

THE
HEAVENLY SPHERES

CHARACTER OF RESIDENTS

IN EACH, AND

THEIR OCCUPATIONS.

BY

MARTHA WASHINGTON.

*Communicated through the
mediumship of
Mrs. Uphan Keenell*

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INTRODUCTION.

In the hundreds of communications that I have received during the past four years from the spirit world, there is no one, perhaps, so full of general information and interest in regard to that "heretofore unknown" world as this.

As this communication is from one whose husband is still called the Father of our country—both now angels of the progressed life, it becomes of national interest.

Having read it over and over, it appears too precious a message to be longer retained as personal property. I therefore put it in print, that all for a mite may learn more of human destiny than to my knowledge has ever before come to earth.

The communication was written by Martha Washington, using the mediumship of Mrs. Upham Hendee, of San Francisco, Cal. It was commenced in 1876, and written in sections, at different sittings, extending into January 1877.

The Preface was written at a sitting after the eight sections, and all were written in my presence—each section being taken with me to my home. Neither one having been out of my possession, until given to the printer.

T. B. CLARKE.

NOTE. During the sittings for this message, as well as for the much longer communication of Mary Washington, there appeared present, a heavenly host.

After each writing and descriptions relating to the message, the medium would be controlled, and either talk or write upon various topics. On one occasion, ten of the old revolutionary times wrote a sentiment, signing names all nearly *fac simile* to their earthly signatures—among them the trembling hand of Stephen Hopkins.

Once a dear friend (but a few days passed on) came exclaiming "Oh! Thomas, Thomas, what a beautiful woman that is who has been writing you; and it is all true, and more too." What a change from the autumn leaves and tears, with which but a few days before, we laid her in the cold ground.

PREFACE.

I come to-day from my heavenly home to try and arouse the minds of honest, earnest people, to trust their whole soul to the divine inherent principle which would guide them aright, were they to trust God more fully, by receiving his intentions as manifested to them by impressions, and not resist the Holy Ghost, as is written in the Bible teachings of old. The Holy Ghost is the true spirit of God, which manifests itself to man in all his walks of life, and which has been denied, misunderstood, and thereby driven away. The Nazarene often spoke of his spirit, and urged upon his Apostles to listen to its voice. Learn then to listen to the still, small voice which speaks when all is still in the silent chambers of the soul. It is the infinite speaking to the inner mind. It is only by the finest sensation that mortal can distinguish the voice of God. Sometimes He speaks to the sensitive man, so that the spirit vibrates through the nerves of the physical being. These impressions are the soul's language. Often spirits of the departed who are speaking to the spirits of mortals, converse by these impressions; were they understood and allowed to guide, they would be found true monitors. Spirit communion has been denied, until the world has become a cold, lifeless body, with the spark of life nearly quenched; but the united effort of the angel world has broken the chains of darkness and doubt from thousands of earth's children, and caused the link binding the two worlds to be welded, until there can be no more separation. By degrees, the universal truth of man's future life will be so fully revealed, that all shall know God or infinite wisdom from the least unto the greatest; as Jesus said, "the light has truly come into the world," and its magnitude will be known.

When once released from the material and become free independent beings, and established in full spiritual identity, we commence to learn the true conditions of life, unclogged by its earthly texture which has so closely held us, that we have only had faint glimpses of the inner chambers of our soul's home. It is then that we commence to realize our condition in the new field of labor and investigation, retaining of our former life, only that we can apply to our needs and happiness. Thus the progress of the soul is never delayed, for the golden chain is still linked

with time and eternity, holding the spirit while it is materially clothed—retaining its attractions through all changes, drawing the soul ever upwards to its divine soul home.

We have come back from our heavenly visit to the home of the blest, with a yearning desire to proclaim to the world the gospel of light, and awaken it to a new revelation regarding their future abode. As we come we find so many in the darkness of superstition—fears—doubts—awed into acquiescence to material teachings of punishment after death, all of which have produced a dwarfed race, whose souls have shrunk, and now find it impossible to live a full life as designed by the heavenly Father.

But clear and beautiful shall spiritual things become to the children of earth when they learn to receive the gifts God, the Father, gives to bless the world, and sustain the beings called to occupy and enjoy them. All things coming from the infinite source are beautiful, and adapted in perfect harmony to the use designed. The darkness and obscurity which has so long blinded the world, has been caused by the teachings of an offended Deity, instead of a full and free confidence in the unbounded love of a divine Father, whose omnipotent wisdom has given life, liberty and growth to all. As the sun of day rises and shines upon your earth, so does the love of the Infinite power illuminate all, giving life, and childlike confidence. Amid the scenes of our spiritual unfolding we behold the divine life—the divinity of all things—the soul germs of the eternal, and find that all had a true type at the time of taking form of expression on coming into earthly conditions to be clothed upon in the expressed form of material existence, thereby molding the spirit body preparatory to its departure for the different spheres. Therefore, all types must be represented in separate order, to be classified in their appropriate condition. It is this twofold divine arrangement of spirit and matter that gives beauty and sublimity to all both infinite and finite, the law is so perfect that neither man or Deity can change it. It is marked by the highest infinity, and all must be subject to its law; without it, all would be chaos; with it, all is perfect harmony in the grand reflex of its perfect grandeur. As we allow principles of intelligence supremacy—you may call it God or infinite wisdom clothed with an embodiment as significant of power—we care not what it is called; we know this, that we find it a fountain of light, love, intelligence; power with order and harmony embodied with heat, life and growth. We find matter worlds or planets and stars, whose fixed position renders

them habitable, and all controlled by one and the same, and call it God; for it pervades all things, and is therefor deific. From these material conditions we change to the spiritual, passing through sphere after sphere, until we are received into the seventh where we are freed from all material condition that has retarded our progress toward that illimitable sphere of soul life where the fullest love and unbounded joy awaits the perfected soul. This is the acme of life—the soul centre of God's love—a fountain of eternal joy from which radiations are ever expanding toward all spheres; a world whose atmosphere is tinged with roseate hues—where rarest music is chanted through the sylvan glades, and the echoing vespers make harmony which fills the soul with joy, where fountains of life are ever flowing, and where eternal beauty reigns supreme. I feel, friend, that my pen through this medium fails to convey to your mind the wondrous beauty and exaltation of this blessed soul home, where in dreamy love, all former life, whether earthly or spiritual, passes before you; where you may add to your store of knowledge, and realize that you still may clasp the old loved friends, and know that they are ever yours; realize that like children, we may forever wander amid the fragrant flowers and perfumed glades, or soar to towering mountain tops, without fatigue, to view the vast expanse of ether blue, touched with golden, fleecy clouds floating over this summer-land home of souls' eternal rest. We have tried to define the true principles of all existence to your understanding, having done the best we could through this medium of communication, and must now close this, to me, interesting moment of expressing my experience in sphere life to the children of earth, even though it be in this crude form. We have taken you through the different phases of our progress in spirit lands, and hope our faint and imperfect description of soul home may prove a blessing to those yet in the mortal form. Now, dear friend, I must leave with the fraternal blessing of those who have given into your hands brief description of our heavenly home, George Washington, Mary, his beloved mother, and I, his soul partner in all the joys and sorrows of his earthly life, and still united with him in all his spiritual gifts, begging that you will call ourselves fraternally your guides.

MARTHA WASHINGTON.

SECTION FIRST.

True to the cause of humanity I come and will endeavor to give a truthful delineation of our beautiful spirit home. Whether I may interest you as well as my beloved husband and his sainted mother,* is yet to be proven by the contribution which shall be given. Yes, friend, we were present at your sitting and impressing you in regard to this message, for we felt it to be the right time to commence the written work of our experience from spirit land.

We know that you have had many descriptions which may have given you a clear insight to our land of beauty, but none I feel have been more earnest and thorough in descriptive language than I intend this to be

As you are a faithful seeker after true knowledge from this glorious summer land of promise and eternal life, we will try to lift the curtain and open to your view glorious scenes, which once beholding, will never be forgotten by mortal or spirit. There have been many adventurers to this summer land of life, but none who have been permitted to behold but a shadow, as it were, of the wonderful and glorious reality. On first awakening to this enchanted and sublime land, we are filled with amazement and can only look and exclaim, so powerless and overcome are we to behold it filled with such sacred and holy conceptions and realities of God's infinite power.

But, my friend, as I am to commence a history of travels, as you might call it, I will not elaborate until I can make my way clear to define my change. I had become awakened to this wonderful truth that life continued beyond this earth, from many incidents before I passed to spirit life, so much so, that I felt within myself that a knowledge was given to my soul or inward being that I should live and realize a spiritual existence, and that I should be permitted to unite my thoughts and feelings with those who were in harmony with my spiritual life. The world could not comprehend, for I could not clearly define myself; but a trust was in my soul—a sustaining power—which I felt would carry me through trials and give full assurance of future happiness derived from the knowledge of a superior condition or world; for to my soul's eye I could see the beautiful angelic hosts passing and repassing in all their glory, causing me to feel that something was being done in heaven which would bless the millions inhabiting that glorious realm beside what had been taught. Yes! not only singing forever, but all joys calculated to take in God's universal love and works

*I have the spirit life of Geo. Washington and Mary, his mother. unpublished.—T. B. C.

now needed to carry on the grand and glorious plans laid out from the foundation of all things.

Thus these thoughts gradually wound around my soul until they became a part of my earthly life, blessing and preparing me for the change that comes to all, until death had no terrors.

On first leaving earth, we are often reminded of our earthly home and feel a longing desire to return to awaken our friends to our great discovery—to give them glad tidings from this unknown life or beautiful sphere—for it is not that uncertain visionary heaven that was taught of old, but a real living, breathing country full of all life, both vegetable, animal and spirit, all in spiritual beauty, showing forth the handiwork of the divine Creator, and that the fullness thereof is for all.

Every one has all that he can use or comprehend, and as it is the design of the All-wise to create a hungering for knowledge of this fruitful and glorious home, therefore spheres are prepared for the reception of all adapted to their condition. Here they are nourished and educated to comprehend all its uses, and all its blessings, until prepared to enter the next abode.

Oftentimes the guardian spirits from higher spheres descend and take them to other spheres to show the glories that await them when they shall be prepared, which quickens their souls to embrace every opportunity to advance and enter the beautiful home beyond.

Each sphere has its laws, and labor, and education. Every scholar has studies adapted to his taste or capacity, and thereby advances much faster in the higher knowledge by this harmonious blending.

We find that mortals are comprehending this law of spiritual affinity for adaptation to mental and physical education, thereby elevating humanity to a scale of advancement beyond the former compress of mind into one mould which thus destroyed its capacity instead of achieving the desired object.

Now, friend, we shall take you by the hand and lead gently through the beautiful road up to the glorious Temple of liberty and knowledge, where science and truth set their seal to the great gateway of glory and immortality.

My spirit took its flight through the airy realms. I seemed on wings of ethereal light, and felt such glorious, inward joy, that I could not speak, although attended by hosts of angels and loved ones. Astonishment, wonder, awe and thrilling joy filled my soul. At times I feared I might be called back to earth as I could feel the tie still binding through the chemical condition of atmosphere.

My guides, however, told me that I was free and could not return to inhabit an earthly form, but should return when I had become sufficiently strong to hold the conditions of spiritual life, and be clothed with spiritual garments.

Yes, friend, we are but new-born babes in the hands of angels who guard and guide us until we become able to establish our individuality. Since I have become fully grown, and comprehend the true spiritual laws, I cannot understand how mortals could ever have been so darkened and lost to their true condition, relative to this beautiful world, which embodies all in its glorious folds of eternal sweetness and loving knowledge.

It pains us here, as well as we see it also does you of the earthly sphere, to see so many who only live to vegetate without one influx of light from their spiritual home, because they are so dense that they cannot comprehend their brain or sensational life.

SECTION SECOND.

Good morning, friend, a merry Christmas to you. In saying this, it calls me back to the long and cherished associations of past earthly life, where the reunions of loved ones was a well-spring of joy never to be forgotten. Neither is it forgotten in our bright homes, where we assemble to relate our earthly experiences, and compare notes of incidents which filled our earthly career.

Life here is very similar to that of earth, and differs only as we comprehend it from our present standpoint. For instance, life is varied as on earth; also are the inhabitants in their traits of character, which are diffused in different ways to blend in harmony and not jar inharmoniously from want of sympathy. Thus every sphere in heaven or earth has its variety and condition adapted to the wants of its inhabitants; each fundamental principle being of itself a sustaining power which must come from the outer to strengthen the inner soul.

We must give you the leading steps to our loved abode; so that as you advance, you can comprehend what we wish to convey to your mind, and also be enabled to impress upon you the true revelation of this God given home, and its true locality and adaption. Many have returned so elated with its glories, that they could not define to mortal understanding the true condition of this grand universe; but as this Temple is not made with hands, but wrought out of divine principles in all its wonderful and glorious unfoldment, so has it developed man in all his glorious conceptions and proportions to carry out the wonderful beatitude of his Divine Creator; and as all things

must be seen and known in the all-coming times, by every mortal whose perceptions lead him to the infinite, so, also, will he yet unveil the true secret of his origin and future. We, who are, as it were, dead to the world, are yet of the world a part, and shall ever hold the magnetic chord of earthly conditions. We cannot possibly break them; they may become finer, and the tissue may be lost to earthly gaze, yet we shall ever be connected, and shall be helpers in the great work of the world's reform; for it is our world, and as such, belongs to us. Though we may visit, inhabit, and admire other worlds, yet this world is our home. The earth is our mother, and we shall ever bless her, for we cannot do otherwise. Our Father is the universe, and by him and through him, we are being educated and unfolded to learn the wonderful and glorious revealments he is making.

In passing from earth, we are momentarily lost; but as we emerge from a chamber of forgetfulness, we gradually awaken to a glorious consciousness of beauty and light. Our weary eyes unclothe as from slumber, and the lullaby songs of our early days come back to us full of love and sweetness, as when in our mother's arms, and an all refreshing and quieting influence pervades our being. We feel no desire to know our condition; we are merely passive to the glorious sights and sounds that float around us, while we perceive that we are gaining strength, and restoration is pervading our senses.

This was my experience, and I find many who tell me the same; but many differ—some remain a great length of time in primitive darkness, and are brought out by the constant exertions of spirit friends, who try to relieve and awaken them to a knowledge of their change. Many are never entirely lost, and can hardly perceive the change of the chemical structure falling from their spirit body. These are so spiritually alive as not to be aware of the change, until some spirit friend, long gone, awaiting, reminds them of their passage to this glorious realm. They have changed their garments so easily while on the earth plane, that the spiritual body superseded the structure of physical life, donning the spiritual garment so gracefully as not to perceive it, until reminded by their spiritual friends, and the glorious surroundings. Thus it is, that the awakened ones of earth will ever be, by becoming spiritualized while in the form. But all cannot do this, as they are not chemically prepared by their anterior condition. They are too gross to enter into the spiritual atmosphere and become embalmed with its influence. It will take generations of physical life to permeate the whole earth with a spiritual condition.

Earth is yet in her primitive condition, and not yet spiritualized. She has her work to do, and must revolve many centuries before we can receive her to the spiritual sphere atmosphere. When that time does come, then will her inhabitants comprehend the true soul relation of mortals, as well as beings, who inhabit the spirit world.

We have met here to-day, to bring our love, our sympathies and joys to the earnest and truthful investigation of this heavenly subject. Yes, my beloved Washington and mother are here to-day, showering blessings from their summer-land home; and to assist me in my description of its beauties and realities—for their surprise, like mine, was unbounded. In their love and assistance, I have been cradled, and by them guarded through all the scenes of my observation.

I have visited many points of the first sphere from earth, and find a great similarity in all other things, as well as in the inhabitants. Nearly all are drawn here on first entering the spirit world as they are still charged with earth's magnetism, and of course, need the chemicals nearest earth to sustain them. Very soon many are drawn higher by becoming more spiritualized with heavenly aspiration, and must then be sustained by a natural attraction. Those who remain longer, are led to return to earth, where they control mortals to carry out their habits and tastes acquired in the earth life; for they are still governed by their sensual or physical condition, and it is only by degrees that they can be withdrawn from its material associations.

When the spirits of the first sphere above the earth commence to learn that they have changed their garments, and become disembodied from the earthly habitation, it takes even then a long time to prepare them for the next sphere. Many spirits come to earth to be educated; and we hope the time is not far distant, when regular schools will be formed on earth to educate and release unfortunate spirits who have passed from earth in darkness. We most sincerely thank all mediums for the grand and noble work they are doing in this most glorious unfoldment of the greatest boon ever given—the knowledge of a home beyond this earth. Yes, a home, and what a glorious home; where all friends are gathered at a moment's warning, to give and receive each other's blessing and experience.

Why friends of earth, you who are on this little ball, so limited by physical conditions and climatic changes—who, when separated, cannot meet only through dangers and privation, and at prolonged and stated times; think of your loved ones who may dwell in spheres far remote; who can, on a thought, instantly be present at your

bidding, and to yourself, the same power to pass to unlimited spheres, at wish. Oh, is it not beautiful, not only to know this, but also know that it is eternal—that your loved ones will ever be free; ever living to see and know, and enjoy this life, this great joy with you. When we see the mourners of earth following the remains of their loved ones to the tomb, so sadly, so silently, feeling that they have laid them forever out of sight, Oh, how I long to say to them, rejoice, for the birth of their glorified spirits which now stand beside you, and are trying to lift the vail from before your eyes, that you may see them in all their radiance and life—that it is you who need the sympathy and love, not they. They are freed from their network of earth-life texture, and are now clothed upon with garments whose silvery sheen is brighter than the stars set in the diadem of heaven. It is to teach mortals what the use of life should be—how to make it more useful and glorious here; and to do works for coming time, that we return to earth. The knowledge we impart will enhance the pleasures of this world, and add stars to the crown of the spirit life.

SECTION THIRD.

We will now speak of the second sphere, to which those have passed who have become conscious of the spiritual, and are quickening with a sensitive desire to comprehend the true relation of their spiritual surroundings. In this sphere, everything is similar to the first, save, of a more spiritual and refined nature. All things pertaining to life exists here, and are a necessity to the condition of the atmosphere, and life of spiritual man. It, like all spheres continues to throw off an aura, which goes to sustain the one above, which gradually doing away with the lower or animal creation, as a necessity, supplying the higher with a magnetic aura, which, passing through a process of refinement, sustains the spiritual life beyond, until the spirit has outgrown the necessity of nourishment of all animal life, and has become a perfect spiritual being, where it is supplied by quickening life, infilled with light reflected from the higher atmosphere of infinite worlds.

You must know that there must be order in the great unfoldment of man, from his earthly condition to the higher life, in which abound all the material chemical productions of earth, until we reach the fourth sphere. From there, you will perceive a change, which will again change the chemical, but not the being.

Here a new light is given, a new voice which proclaims a new birth—a new spiritual birth—where all the dross

of material conditions is removed at the threshold, to again step forth to an unseen world, to be met by the glorified, who have borne the palm of the purified in spirit, and where the golden light of God's glory begins to illuminate the horizon. On being ushered to this sphere, the most wonderful and glorious effulgence of light breaks upon the new-born spirit, and reveals to them what the senses could never have conceived. Here you behold a host, who are gathered to chant forth angelic music. From this sphere you will commence your angelic ascensions to the fifth, sixth and seventh, until you reach the great ocean of eternal beauty, where sphere after sphere unfolds among the planetary nebula of the spiritual kingdom; where are concentrated hosts of glorious spirits at work, carrying out the fulfillment of life in every sphere and planet. In the third and fourth are the workers, who are chemically analyzing earths and other sphere atmosphere, and who are making rapid strides toward a grand discovery, soon to be made known upon your earth, as a new power, by, and through which we, as well as mortals, can comprehend each other, without the doubt and uncertainty that now exists, as to whether we are life, existence or phantom.

Yes, also some new discoveries, regarding a new planet with a nebula, which will impart power to talk as clearly to your comprehension, as you do to each other upon earth to day.

I will sometime take this medium up to my sphere,* that you may know from a heavenly sight, that that of which we write is real; that the communicating of the loved ones, that have preceeded me, are truthful portraitures of the heavenly home. The next time, I shall speak from my own observation. It has been reserved for me to define myself as I go along, so that every step may have a bearing one upon the other; not that we labor to rise step by step, but to comprehend the true causes that lead us onward, as in earth life. You, to-day, are solving a question by assistance from the realms above, and I, like you, have instructions from the philosophers and sages of the past, who have long been in advance, and who have been reading the book of life, eternal, to the children who come to be taught.

SECTION FOURTH.

In commencing a description of the third sphere next in the order of explanation, we find a wonderful likeness to some portions of earth, especially the tropics, with their

* Each day after writing, the medium would seem carried to fairy realms, giving a description of what she saw.

luxuriant shrubs and flowers, birds of beautiful plumage and melodious song.

Amid these scenes we have lofty mountains, whose tops are crowned with verdure, while some have the beautiful snow, or, whose pure, white, feathery softness resembles the snow of earth, yet not the same in texture. Beautiful flowers, of pink and rosy hue, cover the surface, emitting a fragrance that fills the atmosphere with a living presence of their exhalations. Sections of this sphere are covered by towns and villages filled with earnest, working beings, who are carrying out their plans of life as upon earth, being satisfied to live and move within the limits of its conditions. Here are grand old plantations, with scenery and domestic life so real, so earnest, that we are tempted to mingle with them in their pursuits, for we feel that it is only a matter of condition which causes us to be happy and contented with associations that please us.

Architecture is here primitive like the tropics—hence we find many who live in the open air under the arches of the loveliest trees of which the mind can conceive.

This sphere has been assigned to the primitive or unfolded children of earth, where, according to their requirements, they can be educated and prepared to pass to a higher sphere, when duties will be assigned according to their tastes and capacities, which sphere is an intellectual and mechanical one. In this they are prepared to enter the higher associations of life among the scientific and literary. Each sphere is a school of preparation for the one still higher—purifying for the glory awaiting. Ofttimes many from the second, third and fourth spheres return to earth to gather knowledge or leave some dross or deformity that must be removed before they can progress into the inner sanctuary of spiritual light and life.

When once the true life is awakened within the spirit mind, they feel their condition, and need not to be told by another spirit. Mortal does not see his true condition because of the physical covering; but a spirit fully born sees the true soul, and its radiation, therefore differs from mortals in his views of what he terms right and good. Good is a term which has many meanings, and being an adjective, may be placed as good for nothing. Criminals are here classed according to deeds; all are placed in rank, and the disease removed by education, for we hold that sin, as it is called, is a disease of the mind, either organic or brought out by surrounding conditions. Some are made to heal the others, to restore what the other lacks, and thus equalize each other. You would be astonished to see sin-sick lives waiting the physician's change.

They are not cooped up in cells and chained, but are placed in the glorious scenery of free air, lovely woods and fields to infill them with a sense of their within loneliness and lack of worth. I may have wearied you but felt it necessary to say something regarding the unfortunate of earth, who are duly cared for in God's great world of reform and universal rights to all.

We now leave the third sphere to open a grand scene in the fourth, where happy faces await the stranger who may come with the sign of admittance, or guides to usher them into the wondrous abode, where all scenes are adapted to the higher works of art, knowledge and scientific schools, which makes this one of the most interesting spheres for investigation. And oh! the immensity and variety of scenery, gorgeous homes, grand mansions, palaces, towers, minarets, temples, colleges and schools. The arts and sciences are here very much advanced, ready to be carried to other spheres.

Here is Herschell with his telescope and observatory, Morse with his telegraphy, Fulton with his steam, Franklin with his lightening, Daguerre with his spiritual shadows producing the finite. Yes, you find them here, and like your grand centennial, a home of all earthly collections. Here you find them all classified and preserved. Here are your art galleries. Raphael and all the great artists of world's renown, are showing forth their handiwork. This is the laboratory and workshop as it were for all spheres. There is also much of the beautiful and grand of other spheres. The older artists and sages of earth's early history, have here left their handiwork before passing on to the higher and more glorious knowledge.

All is bustle in this world of living, acting, animated intelligence, giving forth new life, new thoughts to your world. I would not be understood that this is all the spheres of design and art. I mean that this is the true working sphere, where the inhabitants of many are drawn to investigate the true secret of material and spiritual essences.

The scenery of this sphere is of an Italian character of mountains and glorious sunsets. Its waters sparkle and ripple like life, emitting a transporting, revivifying influence to the atmosphere; and all is life.

There is a mountain here which towers far above the numerous ones surrounding. It is the mount of observation. An observatory crowns its summit. As you ascend the winding avenue you see the loveliest verdure dotted ever with flowers, trees, grottoes, fountains, cascades dancing down to the base, where are beautiful lawns with

many a gorgeous garden and home. Here you can rest in many a sylvan retreat and lovely home of grand and magnificent beauty which tower above the surrounding scenery. Oh! it is grand I assure you. At first it reminds one of the mountains of earth; so, that for a moment, we feel like being back again, but the scenery so outrivals anything on the earth, that we again realize that we are truly in heaven. These retreats are those of the philosopher, the artist; in fact, all students of the grand, the glorious philosophy of life eternal. Also here strangers are brought by guides to behold the glorious scene. From this sphere was sent intelligent communications, which after many attempts, at last caught the listening ear of childhood.* As Jesus said, "Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

SECTION FIFTH.

In ascending the different spheres of our spirit life, we often become blended with the surrounding atmosphere, and interested in the many and varied scenes of each, according as it is in harmony with our spiritual condition.

While passing through the spheres we are often reminded of earth, and our earthly condition, so nearly resembling them are many scenes of spirit abode.

I stated in my last, that the fourth sphere was the great laboratory of progressive life.

Much that is useful has been, and will be brought to earth as fast as it can be given to intelligent minds adapted to its uses, from this sphere.

We will now pass to the fifth, where a more scintillated and spiritual atmosphere is found, where the olden bards and sages of the past have made their homes, and where science has crowned with laurels, those who have nobly won, by their earnest and inspired works, peaceful homes of rest, amid the enchanting scenery of beatific life.

In this sphere there are transparent waters whose surface glistens with sparkling light and supplying beauty; upon whose surface glide myriads of beings with all the light and grace of angelic beauty, in every conceivable form of conveyance, many diving beneath its surface to catch the sunlight as it dawns upon and through the loveliest of flowers so beautifully blossoming in and upon its crystal beauty. Many are borne upon the surface like your lillies, and so beautifully arranged in architectural beauty, as to form a conveyance for spirits to float upon these perfumed, musical, miniature boats or gondolas—we call them our

*Spirit rappings, often called "Rochester knockings," were first heard at Hydesville, N. Y., by children.

flower nests of the sea. On these we often float at will, as nothing will harm or mar the happiness of one who is welcomed here, for this is the harmonial sphere, where homes are prepared with elegance and taste, acquired by long spiritual unfoldment. Each has his attractive abode and associations that give sweet peace to the soul. A central pleasure ground is attached to certain localities, for amusement, where choristers make melodious music. Within this flower-perfumed abode, beautiful songsters warble their notes of praise and joy to relieve the weary and pleasure bound. Infantile spirit bands are also brought here to blend in this great family circle of sphere-life.

In this sphere you find the alabaster* and crystal homes which are substance ethereal to the touch of spirits who do not belong to this sphere, yet well defined to those who inhabit it.

The architecture is far beyond that of mortal conception. I find that many of these habitations have been seen by the clairvoyant eye, and spoken of in Bible times. It has been considered the heaven, but is only one locality, and only the fifth degree. Here come the mighty sages and prophets of ancient days, as well as the teachers of the present. It is the home of Washington, Paine, and all the honored of their age. These noble beings also have homes in the upper spheres. Advanced spirits have homes in all spheres wherever they can come in harmony, like different residences on earth, when adapted to their needs at certain times. Some have homes like the sunbeams, so bright and ethereal, where the zephyrs float perfumed, and charmed music from the upper spheres can reach them. Many times they converse with those of the higher life, and often are led to do their bidding.

This sphere is universal ground to the inhabitants above, where all who wish, can mingle, and express any new thought or discovery—where a thorough feeling of interest is taken in the subject advanced. It is where facts are gathered and propounded—notes taken and kept for further reference until it is solved, and when approved, is assigned its place and brought into use as far as can be made practicable.

* NOTE.—Miss Jennie Leys, during a lecture in San Francisco, described Channing's lecture-room in the fifth sphere, to be a building of solid spirit alabaster; the inner walls covered with a succession of wreaths around the entire immense room, carved in the solid alabaster. In each wreath a beautiful statue; also the entire furniture to be of the same material. At the time she clairvoyantly saw this building, Channing was addressing about five hundred young girls, beautifully dressed in a great variety of colors.

During these investigations, everything is conducted similar to earthly scientific investigations; all is minutely tested and reserved for use.

Thus Franklin is still studying of electric power, and will soon give to the world a new feature of his discoveries. Also Morse, will produce sound, through different currents, which will benefit the world in a new (telephone) degree.

Daguerre is still reflecting—still changing atmospheric color, and will yet be able to produce a new field of discoveries, and said to me a year ago, that he would yet succeed in photographing colors.

Those who developed science while on earth, are still laboring for her benefit. Oftentimes this class of spirits are pushing on to new fields, exploring after the divine cause of all matter, and find much to expose of the fabulous tales of the past, and much that is retained—still analyzing, and removing the dross from the grand germ of truth.

Every atom of life is full of history, as every particle of matter, whether spirit or soul has to pass into the upper spheres. So we oftentimes find earthly associations of our existence meeting us, and reminding of our nativity; no, we cannot escape the soul's eye, for it is ever upon us! Though no being meet us, we yet are known, for every particle of earth came from the spiritual world, atom by atom, which has changed with its spiritual essence, and is being changed in return. Each atom of existence is continually throwing off an aura; we perceive it readily in the fragrance of flowers; the clairvoyant sees its material substance.

So, friend, we are spirit while on earth and mortal when in heaven, only unfolding like a flower, to bloom in this paradise, until we are perfected, yielding our substance—then again change our garments, and go on to a higher and more glorious unfoldment, until all sublunary things will be past, when a spirit essence will pervade all our being, and we find ourselves fully clothed, prepared to stand upon the rock of eternal progression, visiting the glorious homes and planetary spheres, throughout the eternal ages.

SECTION SIXTH.

In entering the sixth sphere everything is beautiful, and all seems in perfect harmony. This is the home circle of the unfolded spirit. Earth's children here find their resting place before commencing the final chemical

change that is to be wrought out in the seventh; preparing them for the full spiritual body.

Here are playgrounds where the spirits bathe in an atmosphere of glorious light—where are ambrosial fountains, amid grassy lawns and heavenly flowers—sweet songsters adding their hymns of praise from the deep wooded forests, to join the bubbling streams that lave the grassy sides lined with flowers and perfumed mosses, where the wanderer can rest in sweet repose. On these waters are beautiful swans and birds of various hue, that floating, give a living picture of beauty. Here we find the homes of rest and repose for all who have come up through the different spheres, and now find the haven of rest from all care, prepared to be filled with inspiration for their higher calling. Do not think me egotistical if I tell you that here my beloved Washington, his mother and my children, unite to meet our loved ones, and many who are in sympathy with our investigations.

You must know ere this that all cannot feel the same impulses or comprehend the same divine power, but only so much, as to them seems real, can they accept. Hence the need of separate homes. You must understand me to mean that all are not given the same capacity to comprehend—hence there are different grades. To use a homely phrase: souls are like measures, some hold a pint, some a quart, some only a gill. Yet they are all full and can hold no more. So it is here—some see the grand, the ennobling power of a glorious universe, which seems to infill them with its grandeur, but others only see the material condition of everything which adapts itself to their wants. These last are merely vegetations in the land of souls. You cannot inspire such to anything higher than they can see, feel or touch—they only climb step by step in sphere life, as they did while on earth—ever holding fast to their condition of the last until fully certain that they are firmly established in the new, and then are only looking for self-preservation, never yielding or feeling willing to rest in the inspiration of a divine power. We have many here who move so slowly, that it takes ages to realize that they are moving upward to a superior condition. For such, we have homes and teachers who kindly care for and encourage them. These homes are like asylums where they are nourished and protected, with grounds attached where they are strengthened, thereby healed and made happy to go on in the great life truth of the spiritual world.

The sixth sphere is where we change the garments material for those spiritual; and it would seem that we are

here so purely spiritualized, that no more change would be needed. Here it is that we receive visitors who can come in harmony from other realms to praise in sweet accord, and who often bring beautiful flowers and bright jewels from their homes.* Many visit us who are preparing to welcome us as we ascend to the realms of knowledge. Here are also colleges and schools of art where we arrange all those grand and beautiful pictures and designs that have been given to be perfected in the fifth sphere.

The time will come when earth treasures will be unraveled to prove to the world, that there were inhabitants ages and ages before the Christian era, and prove to all that it is those people who are so advanced in the upper realms of God's eternal world. At present, it is only of the last few thousand years of which we write in the ascension through the different spheres. Every conceivable portion of life on the habitable globe is inherent in those different planes. They vary only in the refinements of matter of which they are composed, as they have risen, like ourselves, from earth's element, thus forming a link, binding all spheres with a silken cord of magnetic and electric force, that holds all together until we reach the God or seventh sphere.

You may truly say that you continue to be Mr. Clarke or White, with a material nature, until you pass into the seventh heaven, when you are completely clothed with a spiritual body, yet retaining the true identity and capacity of recognition as an eternal principle of all life. Then the opening heavens will reveal the glories of what man cannot know, until he has a key to this superior heaven or unbounded ocean of spirit-life, where you seem launched upon an unfathomable universe of angelic beauty, which out-dazzles all former conceptions of the inhabitants of lower spheres.

It is here that we find God or the Infinite, unfolding from this vast and glorious embodiment of all superior life.

Here myriads of angelic hosts are floating in its glorious atmosphere of roseate life, where the music of all things reverberate throughout the univerculum. Here there is meeting of souls who have been purified, and are ready to take the star of light as a beacon to guide those whose work is done, except the spontaneous life of some new light which shall burst into their souls in streams of musical rhythm; as light upon light is sent to the spheres below.

* Mary Washington gives an account of a visit from spirits from the planet Vesta, meeting in this sixth sphere.

So is the intelligence given like the rays of sunlight to earth to warm, enliven and enkindle new aspirations to those who are seeking for new light and life.

SECTION SEVENTH.

Truly the ways of the infinite are worth finding out, and we begin to realize that in the process of time, all will be revealed to mortals or spiritual beings who once have worn the material garments. We have found the old saying "that God's laws are past finding out," is not a truth, and that it never was intended to bewilder man regarding his future, and destroy confidence in God's glorious love and kindness. The events which are being brought to light, will prove to earth's children their true design and origin, and that no scientist has a true solution. The time has not fully arrived to establish the true secret of life principle. In Darwin, we find many beautiful suggestive ideas, and from our friend Peebles, we will beg leave to differ in some points. But we are most happy to see the research into what has so long been withheld, regarding man's infinite and prenatal condition. To explain, we should be compelled to take you back of earthly conditions, where far more spiritual elements preceded earthly matter; when the essence of the elements blended in atmospheric conditions, which permeated the life or spiritual conceptions of man. As I am not now to enter into an explanation of the life-essence of mortals, I will here state that all things pertaining to these spheres, which has been spoken of, has a relative connection with the beings of earth, and until you reach the seventh sphere, you are more or less under their influence. From the seventh, we become changed to a superior condition, and no spirit, after this progression, can again enter earthly atmosphere. The sixth sphere is full of spiritual atmospheric vibrations, like æolian harps, which, like waves, swell the inspiration and vibrate the language of angels from the higher life, that are caught and retained as telegraphic dispatches to earth's people. Thus the angelic hosts are mingling their love and sympathy by the symphonies and vibrations of the air, in musical cadences.

It is not possible for a spirit of angelic order from the higher spheres, to inhabit any sphere below the seventh, but sometimes they are permitted to visit so near earth as to impress through mediumistic power, the desires and wishes of those in the higher realms, in the capacity of a Savior. Yes, each sphere has a Savior or leader to whom they direct their desires, and this choice is assisted by a

full harmonious choir of those interested in behalf of the welfare of all. I thought I was somewhat educated in the spiritual advancement of the sphere, but when I was ushered into the seventh, I was overpowered with emotions of joy. Oh, what joy—what peace pervaded my soul as I realized the true condition of that most wonderful land of spiritual glory. Beatific is not the word — glorified, heavenly, divine. As I wondered and marveled at the glorious scenes around me, and saw the angelic hosts that seemed floating in azure light and glory, I burst out in strains of unknown joy; for surely these were really beings, and not a fairy vision. Soon the misty veil was removed, and I saw my own loved ones who had passed on, and found that they, too, had been received here to be changed for a superior flight to realms beyond. Here your garments are adapted to the atmospheric condition which you have power to remove, when you wish to descend to the spheres below.

All material dross has been removed on entering this sphere, and the body rendered so pure and sensitive as to perceive the least innovation of this truly spiritual realm, that none but the purely angelic can remain.

At certain portions of this sphere, a few visitors are permitted to enter, but are guarded by a spiritual band who act as guides to certain localities. But the inner circle is never approached. It is the fountain of life. Its essence pervades the universal atmosphere. Here is where the scientific—the true soul retires from its researches, to find rest and bathe in the charmed atmosphere of infinite life, embalming them with new strength, to continue their research through the planetary worlds, returning from time to time to transmit their investigations to the recorders in the scientific spheres, thence to be brought to earth.

Thus, my friend, we find all elements used, and nothing lost in the grand unfolding of the limitless worlds. As every planet has its spheres and spiritual inhabitants, they must have profound knowledge, which, from time to time, touches the lower planes of life, as a spark of light kindles and enlivens with its illuminating influence.

All worlds or planets are basking in atmospheric light. Beautiful drapery is woven around them like a mist of glory, enveloping in beauty and intelligence of the great power of eternal love. Oh! my dear friends of earth, how little do you comprehend this wonderful and glorious home. Mortals I know are surrounded by physical conditions, which must debar them from entering into this grand and sublime knowledge of God's eternal love; but all, in the eternity of years, will cast their outer garments, and

be brought into the universal circle of infinite wisdom and power of this soul-wrapt world.

SECTION EIGHTH.

Friends of earth-life, we come again to greet you with love and encouragement, to continue on the good work you have so earnestly begun. Yes, we who have given our experiences to the world, shall meet together at the close of this, and speak of what we know regarding these writings. We left you in the great ocean of universal life, whose fount is supplied from all sources of inspirational and natural emanations, which fill and revivify with their enlivening and God-given principles.

Perhaps I have not given so good and touching account of the different spheres as my loved ones who preceded me, but as I felt that a rationale was needed, to bring your minds to associations which would connect this unfolding world to your conceptions, as mortals who had taken first degrees in material things, clothing them with ideas of beauty or usefulness, so must I clothe my description of the heavenly spheres as habitable conditions for the spirits of those who had resided upon earth; for we teach and claim that innate life and aspirations follow the spirit through the different changes, and that many of their desires or aspirations are heightened by being brought into the harmonious relations of spiritual existence, and are therefore beautified and cultivated more perfectly, as they advance to the different spheres. We have passed to the seventh plane of spiritual existence, and yet find much to learn. Many are coming here as visitors, but cannot remain, as they are not fully embalmed with the light of knowledge sufficient to advance to realms beyond. In passing out of this atmosphere, we perceive a peculiar sensation, which produces drowsiness, and we seem to lose ourselves and float on an unbounded, infinite and unfathomable space; where we are being carried, we have no knowledge, but are told by a peculiar sound which comes to us as a lullaby, to rest in peace, for the good angels who are near the great inner sphere of eternal life and beauty, are keeping and will care for us, until we are restored, and find ourselves within the domain of the great City of life, where the gates of jasper open, and the angels welcome us to the temple of souls, where one eternal song of praise is going up from purified spirits. Yes, friend we have such a home in the final purification, where all know and understand each other—where joy unspeakable and full of glory is realized by all. Here labor ceases. This is a home for universal rest and enjoyment, without care,

where a free, full, unbounded love awakens all to its glorious realities. Here all can bathe in the true enjoyment of their souls; where each is attracted to their spiritual enjoyment; where variety and harmony is a perpetual feast, each one filling their spheres of action, varying in plans of enjoyment, according to their aspirations, yet all in perfect harmony, like the flowers of the field blending their beautiful hues.

This sphere has been but seldom spoken of, for it is the central sun of souls far remote from the ascending spheres where souls prepared are taken to this city of jasper, and pearls radiant with settings of diamonds, and all manner of precious stones. This is the great city seen by the prophets of old, and spoken of as the New Jerusalem. To them it was but a momentary vision which they could not clearly define as to location. Here is where the heavenly music is symphonised in one joyful harmonious strain. This is where all the inhabitants of different planets come, after their sojourn through spheres of each planetary belt—the univerculum or sun centre of all unfolded spirits who have become perfected, and the rising star of recognition placed upon their foreheads—who, at intervals are permitted to visit others to observe their conditions; also, to assist in preparing them for this vast and eternal home, far remote from all other planetary worlds; this being the highest and holiest, where all refined particles from other spheres have been drawn, making this the crystal or purified sphere of the infinite mind. Here are the spiritualized palaces, and gorgeous minarets—where vespers are chanted by the sylvan glades whose musical and language flowers bloom, sending out a perfume not to be comprehended by mortals.

My dear earth-friend: I have taken this medium beyond the known spheres belonging to this earth, and through vast space beyond any planet yet seen by mortal eye. Yet to a home that is eternal, a planet whose eternal beauty cannot be conceived, and which language fails to portray; but it is there, and God, the universal Father, but not embodied, save through the souls of the purified who centralize the highest and purest of all created power. Here the Infinite mind is centralized, and from this centre radiates all intelligence to other planets or worlds; where guides are ever controlling and blending the forces of truth and knowledge, and spreading it through the different planets. When we think of what the world calls death, we feel at once thrilled with a desire to awaken them to their true condition; and to arouse them to a true knowledge of their glorious future. I find that by the

assistance of my loved Washington and mother, who have been my guides to this soul realm of angelic beauty, that I have brought this medium in harmony with its sublime grandeur, by whom I can give realities of the same world once given in visions to those who inspiredly wrote so beautifully, and who are now inhabitants of this soul realm of eternal life. They were the worshipers of the true God as a universal Father, and being honest and pure in their thoughts, this vision was given them of heaven, as they called it, where everything sparkled in beauty with its golden light, radiating with life from God or infinite power which permeates the whole. This soul-realm is out of the magnetic circle of all planets revolving in an atmosphere which fills and surrounds it. It is also sustained by the magnetic and electric belts of all planets as they throw off their refined aura. While spirits are passing from planets to this soul realm, they are sustained by currents of magnetic life like a gulf stream flowing direct to this central realm of eternal life. Once within this current, the spirit is carried so softly, and lulled by sweet strains of music taking away all anxiety regarding the strangeness and distance from other climes. Attendants are also sent to guide the spirit until finally brought to the holiest of holies, where dazzling beauty and grandeur starts the soul with awe and wonder at the enchanted scenery, and you feel like prostrating in adoration before the shining angels of perfected life, who invite you to rest amid the anthems and love of angelic beings, who love and care for you so tenderly. And here I will rest.