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THE
SPIRITUALIST REGISTER,
WITH A
COUNTING HOUSE & SPEAKERS' ALMANAC.
CONTAINING
FACTS AND STATISTICS
OF
SPIRITUALISM,
FOR
1857.

BY MR. & MRS. U. CLARK.

AUBURN, N. Y.:
U. CLARK.
1857.

P. J. BECKER, PR.

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THE SPIRITUAL CLARION

DEVOTED TO

SPIRITUALISM, ITS TESTS, HARMONY
PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION.

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The *Clarion* will advocate the gospel of Modern Spiritualism,—giving its leading facts, phenomena, philosophy and religion; will avail itself of the best facilities to publish at the earliest date, the latest wonderful manifestations and interesting spiritual events transpiring in various parts of the world; will condense its facts and principles into the briefest space possible, and admit no very long articles on any subject; will spin out no lengthened mystic theories nor stale dogmatisms; and will seek the aid of science, philosophy and theology, but aim chiefly to address the hearts, understandings and religious affections of the people, without inordinately assailing their honest convictions.

We shall labor to show that Spiritualism is in harmony with all sound philosophy, morality and Revelation; that its manifestations demonstrate anew, the fact of man's spiritual nature surviving the material body;—that spirits, disembodied, sent as the messengers of God, can manifest themselves to mortals; and that various methods of communication are used by which man can hold intercourse with the Spirit-world, and receive inspirations of the highest good. We shall recognize all the practical movements of the age, and wage no indiscriminate war against the better conservative elements of the church, the state, or society; shall aim to construct the new, rather than destroy the old; shall be distinct in the enunciation of moral and Christian principles, but not sectarian, creed-bound or bigoted; shall court hostility with none, but deal freely where truth and justice demand; shall hear
(Continued on third Page of Cover.)

THE
SPIRITUALIST REGISTER,

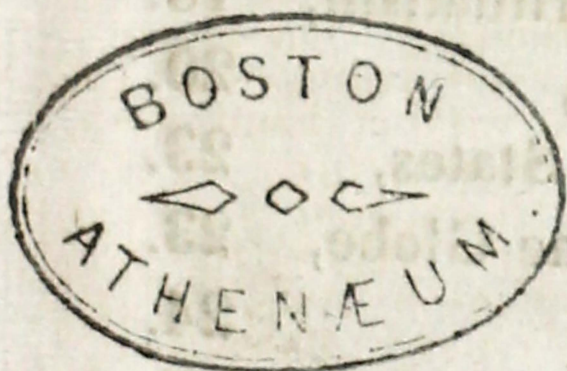
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SPIRITUALIST REGISTER.

1857.

What is Spiritualism.

Those who would know what Spiritualism teaches, must learn of those who are acknowledged to be its believers and representatives. Yet every believer may have some phase of opinion peculiarly his own, corresponding with his own individuality. Hence, an individual opinion, or a number of opinions by different individuals on a given point, may not fairly and fully represent Spiritualism as a whole, as received by the mass of the most advanced Spiritualists. All who are called Spiritualists agree in recognizing the fact of *Spiritual intercourse between the earth-sphere and the world invisible to external senses*; and this constitutes them Spiritualists.—at least, in theory, without any regard to opinions on other points, and without regard to creed, character, or standing.

I Spiritualism, as generally understood, teaches the existence of a supreme Spiritual Intelligence, unfolding, pervading and animating the Universe; a God of infinite attributes and perfections, and the Father of a l Spirits, whether in or out of the mortal form.

2. It teaches that man is the Spiritual offspring of God—"made in his image and likeness,"—with God-like attributes, individualized and immortal.

3. Man, having a Spiritual nature, God-derived and God-sustained,—a compound of all the essences of subordinate objects in creation,—in that nature is eternal and progressive.

4. As a *personal*, essential, intelligent being, man is a Spirit; in this earth-life, as an *individual*, clothed with a material form or body, and made to pass through a state of discipline initiatory to other spheres of existence.

5. When the Spirit has fulfilled its mission in this earth-life, and the body has done its office work, the material form is thrown off in the process of death, and man enters the spheres of Spiritual being.

6. In proportion to his unfoldment in Truth, Wisdom, and Love, man on entering the Spirit-world, may so controll certain imponderable elements and influences, under certain conditions, as to come back to earth,—in various ways communicate with those who are still in the body, and produce manifestations to demonstrate to the internal and external senses of mortals, the presence, the identity, the power, the intelligence of Spirits; ministering faith to the unbelieving, light to the darkened, joy to the sorrowing, strength to the weak and weary, comfort to the mournful, love to the lonely and neglected, hope to the

despairing, and eternal life to the dying.

7. While still in the body, man, according to his spiritual culture and unfolding, may hold direct communication with the Spirit-world, may realize the influences of the Holy Host of heaven, may commune with the ever revealing, ever-inspiring Father-Spirit of the universe, may read the souls of his fellow men, with an interior eye, may sometimes penetrate time and space with a prophetic glance, may have such command over the invisible elements, in co-operation with unseen intelligences, as to controll disease, heal the sick, bless the unfortunate, and dismantle death of its dreads.

8. On entering the Spirit-world, man takes the plane or state corresponding the nearest to the plane, the interior condition, the predominant châracter of his earth-life; though opposed by nothing in the Divine Economy to prevent the overcoming of all evil, the eternal progress of the Spirit, and the ultimate reign of harmony throughout the empire of Him who shall become all in all.

9. The bond of all true Unity, is, Love, the essence of God, the element of the angel-world, the life current of all spiritual communion, the test of Jesus, the touchstone of all noble souls whose deeds have blessed humanity, the criterion of all faith, all fraternity, all forms, all mediums, and all fellowship with earth and heaven.

10. Spiritualism is in harmony with all sound Revelation, Reason, Philosophy, and Religion; and without seeking any direct antagonism with seemingly opposite systems, seeks rather to recognise the good and the true in every thing, and to harmonize all things according to the laws of eternal progress as under the guidance of him who governs supreme, through men and angels, over all worlds and intelligences.

11. It recognises the Sacred Histories and Scriptures of all ages and nations; accepts Christianity in Spirit.—not as embodied in creeds, but as taught and exemplified by Christ and his apostles; each believer claiming the Protestant right of private judgment to read and interpret for himself, accountable for his opinions to none except God at the bar of his own conscience.

12. It claims that modern spiritual manifestations, in their multiplied forms and phases, are in entire harmony with so-called miracles, revelations, inspirations, angel-visitations, and demonstrations of invisible power and intelligence recorded in the Bible; that both are accounted for by the same laws; that the same laws are eternal and unchangable in their operations; that in each grand epoch in the history of the world, manifestations have been and will continue to be adapted to the needs of man as a being of unend-

ing progress ; that the Past, Present and Future are indissolubly linked as one ; and that no contempt is thrown upon the Past, with all its noble heroes, martyrs, seers, sages, saints, mediums and Messiah, in accepting the manifestations of the Present, and in contending that the same Heavens whose light shone on the brow of Olivet, are still open to-day for man to commune with God and angels, and receive foretastes of the Divine life.

13. To thousands who have no faith in the Past, who are without hope, without God, Spiritualism gives *demonstrations* of immortality, and they go on their way rejoicing.

14. To thousands who have only a faint and feeble faith, it gives like demonstrations.

15. To those who mourn in zion over the coldness of religion, it gives new life, and inspires them with a glowing consciousness that God and the Holy Host have not withdrawn from the world.

16. It demonstrates anew, and re-affirms with life-quickening power, all the divine precepts of Christ, and those who have gone before, making them the living truths of to-day, and enforcing them home on the heart and life, with all the pathos, the unction, inevitable in realizing the presence of loving spirit-friends and of angel beings pleading in the name of the Father and the holy dead.

17. Spiritualism recognizes the foreshadowing of some truth in all the false mythologies, superstitions, forms, creeds and religions of the Past and Present, and instead of first making aggressive war on these, proposes to lift man up and out of them, and build up in him the true church, and a temple fit for the indwelling of the Divine Spirit and of angel-guests.

18. It maintains that spirits produce audible concussions or raps, accompanied by tests convincive of spiritual agency; move material objects not in contact with any human organism; present spirit forms and spirit scenes; hold intercourse with mortals; communicate messages manifesting super-human intelligence; make impressions on the minds of mediums; read, write, speak, think, act and personify through persons who are suitably susceptible; identify themselves to their earth-friends; read and transmit to a distance, thoughts and messages; describe distant objects, scenes and persons; sometimes make accurate predictions, and give reliable counsel; speak in tongues, and interpret languages unknown to the mediums; examine, describe and cure diseases; raise persons and ponderable bodies without regard to the law of gravitation; exhibit spirit-lights; touch persons and cause them to feel their influence; execute music audible to the sense of hearing; and in the hour of closing nature, reveal them.

selves to mortals and welcome them home to the spheres.

19. It teaches that all mortals have within themselves the elements of mediumship to commune with the spirit-world; are more or less in communication with spirits in and out of the form and measurably influenced by them, either for good or ill. whether they are conscious of it or not; and the influences, manifestations, impressions and communications they receive, will in a measure if not entirely correspond with the moral plane mortals occupy, the affections that predominate, and the life they lead; and, hence, the need of a true life in order to attain a true, harmonic *Spiritualism*.

20. While it prescribes no ceremonies or creeds to coerce or cramp the conscience, it recognizes the doctrine of individual liberty and responsibility; the duty of individual regeneration, in conformity to physical and spiritual laws; the self retributive elements of wrong; the self recompence of the right; the necessity of practicing Love, Purity, Justice, and Humanity in the attainment of Harmony, Happiness or Heaven either in the Present or Future life; and the right and duty of every man to seek all the light he needs as his guide, and settle for himself all matters between his own conscience and God.

Bible Statement of Spiritualism.

Those who will take pains to study the following selections, look out the passages in full to which reference is made, and compare them with our imperfect statement of Spiritualism, will find the scriptural testimony unanswerable and overwhelming in confirmation of the living Gospel of to-day.

1. The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth forth his handy work.—God is a Spirit.—Whether shall I go from thy Spirit?—Have we not all one Father? Ps 19: 1, 139: 7, John 4: 24, Mal. 2: 10.

2. Men are made after the similitude of God. Ja. 3: 9.

3. There is a natural body, and a spiritual.—This mortal must put on immortality.—Now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face; now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. 1. Cor. 15: 13-12.

4. Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding eternal weight of glory. 2 Cor. 4: 17. Ro. 8: 18.

5. That which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die.—It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual. In my Father's house are many mansions. 1. Cor. 15. John 14: 2.

6. If I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again.—I will come to you.—Will manifest myself—Lord, how is it thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto

the world?—Moses and Elias talking with Jesus &c.—And he shall go before him in the Spirit and power of Elias.—In heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father.—Angels came and ministered unto Him.—We also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, etc. [See whole of Heb. 11:; 12:] There was a great earthquake; for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.—The Spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.—When I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which showed me these things. Then saith he unto me, see thou do it not; for I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren the prophets.—The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men.—Behold, I stand at the door and knock, etc. He that hath an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.—The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things. John 14: Matt. 17:; 18: 10, 4: 11, 26: 53, 28: 2, 1 Cor. 14: 32, Rev. 22: 8, 9, Acts 14: 11, Rev. 3: 30. Jo 14-23.

7. The heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.—The Spirit took me up, and I heard behind me a voice of a great rushing.—A spirit passed before my face.—Behold, I see the heavens opened.—I will come to visions and revelations of the

Lord. I knew a man in Christ, about fourteen years ago, whether in or out of the body, I cannot tell—such a one caught up to the third heaven—caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words not lawful for man to utter.—If a man love me he will keep my words; and my Father will love him and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him—Come, see a man, who hath told me all things that I ever did. These signs shall follow them that believe

A vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over unto Macedonia, and help us.

Eze. 1 : 1, 3 : 12, Job 4 : 15. Acts 7 : 56. 2 Cor. 12 : John 14 : 23, 4 : 29, Mark 16 : 17, Acts 16 : 9.

8. Every man in his own order.—Star differeth from star in glory.—Of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things, 1 Cor. 15 : 23, 41, Rom. 11 : 36.

6. Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.—God is Love. He that loveth is born of God and knoweth him—All the law is fulfilled in one word, in this : Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.—By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another—Epe. 4 ; 3, 2 Jo. 4, Gal 5 ; 14 ; Jo. 13 ; 35.

10. Ye shall know them by their fruits.—I come not to destroy but to fulfill.—God doeth according to his will in the ar-

my of Heaven and the inhabitants of earth.
Matt. 7-16, 5 17, Dan. 4-35.

11. All scripture given by inspiration of God, is profitable for doctrine, etc.—I have found no fault with this man, [Jesus] Who went about doing good.—Go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel;—heal the sick, etc.—Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. 2 Tim. 3 16. Luke 23 14, Acts 10-38, Mat. 10- Rom. 14

12. There are diversities of gifts,—administrations—and operations,—but the same Spirit,—same Lord,—worketh all in all.—I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.—I am the Lord; I change not.—I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh.—Many shall come from the east and the west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom. 1 Cor. 12- Jo. 16-12, Mal. 3-6, Joel 2, Matt. 8-11.

13. Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed, Jo. 20-29.

14. Him that is weak in faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations, Ro. 14-1

15. Ye are come Mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to the innumerable company of angels etc. Heb 12 22, 24.

16. The Holy Ghost—shall bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.—The letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.—There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one

sinner that repenteth. Jo. 14-27, 2 Cor 5-6, Luke 15-10, Matt 18-10.

17. Let both grow together till the harvest.—First the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.—Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? Matt 15-10, Mark 4-28, 1 Cor 3-16.

18. See Bible Spiritual Manifestations page 16.

19. The true Light which lighteth every man.—The manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit with all.—Try the Spirits whether they are of God.—Covet earnestly the best gifts.—Jo 1-9, 1 Cor 12-7, 1 Jo 4-1, 1 Cor 12-31, Jo 14-23.

20. Judge ye what I say.—Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.—Ye must be born again.—He that sinneth wrongeth his own soul.—My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth.—Cease to do evil, learn to do well.—Do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God.—Follow peace with all, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. 1 Cor 10-15, Jo 8-32, 3-7, Prov. 8-36, Jo. 14-27, Is. 1-17, Mic. 6-8, Heb. 12-14.

Bible Manifestations.

In the Mosaic allegory it is said the Lord walked and was seen in the garden of Eden. Gen 3-8. An angel tells the abandoned Hagar where she would find water to save

herself and boy. 21. An angel guided in the choice of Isaac's wife, 24. Jacob has a vision of a ladder on which angels descend and ascend; and he is afraid, do. Jacob wrestles with an angel; is touched, smote on the thigh, thrown to the ground, lamed; asks the spirit's name, gets no definite answer. 32- Terrible manifestations, —the plagues of Egypt, ending with the slaughter of all the first born infants. Ex. 7 to 12 Miriam sings and plays by inspiration. do 14- Physical demonstration on Mt. Sinai, do, 19. The mediums, Aaron and Miriam grow jealous of Moses Nu. 12-2 Balaam's ass speaks and sees an angel. do 22- Balaam becomes a trance medium, with his eyes open. do 24- Jerico falls by invisible power, Josh. 6 An angel cooks cakes and a kid for Gideon, Ju. 6-21, Samson is trained under angel direction, Ju 13- The child Samuel is inspired. 1 Sam 3. The ark of Israel becomes dangerous to the Philistines. 1 Sam. 5 6. Samuel becomes clairvoyant and tells Saul of his lost asses. do 9- David's harp allays the evil spirit of Saul, do 16- Saul goes to the medium of Endor, and meets the spirit of Samuel. do 28- Elijah touched and fed by an angel 1 Ki 16. Elisha makes an axe swim. 2 Ki 6. The heavens open, and spirit-hosts are beheld by Elisha, do. The shadow on the dial of Ahaz turned back ten degrees, by Isaiah. do 20. Eliphaz sees a spirit. Job 4 Jeremiah accuses the Lord of deceiving him. Jer 20-

Ezekiel eats a spirit-book Eze 2; 3; He hears great noises do. Is made to shave his head do 5. Angel saves Shadrach &c. from the firey furnace. Dan 3. A voice warns Nebuchadnezzar. do 4-31. Spirit-writing and spirit-hand on the wall. do 5- Daniel entranced, thrown on the ground, is touched, the men quake. do 9- An angel comes to Mary. Matt 1- Angels sing over Bethlehem. Lu 3- Jesus can call legions of angels. Matt 26- Mighty miracles of humanity are done by Jesus do. 11-5. Awful manifestations take place at the crucifixion do 27- An angel rolls away the stone. do 28- The Spirit-Christ re-appears first to Mary Magdalene, the medium out of whom he had cast seven demons, do. The mediums of Pentecost speak in tongues, and startling manifestations shake the whole place. Acts 2- Zacarias made dumb, and writes. Luke 1- Saul hears the spirit-voice of Jesus; is smote from his horse, blind for three days. Acts 9- Peter and Cornelius telegraph to each other. do 10- The apostles are attended with signs and wonders. Mark 16-10. An angel preaches the everlasting gospel. Rev 14-6. Paul exhorts the Corinthian circles to preserve harmony. 1 Cor. 14.

Ancient and Mordern Spiritualism.

Men in all ages and nations have claimed more or less communication with the Spirit-world, and have their Miracles,

their Revelations and sacred Scriptures, each varying according to prevalent enlightenment. Chinaman, Hindoo, Persian, Arabian, Turk, Greek, Hebrew and Christian, each has his Bible. The Anglo Saxon race is most familiar with the Hebrew and Christian Bible. Spiritualists claim that the Bible did not close when st. John completed the Apocalypse. There is abundant evidence that Spiritual manifestations like those recorded in the New Testament and those now occurring, were common in the earlier ages of the Christian church.— In the family of Rev. John Wesley, during the last century, strange sounds were heard which he declared must have been produced by Spirits. Many others concurred with him. Most of our grandsires and mothers relate similar occurrences. Mrs. Crowe in her *Night side of Nature* gives hundreds of reliable cases of manifestations demonstrating the agency of spirits and the spiritual nature of man. The Seeress of Provorst, Germany, 1825-28 was an acknowledged clairvoyant and medium for raps and other spirit demonstrations.

Capron in his valuable history of *Modern Spiritualism*, says the manifestations first began in 1844 Hydesville, Arcadia, Wayne Co. N. Y. in a small house then occupied by Mrs. Ann Pulver and her daughter, who testified as to the hearing of mysterious knockings. Little, however was said or done, till 1847, when Mr. M. Weckman

lived in the same house, and remained till the family were alarmed. Mr John D. Fox with Mrs. Fox and three daughters moved into the house in Dec. 1847, and the knockings began to attract attention in March 1848. On learning a method to communicate intelligently with the sounds the neighbors flocked in, and multitudes came from a distance, to return with the wonderful story that the Spirits of the departed could come back and break the silence of death.

From that lowly advent in 1848, Spiritualism, with its unnumbered manifestations adapted to every plane of mind, has spread its circles abroad, until, within the brief space of nine years, it has swept to the remotest bounds of civilization, and now numbers more gladdened disciples than many of the religious orders which began centuries since.



Modern Spirit-Manifestations.

The Bible manifestations, commencing on page 16, are generally accredited, on the testimony of witnesses on earth centuries ago; the following facts are substantiated by reliable living witnesses. The phenomena occurred under circumstances rendering trick, art and illusion impossible.

A murder is exposed by spirits.—Spirits speak in audible voices; write, touch persons; move heavy objects; lift large billets of timber, with no human contact.—They make loud noises on doors and roofs to call attention.—They telegraph a death, sixty miles.—They counsel George Willets well, and give

remarkable predictions which prove timely and true —The Rochester committees are unable to account for the raps, without admitting spirit agency. —The spirits in Auburn, make music, move tables, etc.—They prevent a fire.—Some imperfect mortals are supposed to be misdirected in the Mountain Cove movement.—Rev. Dr. Phelps is besieged by hosts of spirits,—Bancroft, Hawks, Francis, Willis. Marcy, Cooper, Ripley, Bryant, and other literati are unable to account for the rappings.—Gordon is lifted up bodily.—Judge Edmunds becomes a seer —The spirits work an instantaneous cure of the lame.* A medical spring discovered.—Spirits cure a cancer.—Spirit lights made.—The spirits seek out a lone suffering orphan child.----A spirit warns and protects.----The soul is read¶----Cholera cured.----The dying restored. Mourners comforted by a spirit.----A prodigal saved.----A spirit recognized.----A saw vibrated.----Fore warning of death.----House illumined, and converse held with spirit-friends.----Spirit proclaiming the gospel of peace.†

we have room for only the above brief allusions, with the following references, taken in the order the facts are stated.

*Caprons *Modern Spiritualism* p 53, 55, 58, 68, 69, 88, 104, 109, 117, 133, 172, 189, 195, 218.

¶*Telegraph papers* Vol. 1, p 1, do p 205, do, do vol 3, p 140, do 166 vol 4, p 267.

†*Spiritual Clarion* Vol. 1, No 5; do No 4, do No, 6 do No 7, No 8, No 9.

Number of Spiritualists in the United States of America.

Maine, ten thousand.	Ohio 100 Thousand.
New Hampshire, 5 do	Indiana, 20 do
Massachusetts, 75 do	Miss'ippi, 5 do

Rhode Island,	2	do	D C, Columbia	1	do
Connecticut,	10	do	Illinois,	75	do
Vermont	15	do	Michigan	50	do
New York city	40	do	Louisiana	20	do
do State	200	do	Missouri	15	do
New Jersey	3	do	Alabama	5	do
Pennsylvania	50	do	Arkansas	1	do
Delaware, no data,			Florida	1	do
Maryland	5	do	Wisconsin	50	do
Virginia no data,		do	Iowa	20	do
North Carolina	1	do	Texas	10	do
South Carolina	2	do	California	10	do
Georgia	2	do	Minesota	no data	
Kentucky	5	do	New Mexico,	1	do
Tennessee	10	do	Utah	no data.	
Oregon, no data,			Total,	780,000.	

If among these are included those who are seeking spiritual evidence, with no other faith or hope, the number would be increased to 3,000,000. Reckoning according to the method that makes out two hundred millions of Christians on the globe, the Spiritcalists would number about 100,000,000. Nearly one half of all the rural and village population in the northern states, may be regarded as inclining to Spiritualism. No large town or city, nor scarcely a rural district is without its mediums and believers.

In Toronto. St Catharines, and other towns in the Canadas are fifteen or twenty thousand. *For some large towns and cities where Spiritualism is known to have been advocated, and meetings held, see pages 34, 35.*

Eastern Continent.

The Spiritual phenomena have spread more or less through all the countries of the east.

Robert Owen and many other prominent minds have been enlisted in England, and several publications have been issued. In Germany and France the most advanced men have been compelled to grapple with the marvels of the day; and like many Americans, some of them have shown their tendency to an unfortunate dotage in assigning Spiritualism to the *devil*.

There are believers as far as the East Indias, with some of whom Judge Edmunds has held interesting correspondence.

Startling Statistics of the whole Globe.

The entire population of the globe is about one thousand millions. Only two hundred millions are nominal Christians; about fifty millions of professors. Are there more than one million of the genuine?—Then according to the theology of fifty millions, nine hundred and ninety nine millions of souls of this generation must be forever lost.

The population of the United States of America is twenty three millions. There are thirty eight thousand churches, and twenty five thousand ministers. Each minister has on an average a thousand souls in charge! Each church may average one

hundred members under the influence of the theology professed. Then there are twenty millions of souls,—God and his angels alone must save.

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As this is the first attempt to present any thing like a complete register, none will expect it to be full and accurate in every particular. If any important names are omitted, it is not intentional. Subsequent editions will be open for corrections and additions.

Where titles are affixed to names, it is only to designate the past or present professions of the individuals, and not to add or detract any merit.

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