

HOW TO BECOME A MEDIUM.

RULES FOR DEVELOPMENT.

AND FOR THE

FORMING OF SPIRITUAL CIRCLES.

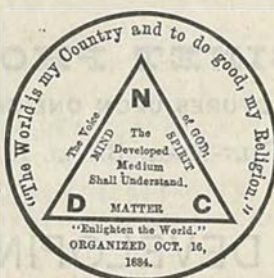
ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL DEVELOPING CIRCLE, MARCH, 1885.

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Developing Medium.

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Historian.



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NATIONAL DEVELOPING CIRCLE,

No. 121 West Concord St., Boston, Mass.

JAMES A. BLISS, & Developing Medium, N. D. C.

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This Photograph is from the studio of the celebrated artist,

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Address,

JAMES A. BLISS,

121 West Concord St., Boston, Mass.

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HOW TO BECOME A MEDIUM.

Inherent in every man and woman lie dormant powers of mediumship, which under proper training, may be developed to that degree which will make communion with spirits possible. We believe that none are entirely destitute of these powers. It has been thought and taught that those possessed of mediumistic powers were exceptions among men, peculiar persons, set aside by God, and possessed of that which for others was unattainable; but this is a mistake; each and every man and woman possesses in some degree mediumistic possibilities.

Mediumistic power is *soul power*, and as one strives to develop soul power, so much nearer will come the possibilities of mediumship; the body—the case or garment of the soul—is that, only, through which, or *by* which, objective cognizance of phenomena becomes possible to our earth-bound, material senses. This body furnishes to manifesting spirits the elements by which they produce physical phenomena; the subtle alchemy used by them, in appropriating these elements combining them, and again returning them to their sources, is as yet unknown to us.

The next sphere of existence, into which we pass through the change called death, is peopled with beings, possessed like unto ourselves of every conceivable variety of character, liable as we are to errors of judgment, likes and dislikes, desire, love, and hate; therefore, in seeking communion with them, we should seek to approach them in such a manner that we shall not cramp them in their earnest and good efforts, or, by our misdirected efforts, open the way for perversion and misrepresentation. Remember, also, that they always labor under crushing and almost insurmountable difficulties, which oftentimes make it almost impossible for them to produce good conditions, and, in consequence, mistakes are liable to occur. Therefore, we should be as little children, ready to receive, and willing to conform to their conditions as far as is in our power. Honorable treatment upon our part will be met with honorable treatment from them. Their return to the earth sphere is permitted always for a wise purpose—never without an object, and if we seek for a good purpose, the result will be satisfactory; but if we approach them with frivolity, falsity, and dishonor, we must expect the same in return. We are, in the present period, upon the eve of great changes. A new era commences. Many in power are soon to be dispossessed. Convulsions in church and society are imminent. *In this crisis will be demonstrated the survival of the fittest, and the spirit circle is to be the great and only power in working out the great problems which will arise; and its dissemination—its establishment throughout the land—is a necessity.* There should be a medium in every home and family. The truth should be taught to every man, woman and child, that they may *know themselves*, and their capabilities for mediumship. This is the object of the National Developing Circle. This demand has caused its birth. It has no religion but to do good. It seeks to proclaim to the whole world

"Enlightenment" through the "Voice of God;" and it sends out these rules for the guidance of all who would seek the truth where it may be found.

THE SEANCE ROOM.

If possible the seance room should be used for no other purpose than for holding sittings in. It should be well ventilated and lighted, and as pleasantly situated as possible, and the more there is added to it in the way of pretty furniture and tasteful decorations the better. Plants which are in a flourishing condition are very appropriate and refining in their influence, as are also fresh flowers, but sickly plants, or withered and decaying flowers, are to be excluded from the seance room. The temperature should be comfortable, say about 70° Fahrenheit, and as far as possible closeness of atmosphere should be guarded against. During sittings, the light should be subdued and softened as much as possible, that no direct or reflected rays may injure or interfere with the manifestations, and all metallic substances should be excluded from the room. A piano or organ adds to the beauty of the room, besides furnishing the means for the employment of music when available, which is always a great help towards the establishment of good conditions. Writing materials should also be handy, that the circle may not be disturbed in order to obtain them. The seance room should be well aired out once every day in order to keep the air as pure as possible, and in all other ways should be kept neat and cleanly, for spirits delight in and can work best in good surroundings. The room should be kept as far as possible for the use only of those who compose the circles, and should not be used for living room, or a general sitting room, or storeroom, as every person as well as every object possesses its own peculiar magnetism, and an indiscriminate use of the room might interfere with its proper conditions. The hanging of the walls with spiritual pictures, and others of an elevating, cheerful, or instructive nature, is to be recommended. It may not always be possible to conform to all these conditions. In such cases endeavor to approach them as nearly as your means will permit; humbleness of surroundings is no drawback to spirit manifestations, neither is honest poverty repulsive to them, when sincerity of purpose and honesty of heart prompt any to seek.

TIME OF SITTING.

The morning and the evening hours are the most appropriate for sitting. When an hour has been decided upon, make your sitting come at that same hour of the day invariably. Let nothing but urgent necessity cause you to miss sitting at the appointed hour. Be punctual. Consider it your duty to invariably keep your appointment with the spirits at the chosen seance hour, for spirits are unfailing in *their* punctuality, and you should emulate their fidelity. Admit of no interruption while sitting, unless absolutely necessary—not even to admit tardy members of the circle. Extend your sittings to one hour each time, until manifestations are obtained, then regulate the length of sittings according to the advice of the manifesting intelligences. [Note.] Members of the National Developing Circle will bear in mind their regular weekly sittings are held on Thursday evenings at 8 P. M., and Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock; for while the controlling intelligences of the N. D. C. are continually watching at all times over its members, and helping

them in all sittings they may hold, yet at the regular meetings they come more especially *en rapport* with them. The meetings held on Thursday evenings are especially designed for the "home circle," when members will sit around their tables for development and direct communion of their own spirit relatives and friends through the "home medium." This, however, will not deter members of small circles from sitting together by special arrangement, when agreeable to all parties concerned. The Sunday afternoon circle is as far as possible to be a public circle for the benefit of Humanity. Here persons that feel the "burthen of the spirit" can have an opportunity to do missionary work for the spirit friends. Here honest skeptics may be admitted to the seances, and converted to "Truth," by the labor of self-sacrificing mediums.

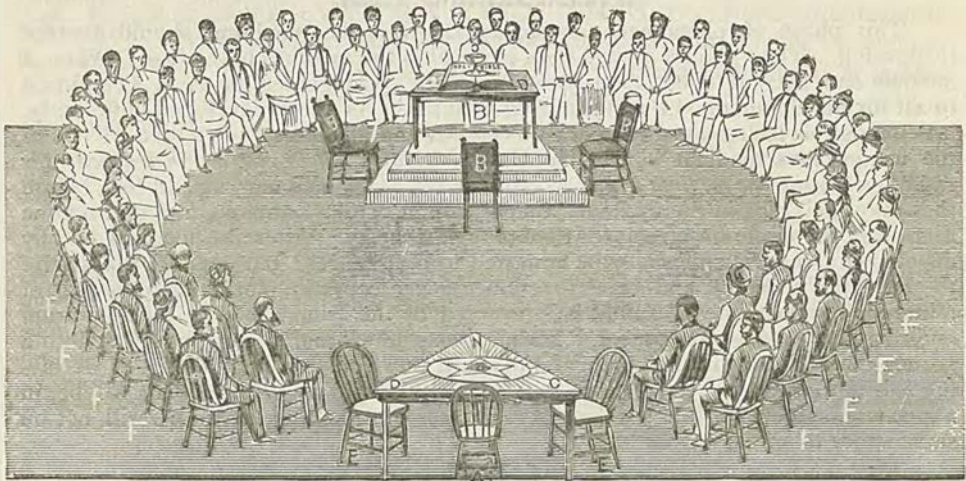
The public circle is the only true foundation stone for the organization of the now scattered forces of Modern Spiritualism.

SITTERS.

Choose carefully in forming circles. Admit none who will not conduce to harmony. An equal number of males and females is usually a wise choice. The more nearly the positive and negative elements in the circle are balanced the more satisfactory will be the manifestations, and the sooner obtained. The circle should comprise at least three persons, and as many more as may be wished. The best results, however, will be obtained in circles of from sixteen to thirty-four.

CONDUCT DURING SEANCES.

Always require each member of the circle to occupy the same seat unless the spirits themselves advise a change. Form the circle as near as possible according to the following plan :



PLAN FOR ARRANGING SEATS IN THE N. D. C.

N.D.C. Developing Table. A. Chair occupied by Developing Medium. B.B.B.B. Vacant chairs, to recognize the presence of invisible spirit friends. C. Glass dish, filled with water, placed upon the open Bible. D. Altar. E.E. Chairs, to be occupied by sensitives selected by the Developing Medium from the Circle, to receive direct developing influences; male on the left, female on the right. F.F.F.F.F. Chairs, to be occupied by members of the Circle.

Given by Spirit William Verity, under direction of Spirit Faraday, Nov. 2d, 1884.

JAMES A. BLISS, Medium.

The home and public circle should have the triangular table, if not the rest of the paraphernalia represented in the cut. Open the seance by reverently and courteously invoking the aid of spirit friends. Follow this with appropriate music of a lively, cheerful character, either vocal or instrumental. After this, conversation may be indulged in, but it must be of a quiet, friendly nature, free from frivolity, gossip, slander, or boisterous discussion. Conversation upon spiritual matters is the most conducive to harmony. No changing of places, or moving about, should be permitted. If any sitter should be strongly impressed to write, speak, gesticulate, sing, dance, or play upon piano or organ, he should not resist, but should faithfully follow the impression.

If a developed medium can be present to sit with the circle and direct it until one of its members shall be developed, all mistakes will be avoided. If you have none you should appoint one of your number to act as the Developing Medium until the spirit friends make a change.

PHENOMENA.

When manifestations occur, receive them always in a spirit of kindness. If too violent, quietly solicit them to be less so. If your solicitations are not heeded, break up the sitting. No matter how puerile or ludicrous the first manifestations may seem, persist in your investigations, and they will grow stronger and more to the purpose, and soon manifest intelligence. Spirit control is often at first defective. Spirits must learn, and gain experience by practice. As they become more experienced, and as they obtain more and more control, and get more used to the magnetism of the sitters, the manifestations gain in point and power. If bad influences appear to be at work, do not repel them harshly, but seek by kindness to convert them to better ways, and in the reception of all phenomena remember that all manifestation is shaped and limited usually by the inherent faculties of the medium through which the phenomena are produced. Subject all manifestations to the test of calm, impartial judgment. Take nothing blindly, but still keep your heart open to all truth.

MATERIALIZATION OF FORMS.

This phase of phenomena should be the last that mediums should attempt to develop. They should always seek to develop the mental phases first. When a medium can become unconsciously entranced by spirit guides, he is in a condition to sit for development as a materializing medium. As all are developed differently, it is impossible to lay down rules for this phase, and all we can say to the friends of the unconscious medium is, that *he should carefully follow out the instructions the guides give while the medium is under their control.* The mediums should feel, before they take their seat in their cabinet, that all are in perfect harmony, and that no one present in the circle for a moment doubts their honesty. After the medium is fully developed, honest skeptics may be admitted to the seances; but persons that desire to come into a seance, and break every necessary condition for the production of materializing phenomena, should be prevented by the friends of the medium from entering the room. Remember, "Like attracts like," and if persons come into a seance room filled with suspicion and distrust, they will attract that class of deceiving spirits to your seance room, so that honest, well-meaning Spiritualists will be, in a measure, subject to their psychological control, and the manifestations will not be satisfactory to spirits or mortals.

CABINET.

A curtain stretched across a corner of the room, parted in the centre, is sufficient for the cabinet, until the spirit friends are able to manifest themselves in materialized form, then a strong wooden cabinet should be built that should not be used for any other purpose. It should be provided with a lock and key, and none but the medium should be allowed to enter it. It is hard work to follow the above instructions, but the manifestations would be much stronger, and be far more satisfactory, if they were religiously observed.

DIET.

Advice upon this point *should* be superfluous, but it is not. Few persons in this world know how to eat properly. Never overload the stomach. Eat with absolute regularity. Eat of articles which are easy to digest. DRINK NO LIQUORS, OR STIMULANTS OF ANY KIND. Take no narcotics. Eat sparingly of spices and pickles. If mental phenomena are sought for, eat sparingly of animal food, and generously of grains and fruits. If physical phenomena are sought for, eat more generously of animal and vegetable matters. Never eat hearty or late suppers.

Many of the members of the N. D. C. are obliged to sit alone. To such I would say, — Remember that development when sitting alone is necessarily slower than when sitting in a developing circle, but your chances of a sure development are much better than if you sat in a promiscuous circle, for the controlling influences of the N. D. C are with you, and are especially interested in your development. So do not be discouraged, but sit down quietly in a dimly lighted room, at a small table, with your hands on the table, and paper and pencil before you. Have everything quiet and harmonious; shut out from your thoughts all cares and worldly matters; live for the hour alone in which you are sitting, render yourself perfectly passive (negative), and place your mind on your spirit friends, and if no manifestations take place, spend the time in meditation upon the future life beyond the grave. Guard against all interruption or any confusion or noise near you which will take your attention from your sitting. Use the developing power magnetized by the developing medium, and never be without it, for it acts as a battery to hold the spirit power to your surroundings. Avoid the perusal of any variety of trashy literature. Let your reading be of a solid, instructive nature; strive to put *purpose* into every moment of your life. Cultivate harmonious relations at home, and among friends and acquaintances. Do all the good you can; cultivate intuition, especially when sitting, cultivate *attention*; keep the thought of your spirit friends in your mind throughout your daily duties, and you will soon find yourself becoming susceptible to spirit impression. When you become subject to impression, follow implicitly such impressions, and as long as you live pure, honest lives, your impressions will never mislead you. Be faithful and punctual to your hours of sitting, and you will be successful.

Yours fraternally, seeking to "Enlighten the World,"

JAMES A. BLISS, ♀ Developing Medium of the N.D.C.

NATIONAL DEVELOPING CIRCLE.

ORGANIZED OCTOBER 16, 1884.

The time has now come, when wise and watchful spirit-guides see fit to extend their plans of operation, and place within the reach of every hand and home an instrument of fine and subtle developing power. As all new departures spring from small beginnings, so have the earlier attempts of spiritual gatherings grown into various methods of drawing into closer proximity and communication, those who come from celestial heights to help and bless ignorant and superstitious humanity.

The future is brighter when lighted by Hope, stronger when sustained by Faith, and glorious when led by the noble hand of Charity.

The soul can never gain freedom in spiritual life, until it reads with earnest eyes the unchanging lines written by the pen of Truth, and recognizes in them the only solution of tortuous questions of Creed and Power, that to-day keep the greater part of humanity in a seething sea of doubt, fear, and despair.

But the Great Spirit of spirits, never without an all-wise purpose and clear understanding of things, has watched the growth of spiritual progress with tender love, and now calls for all true disciples to trample down the egotism of self-spiritualism, and bravely support the efforts of spirit-powers and influences that are seeking to advance and "enlighten" mankind by words, visible signs, physical manifestations, transfigurations, and materializations.

Local circles have done such excellent work the past few years, in bringing undeveloped mediums directly under developing influences, that they have amply demonstrated their usefulness. In view of the grand purpose of the spirit-band of the National Developing Circle in originating, naming, and founding it, it becomes us as advocates of Modern Spiritualism to aid it with substantial and sympathetic assistance. It is not only in recognition of the spiritual needs

of the present generation, but also those of the next and future generations, that they speak and act. It is a school of spiritual development, where the student may start from the alphabet and graduate in full understanding of spiritual truths.

We must have mediums in our homes, where the tender child and growing youth can expand under the instruction of spiritual love, and pass into manhood and womanhood, with characters moulded and perfected on a noble plan. There it is where the circle will be fed and magnified in its work; for out of such homes will come our future greatness as a nation.

How terrible it is to those who know the blessedness of spiritual conditions, to watch the multitudes of men and women of noble possibilities, drifting into a state of cynical or stoical indifference. The day must come when Truth will tear the veil of selfish materialism from their eyes; then, if they deny the revelations given, on they must pass to spirit-life undeveloped spiritually, and there undo the wrongs and mistakes left to be redeemed by spiritual agency.

The band of spirits engaged in this work are wonderful in their strength, truth and wisdom. Years of study and research in the spirit-world have enabled them to work for mortal as man cannot work for man. Their promise of assistance is enough, for experience has shown that when they once take a task in hand, they carry it triumphantly through to the end. To all, they extend the only aid that can sustain and elevate humanity to the level of a broad and sympathetic understanding.

Thomas Paine, high in spirit purpose and tireless in his efforts to "enlighten the world," has surrounded with the circle of his unflinching love and guardianship, this new departure, and written within in letters of light—"The World is my Country, and to do good my Religion." Who can deny in all sincerity, the noble motives that animate into action the ideas of souls grown strong and unselfish through the battle of earth-life and the experience of spirit-life, with its startling revelations of the unexpected. The tried and faithful soul looks down upon those in suffering, and feels that he cannot waste one precious moment in idle contemplation while their voices come up to him freighted with doubt or despair.

The Developing Medium selected by the spirit-band of the National Developing Circle, is placed in an unconscious condition by the Controlling Spirits on Thursday evenings, from 8 to 9.30 o'clock, in his office, the Historian of the Circle and certain members being present to receive information and instructions from them. Members of this Circle, sitting in their homes during this appointed time, receive the developing influences of the large band of developing spirits with nearly the same effect as though present with the medium. This method is original with them, and has proved a success. They claim that his office resembles the earthly central telephone office; magnetic currents being established from it to all parts of the world. A public National Developing Circle will be held every Sunday in the Ladies' Aid Parlor, 1031 Washington Street, Boston, Mass., at 3 P. M. Members are invited free of charge, non-members being required to pay an admission fee of 25 cents. By the payment of 50 cents, a person is made a member for one month (four weeks); he is thus given four Thursday evening sittings and four Sunday afternoons for that amount.

The proceeds of the fees paid by members and non-members go into the general fund for the substantial advancement of the Circle. They are a *sacred trust*, to be used for advertising expenses, stationery, etc., necessary to carry on the correspondence and general work of the Circle. The fund will also be drawn upon to assist the magazine, "SPIRIT VOICES," in which will be recorded the various phases of mediumship developed during the sittings of members in different parts of the country. A journal and cash book will be kept, and a correct account of all receipts and expenditures will be given by the Treasurer the first day of each month, in the magazine.

To any one getting up a circle of *five persons* in their city, town, or neighborhood, we will receive the parties as full members of the National Developing Circle for 30 cents each of the five persons per month (four weeks), and give to the one getting up the Circle a *free membership certificate* as long as three members will renew their membership. In sending names, please give them in full, also *street and number*, that we may send certificates without delay. This offer holds good until further notice.

We know that interested bigotry, opposition, and perhaps slander, will lie in wait to send poisoned lances into the harmony and prosperity of the Circle; but they will never penetrate the coat of mail that every true soul wears; and the day always comes when confusion covers the malicious. Therefore, let all unite in *Love, Humility and Faith*, and take up bravely his or her work, in the new field of spiritual progress.

By Spiritual Direction,

MRS. G. DAVENPORT STEVENS, *Historian, N. D. C.*

OFFICERS N. D. C.

DR. JAMES A. BLISS, *Developing Medium.*

GEO. A. FULLER, *Lecturer.*

MRS. G. DAVENPORT STEVENS, *Historian.*

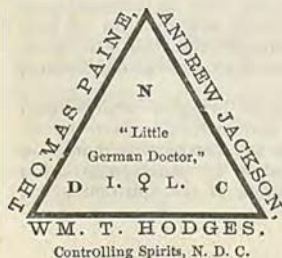
MRS. J. W. CRAWFORD, *Treasurer.*

MRS. JAMES A. BLISS, *Materializing Medium.*

Address

DR. JAMES A. BLISS,

121 WEST CONCORD STREET, BOSTON, MASS.



FIRST REPORT OF THE DEVELOPING MEDIUM OF THE NATIONAL DEVELOPING CIRCLE.

HEADQUARTERS N. D. C., 121 WEST CONCORD ST., }
BOSTON, MASS., DEC. 31, 1884. }

To the Officers and Members of the N. D. C., GREETING:

To-day closes the year of eighteen hundred and eighty-four, and it becomes my duty to give you an account of my stewardship as the spirit-selected developing medium of your Circle. I shall strive to do this as briefly as possible, for I do not wish to use up the pages of our magazine with long and unreadable articles.

On the 1st day of October, 1884, a circular was written through my hand, while I was in an entirely unconscious condition, from which I quote the following:

"4th. By my NATIONAL DEVELOPING CIRCLE, formed by especial spirit direction, in which I sit alone in my office, in an unconscious condition, every Thursday evening, from 8 to 9.30 o'clock: members of this circle all over the country, sitting in their own homes, at the same hour, receiving the developing influences of my large band of developing spirits, with very nearly the same effect as though I was personally with them. This method is original with my band, and great results are predicted by them. A record will be kept of all the notable and startling manifestations that take place during the circle, and when the fund raised by membership fees will warrant it, they will be published to the world, in the form of a magazine."

At first sight, and without reflection, it may seem to the average investigator that this must be a false claim; that such a thing is impossible. But friends of truth are always willing to give every new truth presented to them a fair hearing. The records of the members of the N. D. C., published monthly in the "SPIRIT VOICES," will settle this question in a very short time beyond discussion. *If the work is genuine, it will stand; if it is a false claim, or a fantastic idea of a disordered brain, it will come to naught.*

The N. D. C. was duly organized Oct. 16th, 1884, Mrs. R. S. Jones, of Merrimac, Mass., becoming its first member. At the present date, it numbers two hundred and thirty-eight members, scattered all over the country, from Maine to California. All of these persons, with the exception of a few spirit-appointed "Honorary Members," are monthly contributing members.

All the labor of the Circle has been done gratuitously; its officers have been carefully selected by the band of controlling spirits, and all these officers are giving their time and labor free of expense for the benefit of the Circle and Humanity. Not only have they done this, but they propose to contribute financially, as far as their limited means will permit, to sustain this new work of spirits among mortals.

The appended financial report will show the reader that all matters connected with this work will be done openly, and the members of the Circle can see monthly whether the work is destined to become a grand success, or a disastrous failure.

At the beginning of the work, I, as Developing Medium, made an offer that I would answer any questions upon mediumship when the letter contained two 2-cent stamps to pay the postage. My office has been literally flooded with such letters, and I have been compelled to work many nights until 4 o'clock, A. M., to make good that pledge. I am now obliged to withdraw that offer, as far as idle curiosity is concerned, and say to all, that *when they become members of the National Developing Circle*, I will answer any question, asked or written, that is in my power to answer; and give the most complete information in my power, upon receipt of their letter containing two 2-cent stamps to pay the postage.

The controlling spirits have selected a treasurer (Mrs. J. W. Crawford), and in future, the financial report of receipts and expenditures will be made by her, and this will leave me much relieved, to attend to the correspondence and general work of the Circle.

The work is now fairly upon its feet. Local circles are forming in every direction, and it is hoped during the coming summer months that we may be able to hold Conventions at some of the Camp-meetings, that the union of many minds may result in thoroughly organizing the spiritual movement upon a perfect basis of equality, with its directing influence centered in the Angel World.

May the good work go on until every home has within it a medium for spirit control; and then, and not until then, will its work be finished.

The officers of the N. D. C. are greatly overworked, and at times nature rebels; but they feel that their honest, unselfish labors for the benefit of humanity will be appreciated, and that those who are blessed with this world's goods will not let this work be cramped by a slim treasury.

We need money to establish Reform Colleges and schools to "enlighten the world." We have plans and charts that should be given to the world, and only wait for the coming of some generous soul that will furnish the means to help us clear up all of the past that has been deemed "mysterious."

Thousands of grand spiritual improvements can be suggested in the direct line of this work, and if the means are liberally contributed, the work will go grandly on.

Remember, brothers and sisters of the N. D. C., that this is not a man-made movement. The persons selected to do the work are simply instruments in the hands of the angels, and you are expected to place yourselves in a position to be used by them in the same manner.

Respectfully submitted to "Enlighten the World."

JAMES A. BLISS, ♀ Developing Medium, N. D. C.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE "NATIONAL DEVELOPING CIRCLE" FROM OCT. 16 TO DECEMBER 31, 1884, AS PER BILLS AND VOUCHERS PLACED IN THE HANDS OF ITS TREASURER.

RECEIPTS.

Dec. 31.	Membership Fees to date . . .	\$107.00	
" 31.	Contributions,—		
	Mrs. Emma Hardinge Britten . . .	\$1.00	
	James A. Bliss	4.74	
	"Tom" Middlemist	1.00	
	Mrs. J. M. N.	1.00	
	Louisa V. Foster . . . . .	.50	
	E. W. S. . . . .	.50	
	Collection for Hall	2.24	\$10.98
" 31.	Sunday Circle Collections,—		
	Nov. 9, \$2.50 Nov. 14, \$4.50		
	" 23, 1.50 " 30, 2.75		
	Dec. 6, 1.50 Dec. 14, .75		
	" 21, .25 " 28, 1.50		15.44
" 31.	Subscriptions, <i>Spirit Voices</i> , to date	22.50	
" 31.	Advertisements, <i>Spirit Voices</i> , to date	3.20	
		<u>\$159.12</u>	
1885.			
Jan. 1.	To Balance in Treasury	\$33.14	

EXPENDITURES.

Dec. 31.	Stationery, Books, etc.—		
	Journal and Cash-book	\$.30	
	Cash Box	1.50	
	Record Book and Index	2.60	
	Subscription List . . . . .	.85	\$5.25
	Postage Stamps		10.48
	Printing Account,—		
	Bryant's Bills, (see bills) . . .		64.75
	Advertising Account,—		
	Spiritual Offering	3.00	
	Banner of Light	27.00	
	Boston Herald	2.50	
	London Paper	1.00	33.50
	Office Expenses,—		
	Rent to date		12.00
	By Balance Cash in Treasury . .		33.14
			<u>\$159.12</u>

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES A. BLISS,

Developing Medium

And Business Manager "SPIRIT VOICES," N. D. C.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE "NATIONAL DEVELOPING CIRCLE" FROM JANUARY 1, 1885, TO FEBRUARY 1, 1885.

RECEIPTS.

1885.			
Jan. 1.	To Balance in Treasury	\$33.14	
" 31.	Membership Fees to date	98.80	
" 31.	Contributions,—		
	S. S. Goodwin	\$.50	
	Elisha Morse	3.50	
	Geo. A. Fuller	10.00	
	Sylvester Sawyer . . . . .	.50	
	James A. Bliss	5.00	19.50
" 31.	Sunday Circle Collections,—		
	Jan. 4, \$.75 Jan. 11, \$1.00		
	" 18, 3.00 " 25, 1.85		\$6.60
" 31.	<i>Spirit Voices</i> , Subscriptions, to date	\$86.88	
" 31.	Advertising, Jan. No.	52.88	\$139.76
		<u>\$297.80</u>	
1885.			
Feb. 1.	To Balance in Treasury	\$101.65	

EXPENDITURES.

1885.			
Jan. 31.	Stationery, Books, etc.—		
	Treasurer's Cash-book	\$1.25	
	Receipt and Draft-book . . . .	.75	
	Wrappers for <i>Spirit Voices</i> . . .	1.60	
	Blotter . . . . .	.75	\$4.35
	Postage Account,—Stamps . . .		8.15
	Advertising Account,—		
	Banner of Light	19.90	
	Boston Herald	5.25	25.15
	Office Expenses,—		
	Rent to date		18.00
	Printing Account,—		
	Tolman & White, 2,000 copies		
	<i>Spirit Voices</i>	132.50	
	Letter-heads and Subscription Receipts	8.00	140.50
1885.			
Feb. 1.	By Balance Cash in Treasury . .	101.65	
		<u>\$297.80</u>	

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. JENNETTE W. CRAWFORD,

Treasurer, N. D. C.

Errata, January Report, 1885,

January 31, Membership Fees should read \$95.80.

" 31. "Spirit Voices," Subscription Account should read \$89.88.

National Developing Circle Extension Fund.

Boston, April 18th, 1885.

To the Friends of the National Developing Circle Movement:—

If I was about to plead for myself, I could never pen these lines. I plead for the spirit friends that seek the means to return from spirit life to friends that are now mourning their absence in thousands of homes in our land.

The only way that these spirit friends can possibly return and make their presence known is through mediumship, and I know they desire to develop a medium in every home. I feel that it is the duty of mortals to do all in their power to assist them in this work.

All persons interested in the N. D. C. movement (if they have carefully read the pamphlet "How to Become a Medium"), can see that there is a way offered that will at least set people thinking upon the subject of spirit return.

Now I propose to give unselfish mortals that desire to do something to aid in this work, without hope of reward, other than to know that they have contributed something (the greater the sacrifice the more acceptable the offering) to assist the returning spirits to communicate with their loved ones on earth. I propose that there shall be established a *National Developing Circle Extension Fund*, that shall be drawn upon to send broadcast throughout the world free copies of the above-named pamphlet.

Who will respond, and send in from the "widow's mite" to hundreds of dollars to forward this work? The receipts, with names of contributors and expenditures, will be published each month in "Spirit Voices."

I expect that some persons will not understand that this is an unselfish plea, but I cannot stop my work to answer them. My duty is plain, and I will head the list as liberally as my means will permit, and renew my subscription every month; at least I will do all I can to help the work along.

Yours, truly seeking to "Enlighten the World,"

JAMES A. BLISS, . . . \$20.00.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF THE BLACKFOOT N. D. C. EXTENSION FUND.

RECEIPTS.

James A. Bliss,	\$20.00
Ida A. Moore, Holyoke, Mass. . . . .	.50
Mrs. James A. Bliss, Boston, Mass.	2.00
P. Henry Lessne, { Glen Cove, N.Y.	1.00
N. Joseph Farrington, {	
"Friends," Members of the Boston Circle	2.74
Mrs. M. Mills, Boston, Mass. . . . .	.55
W. . . . .	.50
Mrs. G. . . . .	.50
Unknown, " " . . . . .	.10
Abbie Ripley, " " . . . . .	.50
W. C. Keyes, Worcester, " . . . . .	.25
C. S. Macarten, Everett, " . . . . .	.50
G. F. Allen, Medford, " . . . . .	.25
M. M. M., Boston, " . . . . .	.50
L. C. P., " " . . . . .	.15
L. H., " " . . . . .	.10
Geo. Mugridge, " " . . . . .	.35
Mrs. Elizabeth Bogan, Charlestown, Mass. . . . .	.30
Mrs. G. F. Batchelder, Lynn, "	1.00
Sunday Collection of Boston Circle April 19, Boston, Mass.	4.75
Mrs. M. S. Hemphill, Clarksville, Mo. . . . .	.35
Mary F. Cooper . . . . .	.5
Chas. Russell, Boston, Mass. . . . .	.50
James A. Bliss,	21.81
TOTAL	\$59.25

EXPENDITURES.

April 10. 3 months Advertisement in Providence Sunday Paper, "How to Become a Medium,"	\$2.75
14. Postage Stamps	3.00
16. " "	3.00
17. " "	1.00
18. " "	3.00
21. " "	2.00
24. " "	2.00
25. " "	3.00
29. " "	1.00
29. <i>Blodgett's Bills, viz.:</i> —	
2,000 "How to Become a Medium,"	16.00
2,000 "Your Nameless Friend,"	18.50
2,000 "B" Envelopes,	3.50
200 "Ad." Slips,50
TOTAL	\$59.25

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All persons sick in body or mind that desire to be healed will be furnished with Blackfoot's Magnetized Paper for 10 cents per sheet, 12 sheets, \$1, or one sheet each week for one month for 40 cents, two months for 70 cents, three months, \$1.

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Read Gen. J. M. Roberts' Testimonial and History of the Origin of this now world-renowned Remedy.

THE NATIONAL DEVELOPING CIRCLE.

BY J. M. ROBERTS.

To the Editors of Spirit Voices:

Dear Friends of Humanity, — As I take my seat to address you in relation to your literary venture, I feel how inadequate words are to express the emotions of sympathy, good-will and fraternal interest I feel for you in your spirit-inspired enterprise. That you will be sustained in your grand, noble, and benevolent design to co-operate with and aid the wise, advanced and powerful spirit intelligences who have prompted you to take this important step, not only do I believe, but I may say I know; for I, too, have sought to follow the lead and guidance of just such spirits in a similar enterprise, to learn, beyond question, that it is ever the part of wisdom to follow where such beneficent spirits point the way. It is a blessed privilege you enjoy, in being deemed worthy, by them, to represent them in your desire and efforts to "enlighten the world" in relation to the grandest and most important truths that ever enlisted the devotion of mortal co-operators. As I write, I have before me the prospectus of "SPIRIT VOICES," and I feel that every line of it is the voice of spirits (who know whereof they speak), calling upon all true friends of Modern Spiritualism to rally around the standard on which is inscribed "SPIRIT VOICES," and march with it to share the victory of Truth over Error; of Right over Wrong; and of Liberty over Oppression, that is yet to be won. You have struck the key-note of the march, the inspiring strains of which will arouse the latent powers of every human soul, when you voiced the spirit battle-cry in the motto, "Enlightened Mediumship the Salvation of Humanity." Enlightened mediumship is the one great need of the hour in the spiritual movement that is so fairly under headway towards the destination it must reach before universal peace, progress and prosperity can prevail upon the earth.

How shall this great need be supplied? This is a question that wise and "enlightened" spirits have set about answering through the columns of "SPIRIT VOICES," and through the inspired pens and labors of their chosen mediums, the mortal conductors of that magazine, the first number of which you are about to issue. As the initial step towards the attainment of a general, if not a universal, development of "Enlightened Mediumship," the spirit directors of your enterprise have conceived, and, through you, have put in operation the National Developing Circle movement, which even its tender infancy gives promise of a giant's growth and strength. As I deem this movement the most important that was ever planned by spirit wisdom in love for humanity, and, as I have ample reason to know, from personal observation, something of its real import, I feel it a duty that I owe to all who are, or who may become, connected with the National Developing Circle, to state a few facts that will serve to show that this *New Departure* is not the result of a recently conceived purpose; but that it has been in preparation for several years, and has been so far tested that all question as to its practicability and utility has been set at rest in the minds of its spirit projectors.

In the year 1879, Mr. James A. Bliss was holding weekly seances, in the publishing rooms of *Mind and Matter*, in the city of Philadelphia, at which I was a regular attendant, as were many others who sought to place themselves in communication with the world of spirits. The work of mediumistic development that was there performed, was, to me, as surprising in relation to extent, as it was instructive and gratifying to me. It was in the course of those seances that an Indian spirit took possession of Mr. Bliss, and announced himself as Blackfoot. He stated that his immediate ancestors had been medicine-men for many centuries before the pale-faces had found a home in America, and that he had inherited their power to heal the sick and impart their magnetic influence to whomsoever might need it. He, in the most imperfect language (for he had not then acquired sufficient command of the English language to make himself understood without the greatest effort and persistence), requested that his chosen medium, Mr. Bliss, should be informed of his coming, and told that he, Blackfoot, sought to do a great and beneficent work through him by his co-operation as a spirit medicine-man. He requested that his medium should procure a quantity of porous blotting paper, which should be strung in sheets upon cords, and suspended in the cabinet in such a way that he could use the medium's hands to manipulate them in imparting his spirit magnetism to them. When this should be done, he directed that the magnetized sheets of paper should be broken or torn, but not cut with knife or sheers, into pieces of the dimensions of a large envelope.

These slips of magnetized paper he directed to be prepared solely by the hands of the medium, and to be placed in envelopes, and directed by him alone. I was then requested to make the announcement in *Mind and Matter* of his plan to help the sick, afflicted, and lame, and to develop those who desired to become mediums for the control of spirits. His explanation was, that he was the chosen chief or head of a vast number of Indian assistants, who would be enabled to follow the magnetized paper that would be sent out, and thus enable them to come in contact with the persons seeking or needing their spirit assistance. For three months the magnetized paper that would be called for was to be sent out at the cost of paper, envelopes and postage; after which time the medium would be allowed to charge a small remuneration for his services. When told of what Blackfoot proposed, Mr. Bliss, who, until then, had no knowledge of the extent of the mediumistic attributes with which he was endowed, was wholly incredulous as to Blackfoot's ability to accomplish what he suggested. Indeed, he scouted the idea as wholly impracticable. Blackfoot was determined not to be defeated by the unwillingness of the medium to comply with his request. He continued to come at every succeeding seance, and repeated his request in terms that showed how earnest he was in the work he had set about to do. All my influence was exerted upon Mr. Bliss to allow Blackfoot to make a trial of his power in the manner he proposed; but in vain, and I length told the badly used Indian friend and benefactor that he would have to seek some other medium through whom to perform his work. I shall never forget the terrible energy with which Blackfoot declared his purpose to make the medium co-operate with him in preforming his beneficent mission. For a time, Blackfoot ceased to importune his medium; and I supposed he had taken my advice to seek elsewhere for the mortal co-operation he desired, when, one day, I received a letter from a subscriber to *Mind and Matter*, who resided at Holyoke, Mass., in which he asked: "Who handled the copy of the paper that you sent to me?" He then went on to state that, when the paper was received and taken into the room where his invalid wife was, she asked that it might be handed to her—that as soon as she got it into her hands she was made to tear it in pieces—and as soon as this was done she became clairvoyant, and saw the room full of Indian spirits, who went through a medicine dance around her bed—and that very soon she was so far re-instated in strength that she had risen from her bed, from which, it had been decided by the physicians who had attended upon her, that she would never rise again in health. He further wrote that his wife was then about her work, apparently as well as she had ever been, and said he desired to know through whom this happy result had been brought about, as he desired to remunerate him or her for the good that had been done. At that time there were four or five persons who were engaged in folding and enclosing the weekly issues of *Mind and Matter*, and it was impossible for me to know who handled that particular copy of the paper. Supposing, however, that Mr. Bliss might have done so, as he assisted in folding and enclosing that edition of it, I wrote that I thought that it might have been him. The next mail brought back a liberal pecuniary mark of appreciation to Mr. Bliss. Again Blackfoot repeated his request with no better success than before. A short time passed, when I received a letter from a lady subscriber residing in Vermont, in which she asked what we had done to the copy of the paper that had been sent to her, and relating the curious fact that, when she received and opened it, it had apparently burst into flame in her hands so that she had to cast it from her upon the floor, when the flame died out without consuming or injuring the paper. She said that upon her son taking the paper from the floor the strange phenomenon had occurred again, and she was very anxious to know what it could mean. I could not enlighten her about a matter that I knew less of than she did, and so wrote her. I, however, was much impressed that Blackfoot and his Indian forces were behind the singular occurrence.

A short time later I received a letter from a subscriber in Northern Texas saying, that there was some strange influence had accompanied the copy of *Mind and Matter* that we had sent to him, which, when he opened the paper to read it, had caused his arms to shake so that he could not read it. He said that, supposing it was owing to some nervous condition of himself at the time, he had given the paper to several of his neighbors, about half of whom were affected by it in the same manner he had been. It was not until then that I determined that Blackfoot should have the co-operation he sought, if I could bring it about. Accordingly, I procured the porous paper and arranged it in the Cabinet as Blackfoot had directed, and then insisted upon Mr. Bliss going into the Cabinet and sitting for the control of this powerful Indian spirit. In a few minutes he was entranced, and Blackfoot began his work. I was called to the Cabinet to witness the effect of his manipulations of the paper, and was amazed to witness the electrical phenomena which occurred. The electric sparks went in steady streams from the ends of the fingers of the medium, in volume equal to the capacity of a very powerful Dynamo-Electro machine. From that moment I was convinced that Blackfoot was equal to the performance of all he proposed to do. I made the announcement in *Mind and Matter* that he had requested me to make, and thousands of applications for "Blackfoot's Magnetized Paper" poured in upon the medium, until nearly all his time was required to meet the demands upon him. Very soon the responses came by hundreds, attesting the wonderful results that had attended the use of the paper in the way of cures of every variety of sickness and disability, and of the development of the latent mediumistic attributes of the recipients. Thus began the work that has culminated in the National Developing Circle, in the beneficent and most important work of which, you have been chosen to perform the mortal portion of the labor. For nearly six years Mr. Bliss has been kept constantly busy in the exercises of his mediumistic gifts in the special direction of the work, the completion of which is contemplated by his wise and powerful spirit guides, who have planned and executed the founding of the Organization which you so deservedly represent. It is therefore no experiment upon which you are about to enter; but is rather the completion of a work, the practicability of which has been fully demonstrated.

It has been my privilege to have had the advice and counsel of many of the grand and glorious spirit workers who are behind you in your great undertaking of executing the duties of the National Developing Circle; and I can, with knowledge of their wisdom and power, say to you, *fear not to*

follow where they lead the way. With a heart overflowing with love and sympathy for them and yourselves, I invoke the blessing and bounty of the Mother and Father Over Soul of All upon your efforts to "Enlighten the World" with the light of that greatest of all luminaries — *Modern Spiritualism*.

I adopt the motto, "Enlightened Mediumship the Salvation of Humanity," as the corner-stone of the temple of Spiritual truth; and fraternally send you my most cordial greeting and good-speed on the literary voyage you have set out to make.

Burlington, N. Y., Jan. 7th, 1885.

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MRS. G. DAVENPORT STEVENS, HISTORIAN AND ASSOCIATE EDITOR OF "SPIRIT VOICES."

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With a desire to extend the work of the NATIONAL DEVELOPING CIRCLE, we make the following offer:

To any person who will get up a Circle of five persons in their city or town, we will receive the party as full members of the

NATIONAL DEVELOPING CIRCLE

for 30 cents, each person, per month (4 weeks), and will give to the person getting up the Circle a *FREE MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE* as long as three members will renew their membership. We make this special offer, to enable those who may desire to work for the NATIONAL DEVELOPING CIRCLE, to have an opportunity to do so at no expense to themselves, to extend its usefulness.

CAUTION.—In sending the names, be careful to give them in full; also street and number, that we may send them Certificates of Membership. This offer holds good until further notice.

Address

Dr. JAMES A. BLISS, 121 West Concord St., Boston.

SPIRIT VOICES.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF MODERN SPIRITUALISM,
And the Advancement of the Work of the
NATIONAL DEVELOPING CIRCLE.

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DR. JAMES A. BLISS, Business Manager,

121 WEST CONCORD STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

PRESS NOTICES.

It is creditably edited. It makes a good start and has our best wishes for its success.—*Banner of Light.*

It is a compact, well-filled magazine, containing matter of great and vital importance to all interested in the cause of human progress.—*The New York Beacon Light.*

It is excellent in the make-up and quality of matter.—*Light for Thinkers.*

Filled with interesting matter—good paper and print.—*The Rostrum.*

Beautifully printed; worthy the utmost confidence.—*Facts Magazine.*

Our perusal of January and February Numbers enables us to speak highly of "SPIRIT VOICES, and commend it to all.—*The New Era.*

The magazine is conducted with ability, printed neatly, and will interest those anxious to become mediums.—*The Truth-Seeker.*

It is filled with the most deeply interesting matter from beginning to end.—*Mind and Matter.*

The mechanical execution approaches perfection, and the contents are equal, if not superior, to that of any other Spiritual journal. The editorials are quite up to the editorials in our first-class Spiritual journals.—*The New Thought.*

Send all subscriptions to JAMES A. BLISS, Business Manager, 121 West Concord Street, Boston Mass.; all articles for publication to GEO. A. FULLER, Dover, Mass.; and all N. D. C. Records and accounts of phenomena to Mrs. G. DAVENPORT STEVENS, 136 Chandler St., Boston, Mass.

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VS.

ALOPATHIC AND HOMEOPATHIC PHYSICIANS.

Magnetism and Spirit-Healing Power Triumphant.

LAWRENCE, Mass., April 25, '85.

DR. JAMES A. BLISS:

Dear Sir,—I wish to call your attention to a few facts that will be interesting to you and to all others that are suffering from dangerous diseases. I am ready and willing to confirm the statements I make by making affidavit any time it is needed by you.

A short time ago, Mr. Joseph W. Brown, residing at No. 42 Doyle St., this city, was taken with Typhoid Pneumonia and Acute Pleurisy. Two physicians were called in at different stages of the disease to attend him, one an Alopah and the other a Homeopath. They treated Mr. Brown according to the rules prescribed by their respective schools of medicine for four weeks, and at the end of that time they gave him up as incurable, stating they could do nothing more for him, and LEFT HIM TO DIE. (The Alopah got about all the money Mr. Brown had before he left.

About this time I saw the advertisement of BLACKFOOT'S MAGNETIZED PAPER in the *Banner of Light*, and sent for a dozen sheets to try upon this case, well knowing if that did not cure him nothing would.

I applied the paper, and Mr. Brown said he felt great relief on the following day; he improved every moment, and is now permanently cured. The pain is all gone, and he is able to go out of doors without danger of a return of the disease. I regard this a remarkable case, and feel it my duty to inform you of it.

JOSEPH E. BLANCHARD, Lawrence, Mass.

Price, 10 cts. per Sheet; 12 Sheets for \$1.00.