

Experiences in Spirit Life.

ALSO,

Laws Pertaining to Phenomenal

SPIRITUALISM,

FORM MATERIALIZATION, DARK CIRCLES,
CLAIRAUDIENT, TRANCE, BALLOT,
AND OTHER MANIFESTATIONS.



THROUGH THE MEDIUMSHIP OF

MRS. ELSIE CRINDLE,

Under the Control of Her Spirit Guides,

JAMES GRUFF, CAPT. WM. BIRD, AND OTHERS.

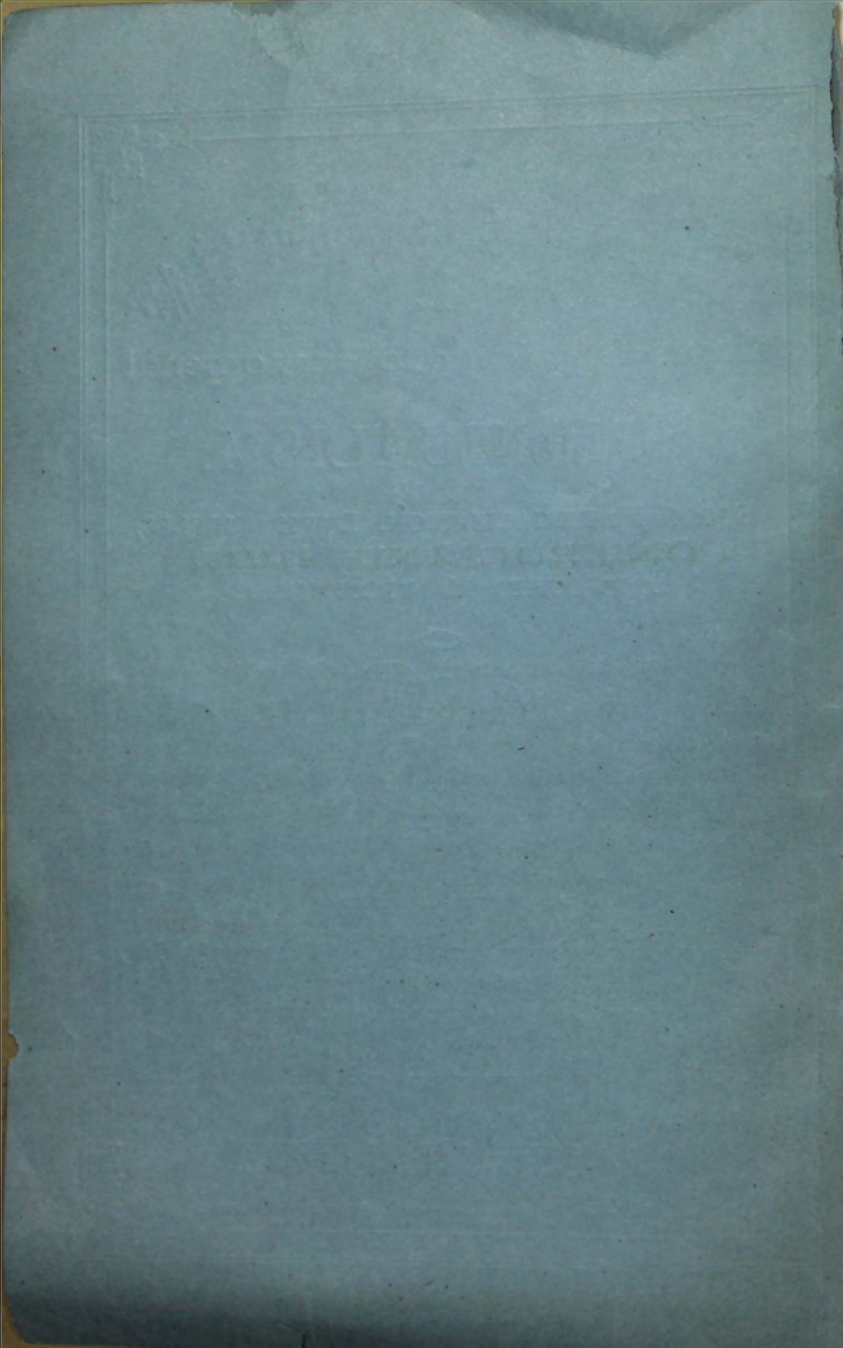
SAN FRANCISCO :

BACON & COMPANY, BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS,

Corner of Clay and Sansome Streets.

1880.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1880, by MRS. EUNICE S. SLEEPER,
in the Office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington.



DEDICATION

BY THE

CONTROLLING SPIRIT.

TO

MRS. EUNICE S. SLEEPER,

With other brave and noble, yet unobtrusive workers, who have assisted me in my mission of freeing mankind from the bondage of ignorance and religious bigotry, I dedicate this humble effort to portray some of my experiences in spirit-life.

JAMES GRUFF.

PREFACE.

BY THE MEDIUM.

OF THE philosophy and ethics of Spiritualism I am as a child led by a mother's guiding hand, daily taught lessons of wisdom and experience. Over and over again I am asked the question, "What good does Spiritualism do?" I have been told by the kindest of teachers that they who seek with clean hands and pure hearts will be taught the noblest lessons ever given humanity. "As you would that others should do to you, do you even so to them." In place of doubt and skepticism as to another existence after death, we can have the proofs of life eternal, where with spiritual bodies raised, refined, and purified from the grosser elements, we can renew the loves and friendships of earth, freed from the ills and cares that here often compel us to walk through the valley of the shadow of darkness.

With no further introduction, I present the communications from one of my controls, who uses me as a passive instrument to express his own words and experiences in spirit-life to you.

ELSIE CRINDLE.

Communications from Spirit James Gruff.

I passed to spirit-life, my friends, under a terrible cloud of misfortune, and unjust accusation, and died cursing God and man—passing with a suicide's hand to spirit-life, unbidden and unprepared. Long weary years of darkness followed, constantly surrounded by natures even worse than my own, seemingly incapable of progression. Thus my spirit clung to former scenes of earth, seeking like associations, and, with a heart full of bitterness, striving to drag mortals to ways of misery and deception. In this condition I found my medium; and possessing a wonderful power of physical control, I caused her great suffering and sorrow, and through ignorance, no friendly outstretched hand was offered to lift me from mental darkness.

This was my experience, until one kind heart bade me hope for a better life, and with gentle words of love and persuasion obtained from me a promise of reform and truthful words. The hour of redemption came, and I stood forth a happy spirit; and I now use my best powers for good instead of evil. Since that day, (though often under a seeming rough exterior) I know that I have brightened many darkened pathways—lightened many weary burdens—by my cheerful words of hope and promise.

What does my experience teach?

It shows that self-destruction brings no relief from the cares and sorrows of earth-life.

I say to you, live out your destiny on earth—fight manfully on to the bitter end—though oft it may seem that ministering spirits are powerless to reach with warning voice to save. Remember,

the suicide passes into spirit-life unchanged; untold horrors surround the new birth—fiends exultingly smile, and pure angels weep. No prepared home awaits the stranger, who is invariably doomed to wander near the scenes of suffering on earth. No mother's gentle influence can permeate that darkened atmosphere; no sister's deep abiding love can reach that unhappy soul, and long weary years may roll on, ere the light of a morning resurrection dawns. Take warning by my fate, and with an earnest prayer appeal to our Heavenly Father for strength to bear life's burdens to its final close. Would that my warning voice could reach throughout the whole world, as I now urge you, by all that is pure and holy, to let your earth-life be such, that when the shadow of death comes in accordance with nature's perfect law, you can meet it hopefully, knowing that each and every one who lives aright has a home here wrought by loving hands. Could you see as I do, the beautiful homes in the spirit-land, all your so-called palaces of earth would sink into insignificance. Crude matter is here volatilized, and again sublimated into beautiful forms beyond conception, framing a structure that the elements cannot make desolate, or time wither its beauties. Loving hands embellish this superstructure, and nature's fairest gems are culled for its adornment. Happy spirits, on errands of love and mercy, flit to and fro from this beautiful abode. Would you have a home like this? It can be yours. Only live out your work on earth, and then your spirit-friends will deem you worthy of such a gift to enjoy for ever and ever.

MANNER OF CONTROL.

Egotists, who grandly term themselves advanced Spiritualists and inspirational teachers, present theories pertaining to spirit control that they do not understand and never will, (even as spirits) fully comprehend, much less where death has not opened the clairvoyant-sight to a clearer vision. I say to you, as a spirit possessing a strong inherent magnetic power over what you term visible matter, that the exact *modus operandi* of such control cannot be fully explained, owing to the existence of laws pertaining to material substances of which you are as yet ignorant. I, as a spirit, must humbly seek for knowledge from master-minds who stand on a higher plane than myself; and those advanced spirits still seek undiscovered fields of wisdom far above their clouded vision; and thus, through endless circles of thought, humanity reaps the reward of our earnest efforts.

During the earlier period of my control with the medium, I was simply enabled, through the workings of a law very imperfectly understood even by myself, to present only very crude forms of manifestations; but following the instructions of more advanced spirits, this power constantly increased, and now I am enabled to come "*en rapport*" with many persons, comprising a circle, and through their spirit-friends often present tests of identity. Remember, we have the power to walk amongst you unseen save to the clairvoyant vision; but certain conditions are necessary for us to follow, before we can approach sufficiently near to penetrate the magnetism that surrounds you. I am under the workings of an inflexible law, and often find it impossible to approach certain peculiar physical organizations (as well as those of your spirit-friends) sufficiently near to present the proofs of spirit presence to many inquiring minds. Little do you dream of the power advanced spirits possess to read the past, present, and future; but as a rule that knowledge must be a sealed

book to you. Why this is so you cannot fully understand until you have passed your earthly experience, crossed the threshold of death, and stand face to face with those you loved on earth.

A question was once asked me that I can never forget, and I am thankful to say that I have made that soul better and purer through my teachings. "Tell me," he says, "what can I do more than I am doing to make my fellow-creatures happy, and myself fit to enter a high sphere in the spirit-world to which I shall soon be called?"

Countless myriads of happy spirits from the immortal shore would as one voice bid all souls God-speed in the great and glorious work of making others happy. So labor on; strive to benefit humanity, and it will add laurels to your crown hereafter. In that life which all are fast approaching, you will find full scope for intellectual growth. You will meet with happy spirits, made so through the help of your ministrations on earth, and through them you will gather strength for your mission. Our cause is deserving of your noblest energies; and, by doing good on earth, in spirit-life you will have the thanks of those who have passed over like myself in darkness. Let the light of our belief shine in every home. Raise to the breeze the glorious standard of religious freedom, and unfurl the banner of free thought to the waiting world. Your spirit-friends are constantly watching your noble efforts to free humanity from the terrible bondage of bigotry and superstition. Work bravely on, thus fitting yourselves for a higher sphere hereafter; and, above all, deal gently with our sensitive messengers who are opening the gates of the future to you. Strive to surround them with elevating and pure influences; thus making our mediums better men and women. Mighty results will follow, and thousands and tens of thousands shall know that death is only laying aside the garments of earth for the shining robes of Immortality.

My individual experience on earth, many years ago, was a saddened one, and I will not call up its bitter memories; but I would have you always remember to "speak gently to erring ones, however darkly stained by sin." The words of that beautiful song, that many have heard me sing to music, sink deep into my soul, and I never render it unfeelingly. Since I have been with you, it has been my happy mission to take one sister spirit by the hand and lead her out of the paths of sin and sorrow, and now with her wonderful powers she is constantly assisting me in my work. She passed over from your beautiful city but a few years since, from a life of sin and shame, made so by one who led her from the paths of virtue and purity but to betray and desert. Gentle loving words might have held the erring one from further despair and degradation; but no hand was outstretched to save. Despairingly she plunged into the vortex of dissipation, and sought forgetfulness in its wild orgies. Shunned by the world, and dragged still lower down by those who call themselves men, an enfeebled body finally yielded to disease, and she passed into spirit-life in her young womanhood, with an incubus of remorse perpetually holding her to former scenes of earth. Thus I met her, and sought her assistance in my manifestations as a means of diverting her thoughts from the past. Well was I repaid for that act of kindness; for, through her agency and strong power, floral offerings have been given to you under strict test conditions that should be beyond cavil. You cannot, with your present knowledge of chemistry, fully realize the many obstacles she encountered to successfully carry out this remarkable phenomenon of spirit-power. Repeated trials were needed to overcome the effect of full light, but, with the kindly aid and instruction of our advanced chemists, the flowers were enveloped in a cloud of globular particles of moisture invisible to your natural sight, and in

that manner conveyed by spirit-hands through a lighted room to the medium, to undergo still another process of condensation before your becoming the recipients of the beautiful tokens taken from nature's vast laboratory. These flowers are not materialized, but are culled by spirit-hands from earth's natural growth through power taken from the medium hours previous to their presentation. This magnetic aura we condense, and thus transport it for aid in procuring these gifts. As a spirit, I knowingly say to you, no spirits on this side, however far advanced, have the power to materialize flowers from earth's atmosphere through any medium now living; though the time is not far distant when it may be accomplished. This statement may surprise you, in face of other phenomena of seeming greater power, but this fact exists, though unexplainable in terms sufficiently clear to your comprehension.

I now approach a phase of physical manifestations that is agitating the mind of all Spiritualists throughout the world, having its warm supporters and bitter denounciators.

MATERIALIZATION

Of spirit-forms is nevertheless a fixed fact. In conducting the circles of my medium, I produce the most positive materialization. I must of necessity materialize a form with hands and body capable of locomotion. Had I the power to illuminate my person, you could not only see myself but other spirits engaged in this work. Actual solid materialized hands are formed to convey and play upon the instruments used in the dark circle; I speak and sing to you through vocal organs with power drawn from my medium, using the trumpet to more readily condense the waves of sound. This power is constantly increasing; and ere long, if the physical condition of my medium permit, I shall be able to converse with you in audible tones without the necessity of intervening darkness. As with you, we meet

MANNER OF CONTROL.

Egotists, who grandly term themselves advanced Spiritualists and inspirational teachers, present theories pertaining to spirit control that they do not understand and never will, (even as spirits) fully comprehend, much less where death has not opened the clairvoyant-sight to a clearer vision. I say to you, as a spirit possessing a strong inherent magnetic power over what you term visible matter, that the exact *modus operandi* of such control cannot be fully explained, owing to the existence of laws pertaining to material substances of which you are as yet ignorant. I, as a spirit, must humbly seek for knowledge from master-minds who stand on a higher plane than myself; and those advanced spirits still seek undiscovered fields of wisdom far above their clouded vision; and thus, through endless circles of thought, humanity reaps the reward of our earnest efforts.

During the earlier period of my control with the medium, I was simply enabled, through the workings of a law very imperfectly understood even by myself, to present only very crude forms of manifestations; but following the instructions of more advanced spirits, this power constantly increased, and now I am enabled to come "*en rapport*" with many persons, comprising a circle, and through their spirit-friends often present tests of identity. Remember, we have the power to walk amongst you unseen save to the clairvoyant vision; but certain conditions are necessary for us to follow, before we can approach sufficiently near to penetrate the magnetism that surrounds you. I am under the workings of an inflexible law, and often find it impossible to approach certain peculiar physical organizations (as well as those of your spirit-friends) sufficiently near to present the proofs of spirit presence to many inquiring minds. Little do you dream of the power advanced spirits possess to read the past, present, and future; but as a rule that knowledge must be a sealed

book to you. Why this is so you cannot fully understand until you have passed your earthly experience, crossed the threshold of death, and stand face to face with those you loved on earth.

A question was once asked me that I can never forget, and I am thankful to say that I have made that soul better and purer through my teachings. "Tell me," he says, "what can I do more than I am doing to make my fellow-creatures happy, and myself fit to enter a high sphere in the spirit-world to which I shall soon be called?"

Countless myriads of happy spirits from the immortal shore would as one voice bid all souls God-speed in the great and glorious work of making others happy. So labor on; strive to benefit humanity, and it will add laurels to your crown hereafter. In that life which all are fast approaching, you will find full scope for intellectual growth. You will meet with happy spirits, made so through the help of your ministrations on earth, and through them you will gather strength for your mission. Our cause is deserving of your noblest energies; and, by doing good on earth, in spirit-life you will have the thanks of those who have passed over like myself in darkness. Let the light of our belief shine in every home. Raise to the breeze the glorious standard of religious freedom, and unfurl the banner of free thought to the waiting world. Your spirit-friends are constantly watching your noble efforts to free humanity from the terrible bondage of bigotry and superstition. Work bravely on, thus fitting yourselves for a higher sphere hereafter; and, above all, deal gently with our sensitive messengers who are opening the gates of the future to you. Strive to surround them with elevating and pure influences; thus making our mediums better men and women. Mighty results will follow, and thousands and tens of thousands shall know that death is only laying aside the garments of earth for the shining robes of Immortality.

My individual experience on earth, many years ago, was a saddened one, and I will not call up its bitter memories; but I would have you always remember to "speak gently to erring ones, however darkly stained by sin." The words of that beautiful song, that many have heard me sing to music, sink deep into my soul, and I never render it unfeelingly. Since I have been with you, it has been my happy mission to take one sister spirit by the hand and lead her out of the paths of sin and sorrow, and now with her wonderful powers she is constantly assisting me in my work. She passed over from your beautiful city but a few years since, from a life of sin and shame, made so by one who led her from the paths of virtue and purity but to betray and desert. Gentle loving words might have held the erring one from further despair and degradation; but no hand was outstretched to save. Despairingly she plunged into the vortex of dissipation, and sought forgetfulness in its wild orgies. Shunned by the world, and dragged still lower down by those who call themselves men, an enfeebled body finally yielded to disease, and she passed into spirit-life in her young womanhood, with an incubus of remorse perpetually holding her to former scenes of earth. Thus I met her, and sought her assistance in my manifestations as a means of diverting her thoughts from the past. Well was I repaid for that act of kindness; for, through her agency and strong power, floral offerings have been given to you under strict test conditions that should be beyond cavil. You cannot, with your present knowledge of chemistry, fully realize the many obstacles she encountered to successfully carry out this remarkable phenomenon of spirit-power. Repeated trials were needed to overcome the effect of full light, but, with the kindly aid and instruction of our advanced chemists, the flowers were enveloped in a cloud of globular particles of moisture invisible to your natural sight, and in

that manner conveyed by spirit-hands through a lighted room to the medium, to undergo still another process of condensation before your becoming the recipients of the beautiful tokens taken from nature's vast laboratory. These flowers are not materialized, but are culled by spirit-hands from earth's natural growth through power taken from the medium hours previous to their presentation. This magnetic aura we condense, and thus transport it for aid in procuring these gifts. As a spirit, I knowingly say to you, no spirits on this side, however far advanced, have the power to materialize flowers from earth's atmosphere through any medium now living; though the time is not far distant when it may be accomplished. This statement may surprise you, in face of other phenomena of seeming greater power, but this fact exists, though unexplainable in terms sufficiently clear to your comprehension.

I now approach a phase of physical manifestations that is agitating the mind of all Spiritualists throughout the world, having its warm supporters and bitter denunciators.

MATERIALIZATION

Of spirit-forms is nevertheless a fixed fact. In conducting the circles of my medium, I produce the most positive materialization. I must of necessity materialize a form with hands and body capable of locomotion. Had I the power to illuminate my person, you could not only see myself but other spirits engaged in this work. Actual solid materialized hands are formed to convey and play upon the instruments used in the dark circle; I speak and sing to you through vocal organs with power drawn from my medium, using the trumpet to more readily condense the waves of sound. This power is constantly increasing; and ere long, if the physical condition of my medium permit, I shall be able to converse with you in audible tones without the necessity of intervening darkness. As with you, we meet

constant barriers to our wishes; discordant unhappy spirits strive to retard this work and sow the seeds of inharmony and deception in your midst. Generations may yet pass, ere mankind will be prepared by proper education and passivity to receive the spiritual gifts in store for you. Thousands pass into spirit-life improperly educated while on earth, taking with them diseased mental conditions, with hearts full of hatred and envy, evil passions ungratified, and so returning to crush out all purity and truth. Would you see this mighty work increase in power? Let each and every one, by the force of example and precept, strive to elevate and reform fallen humanity. Remember, you are sending your criminals by thousands to join the vast throng of spirits who return to lead others astray. I cannot forbear raising my warning voice as to the treatment of the criminal element, even in the midst of your boasted civilization. I have visited your places of confinement, and seen your criminals thrust like wild beasts into noxious cells, reeking with impurities, and denied even the free pure air of heaven. Go and visit your prisons, as I have done; and it can but strengthen your voice against this crying evil in your midst.

DARK CIRCLES.

Many so called Spiritualists most unreasonably condemn Dark Circles; and but a few months since I listened to words that fell from eloquent lips from one of the most gifted (naturally) exponents of the philosophy of Spiritualism (Mrs. Emma Hardinge Brittan). She said, in one of your public halls in San Francisco, these words: "I earnestly raise my voice against the 'Dark Circle,' for darkness is unnecessary to produce the best physical phenomena, and I speak to virtuous matrons and noble fathers to forever denounce all dark circles, and let public opinion forever prohibit them, except to a few martyrs in the cause of science." Let me say to that gifted lady, that she might honor one of my circles with her presence, and

sit even at the feet of James Gruff, and remain a virtuous matron, and learn lessons of wisdom and charity, and go forth from that darkened room with strength unimpaired, and good resolutions strengthened, to draw closer around her the mantle of charity for all sister mediums. Let me also say, that at present darkness is *absolutely necessary* to produce the most satisfactory phases of physical phenomena. Even the medium (Mrs. Foye), who occupied the platform with Mrs. Brittan, and listened so impressively to her words aimed at my "Dark Circles," cannot produce the so-called "raps" on any material object held forth by an investigator in the clear light. Noble fathers can listen harmlessly to my words in those terrible "Dark Circles," and find perhaps that even one of the so-called "low" spirits can teach lessons of charity and love. Come to my circles with clean hands and pure hearts, free from all personal impurities, and light out of darkness will illumine your souls, making you better men and women, and fit temples for the indwelling of purer and higher influences.

He who once trod the paths of Judea tells you that He came not only to call the righteous but sinners to repentance. So we, as spirits, seek to reach all classes of society, and must use what instruments we have to work alike with the "just and the unjust." We seek to soothe discordant elements, and pour the oil of peace on the raging waves of human passion. Envy, hatred and jealousy, yet walk your earth hand in hand. The harvest is indeed great, and can only be garnered through the labor of strong hands and brave hearts, who will step fearlessly yet kindly forward, and show the mighty power of peace and harmony, and thus make your earth one vast Unity of Peace and Brotherhood. Then the true Spiritual Millennium will dawn upon you, and when your earthly labors are ended, the bright fullness of eternity will be yours to enjoy for ever and ever. JAMES GRUFF.

Owing to the ease of my control of this medium, I am commissioned by higher powers to convey the opinions of more advanced spirits, who control other phases of Phenomenal Spiritualism.

J. G.

PHENOMENAL SPIRITUALISM

Is and ever will remain the chief corner-stone whereon rests the structure of our belief. Slowly yet surely its walls are being reared, and no confusion of *beliefs* or differences of opinion can crush the work already done. The phenomena came to you under instructions from the spirit-world, unsought and unheralded; but, my friends, I assure you there are heights and depths of knowledge pertaining to this subject that are not capable of external expression.

We, as spirits, are allowed to present but a foretaste of joys to come in store for those who live worthy of the high vocation to which they are called.

Believe not those teachers or guides who say that but a few short years are required for spirits to walk and talk with you in the broad noon-day of your earthly experiences. Such are not the designs of that mighty power which we as spirits reverentially adore. This subject of

VISIBLE FORM MATERIALIZATION

opens up a vast field for reflection; and waiting ones this side gather around me, as I seek words adequate to convey even a most imperfect solution of its mysteries. Thousands in spirit-life deny its possibility, and malignant and deceiving spirits constantly seek its destruction, and strive to operate not only against the mediums, but also to scatter the seeds of discord and skepticism over the minds of investigators. I say to you, that this form of materialization will never in your day and generation stand forth as a clear unmistakable reality, like many other phases of the physical phenomena; but its path will be hedged with many thorns, requiring

such favorable conditions for unfoldment that you will seldom possess its perfect realization.

That strong and wonderful exponent of form materialization more than eighteen hundred years ago taught the noblest lessons to His followers, on this subject, ever given humanity. That inspired Teacher said: "That now we see through a glass darkly, but hereafter face to face." The mysteries of materialization cannot be explained satisfactorily to you, and in fact it is not fully understood by us. Unseen subtle influences often thwart our plans, compelling use of such material as we have, followed by imperfect results. What you term matter we can see and handle in its more etherealized condition—its divisibility, and power of disintegration; and from the elements of matter existing in the atmosphere, and the emanations of the medium and your own organizations, we frame what you term a materialized spirit. Would that you could have our spiritual vision, and look at your anxious friends gazing on our labors as we earnestly strive to frame lineaments that you can recognize, yet lacking the necessary power to gratify you. Very many of your friends who have crossed the River of Death, have passed to higher conditions, and are forever freed from the cares and sorrows of earth's surroundings. Until you have joined us, you cannot fully comprehend this fact.

No materialized spirit (framed through the organism of any medium), can use its mental faculties as completely when materialized as when it possessed a bodily form on earth. In point of fact, it has no individualized mentality, except what is used from the brain-power of the medium; and even to express that, the spirit must be well versed in the laws pertaining to materialization and control. This method of communication is unsatisfactory to us, but we are willing to do all in our power to convince you of the truth of continued existence after death has destroyed

mortality and freed your spirits from tenements of earth. Therefore, "be not weary in well-doing," though you may encounter many difficulties. Gird on the armor of patience, and go forth and meet life's duties with renewed hopes, always ready to battle manfully for the right. The light of a new dispensation is dispelling the dark clouds of bigotry and superstition, raising humanity continually nearer the source of all life and inspiration—thus fitting you for a better commencement of a new life, that will ere long be yours to enjoy for ever and ever.

RELIGIOUS BELIEFS IN SPIRIT LIFE.

An inquiring Catholic mind once bade me answer this query: "Does not this spiritual philosophy teach that all religious beliefs hereafter will be merged into one?"

I give you the answer, as replied to by a noted Catholic divine now in spirit life: "I still believe in all that is pure in our Mother Church and most Holy Catholic Faith. With my clear spiritual vision I now see her sins, but I also see the mighty truths embodied in her sacred teachings, as they have come down to us through ages of tribulation, storm, and peril. I seek not to break down Protestantism, or the Christian's faith. Fragments of good exist in all religions; so be as charitable as I am, my friends, and let your lives show the truth of your professions, be ye Jew, Greek, or Gentile, Moslem, or bound to our most Holy Catholic Faith."

The effect of religious instructions, as presented by doctrinal orthodox creeds of to day, long remain an incubus to progression hereafter, and many spirits have not passed to these higher conditions.

In fact an innumerable host are still winging their way through space immeasurable. In search of that Immortal City of our Lord, Whose walls emblazoned are with priceless gems, With streets of pure gold, and its enduring columns Ever wreathed with flowers unwithering, all pure And imperishable as broad Eternity itself. In vain seek they the Recording Angel with

Plumed pen and open Book of Life, Wherein are contained the records of the mighty universe;

With earth and sea bidden to give up its dead, Both numbered and unnumbered for FINAL JUDGMENT.

With longing eyes seek they the enthroned Savior of mankind belted with light celestial, Surrounded by legions of angels restored to Archangelic state through the atoning blood Of Him who once walked earth's fair domain, In Heaven to unite and reunite all Governments, Creeds, Kindred, Tongues, Empires, Nations, with One everlasting Kingdom in this beautiful City Eternal, as from the beginning ordained. All praising God with harps of gold; A happy white-winged host, with voices attuned To songs of glory for ever and evermore.

Learn, my friends, while on earth, of the falsity of such views in reference to the hereafter. Heaven exists in every heart where peace and love reign supreme. It surrounds you, here and hereafter, as you make it for yourselves. I know that in our beautiful spirit-land, fair cities indeed rise to view, towering over our hills and grassy plains. The fragrance of unwithering flowers perfumes the air, and (fairer than the fabled River of Life in that New Jerusalem) flow gentle murmuring streams, whose banks are crowned with nature's fairest gems. We build and dedicate our temples of love and wisdom, and select teachers for our instruction, and by noble thoughts and good deeds show the most of Heaven within us.

Yes, this Heaven is a bright reality, where all rule themselves, and choose naught but that which is good. All the forms of earth are here symbolized, and our homes are beautified with such adornments as we individually desire. When my spirit becomes weary through contact with earth's grosser elements, I seek my spirit-home and gather new strength, and again return to carry out my mission on earth.

SEXES IN SPIRIT-LIFE.

I will illustrate this practically, through my own experience.

I once walked your earth, living as you live, but without a happy home blessed by the crowned love of wedded

life. Would that the power were now mine to draw aside the veil of separation between us, and bid you enter my peaceful home in this fair land. I meet the tender glance of loving eyes and the sweet smile of welcome from a companion whom I now recognize as the embodiment of all that is pure and holy. No petty jealousies or discordant elements approach this sacred abode. All is peace, love, and purity indescribable. This true union and blending of the sexes is Love's sweetest fruition, seldom finding its counterpart on earth. Mortal eyes cannot penetrate its sacred mysteries, or sensuous natures catch even a glimpse of its blissful reality.

This experience will come to you all, sooner or later, as you prove yourselves worthy to enjoy it. I see the defects in your earthly system of union of the sexes, but no sudden reformatory measures can rectify it. Time and proper education will remedy all this, and woman will take her proper position in life, man's equal companion and co-worker in all that tends to elevate and purify the race physically and morally. You who have children should strive to properly educate them to understand first of all their own organizations and the sacred duties of wife- and motherhood. All can assist in this great work; and I would say to those who feel themselves mated to uncongenial companions, "Act with mutual forbearance and kindness, and, as true reasoning men and women, bear one with the other—knowing that in the happy hereafter you will meet the perfect realization of all your hopes and aspirations."

I have been repeatedly questioned in reference to the occupations of spirits, their daily life, duties, pleasures, etc.

It is not intended that you should ever fully enter the sacred temple of future life until your natures are made purer by the change you term death. I know that many spirits return through mediums, giving such descriptions of spirit-life as appeal directly to your mortal senses. Let me say that each spirit

gives the light of such knowledge as that spirit perceives, and nothing more. Spirits nearest earth partake more or less of its magnetism and its emanations; many undeveloped spirits requiring the latter for sustenance, until they have passed on to higher conditions. Weigh all that you receive carefully by the light of reason, accepting the grains of gold; knowing full well that noble truths often fall from humblest lips.

CLAIRAUDIENT MEDIUMSHIP.

This gift requires great care and proper passivity on the part of the medium.

I meet, perchance for the first time, with some of your spirit-friends; and with the greatest ease, through the natural laws of attraction, so well understood by us, I at once become thoroughly "*en rapport*" with their inner life, and read their wishes to communicate tests to their friends. Names, dates, and facts of their earthly life are readily given me, which I then impress on the sensitive brain of my medium, using to a certain extent her organs of hearing, and thus it reaches you.

This phase of mediumship is very rare, needing most delicate conditions. I allude now to genuine clairaudient powers. And let me say to mediums everywhere that we read you correctly; it is given us to know just what is true and false in your mediumship. You may deceive mortals, but you cannot deceive us. Clothe yourself as you best may with the darkest mantle of secrecy, it cannot dim our spiritual vision.

SLATE WRITING.

This phase of physical mediumship cannot be produced except by spirits of strong physical power, who are nearest your earth's magnetism, and it will ever remain simply a wonderful phenomenon, leading investigators to search for the more advanced phases of mediumship.

Darkness is an absolute condition required for us to move and grasp the minute fragment of slate placed between

the two tablets. I need not say that we condense the motive-power from the medium; and often, when the conditions are favorable, the characteristic penmanship of the spirit controlling is presented.

In my own control of this medium, and in all other cases where deception is not practiced, I know that darkness is an absolute condition while the writing is being produced.

It is but reasonable that honest investigators should be allowed to select the material used, and see that the communications are written and returned under test conditions, and thus become fully satisfied that spirit force and intelligence are the only motive-powers used in presenting this interesting experiment.

BALLOT TESTS.

This phase of clairvoyant mediumship is imperfectly understood, though it has been presented since the commencement of spiritual phenomena. It is the right of honest investigators to impose on mediums (professing to read ballots on which are written names of spirits from whom communications are desired) strict test conditions, as this can be done without detriment to the medium, if the powers claimed are genuine.

Fold the ballots in such a manner as to preclude reading the same in a strong light, through impressions left on the paper from the pencil, that can be clearly seen by a practiced eye, even if it reverses the writing. A good medium should read the names written on the ballot, with but few exceptions, nearly as well in the dark as in the light; though many spirits may not be able to communicate, or are not present at the time, and consequently no data as to age, manner of death, etc., can be presented. When such tests are offered, they should be given by the medium without questioning by the writer, making all due allowance as to natural errors. Intelligent guides of the medium should at once detect fictitious names,

and not go on and give age, name, and manner of death of perchance some domestic animal, and present an excuse that the questioner is answered according to his own folly.

TRANCE MEDIUMSHIP.

This most satisfactory and precious of all spiritual blessings affords, in my opinion, one of the most convincing proofs that the golden bowl of life can never be broken. Would that my warning voice could be as a "cloud by day and a pillar of fire at night," to bid you cautiously approach this sacred shrine, and lay thereon such gifts as will prove acceptable to those who clearly read the motives that govern all your actions.

Let me earnestly ask each and every one, "What are your offerings upon this altar, as you seek our messengers? Do you come with prayerful hearts and pure thoughts, asking that good angels only may enwrap the physical organization of the medium for the noble purpose of giving you some proof of a future life? or do you come with impure bodies and unchaste thoughts, seeking to attract elements of impurity, that evil spirits are but too ready to offer?"

I blush for humanity (and I cannot except many so-called Spiritualists) when I know that attempts are often made under the guise of a "*seance*" to defile alike the medium and the spirit controlling.

This necessitates constant watchfulness by the guide, with too sudden a return of the vital forces of the medium, often producing most injurious results.

All facts and conditions of true mediumship are clear to us, whose mission it is to send forth heralds to proclaim to a waiting world the evidences of endless existence; and recreant indeed would I be to that mission did I forbear to warn numerous impostors calling themselves Trance Mediums, who use that name as a cloak to shield unholy desires and immoral practices for worldly gain. The iron hand of re-

tributive justice holds forth a terrible punishment for this most heinous and accursed sacrilege. The waves of remorse and darkness will engulf that soul hereafter, and in vain will they seek the gates of happiness. Bitter tears of repentance and long weary years of suffering alone can expiate such foul wickedness.

To mediums who possess this spiritual inheritance, I would say, "Guard your treasure with ceaseless vigilance: once you open the flood-gates of deception, you cannot fail to be engulfed in its eddying waters, which will be constantly augmented through spirits of darkness, who delight in finding a subject to carry out foul deeds and unholy practices."

It sometimes happens that the guides are unable to prevent deceiving spirits from controlling mediums, on account of a weakened physical condition or in-harmonious surroundings, and when such a spirit penetrates the magnetic aura of the medium, we cannot at once sunder this cord, without dangerous results; therefore it becomes your duty to treat the spirit kindly, using your own reasoning powers with that unhappy one; remembering that no "soul, however darkly stained by sin, can be wholly lost to God." Bid that spirit hope for a better, purer life, and some tender word or memory will fall upon good ground, and spring forth a flower of hope and promise to that saddened spirit, and quietly and hopefully the thankful farewell will come.

THE METHOD OF CONTROL

Varies with different spirit operators. In my own case I usually take the hands of my medium and direct my will-power upon the brain, holding her spirit in a dormant state, resulting in complete entrancement. Under other conditions the spirit of the subject controlled leaves its earthly tenement under the supervision of spirit-friends, and crosses the barrier of earthly surroundings, passing into the beautiful scenes of future

life, that are even remembered after the returning union of body and spirit.

INDEPENDENT WRITING BY SPIRITS.

This is a very interesting exhibition of spirit-power by chemical agency, and your chemists simply deny its possibility under the light of cool analytical scientific knowledge, except through prepared agencies. I have however, repeatedly presented this phenomena in the fullest light where deception was simply impossible, and it has and will stand forth, a clear *unmistakable* phase of spirit-power. Investigators are permitted to select the simple materials used, as follows: Place an unwritten sheet of common letter or other paper upon the table in front of the medium, in plain view. Burn any small fragment of paper, and place its charred remains upon the unwritten sheet, which is gently rubbed over its surface by the medium. Gradually you will see unmistakable darkened words brought out, forming a communication to the investigator, and very often a perfect *fac-simile* of the writing and signature of some of your spirit-friends; though this is not always the case, and I am then obliged to frame and sign the communication.

EXPLANATION.

When the paper is placed upon the table, spirit chemists, through their advanced knowledge of the properties of elementary matter, proceed to collect from the atmosphere surrounding the medium the necessary chemical formations for use in writing what are to you invisible characters upon paper, but perfectly clear to us. The ashes are afterward used to render the writing legible to your sight. Unsatisfactory as this explanation may be, viewed in the light of scientific research, yet some of the grandest laws pertaining to chemical agencies are embraced in this simple experiment.

Do you ask "why not give a more lucid explanation of this and other spiritual phenomena, whereby the cause

of truth and science may be advanced?" It is impossible to do this, even if we ignored the existence of a Supreme Overruling Power, who has framed laws that plainly say, "Thus far shalt thou go and no farther." We work through human agencies, and are constantly seeking receptive minds upon which the master-spirits of those once on earth can act, thus laying the foundation-stone of all the undiscovered laws in the arts, sciences, and inventions, tending to improve the races of mankind now on earth. We strive to sow this seed upon good ground, where it will spring forth to life and beauty, through earnest effort, thus not only benefitting the world, but laying up a perpetual harvest hereafter.

We come to you as ambassadors from the shores of a land wherein dwell myriads of souls once on earth. Ceaseless mental activity here holds mighty sway. Earth's old reformers are still generating plans for the redemption of humanity from the thralldom of ignorance and sectarian rule. Individually you may not possess the full inspirational gifts bestowed upon earth's chosen few, yet it behooves you to act well your part in the great drama of human life.

WRITING MEDIUMS.

My own method of controlling this medium is termed by you "mechanical writing," but the distinction between mechanical and impressional mental control is scarcely susceptible of analysis. The muscular control of the arm independent from brain impressions is an easy matter of accomplishment, but in order to utilize this control intelligently, I must photograph and transmit my thoughts through the delicate mental nerve-forces of the brain of my medium, though she is unconscious of this fact; and it is absolutely impossible for any spirit operator to fully explain the exact method of transmission, despite the assertions of many self-consequential Spiritualists who ignorantly formulize

their own theories of the method of our control over mediums.

Comparatively few controlling spirits become so completely "*en rapport*" with their subjects as to be able to present a perfect control, freed from some mental trait of the medium. In my own case the control is sometimes imperfect; yet I am generally enabled, through spirit-friends of the sitter, to give names readily, and other strong tests of identity of the spirit, that should in my opinion make this the most satisfactory proof of spirit-presence. Nevertheless, some individuals approach my medium, and fail to receive such proofs, and a very few may never be successful, owing solely to their peculiar physical organization.

I see this thought in the minds of many honest doubters: "Where are the spirits of the noted seers and prophets of old, the men of science and masterly intellect, who once controlled and swayed the masses of men? Why do they not return and control mediums?" I assure you the breath of their inspiration and experience in our own beautiful land, is wafted upon those earthly minds who are to day earnestly at work in the broad earthly fields of science, invention, poetry, and song. Truth is moving grandly on, and all the powers of evil cannot stay its progress; but it is not for the spirit-world to bid you supinely wait for us to fructify the germs of undiscovered laws and new facts in all branches of art and science. It remains with you to carry out our plans, by earnest labor and intellectual effort; thus proving yourselves worthy of the great blessings that are now being showered upon earth. Seers and prophets of old are still inspiring human souls with the light of their renewed visions as to the future destiny of the human race? That wonderful law-giver and leader who guided the enslaved Israelites to the borders of the Promised Land would no longer bid plagues, famine, disease, and death walk over a fair land, to soften a crowned king's

stubborn heart, or bid the engulfing waves swallow environed armies, under alleged direct commands of a Deity whose sacred name was invoked as authority from on high to carry on warfare the most relentless and bloody known to history. Could that prophet of old stand once more on Sinai's lofty mount, what system of laws think you would be given to waiting thousands?

No mighty Joshua would now ignorantly command your natural sun to stand still, or even bid the earth cease its revolution around that shining orb, to await brutal war's deadly sacrifice.

Peruse the pages of Sacred History as given by the prophets of olden time, and how marvelous the transformation. Former ideas of Deity have passed away, and the eyes of thousands have been opened to a more exalted conception of a Divine overruling power working through laws immutable and unchangeable, perfect from the beginning. We worship not the God as pictured in the light of bygone ages of ignorance and superstition; but to-day under this New Dispensation, we seek light and knowledge from the Source of all Spirit, the Giver of all Life that exists in all created objects, from the very lowest form of inanimate life to the highest type of creation.

CHILDREN IN SPIRIT-LIFE.

Many children dwell with us in homes prepared by a band of spirits, whose duties are to teach young friendless immortal souls lessons that should have been given on earth. Never neglect to impart to the tender flowerets of youth lessons of spiritual love and wisdom, and the certainties of a life hereafter.

A few months since I met in spirit-life a fair young girl, whose earthly parents had carefully kept from her mind all knowledge in relation to death of the body or life of the spirit, believing as they did that annihilation was the only destiny of the human race. That child met physical death by accidental drowning, and the waves closed

over its mortal body with spirit incapable of upward flight. Her saddened fate and entire spiritual darkness interested me beyond description. Death was an enigma to her, and with tearful eyes she could only ask why her parents had deserted her. Let me give you her simple childish words: "I fell into the water, and when I got out I went to my papa, and he only cried and wouldn't look at me, and mamma cried too. I went right home with my papa, and I saw all my little playthings in the house, and I walked all around, and went to my papa and put my arms around his neck, but he would n't feel me, and I had to go away. Nobody would speak to me any more, and I couldn't hear papa and mamma call me 'Dear Eva' as they used to." That spirit knew nothing of another life, and for weeks believed she was still alive on earth, but deserted and driven away by those who loved her. As we gradually unfolded the realities of spirit-life to her childish comprehension, a gleam of intelligence would beautify her countenance, and thus we led her on step by step, presenting only ideas she could grasp; and to-day she is a smiling happy pupil in one of our schools, learning lessons from new-found parents. Her earthly parents must pass through a far more bitter experience, when they stand upon the shores of the spirit-land. A beautiful unrecognized child, clothed in robes of pure and spotless white, will mercifully strive to lead them upward and onward, showing them that through all the endless ages of eternity there can be no annihilation.

"Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of Heaven."

Golden words are these from the lips of one of the grandest, purest, and most exalted of Inspirational Teachers that ever walked your earth. Children yet unborn, and those just blossoming into life, are to become the world's saviors in generations to come. Mothers, look well to the conditions pertaining to the

advent of new-born souls upon earth. Study faithfully all laws relative to the sacred duties of motherhood, for upon you rests the weal or woe of immortal beings. Under the present light of intelligent scientific knowledge as to the effect of pre-natal conditions, children should enter your life with pure bodies and refined spiritual natures, only needing a mother's guiding hand to point out the paths of purity and virtue.

Let husbands surround their companions with all that tends to elevate, refine, and purify. Lighten by the approving smile and kind word the often weary physical burdens of her who lives in a spiritual atmosphere and realm that your coarser nature cannot enter. Lend her your superior physical strength and practical knowledge of life's duties. See that plodding daily over-exertion does not wreck that delicately-tensioned frame. We know that mothers are to be the true educators of the human race, and through woman's receptive faculties and intuitive powers we can best show the light of spiritual truth that is to illumine your earth.

TEACHINGS OF SPIRITUALISM.

A vast theme now presents itself for the consideration of all true workers in the cause nearest our hearts. We seek not to set up a new kingdom on your earth, or dismember all human laws and society, but to practically eliminate and bind together the fragments of truth that exist in all religious beliefs. We leave our happy homes to prove to you beyond doubt that the future life is full of

ACTIVE, CEASELESS PROGRESSION.

No longer you need grope with outstretched hands, seeking in vain for proof of eternal life, for it comes to you in unmistakable forms. Only a few decades have passed since the advent of modern Spiritualism has forever settled that momentous question, "If a man die, shall he live again"? It remained for us to quietly roll away

the sepulchral stone from the door seemingly forever closed between the two worlds, and bid a flood of spiritual light illumine your darkened earth; and to-day all the powers of evil on both sides are powerless to close the opened gateway wherein enter the good angels "bearing tidings of great joy to all people."

RELIABILITY OF MESSAGES.

Inaction and blind trust in whatever purports to come from the spirit-world is to-day holding thousands of professed Spiritualists in fetters strong as ever bound sectarian bigots to any religious faith.

The spirit-world is teeming with life as real, as practical, as your own. Under the workings of the mighty universal law of Love, underdeveloped ignorant spirits cannot be debarred from all the avenues of communication between the two worlds; and you are called upon, as thinking, intelligent men and women, to exercise your heaven-born gift of reason in regard to advice from those who are simply beginners in the rudimentary schools of spiritual knowledge.

The mere fact that the spirit-world is a reality, and has also the power to send its divine messengers on ministrations of love and mercy, is one of the greatest gifts ever bestowed on humanity. It undermines the stately tower of unbelief, and pulls down walls of error, and opens the eye of faith on actual scenes and realities in a world filled with all kindred, tongues, and people who have passed the River of Death and entered upon life evermore.

Nations of earth, since its creation, have worshiped gods of their own, in accordance with such spiritual light as they were capable of comprehending. The Christian Cross and the Pagan Temple have symbolized the faith of millions; and we also as spirits, with uplifted hearts of joy, adore and worship our mighty Father as the source from whence flow the streams of love, wisdom, and creative power.

Ask not of us to correctly define Deity. Finite or infinite mind is powerless to grasp or even comprehend the attributes of Divinity. His universal work is complete in itself. His universal smile beams on every created object. His universal power always has existed, always will exist—the same yesterday, to-day, and forever. God dwells in every human heart, so far as that soul carries out the divine principles of justice, mercy, purity, faith, hope, and charity. We cannot individualize and enthrone our God, but He is none the less the Savior of all who worship the works of his hands, and render strict obedience to laws made perfect from the beginning.

What are the teachings of the professed expounders of God's sacred law, even in your day and generation? You are indeed no longer called upon by mitred priest, specially ordained by God himself, to offer propitiatory burnt offerings with the warm current of innocent animal life, or on high to raise the sacrificial knife ready to strike to death the bound form of a loved child as a test of obedience to God; but you are taught by the creedal faiths of to-day that the sword of

GOD'S ETERNAL WRATH

is suspended over all those who will not repent of their sins, and that an offended God will relentlessly pursue such souls to the everlasting flames of a fathomless hell, where the smoke of their torment shall arise for ever and ever.

This foul conception must be forever obliterated from the pages of all creeds, and the day must come when the bud of unbelief in the fires of hell will blossom into full life. There stands by my side in spirit life to-day a

BEAUTIFIED ANGEL,

And I would that her voice could reach the ear of a loving sister on earth who mourns her seeming unhappy fate. She passed into spirit-life midst visions of untold horrors, veiled from all mortal

eyes save those who stood around a dying bed and listened to her screams of terror—the memory of which will never cease to vibrate in their inmost souls. Taught from infantile years to believe in the certainty of everlasting punishment for the wicked, and in the possibility of an unforgiven sin against the Holy Ghost, those teachings gradually fastened their deadly fangs upon an over-sensitive tender frame, unsettled the foundations of earthly life, and brought her at early womanhood to a dying bed. Her life had been pure, and in deeds of peacefulness, love, and kindness, she strove to avert the horrors of a fabled second death. A loving father, sister, and mother tearfully stood around the bedside of death, and listened to words of most fearful supplication for her Heavenly Father to spare her the pangs of endless torment. "Oh, my God, have I committed the

UNPARDONABLE SIN?

Father, can't you see the fiends of Hell ready to bind me with chains and cast me into the fiery flames? Oh, take them away, and let me die in peace! Sister, dear, come and save me! you know I loved you, and I cannot go to that awful Hell! And mother, come and put your arms around me you know I was always good to you, and don't you think God will save me?"

In vain did that aged father call upon his God to relieve the mental agony of his dying child. A message was sent for her religious teacher, who led the flock of which this sister had been a consistent follower, and on bended knee the voice of prayer was lifted in earnest supplication for God's Holy Spirit to quiet the terrors of this dying soul. That cowering form could only see the lurid light of the flames of Hell, and naught but her fearful shrieks of

"HELL! HELL!"

Rung out on the quiet night. Thanks to the Angel-world, spirits of love and mercy heard the agonizing cry, and ere the film of death had set its glassy seal

upon her mortal eyes, the heavens were opened to her spiritual vision, and all was changed. With a beautiful smile transfiguring that pallid face to an "angel of light," her spirit joined the innumerable throng of the happy immortals.

Well it is that the professed teachers of Christ's doctrines draw the vail of secrecy over scenes like the above, that are but too often witnessed in their experience. We know that the doctrine of a Biblical Hell is forever doomed, despite the professed opinions of the brightest theological lights in the Orthodox firmament, and we call upon all

TRUE SPIRITUALISTS

to wage relentless warfare against this infamous belief. It is no easy task to uproot the religious teachings of doctrinal religion, and the coming years will witness a terrible struggle to crush out not only Spiritualism, but a liberalism that is striving for freedom of thought, freedom to interpret all so-called Revealed Religion solely in the light of Reason and Science—freedom to believe in a God whose inexorable law proclaims that Hell exists here or hereafter in every heart where injustice, unkindness, and selfishness reign supreme. Our God proclaims that no atoning blood can offer expiation for sin—that its bitter memories can only be washed out through good deeds, noble actions, and a purer life. Our God proclaims that the

SPIRIT-WORLD

is here, there, everywhere, becoming a Heaven or Hell as each heart makes it by the conditions that surround it. Our God proclaims that his laws are perfect in themselves, and no miracle or suspension of natural law ever did or ever will take place.

Our God proclaims that through the

MINISTRATION OF EVIL,

Goodness is made clear, though evil is not and never can be "undeveloped good;" and on this stumbling-block many professed Spiritualists have fallen

and are drifting aimlessly over the great ocean of human life under the thralldom of a belief in a blind fatality "that whatever is, is right." Evil stands forth a clear attribute of divinity, but the same Divine power that gave it birth, hath given you powers of resistance, a living oracle to plead the cause of right and justice in every human heart. The immortal Bard of Avon struck the key-note of truth when he tells you that

"THE EVIL THAT MEN DO LIVES
AFTER THEM."

Let this thought incite all to live pure lives, resisting the powers of evil desires and actions; thus making your bodies fit temples for the indwelling of the spirit of purity and love. Our God proclaims that

RELIGION AND SCIENCE

are marching grandly on over your earth, turning and overturning traditions of the past; and the nineteenth century knows more of true religion than all dead bygone ages. Thanks to the spirit-world and the intelligence of the present age, through the teachings of pure Spiritualism, the blood of martyred victims sacrificed in the name of religion can no longer redden the plains of earth; no longer can the human form divine be bound to the cruel rack to extort confessions of belief in the mysteries of the Holy Trinity or Triune God, through the suffering of dislocated limbs and brows wet with dying agonies. Let professed Christianity and its teachers blush and bow down with deepest shame at the memory of foul deeds of murder against the gibbeted Endors that met their cruel fate in the land of your boasted Pilgrim Fathers and the very fountain-head of the Calvinist religion of to-day.

We war not against individuals, for there are many true and noble souls connected with all religious faiths; but the creeds that teach that

REVELATION AND SCIENCE

cannot mingle in one broad stream of

knowledge and harmony must forever pass from record; and to that end we call upon all Spiritualists and Reformers to occupy no neutral ground, but lay your choicest gifts on Liberty's universal altar, dedicating the best energies of your life to carry out the principles of religious liberty, and freedom to worship the God of Truth, Justice, and Mercy, as best seems good for each human soul, whose ideas of God are grand and noble, just so far as education and knowledge have opened the way for the unfoldment of a correct conception of Deity.

SCIENCE

Stands grandly forth demonstrating the utter falsity of the orthodox interpretation of the revealed Biblical Religion of the churches of to-day.

Dim shadowings of Creative Power only mark the record of that mythical six days' creation of your world, and its weary Framer resting on the seventh, and the formation of man from the dust of the earth, and lovely woman from the ribbed side of the first Adamic Lord of Creation, with the divine injunction to forbear plucking the rounded fruit from the tree of knowledge under penalty of expulsion from the leafy bowers of Paradise. Thus man fell through woman's temptation, and with flaming sword and bitter curse the "Angel of the Lord" drove this sinful pair (made perfect through God's own image) beyond the enchanted temple of Nature's fairest handiwork, to earn a precarious existence through the dignity of honest labor.

THE LORD

Repents his creations, and in wild tempest and swelling flood engulfs the works of his hands, save Noah, his family, and the choicest types of all the animal kingdom, who find preservation in the chosen Ark of Safety, framed under express orders of a Divine Architect. What says

SCIENCE

Of this traditional representation of the

creation of the world you occupy? The light of six days' creation pales into utter darkness, compared to the untold ages that must have elapsed ere the rudest form of elementary matter floating through endless space was made ready for the dwelling-place of the very lowest forms of organic life, culminating in the production of man, who stands on the summit of creation, the highest type of creative power. The pages of the

OLD TESTAMENT

Are but the records of ignorance and superstition, and in the pure light of the present Age of Science and Reason its alleged inspiration stands forth a deadly shoal to forever wreck human progress and intellectual liberty. The altars of its Religion were red with the blood of atoning sacrifices to propitiate the favor of a God who led His chosen armies to conquest over bloody fields of death and carnage. In that age of brute force and ignorance, Slavery, Polygamy and its kindred vices held full sway under the alleged direct sanction and command of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; but, thanks to the spirit-world, flashes of heavenly light through its messengers of Peace and Love foretold the morning dawn of a New Dispensation, only to be reached through the fires of bitter persecution, and the death of thousands of martyred victims.

CHURCH AND STATE,

From the days of Mosaical Law down to the present hour, have raised the hand of torture against our messengers of Love and Mercy, who alone can furnish the proofs of immortality; and the dying groans of "crucified Saviors" have reverberated over all lands and climes, not excepting your own sacred soil, wherein is rooted Liberty's boasted tree.

As it was in the days when the inspired voice of that mighty Hero of Truth echoed over the fair fields of Judea, so it is in your day and generation. Many of his inspired words fell mean-

ingless on the ears of his disciples and followers, so bound down to the bigoted creeds and superstitions of the past that they were incapable of comprehending their true import and spirituality. "Christ spake as never man spake"; but many of his sayings, as recorded in the

NEW TESTAMENT,

Are simply the reflective agencies of the writers as they have come down the channels of time to us through human instrumentalities.

Christ's mission was purely one of Peace and Love, and we as spirits know that no withering curse against the wicked ever fell from his lips; no slumbering flames of Hell were ever fanned to everlasting fire, by the breath of his Holy Spirit; no pictured scenes of future torment ever hushed into silence the voices of happy innocent childhood, but in Love's sweetest tones He proclaimed "Of such is the kingdom of Heaven." Contrast the Inspirational Teachings of Spiritualism with this evangelical statement: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned." The whole spirit-world deny that Christ ever taught doctrinal religion in any form, and this frightful declaration is an insult to the memory of His pure life and example. These very words have cursed earth with fire and sword for more than one thousand years, and bound its unnumbered victims to the stake, and crucified the bleeding forms of noble men and women, who dared deny this doctrine of eternal agony. The iron heel of

EVANGELICAL DESPOTISM

Has for long weary years been placed upon the fallen form of Progress; but "Truth crushed to earth shall rise again," and we are now parting the darkened clouds of Ignorance and Priestly Rule that have overshadowed your earth, and bid the Central Sun of Universal Knowledge and the glorious light of Religious Liberty dawn upon a free,

happy, and enlightened world. This is the

TRUE MISSION

Of Spiritualism, and to its fulfillment we have pledged our best energies. "Saviors" are needed for the nineteenth century, and we know that the work of regeneration will be no easy task. All the powers of Church and State will combine to overthrow Universal Religious Liberty, for the uncrushed spirit of Fanaticism still strides over the land, the foul enemy of Human Progress and Liberty, never piercing the Future, but perpetually looking back to the dead *Past*. The Church is still all-powerful, and within the next few years a mighty religious struggle is to be inaugurated, that will shake the very foundations of your belief from center to circumference. The eagle of victory can only perch upon your victorious banners through education of the people, and scientific instruction in all branches of art and science that tend to improve and educate the masses of mankind. The bright galaxy of the immortal

HEROES OF LIBERTY

Is still glittering on Heaven's Eternal Dome, and the clarion notes of freedom still resound far and wide, proclaiming that the cause of reason and right shall triumph, and the light of the Gospel of Peace shine in every home. We are looking down upon you from our spirit-homes, wishing the future was as clear to you as it is to us. But the door cannot be opened, for the first glimmer of the shores of the bright Summer Land, until the waves of Death wash away Mortality.

Friends of the cause, take courage, for with your earnest help we will yet ring out the death knell of creedal religion as it exists in the

"ARTICLES OF FAITH"

Of to-day. Advanced religionists know that such creeds are doomed, and in secret and open conclave their teachers stand arraigned, and from the accused

become the accusers, boldly declaring that unless doctrinal faiths are modified through the medium of increased knowledge and science, spiritual decay and loss of followers must ensue. This announcement previous to the advent of modern Spiritualism would have invoked the severest ecclesiastic discipline against such liberalism; but these teachers still preside over their flocks, guiding them silently over the barren road of *Foreordination, Sanctification, Justification, Perfection*, and Salvation or Eternal Damnation, but to reach fairer fields and greener pastures beside the still waters of

GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY.

We must depend upon you to assist and defend

OUR MEDIUMS,

And let the mantle of charity cover faults pertaining to defective organizations, inharmonious surroundings, mutual bickerings and petty jealousies, that necessarily attract discordant elements from this side, unless checked by the power of charity, love, and forbearance. With kind cheering words bid our messengers "God speed" on their way, and thus lighten weary steps and cheer sinking hearts. We need a clear harmonious atmosphere to successfully approach you through our mediums; and even then, human language is powerless to portray but the faintest glimpse of advanced "spirit-life" in the glorious

hereafter. Here decay and death never enter; our fair hills and vales are clothed with everlasting verdure, covered with nature's richest offerings of floral life, the very lowest forms of which never graced the fairest fields of earth; light and shade blend into wondrous harmony the views of our boundless landscapes; our majestic rivers roll grandly, peacefully on toward vast oceans, whose dancing waves lave the shores of undiscovered worlds of still higher creations of spirit-life and beauty; and thus throughout the endless ages of eternity, central suns shine on still higher and purer spheres, far beyond human conception or spirit-vision—God's great universal Heavens,

THE VAST INFINITE.

APPENDIX.

Should the physical condition of the medium permit, it is our design in the near future to present an interesting narration of a coming change soon to take place in the phenomenal phases of spiritualism; and also to give, in plain terms, clearer statements in reference to the proper plans to adopt to assist us in carrying out the work already begun; but now I must say to friends of the cause, Farewell. Peace, Love and Charity be with you all.

WM. BIRD,
And Controls of the Medium.

