

"QUAKER"

will continue his good thoughts. Short, pithy and palatable.

J. P. COOKE

has been one of us so long that we would be lost without him. But we will not be lost. He will be heard from every little while.

Among the occasional contributors we can mention Lida Briggs Browne, than whom there is no better, George B. Ferris, Lewis R. Hillier, Rose B. Helm, Eva A. Cassell, Samuel Blodgett, W. D. Reichner, Dr. J. C. Barnes, H. V. Sweringen, Lyman C. Howe, D. W. Hull, and many others, while our good friends

MOSES AND MATTIE HULL

will favor us more than semi-occasionally.

Can You Afford to be without THE SUNFLOWER This Winter?

Send your dollar for it at once, and get in with the procession.

LILY DALE NEWS.

Buffalo Notes

N. H. EDDY, Correspondent.

J. H. Binney has gone to Erie, Pa.

Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Shaw went to Forestville.

Harry Griswold spent Thanksgiving Day with his parents.

Mr. Otterson of Pittsburg is visiting the Mayer family at Hilltop cottage.

Frank Fuller and wife and Mary Sherman, spent the day in Falconer with friends.

The SUNFLOWER family and Miss Florence Davis spent the day with Fred Foote and family at Jamestown.

There will be a meeting in the school house Tuesday evening at 7:15 for the purpose of arranging for a Christmas tree. Everybody should attend.

Don't forget to look up those Fountain Pens when you are discussing what to give anyone for Christmas. You could not find a more desirable present.

Mr. and Mrs. Elias Richards have gone to Wellsville, N. Y., for the winter, starting Wednesday morning so as to spend Thanksgiving Day with their son, Dana, and family.

Thanksgiving week has had its usual round of pleasures for Lily Daleites. Many of the families had friends to enjoy the day with them while others went to visit relatives and friends.

The day ushered in a real streak of winter weather, cold wind and snow and it still stays by us, but as we have had good weather so late, we must now expect to have snow and cold winds.

Fay Griswold of THE SUNFLOWER force is enjoying a week's vacation visiting his grandparents and sister, at Warren, Pa. Mrs. C. D. Griswold also went to Warren for a Thanksgiving visit.

A telephone message from Buffalo brought the news that Mrs. L. Scheu had been injured in an elevator. There are no particulars but as it is expected that she can come home in a few days, it is probably not of a very serious nature.

Miss Lucy Marvin and Miss Elsie Ross have returned to their homes and the Ross cottage is closed. We are informed that the heirs to the estate have decided to retain the cottage and spend quite a little time here next season.

A letter received from L. C. Hutchinson informs us that he will return home in a few days. He and Mrs. Hutchinson have been at Collinwood Ohio, at the bedside of a sick relative for several weeks.

A letter from Mrs. Douglass from Monte Carlo, France, states that Mrs. Pettengill and party will start on their return trip December 8th, arriving in New York on the 19th. Mrs. Pettengill and son will spend Christmas at Cleveland, O., while Mrs. Douglass will visit her parents in Massachusetts.

CONFERENCE.

There was a good attendance at Mrs. Richardson's Sunday evening. The next meeting will be held at Mrs. Binney's. Subject, "What Constitutes True Charity."

\$11.00 New York and Return.

On Dec. 8th excursion tickets will be sold to New York and return at above low rates by agents of the D. A. V. & P. R. R. at Jamestown, Falconer, and stations north. Tickets good returning to leave New York until Dec. 17th, inclusive. Through Pullman sleeping car will be attached to train No. 4 at Falconer. For tickets, sleeping car space, and further particulars apply to agents.

God is a shower to the heart burned up with grief; God is a sun to the face deluged with tears.—Joseph Roux.

"Ultimately all Force will be found to be one, and that is spirit."—Sir William Crookes.

When you are possessed by fear you have what the Vedantins call "hollow veins."

Do you want a Fountain Pen? See page 2.

Sunday morning, November 26th, at the Spiritual Temple, Dr. Austin took for his subject, "What is the Work of the Spiritualist Associations, and What Are the Best Methods to Gain Results?" He spoke of the emancipation of the people and their minds from the dogmas and creeds of the old religious beliefs, and made some good comparisons between the teachings of the church and Spiritualism. His remarks seemed to instill the idea into the minds of the hearers that the mission of Spiritualist associations was to unfold human character, to develop manhood and to promulgate the truths of Spiritualism. The lecture was deeply interesting.

The evening discourse was relative to the life of Robert G. Ingersoll, also mentioning many traits of his character which were in behalf of humanity and in the living and acting of these qualities which were really in the interest and for the betterment not only of individuals but of humanity in general. The discourse was a very able and forceful one, and was listened to by the audience with marked attention. A very large audience was in attendance and extra chairs were brought in, nearly three hundred people were present. After the lecture Mrs. C. Lewis Chase under the influence of her guide, gave some most excellent messages from spirit friends, all being recognized. Mrs. Chase is a very fine psychic, and thru her very sensitive nature is a most excellent message bearer to the truths of Spiritualism. She is kept quite busy at her home 241 E. Eagle street, in giving private readings, 9 a. m. to 12.

Dr. Austin has been with our society during the month of November and done very satisfactory, efficient work. The doors of our Temple have been thrown open to all, as the ten cent collection at the door has been done away with, and with the pledged subscription fund, each one who felt to do so gives a certain amount each month so that with the Wednesday evening seances and the collections taken up at each Sunday evening meeting, by passing plate for voluntary contributions, the meetings are being well sustained.

We have Amanda Coffman of Grand Rapids, Mich., as speaker and message bearer for December and January. She is a good psychic and a willing worker. The cause of Spiritualism is becoming deeply interesting to the public in Buffalo, for I understand that both the Harmony Circle Society at Keystone hall, 351 Main street and at Sterling hall, 374 Connecticut street, have large audiences.

Mrs. Maggie Turner of Lily Dale, is stopping at Mr. Moore's 1414 Michigan street, for a short time. She gives private readings for business or spiritual advice.

Wednesday evening, November 29th, the seance at the Temple was conducted by the mediums Miss Juergenson, psychometrist, Mrs. Croft and Mrs. M. E. Lane. Each did well their part in the readings and messages given. A fair sized audience was present.

Thursday evening, November 23rd Mrs. Nugent of 58 Tracy street, gave a Pedro party at her home. It was the commencement of a series to be held once a week during the winter. There were five tables, ten games played, your correspondent winning seven games and receiving the first prize. The evening was an enjoyable one.

The Ladies Aid Society met Tuesday evening at Mrs. C. L. Johnson's home, 477 Seventh street, and completed arrangements for their Pedro party at the Temple, it will be held Friday evening, December 8th. Prizes awarded, also a supper served. Patrons of SUNFLOWER in Buffalo come and bring your friends. Class in Theosophy meets at Mrs. Gage's, 1200 Main street, Cornell House.

Don't forget the Pedro party at the Temple Friday evening December 8.

Miss Alice Coats of 50 Allen St., has just returned from a short visit to New York City.

ADDITIONAL BUFFALO.

At the regular Sunday morning meeting, of Harmony circle, November 26th, held at Keystone hall, 351 Main street, a large number were

present. The control of our speaker Mr. Chas. S. Hulbert, took as his subject, "Mediumship; Its Possibilities and Its Responsibilities." It was one of the most impressive addresses ever given from our rostrum. Deep, yet plain and beautifully handled. With deep pleading tones and words. He asked those who were mediums, and were already Spiritualists to live their lives pure and worthy of their high calling, and to so live and conduct themselves, that they might not bring or give cause of reproach upon the Cause of Truth. And to those who are strangers to the work, to investigate earnestly and truthfully for themselves. The tests of Mrs. De Wolf and Mr. Hulbert were all recognized.

Our entertainment on Saturday evening, November 25th, was a grand success in every way. The hall was crowded, but everyone had a seat. The tableaux that were given under the direction of Mrs. DeWolf were all that the most critical could ask for, the most of the subjects were represented by the songs in the hymn books. The manager of the calcium light said he had never witnessed more effective work, for amateurs.

The talent, Maud and Margery Allen, Miss Bonnell and Treager, were heartily encored, and the tableaux and song of the Last Rose of Summer, by Miss Smizer was beautiful and effective, and special mention should be given of Mrs. De Wolf's portrayal of The Rock of Ages, description by Miss Smizer. The piano accompaniment by Miss Fryan and Allen added greatly to the success of the various members. Leslie Olmstead and his grandson also added greatly to the entertainment. Every one seemed pleased and voted Harmony Circle great entertainers. The many willing workers comprising the various committees are entitled to our most hearty thanks and appreciation. Mrs. KITTY OLMSTEAD, Sec'y.

Feels Good and Wants to Tell of it.

This 72 years old youth feels it to be a duty he owes humanity to state why he considers Lily Dale to be a thing of beauty and a joy forever. He is one of a bunch of tried and true Spiritualists from this city, who last August made a pilgrimage to the City of Light.

The beauty I will not attempt to describe, but the joy that came over us will outlast memory itself, will only mention two sources of it, in order not to be too long winded.

After hearing some of Mr. W. J. Colville's lectures, we were fortunate enough to induce that gentleman to come and deliver four lectures here. No need for me to say one word in regard to them.

I am sure the angel world led our footsteps towards the residence of that grand and good medium Mrs. J. De Bartholomew of Florida, where the bunch had four trumpet sittings within a week's time. The glorious truths imparted to us by our loved ones, made us determined that our friends at home should also enjoy this heavenly privilege.

We coaxed and begged as never before, for Mrs. Bartholomew to visit us, and thanks to Rev. B. F. Austin, who had kind words to say for us, the lady has been here two and a half weeks, proving immortality to be true, by the voices of our arisen ones, as well as by some of the grandest of earth's children. Regardless of the sneers of those wise in their own conceit, I will mention a few names of those who gave us heavenly comfort and advice: Henry Ward Beecher, Henry Clay, Tom Paine, Theodore Parker, Garfield, Gladstone, Swedenborg, Florence Nightingale, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and many, many more, both in trumpet, and trance seances.

Mrs. Bartholomew has endeared herself to us also by her gentle lady like ways, are truly sorry that we cannot see her today, but we earnestly hope to meet her again. All please consult her that can; you will never regret it. Our best wishes and heartfelt thanks go with her, her guides, and the heavenly hosts for the work done among us.

Yours for truths,
GEORGE A. KIEHL.

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It is a book of the new rectum, not of the old rectum. It is a book

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

EVA A. CASSELL.

They hang dead men out west. At South McAlester, when the jailers came to the cell of Grant Williams, who was sentenced for committing murder during an argument over thirty-five cents change, they found that his fears of the gallows had brought on a collapse that induced paralysis and he had been actually frightened to death. Notwithstanding, they carried the dead body to the scaffold, the deputies held it up while the noose was put in position, and the trap was sprung, and a deed was committed which must ever stamp all who were concerned in it as monsters of iniquity. No doubt they chuckled over the fact that Williams, although dead, had not cheated the gallows of its prey—thanks to their zealousness; neither was his family cheated of the disgrace one of its members ought to undergo by the hanging, though they could not help it because he was a criminal.

The whole thing is a ghastly anticlimax to our vaunted humanitarianism, as well as a striking evidence of the rottenness of our system of propagation which seeks to justify its existence as a perfect form of stirpiculture, and then twists the neck of one of its wretched products, without compunction and mercy. The frightful spectacle of a strangling man or woman dangling from the end of a rope has no horrors for those who prate of race suicide and who preach multiplication of numbers irrespective of quality. They know that the human mongrels born into life are taken care of; those not imprisoned or hung are thrust into asylums and poor-houses, and when the latter are filled, the people can be taxed to build others. There never was a human being born a criminal, who was not made so by his parents. If men and women understood stirpiculture in its various processes; if parents understood that soul, as well as body, must be organized into their children, there would be no criminals born. If husbands and wives would take time to prepare themselves for parenthood by entering upon a period of soul culture, by aspiring to the best and noblest unfoldment, there would be no mongrels born. Nobody has time to organize soul into offspring nowadays. The father is bound up in mercantile pursuits, reaching out into the business world to see how he can best get more dollars; he is also a club man with the vapid thoughts of its members clinging to him. If he is a working man he has to labor hard, day after day, with little pay, and begrudges richer men their wealth; perhaps he drinks or is an inordinate smoker and chewer.

The mother, to begin with, probably did not want to add another to the hungry children in her home; an enforced maternity entails a train of horrors upon offspring too terrible to contemplate, or she may be a wife who simply tolerates the fact of maternity and aims to get over it quickly; instead of reaching out and aspiring to the soul attributes and noble qualities which should be organized into her child, she frets and worries because she does not want it, or because it will stand in the way of her own good times, or because it will cost more money to support it. If she is a woman of the vain and conceited order, her mind is on dress and all manner of frivolities—on scandal and tattling and bawling and nagging. How much soul can such mothers organize into offspring? How much chance has posterity of a noble lineage? The children of today are mostly organized thus: On the father's side they are made up of the strenuousness which urges him to covet his neighbor's riches, of his greed for more dollars, of his vapid longings as a clubman, or of whiskey or rum, if he drinks it, and of drugs and tobacco if he uses them; and children created out of whiskey, tobacco and merely bodily appetites, can not be intelligent. On the mother's side they are made up of her dread of another maternity, of her frets and worries over ways and means, or of her vanity, her love for dress and her frivolity, of her lower qualities, her aggressiveness, her bitter tongue in warfare. Children created out of mental worries and frets, out of vanity, frivolity and ill temper, can not be intelligent. And yet we are told to have seven or eight children as fast

Elements Are Transmuted Into Other Elements

By Professor GEORGE HOWARD DARWIN, Son of Charles Robert Darwin

It is not my object nor am I competent to examine the extent to which the theory of natural selection has needed modification since it was first formulated by my father and Wallace. The mystery of life remains as impenetrable as ever.

The physicist, like the biologist and the historian, watches the effect of slowly varying external conditions. He sees the quality of persistence or stability gradually decaying until it vanishes, when there ensues what is called in politics a revolution. These considerations lead me to doubt whether biologists have been correct in looking for continuous transformation of species. Judging by analogy, they should rather expect to find slight, continuous changes occurring during a long period, followed by a somewhat SUDDEN TRANSFORMATION into a new species or by rapid extinction.

Within the last few years electrical researches have shown that the atom is not indivisible, and a flood of light has been thrown thereby on the ultimate constitution of matter. By various convergent lines of experiment it has been proved that the simplest of all atoms—that of hydrogen—consists of about 800 separate parts, while the number of parts in the atom of the denser metals must be counted by tens of thousands. These separate parts of the atom have been called corpuscles or electrons and might be described as particles of negative electricity.

Although the conception of the decay of an element and its spontaneous transmutation into another element would have seemed absolutely repugnant to the chemist until recently, yet analogy with other moving systems seems to suggest that the ELEMENTS ARE NOT ETERNAL.

Thomson conceived that an atom might be constructed after a model he had devised—an electrical miniature planetary system which was a triumph of mathematical power—that he thought might be made to run for a million years, but it would not be eternal. Such a conclusion is an absolute contradiction to all that was known of the elements until recently, for no symptoms of decay were perceived, and the elements existing in the solar system must already have lasted for millions of years.

NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT IN RADIUM AND IN OTHER ELEMENTS POSSESSING VERY COMPLEX ATOMS THAT BREAK UP, A SPONTANEOUS REARRANGEMENT WHICH CONSTITUTES A TRANSMUTATION OF ELEMENTS IS ACTUALLY OBSERVED.

as we can. Who cares whether any president of the United States has a large number of very common-looking children—it is no reason why everyone else should want a large family; such a president would probably have plenty of money to support them, and his wife plenty of hired help to take the burden off herself. But where would a poverty-stricken father be? And in Commack, Long Island, the big family theory has no standing. One of its residents, William Cheshire died last week, leaving an invalid wife and eleven children, the youngest five months old. The county will have to support this big family. The poorhouse is filled to overflowing, and the people will be taxed to build another. Thus others are made to support the fruits of ignorant men who propagate their kind in poverty and squalor.

No wonder there are criminals born amid these baleful conditions, but the way to better them is not to continue to build jails and scaffolds; instead, we must go back and learn how to prevent these malefactors from being born, and if we cannot prevent them the quicker the race suicides the better.

I have spoken previously in these columns concerning the wrong of hanging criminals—of the wrong of hanging the body for the mind's error. There is, besides, a system of punishment in store for the criminals in the next world. And in the case of Grant Williams, whose body, already dead, was hung on the scaffold, received three separate punishments for one misdeed, which is against all our ideas of justice. Either punishment would have been, perhaps, sufficient to fit the crime. First, the criminal was imprisoned for months and made to face, continually, the fact that he was to be hung; next, during the three days he heard them erecting his gallows, his mental torture was so great that he collapsed and died of fright, receiving the first punishment right here. Next, the jailers would not leave him to die in peace, but while his body was warm, and while they and the surgeons pronounced him dead, they dragged him to the scaffold and held the body while they put the rope around his neck and sprung the trap and it dangled in space, thus giving the forlorn spirit and soul no time to withdraw themselves properly from the veins, brain and arteries of that body it had been a part of for years; this outrage was punishment number two. The

third punishment began undoubtedly, when the unhappy spirit entered the next world to appear before the bar of spiritual justice, from which there is no repeal.

Most of us respect death, even if we are ignorant of the psychical states governing it; there is an awe, an innate feeling that causes us to respect the dead. What can be said, then, of human tigers who fall upon the dead body—the tenement of clay vacated by the forlorn soul, and drag it to the scaffold with spite and malice, chuckling with delight while they dangle it at the end of a rope. Are they men and creditable human beings who do this thing? Are they not beasts and incapable of reason, or worse than beasts, because animals have reasoning powers, and ought not these men be walking on four feet instead of two?

When will the world grow humane enough to imprison for life the murderer, instead of hanging him?

The Nemesis of Chautauqua Lake.

BY HON. A. B. RICHMOND.

We have some copies of this interesting cloth bound book left. Do you want them during December at 30 cents, postpaid? If so, send us your orders. They are another nice Christmas present.

The most unhappy of all men is the man that can not tell what he is going to do, that has got no work cut out for him in the world, and does not go into it. For work is the grand cure of all the maladies and miseries that ever beset mankind—honest work, which you intend getting done.—Carlyle.

D. A. V. & P. R. R.

(Central Standard Time.)
One hour slower than Eastern Time.

No. 11 No. 2	IN EFFECT NOV. 5, 1905.	No. 21 No. 4
6. 00-6. 05		Ar. 6. 00
7. 00-7. 05 Lv.	Dunkirk	Ar. 6. 40
7. 10-7. 15	Falcons	Ar. 6. 30
7. 20-7. 25	Laurens	Ar. 6. 20
7. 30-7. 35	Lily Dale	Ar. 6. 10
7. 40-7. 45	Canastota	Ar. 6. 00
7. 50-7. 55	Monroe	Ar. 5. 50
8. 00-8. 05	Winchester	Ar. 5. 40
8. 10-8. 15	Gerry	Ar. 5. 30
8. 20-8. 25 Lv.	Falcons	Ar. 5. 20
8. 30-8. 35	Laurens	Ar. 5. 10
8. 40-8. 45	Canastota	Ar. 5. 00
8. 50-8. 55	Monroe	Ar. 4. 50
9. 00-9. 05 Lv.	Falcons Junct.	Ar. 4. 40
9. 10-9. 15	Warren	Ar. 4. 30
9. 20-9. 25	Timonville	Ar. 4. 20
9. 30-9. 35		Ar. 4. 10

PITTSBURG PICKINGS.

For the first time in several years I am filling a month's in Pittsburg. Since that time the society has grown rapidly. Whether this growth is due to my prolonged absence, and the cooperation of better talent I will not attempt to decide. Perhaps it is coincidence. Whatever the cause I rejoice at their success. A beautiful church is now their happy possession. Then we met in a hall on Sixth street. Today I observed with pleasure the symbol on the wall back of the platform. It is the idea of Mrs. C. L. Stevens, and represents a sunrise shedding light and glory upon the clouds, and over the earth, as the dawn of the new day sheds the light of heaven upon the clouds of ignorance, and illumines the world with immortal revelations. It is very suggestive. There is a quiet earnestness in the meetings, but no violations of the spiritual harmony by applause. All the appointments, and quiet enthusiasm, seem to be above the plane of noisy demonstrations.

I find a growing interest and increasing audiences. Mrs. Stevens has not been able to attend any of the meetings since my arrival. But he is on hand every time, adding his genial personality to the interest. Brother Evans is blind, but he can sing and use the organ, and adds much to the pleasure of all.

John Grayburn is full of the spirit, appreciating the blessings of life, and the prophecy of hope. Lizzie, his charming daughter, who used to accompany him to Lily Dale, and who shared his faith, married a Spiritualist, and lives in Arizona; and has three beautiful children. Yet it seems but a few months since I first met her at Lily Dale, as a beautiful young girl.

Mr. and Mrs. Dixon of Homestead, patrons of Lily Dale, are faithful attendants at the Spiritual Church of Pittsburg.

Mr. Matthews distributes knowledge to those who read, and Mr. and Mrs. Southern distribute pleasant in their fine luminous atmosphere.

Mrs. Hughs has not been very numerous at the church, due, I suppose, to the tax upon her time in other ways. She has not backslid.

Mrs. Barr and Mr. Hanson from Buffalo have been among our hearers the past two Sundays. The Ladies Aid is active and efficient. Mrs. Pressing is a happy choice for president, and her influence is fine, spiritual and inspiring. The Children's Lyceum is growing, and is a promising feature of the whole church work. It is a beautiful scene when the young types of angelhood are marshalled in rhythmic order, and the bright faces glow with delight.

E. W. Sprague, and wife, follow me in December; so I have two followers at least, albeit they follow from afar, and keep out of my sight. Then in January, Oscar A. Edgerly serves the church, and February and March are to have the services of Mrs. Katie Hamm. Then, April and May, is to have the intellectual feasts as served up in scientific order by Professor Wm. Lockwood. Margaret Gaule Riedinger in September 1905, and Mr. and Mrs. Kates in October, filled the church to the limit of its capacity. Tests draw, and most people estimate success by numbers. A progressive euchre party is on for Tuesday evening November 28th, when social cheer will, I hope, add to the treasury receipts, and to the general interest of the Spiritualist cause, by bringing people into closer rapport and fraternal accord.

Thanksgiving is to be celebrated by lectures, tests, social blendings, and a royal feast in the dining-room. It is expected that Mr. and Mrs. Sprague will be here to participate, and give the people instructive entertainment in various ways by the exercise of their spiritual gifts. There are few, if any, better mediums than E. W. Sprague; but as he is employed mostly for lectures, Mrs. Sprague does the test business.

Doubtless, all who share this Thanksgiving treat will realize that they have much for which to be thankful. I expect to visit at Homestead, Tuesday of this week; and Wednesday evening I am to eat with A. D. Field and wife—two faithful followers of the spiritual light. I expect to leave Pittsburg, Monday November 27th, and arrive at home in Fredonia the same day. Since I left home, Mrs. Howe has been sick, and had a determined fight with pneumonia, or its twin

plague, but have received word that she is improving. I have been particularly favored here in the quality of the home provided here for me. Mrs. Keyt—my hostess—has a son and daughter that carry sunshine in their faces, and shed cheer in their personality. The three make the home radiant and attractive. All the appointments of the house are pleasant, my room good enough for a prince, or a president, and the table fare excellent. I am glad to be here.

Yours for Spiritualism all the time.

LYMAN C. HOWE.

THE PARSON'S PRAYER.

Money! Oh Money, thy praises I sing,
For thou art my Saviour, my God and my King;
'Tis for thee that I preach, 'tis for thee that I pray,
And make my collection twice each Sabbath day.

Money's my creed and I'll not pray without it.

My heaven is closed for all those who doubt it.

For this is the essence of parsons' religion.

Come regular to church and be plucked like a pigeon.

With my head held erect and glass in one eye.

I want you to know that my church is called high;

I don't mean the structure of steeple or wall,

But so high that the Lord cannot reach it at all.

I have poor in my parish who need some relief.

I preach to their poverty, pray for their grief;

I send my box round to them morning and night.

And I hope all remember the poor widow's mite.

I gather my knowledge from wisdom's great tree.

The whole of my Trinity is £'s. and d.;

Pounds, shillings and pence are all that I crave.

From my first step on earth to the brink of my grave.

In the cold, silent grave I shall soon be at rest.

Place a box on my grave, 'tis my latest request;

That my friends may all see, who come for reflection,

That I can't rest in peace without a collection.

My pay may be hundreds or thousands a year.

Double it, thruple it, still I am here.

With my box or my bag, collecting your brass.

I can't do as Jesus did, ride on an ass.

I'll have carriage, and horses, and servants and all.

I am not going to foot it, like Peter and Paul.

Neither like John, live on locusts and honey.

So out with your purses and down with your money.

Fools sometimes ask what I do with the money.

They might just as well ask, what bees do with honey.

I answer them all, with a wink and a nod.

Three thirds I keep for myself and give praises to God.

In the cold silent grave, I shall soon be laid low.

To sleep with the friends who went long, long ago;

I shall slumber in peace till the great resurrection.

But I'll be first on my feet to make the collection.

T. I. IRELAND.

What time is it?

Time to do well;

Time to live better;

Give up the grudge;

Answer that letter;

Speaking that kind word to sweeten a sorrow;

Do that good deed you would leave till to-morrow.

What time is it?

Time to be earnest;

Laying up treasure;

Time to be thoughtful,

Choosing true pleasure;

Loving stern justice, of truth being fond—

Making your word just as good as your bond.

—Montreal Witness.

THE SUNFLOWER \$1.00 a year.

THE COMMON SNAIL.

An Air Breathing Creature That Lives Without Air.

The common snail has lungs, heart and a general circulation and is in every respect an air breathing creature. This notwithstanding, he can live on indefinitely without inhaling the least atom of air—that which is usually considered the essential to existence in all creatures supplied with lungs. Leppert says, "To all organized creatures the removal of oxygen, water, nourishment and heat causes death to ensue." When that statement was made he does not appear to consider the snail as one among the great host of "organized beings," for experiments prove that any or all the usual life conditions can be removed in its case without terminating its functions.

It is a fact well known that the common land snail retreats into his shell on the approach of frosty weather in the fall and that the opening or mouth of the shell is hermetically sealed by a secretion which is of a silky texture and absolutely impervious to both air and water. In this condition it is plain that he is deprived of three out of the four elements of life mentioned by Leppert—viz., air, water and nourishment.

Taken after he has been thus handicapped for months, he may be plunged into a chemical mixture 100 degrees colder than the degree marked at Fahrenheit's zero and allowed to remain in that chilly solution for weeks. Yet as soon as restored to normal temperature life is renewed, and the snail soon regains his natural powers, clips the silken curtain from his house door and begins to feed as naturally as though just awakening from a winter's sleep. Spallanzani kept a snail of the great helix family hermetically sealed in a glass tube from which all air had been carefully removed for a period of four years and two months, yet he declared that the creature regained all its normal functions within less than an hour after being exposed to a temperature of 90 degrees.

SOUTHEY'S GUILLOTINE.

It Did Not Serve the Purpose For Which It Was Made.

Lord Southey once in a fit of disgust with life had a magnificent guillotine erected in the drawing room of his magnificently appointed house in the Rue de Luxembourg, at Paris. The machine was an elaborate affair, with ebony uprights inlaid with gold and silver. The framework was carved with great artistic skill, and the knife, of immense weight and falling at the touch of a spring, was of ornamental steel, polished and as sharp as a razor.

The spring which liberated the knife was placed within easy reach of any one kneeling upon the scaffold. In fact, every detail was arranged with a view to the convenience of the would be suicide. The day that the engine of death was entirely finished Lord Southey completed his testamentary dispositions, shaved, had his hair cut and, clothed in a robe of white silk, knelt upon the platform under the knife.

The guillotine was placed before a large mirror, wherein the person committing suicide could see his own image until the last. Murmuring a short prayer, Lord Southey placed his head in the semicircle and pressed the spring.

The next morning he was found calmly sleeping in his bed. The spring had failed to work, and after several fruitless efforts Lord Southey was compelled to relinquish his attempt upon his life. Thoroughly cured of his spleen, he presented the guillotine to the Glasgow museum, whence he made an annual pilgrimage to see it until the end of his life.

In the Days Before Sugar.

Once upon a time, when there was no such thing as sugar—lovers of lollipops, only think of it—bees were of much greater value than they are now, for honey was then the chief if not the only sweetener, and wax was largely used in the making of very fine candles for altars and royal banquets. Some of the laws of old Ireland so green and of little Wales dealt with the subject of bees, which shows how important as well as industrious were these busy insects. Every owner of bees was required to distribute some of his honey among his neighbors every third year. Why? Because his bees had gathered their honey from the opening flowers on his neighbor's lands. There was a nice sense of justice for you! And some there are that would like to see it applied all round, even in the present day.

It Looked Easy to Him.

Little Nathan had been taken to his father's office, where, it appears, he was considerably impressed. Afterward at home he made known his intentions concerning the future.

"When I get to be a man," he said, "I'm going to make lots of money, like papa does."

His parents gave him to understand that they approved of his ambition, after which Nathan indulged for some time in serious thought. At last he turned to his father, asking:

"Papa, is sitting in a chair that turns around all you have to do to make money?"—Chicago Record-Herald.

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Life Readings by mail, \$1.00 and upwards. Trial readings, 25 cents and 2 two-cent stamps. Send sex, time, place, and if possible hour of birth. These readings are of great benefit to business men, and to parents in dealing with their children. Many mistakes are avoided by having a horoscope of a child, showing its natural tendencies.

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LIGHT FROM EVERYWHERE



This department is conducted to enable Spiritualists and Public Workers to keep in touch with each other and with the work. Send us notices of your engagements, of any other items of interest. Officers of societies, what you have, your meetings, entertainments, what speakers you have, your elections, reports of annual and other business meetings, in fact, everything you would like to know about other societies.

Write reports with typewriter or plainly with pen and ink. Never use a pencil or write on both sides of the paper.

Make items short and to the point. We will adjust them to suit the space we have to use. A weekly notice of your meetings written on a postal card would look well in this column.

Always sign your full name and address to every communication; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith; "correspondent" or "subscriber" gives us no clue to the author. The printed article can be signed that way if you wish it but we must have your name for our own information.

Manuscripts will not be returned unless stamps are enclosed for return postage. If not, they will be retained thirty days and then destroyed. Return copies of poems as we do not return them if we can not use them.

Suggestions for the improvement of the paper are invited.

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CHRISTMAS.

THE SUNFLOWER for a year and a solid gold, 14 karat, self-filling Fountain Pen would make the finest kind of a Christmas Present, and will cost you only \$1.60. See page 2 for particulars.

J. M. White is doing a good work at Topeka, Kans.

E. Cline writes in renewing subscription, "We don't seem to think we can get along without THE SUNFLOWER." Thanks. We don't want you to. You have lots of good company in that idea to.

In renewing subscription, J. N. Goodwin writes: "I am always pleased with the weekly visits of THE SUNFLOWER. It might well be termed 'The Sunshine,' considering the great light it sheds over one's existence."

Moses and Mattie Hull are traveling in the West and will be in Texas as the coming week. They should be kept busy every minute. They finish the work that has been begun by others in the phenomenal and argumentative line.

Our friends are renewing their subscriptions and we appreciate it. How does yours stand? Look up that Fountain Pen offer on page 2. We are always ready to help our patrons. Will you help us by calling attention of your friends to THE SUNFLOWER?

Lenore Wilson, in renewing her subscription writes, "Enclosed find renewal of subscription. I will try to get you some new subscribers. With a long winter before us I think THE SUNFLOWER will be as welcome to us as a flower in May."

A. F. M. writes: Berkely, Calif., has a free-school for un-vaccinated children—the result of a tyrannical enforcing of compulsory vaccination on children attending the public schools. It seems strange that American children cannot have the benefits of public education without having to submit to a poisoning process as a means toward that end.

Our good brother Latta remembers THE SUNFLOWER every little while with a list of subscribers. In that way he helps in two ways: He helps the paper, and he places progressive reading matter in the hands of another family. Did it ever occur to you that you might do missionary work of the same kind? Try it.

We thank all the friends for the kind words concerning THE SUNFLOWER. In fact, it is so seldom that we receive any other that we hardly know how it seems. Read our Fountain Pen offer and make someone happy by a Christmas present of the pen and THE SUNFLOWER. You could not give them anything they would appreciate more and it will help to swell the blossoms on the stalk of THE SUNFLOWER.

When writing to this office PLEASE give your full name and address. A large proportion of the letters received lack name, state, town, or something so that we do not dare to destroy an envelope in which it comes until the letter has gone thru our books. THIS IS IMPORTANT! REMEMBER that while you may know what State your town is in, we do not and there are from twenty to thirty postoffices of the same name in different States.

Our good friend Mrs. Milton Ratbun writes, "I would be the loser by missing a single copy of THE SUNFLOWER and I will send my

subscription for two years. I have just been perusing the last issue of your paper and enjoyed Dr. Rothearmel's letter as well as the choice and interesting reading matter companions to it. Many years ago Dr. Rothearmel gave a wonderful seance at our home in New York City and I am glad that he has returned to the field of phenomenal manifestations and predict that his guides will do a wonderful work thru him."

Arthur J. Marchant writes: Seeing your invitation to reply to the question "Does a man own his own knowledge?" I take the liberty of answering the same. I do not take up all the sides to this interesting question, hoping to elicit other views, doubtless more valuable than mine but I wish to say "Would that the press of this country would take space to put more such questions before their readers. They would soon become greater educators in the Ethics of Life than any college or cult."

D. Feast writes from Baltimore: The First Spiritual church gave a social in the Sunday school room Wednesday the 15th—the first of the season, was fairly attended, considering threatening weather. Music recitation and addresses by pastor, Mrs. Bludsoe and Hon. Chas. R. Scherm made the evening pass away pleasantly. Cake and cream were served after the program was thru. The church proposes to give a social the third Wednesday in each month to enable the members to become better acquainted. We trust that much good may result from our efforts and many may be constrained to join us.

A correspondent writes from Chicago: "I am glad to learn so many Societies are opening their doors freely, letting in the people to investigate this beautiful truth, we have three times as many people and our collections are twice as much as when we took fees at the doors. We have a Hypnotic Orchestra, all of whom, with the pianist, play under control and we have new attractions every week, and we often have as many as four mediums giving tests at once, we have the largest Spiritual Hall in Chicago, so we have plenty of room. Dr. Beverly, our President is giving us a very interesting course of lectures on the philosophy. He never speaks over 20 minutes and always gives some demonstrations, that are interesting. Three Mediums will speak under control next Sunday evening, controlled, by Mrs. Gen. Booth, Col. Ingersoll, and Martin Luther. Give the people something new they will fill your Halls. Come and see us at Arlington Hall, 31 St and Indiana Ave., 5 free treatments, (Absent,) will be given to all who send their name and address and disease to Dr. Beverly, 44 E 31 St. Chicago. You will always find the Sunflower bowing to you as you enter the Hall."

Wm. Strong writes from Hamilton, Canada: Enclosed you will find a clipping from The Hamilton Herald relative to the formation of the Willing Workers Spiritual Society here. About two years and one-half since the formation of the First Spiritual society here, during which time the Cause has made great progress in this city. The president of the Willing Workers is one of our first converts when the writer had the honor of first organizing here. Mrs. Harris has made more converts to Spiritualism than any other single medium who has visited this field. I think Mrs. Ripley might be said to come next. I have traveled considerable in both Canada and the United States and I know of no greater interest than that now existing here, considering the extent of our population. I am impressed that you shall hear of still greater things from this fair city.

The meetings held in the S. O. E. hall corner King and Charles streets, have resulted in the successful formation of a new society called the Willing Workers Spiritual society of Hamilton, Canada. The following officers have been elected: A. E. Burley, president. A. Rinker, vice-president. Miss M. A. Resen, secretary. Mrs. A. Hanson, treasurer. William Strong, honorary president. Constitution committee—Mr. Burley, Mrs. Wilson, Mr. Lockety, Mrs. Resen and William Strong. Concert committee—Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Wilson, Miss Chessman and Miss Resen. Social committee—Mrs. Hanson,

Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Branton.

Mrs. Harris, the medium, has been drawing very large gatherings of people. The Sunday meetings and weekly circles are a great success.

BALTIMORE.

Good Work Being Done.

Mrs. Bludsoe of Kansas, lectured before the First Spiritual church Sunday, Nov. 19 at 8 p. m., taking for her subject, "How religion has been opposed to science and reason."

In part the speaker said that 2000 years ago it was thought that the Bible contained the whole law, that the laws that were laid down by Moses were, for all the people, for all time. Religion then was in a crude state. It was opposed to science and reason, since which time it has been discovered that no religious system has a monopoly on the works of God. We have not the only Bible. There are many Bibles just as ancient as ours, and contain many precepts well worth emulating. When Jesus of the Christians was born he was so pure and spiritual that the world was made better by his life and work. The Bible is not an infallible guide as many assert. It is contradictory in many respects, and is utterly opposed to the advanced thought of the day. It will not fit the conditions that exist today. It has a new revelation each day for each one of us.

The church has fought every measure of science and reason and it is only a matter of time when the churches will embrace the doctrine of Spiritualism. There are over 500 passages in the Bible that directly teach the philosophy of Spiritualism.

Five hundred years ago, St. Augustine taught that the earth was a rectangular plane. Science began to turn the pages of nature, and it was found that he was mistaken. In the 5th century Hypatia, a woman of advanced ideas, should be living today and teaching in an academy. For her advanced ideas she was taken from her carriage and killed—that was their way to eliminate science. A man to deny the existence of a personal God should be beheaded by a Jew doctor. In 1507 Copernicus, gave to the world the science of Astronomy. He suffered for that. His books on the subject were burned. 80 years after, Galileo brought out the same ideas and was placed in jail for 15 years. Bruno was excommunicated, and at the command of the church, was burned at the stake. He taught the plurality of worlds. He was a man of advanced thought—Today a statue of Bruno may be seen in Rome, much to the honor of the church. Newton wrote a series of letters on the Trinity, but were never published until 27 years after his death, and then in the French language.

Priestly, a good man, discovered Oxygen. His home was destroyed by a mob. His manuscripts burned. He was forced to leave England, so he settled in Pennsylvania. In the Centennial year his grave was covered with flowers—Jonathan Edwards of Presbyterian fame, said that the joys of heaven was in the thought that many were in the torments of hell. In our modern times men like Spurgeon could not see the handwriting on the wall. Religions die when men outgrow them. A Methodist preacher was asked which text in the Bible to him was the most important. He said, Destroy the Bible from cover to cover but save me, Jno. 3d chapter, 16th verse. The same idea that inspired the women of India to throw her child in the river Ganges. There is a certain class of people who think that Spiritualism is a delusion to be cast aside. Once Spiritualism is proven to a person, a Spiritualist always. Spiritualism is reformatory in every sense of the word; who can measure its healing in the time of death? It is fair in its statements. Bring out your Bibles and compare what the early writers said. Paul said covet earnestly the best gifts—consider the thought that your mother who has passed into the spirit-world may be at your side in the hour of temptation. Would you do wrong if you knew that she was looking at you? I think not. Spiritualism is not opposed to reason but is rather an ally to it. I have a reverence for the Bible—so have I for other books, that in many

instances, teach good. John says, "Try the spirits." That is the test of reason. Jesus said, "Love one another; the things that I do ye shall do also." Crowd out selfishness from the world. Give to others what you have gotten from Spiritualism. Be not satisfied that you have discovered a new truth. Give it to the world and thus form your loyalty to the grandest cause on earth. Be not charged with the sin of omission. Do something. Be something says the philosopher—spread your knowledge of Spiritualism. Let the consequences be what they may. Some may call this egotism, but it is not. If you have a good thing share it with your brother. Love one another is the sum total of all religions. You can't sin and be happy. "Sell what thou hast and give to the poor," said the Nazarine. Is that followed in this day and generation? I think not. Purity of life is normal—sin and its results are abnormal. Our philosophy, my hearers, is both a religion and a science; religion to those who follow its precepts, an incentive to a better and higher life of love and wisdom. May we all be better Spiritualists, and thus show to the world that our religion is of vast importance to the world steeped in superstition and ignorance. Let us not divorce science from our religion. Let us recognize the possibilities of both as they are the twin sisters of right living and in harmony with our better nature.

D. FEAST.

Work a little, sing a little,
Whistle and be gay;
Read a little, play a little,
Busy every day;
Talk a little, laugh a little,
Don't forget to pray;
Be a bit of merry sunshine
All the blessed way.

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INTERESTING TRIP.

Two National Conventions in One Month.

LAURA G. FIXEN.

(Continued from Last Week.)

On Wednesday we visited Cataline Island, going forty miles by cars to San Pedro, the great shipping port of Los Angeles, from whence a fast steamer took us to Cataline in four hours. After a dinner including broiled "Tuners," the famous fish of this place, we went in glass-bottom boats to view seven miles and a half of the wonderful marine gardens, filled with thousands of fish in different sizes and colors, returning upon reaching the seal rocks, where hundreds of seals are holding sociables all day and take life generally easy. On Thursday we went to Santa Monica, reached by electric cars from Los Angeles in two hours. This is a favorite bathing place and a number of us had the pleasure of having a dip in the briny Pacific ocean, affording us a delightful experience.

Friday was the opening day of the convention, held in the Hope street Congregational Church, the largest in the city. As we entered we were charmed with the beauty which met the eye everywhere. The interior was artistically decorated with the handpainted silk banners of the different states and departments of work, while flowers in richest hue and bewildering variety in beauty with garlands of smilax met the eye everywhere. Above the platform a globe of smilax representing the world, encircled with a wide white ribbon. The delegates were seated by states indicated by bannerets placed in the pews, and as Illinois had her seats directly on the right of the platform we were favored with some of the choicest seats in the house. Promptly at 10 a. m., amidst flowers and flags, beauty and enthusiasm and great anticipations the N. W. C. T. U. convention was opened with song and prayer and then proceeded to business.

Mrs. L. M. N. Stevens, the national president, is an unwearying worker, a fine chairman and a woman much beloved by her constituents. In addition to being the national president, she is vice-president of the World's W. C. T. U., and has for nearly thirty years been president of the Maine State W. C. T. U. She is very courteous and fair, has a fine voice, an inspiring presence, and holds the convention well in hand; needless to say she is a superb parliamentarian.

Miss Anna Gordon, who was Miss Willard's companion and friend, and is now the national vice-president, is constantly at her side and proves a very efficient assistant. The deliberations throughout were most dignified, a time-keeper promptly rang a bell at the expiration of the three minutes or more allotted a speech or report and as the delegations filled the main part of the church, and but a few hundred visitors could be crowded up stairs, overflow meetings were held in adjacent churches where the speakers and superintendents were sent so that all could enjoy the privilege of seeing and hearing these prominent workers.

The daily routine of reports was enlivened by frequent scintillating flashes of wit and oratory such as might be expected from so large a gathering of bright minds. The most prominent woman in the convention was Miss Marie Brehm, the illustrious president of the Illinois Unions. Standing on the floor, she has a dignified, commanding presence, indicating concentrated energy and great reserve force. With it she has a marvelously clear voice and her words fall from her lips like music. She is logical, pithy and eloquent, and compels everybody to listen, for she is a natural orator and the probable successor of Mrs. Stevens for president, for in her is the satisfactory answer to the question, "Who shall be our next leader?" and although Mrs. Stevens was elected by an overwhelming majority, as was expected, the Illinois delegation and a few others cast their ballots for Miss Brehm for president. As this eloquent speaker will deliver the address on Woman's Day at the City of Light Assembly next summer in place of

Miss Anna Shaw, thousands of Spiritualists will have the pleasure of hearing this sweet voiced orator.

On the Sabbath day a large number of White Ribboners occupied the pulpits. I was assigned to preach in the Free Methodist church in the morning and had the pleasure of speaking at Mrs. Maude L. von Freitag's meeting in the evening, where over three hundred people were turned away unable to gain admittance, and while I spoke to the most ultra orthodox in the morning and the most liberal in the evening, I enjoyed both services very much and found my listeners equally attentive.

The convention closed on Wednesday evening, Nov. 1, amid great enthusiasm. I wish every Spiritualist could attend such a convention, proving to them the incomparable value of thorough, organization and of competent trained leaders at the head of each department. The work is of quite as great a help to those who labor as they are to the work.

The National W. C. T. U. is the largest body of any delegated convention in the world. Those who went to this convention paid out about \$100,000 to the railroad companies alone, and more than that for other expenses. Its deliberations are most dignified and impressive, carried on with rare executive ability; it is at once an inspiration to be a member of this exceedingly orthodox, aggressive, devoted and persistent opponent of the saloon. No wonder the liquor traffic fears the W. C. T. U. more than the temperance legislation of luke-warm politicians. The women are in deathly earnest and woman's hand shall yet close the dram-shop and keep it shut.

On Thursday, Nov. 2, the day after the close of the convention, the excursions and social functions recommenced. Mrs. Francis and I spent the day in calling on friends and on Friday joined a special excursion to Pasadena where we were met at the Hotel Green with carriages and automobiles and were taken around to see this beautiful city placed like a flower garden in the St. Gabriel's valley where eastern capitalists decidedly the worse for wear, are trying to build up their battered constitutions and make peace with God and the world for having worshiped Mammon and bowed to the golden calf in their greed for money, which now obtained they would gladly exchange for the beggar's stock in trade, a hungry stomach. After our drive was completed we attended a reception where greetings were extended by the citizens, headed by the mayor. Lunch was then served after which we took the electric cars to Mt. Lowe and went 5,000 feet up the Echo mountain to Alpine Tavern, a delightfully quaint Swiss hostelry. Burros took us a thousand feet higher, and on the back of these sure-footed carriers we went to the summit, from whence we had a view of peaks and valleys never to be forgotten.

On Saturday, Nov. 4, a special excursion was arranged carrying the guests to Hollywood, visiting the Art Gallery of the world-famous flower painter, M. Paul de Longpre, then through orange, lemon and walnut groves to Santa Monica, where a luncheon was served on four adjoining lawns by Dr. Sarah Morris and Mrs. Helen L. Eaton, thence continuing the trip visiting eight cities and ten beaches twenty-eight miles along the surf, making the day most complete. On the same day another excursion went to San Diego, which Mrs. Francis joined, while I attended the funeral of Brother Dye.

On Monday, Nov. 6, there was an excursion to Long Beach, where the Board of trade entertained, taking everybody for a drive first and then on a boat ride to the breakwater, finishing with a reception by the W. C. T. U.

On Tuesday the citizens of Whittier entertained, taking the delegates through the delightful groves of California fruit trees and serving luncheon.

Contemplate for a moment the amount of work involved, not only in entertaining this large company of visitors but in arranging for the delightful outings and receptions. The social features of this convention were as prominent as the business part, and far reaching in effect. It is hard to conceive of the tremendous task involved, but Californians was indeed a royal host, everybody was made welcome and

glad to see everybody else having their company smile and company manners right with them.

During our stay we had the pleasure of attending a seance given by John Slater for the benefit of Mrs. Maude Chesbro, a well-beloved worker there. Her hall at 139 W. 5th street, was packed and Mrs. Francis and I were both introduced to the audience and made most welcome. On this occasion Mrs. Francis made a very appropriate speech and was warmly applauded.

Wednesday evening, Nov. 8, Mrs. Esther Dye invited some friends to her beautiful home to bid us a farewell and God speed on this our last evening in this hospitable city. The event was naturally quiet in view of the late bereavement of our hostess.

On Thursday we started for the Grand Canyon of Arizona to view the most stupendous sight in America. We arrived on Friday evening and on Saturday morning a large number started on horses and mules for a five-mile ride down the canyon. Riding habits and guides were furnished and the allday ride tested our physical endurance, but weariness was forgotten in the constant traveling along steep mountain trails up and down, each view perfection in itself. At 1 p. m. we took luncheon on a plateau nearly 4,000 feet down the canyon from whence we could see the winding river thousands of feet below. This was the sight of our lives and the ride of our lives for not until dark did our steeds poke their noses above the rim of the canyon, each bearing a weary burden, full of gratitude for the blessings of the day.

Sunday morning we spent at the Grand Canyon. Greatest text. Sublimest sermon. Divine benediction. Every blade a harp string, every leaf a tongue, every rock a voice, eloquent in its silence, singing its praises to its Creator. We extol music, admire art, praise poetry and are moved by the world's greatest orators, but to obtain the finest music, grandest art, choicest poetry and highest oratory a human instrument is needed to express the divine; the Grand Canyon is superior to all of these, for the touch of man is absent and only God revealed in nature speaks. Here the voice of man is discord, his handiwork a blot, are a faulty coloring, poetry out of rhyme, and oratory but the twaddle of man. Out of its vast silences Mother Nature tells her child the story of the Rock of Ages, while the river like a well matched watered ribbon winds its way, singing its lullaby and the whole vastness echoes and re-echoes the refrain of creation's "Well done" to its creator.

Finally, How can I give an adequate idea of those remarkable thirty days, with its two national conventions, thirteen special outings, ten addresses, nine receptions, six thousand miles of travel through fourteen states and territories, in cars or carriages, automobiles or on horseback, never resting yet never weary, seeing new faces, meeting new friends, seeing new things; this remarkable trip to the Promised Land, seeing our star of Bethlehem, leading us to new and better things, determined that our lives shall be filled with more helpful, loving service, because of our incomparable trip which I hope that you, dear readers, may some day take and enjoy as we did.

LAURA G. FIXEN,
Chicago, Ill.

I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestionable ability of a man to elevate his life by a conscious endeavor. It is something to be able to paint a particular picture or to carve a statue, and so make a few objects beautiful but it is far more glorious to carve and paint the very atmosphere and medium through which we look, which morally we can do.—Thoreau.

Respect to age and kindness to children are among the tests of an amiable disposition. Undeviating civility to those of inferior station and courtesy to all are the emanations of a well-educated mind and finely balanced feelings.—Lydia H. Sigourney.

Do your work well, whether it be for life or for death. Help other people at theirs when you can, and seek to avenge no injury. Be sure you can obey good laws before you seek to alter bad ones—John Ruskin.



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