

**“SOMETHING TO THINK OF”**

**“FROM ACROSS THE LINE”**

**AND OTHER ESSAYS**

**Dictated by Spirit Voices**

**TO**

**MARIE L. COUSE**

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## INTRODUCTION.

I commemorate this little book to my dear spirit friends as an expression of my love and esteem for them.

In the months they dictated the enclosed essays to me, I spent many happy hours in association with them, and the light they have brought me, and the knowledge they have given me from Across the Line, has left only happy reflections and memories.

These essays are given to you in exact conformity to their dictation and revising.

In many places I have suggested some change, either in the construction of a sentence, or a word conveying a thought, but in no instance was it approved or considered, so please remember when reading them, that every word and sentence is in accordance with the author's arrangement.

To those dear friends I became devotedly attached, and to you readers who have no clear understanding of our future life as it is, I cannot give you the smallest conception of

the comfort they can be to us when we honor their presence with the honor and consideration due them.

With every thought not the highest, and all the frailties mortal flesh is heir to, solicitous spirit-angels are endeavoring to guide us above and away from the material situations that bar the way for spiritual progress. They do not exort compulsory measures. They correct by quiet reminders of the shortness of our natural life, and the necessity to turn to the highest fruition every day we live here.

They are patient, persevering, devoted and faithful, to all who are earnest and listen to their caution, advice, and loving care.

MARIE L. COUSE.

## PREFACE.

In publishing these communications from spirit friends, I realize how many people will treat them, and with this consciousness before me, I have abandoned the undertaking several times. To me they are all sacred writings, and so they would be to all of you were you in the position I am, to know how real it is. There is no mystery about it to me now, and I am only surprised at our understanding of spirit life being so dull, so stubborn to see, and so determined to look at truth from the greatest distance from us we can possibly place it.

It appears to me that the more complex, unreasonable, and unreal we can make a future life, the better we enjoy it. To know it as it is, with its beautiful truths, is not complex, and it is within the radius of everybody's understanding and reach, if they desire it. After all, we are very selfish mortals, even when we think we are big-hearted and generous. All about us are voices from the mor-

tal and the immortal life crying for a little help. With all the numbers of generous, and just and loving hands that are outstretched, and the ears that hear these cries, all who are aiding to do what lies in their power to better another's condition, the numbers are in no way sufficient for the calls upon them. I hear it every day from the other shore how hard and selfish man is to man. You can glean from one of the communications how and what the spirits mean when they say "man's inhumanity to man."

In giving you these communications it is not with any desire to disturb the serenity of minds already fitted and satisfied with their religion. These revelations give us a knowledge of what life is, and what it means here and hereafter. Many minds still undeveloped, minds barring the way to an understanding of the real life beyond, by obstinately refusing to look beyond their narrowness, have a long, long course of experience to pass through when they go over on the other shore. All the knowledge of life we gain here is of great moment to us, and carries us over a disappointment and tedious experience.



This book is a primary or preparatory compilation of lessons, for the benefit of earnest investigators. It is the A B C of life, and opens the way for you to know how you stand now, and what your progressive stand will be when you pass beyond the gates, if you endeavor to progress.

To the people who have no understanding of what spirit life is, spiritualism apparently looks delusive; and many are inclined to believe that spirit phenomena is everything they have a will to make it, but a direct manifestation of spirits. It is too true that there are very many mediums who practice deception, claiming to have powers which they have not, but they are not the only persons who deceive. There are other people, reverent in their outward semblance, practicing just as great wrongs, and covering it with their religion. All mediums are not deceivers or frauds, any more than all ministers or priests are deceptive and frauds. It is to a medium you go for proof of spirit return. You begin your knowledge of a future life by investigation through manifestations. If you are sincere, keep investigating until you are

satisfied. You can get all the evidence you want to satisfy you, and when once you do know you will be contented and happy.

I often hear some of the conversations the spirits have with each other, not only in one voice but two and more, and I could write a book with humorous and pathetic conversations I have had with them. There is nothing chilling about these experiences as so many believe. It is only the associations with friends, and their friends, and others who come in to be noticed. You may try to make yourselves believe they are not here, but that proves nothing. They are here, and they see and know what is going on in the old homes, and every place they frequented when in their mortal body.

It is less than a year since the power developed in me to receive them in full consciousness of it, I did not ask for it but it came to me, and I am proud of it, and happy to know its truth. To understand what it is has been a great revelation to me. How we change with the changes of life's situations. We are never the one unlike others, we are never the one in a position that our friends cannot

understand, and so we are really all of us in a position to become very much wiser if we desire.

The inhabitants of the spirit world are not unlike those of the mortal world. They need sympathy, love, and encouragement many of them. This I know from my associations with them.

There is no one so strong within himself, that he does not need the help of sustaining influences, for the battle of life with many is a trying one, and full of dangers of every nature.

The beautiful truth taught me by spirit friends is all satisfying, and if I am to lay aside my natural body to-morrow, I can only look at it, as going on a journey to a beautiful land.

This awakening to truth has come like a burst of sunshine through a clouded sky, and nothing can rob me of its realism that is interminable.

MARIE L. COUSE.

New York.



## “FROM ACROSS THE LINE.”

Never undertake to accomplish what intuition tells you is out of your reach. We admire a man when he aims high, but if his acme is above his powers, he collapses into failure.

It is discouraging to see what hope has built in ruins at your feet. One error of mankind is his ambition to accomplish too many things.

Success is assured if he puts his powers radiating to one centre.

Measure your capabilities ; calculate how high your strength will carry you, then fire. The enemies of success are numerous.

Man may have ability, but without ambition and executive power, he can plod around in a peck measure to the end of his natural life.

Some men wait for success to crown them without making a physical effort to attain it. Ability don't count without push.

There are fools for luck ; some one has labored to reach the zenith of ambition and another reaps the fruits.

Quick fortunes are invariably short-lived, and as often prove a curse.

A well-balanced mind is an endowment of great price.

Look at the man who always acts on the impulse. He jumps into one thing and out of another, and accumulates nothing.

Look, too, on the social world of the present day. It has undertaken to accomplish too many things.

Young men and women are crowding their mental capacities with much that is poor profit.

They are stimulated by a fashion to acquire knowledge of too many things. All are well enough to attain if taken in moderation, but too many disturb the equilibrium of the mind. It is like too much stimulant—it impairs the mental faculties, destroying life-powers it was prescribed to give strength.

Education, well directed, is the developer of mankind. The material of man is lower in the scale than the material of animals. Man is refined by process—by education—but Nature made no provision for him to continually overtax brain and muscle. When this is practised, the powers become exhausted.

The children of such parents are restless and constitutionally weak.

We admit that moral attitude is in the ascendency. By degrees reforms are marching onward and upward, but in many of them there is a wide opportunity to improve your methods.

For individual improvement, I endorse our physical training, our mental training at a time, and give your powers easily to it. It is as much as you can accomplish successfully.

Inclination in the coming generation will be weakened through overtaxed powers of the present generation.

This is the age of the greatest ambitions. Man is beginning to comprehend his powers, but he has yet to learn how to treat them.

Physical conditions cannot be abused without a sacrifice. By overtaxing your powers, exhausting your reserve forces, the quicker you will collapse, and in the events of collapse or shuffling off your mortal covering, you are going to linger longer on this earth.

All mortals need experience, and it is our experiences, if they profit anything, that gain us knowledge.

Our material must be worked profitably and correctly, and our spirit should be developed before leaving the natural body. You can understand by this why we live with you on earth. ' The only change with us being divested of our natural body ; in other words we have only changed our clothing.

We cannot have our natural desires without natural body. We bring them with us, and have to work them out as best we can, and wherever the opportunity is afforded us. Premature decay is not worked-out material. You will take up your tools again here and finish your work.

A developed spirituality does not mean a departure from earth to the spirit world. All spirits that are active and progressive have a wide field to labor in. Spiritual spirits do great mission work. They come and go from the spirit world, and continue their missions where most needed and best fitted.

We have no desire to enter a condition we are not fitted for, and we could not if we would, until prepared.

We grow into conditions according to our progress in spiritual knowledge.

GEN. WM. T. SHERMAN.

August 1st, 1893.



## MENTAL "SPIRIT POWER."

Because spirits dwell among us, we think they are in a position to enlighten us about mysterious powers surrounding our universe.

Questions of great breadth are propounded for their solution. Not alone are they asked to perform miracles, but for the key to stupendous mysterious forces, scientists are searching for.

I have positive evidences every day that spirits work out their material interests through the mortals, and they labor zealously to aid us in all our walks, when we open the way for them.

There is an aptitude, through ignorance, or wilfulness on the part of skeptics, to challenge spirit power. There is nothing so sensitive as a spirit, and they are entitled to the same respect and interest, in thought and bearing to them, as if they were before you in the mortal body to entertain you. They are sensitive to the finest degree of opposing influences, and when your individual

magnetism is poisoned with ridicule, doubt, and an attitude of defiance, you had better withdraw from their presence, as you are sure to injure the conditions for manifestations. Every thought that goes out of your mind has an influence for good or otherwise.

Harmonious influences are what make conditions, and with perfect harmony you may be surprised at the possible manifestations.

The higher a spirit has progressed in spiritual knowledge, the greater the necessity for perfect harmony.

Spirits acquire knowledge at very slow stages. The mortal with his material organization and sensations, and all the material requisite to work with, has every advantage over a spirit to gain knowledge of many things.

A spirit cannot give us knowledge it is cognizant of, it cannot give us intelligences parrot fashion, they do not memorize for the pleasure of imparting it to us. They grow into knowledge. After they begin to progress, our high desire inspires the same in them, and they likewise inspire us, and make use of all the power they can bring to bear, in benefiting us.

This I have learned from experiences with them. I know what their powers are—both mental and physical—and for them to exert them to the best, require the mental and the physical to draw upon. Earnest, honest desire we must have. Our thoughts should be the purest, our hearts kind and honest, to hold the progressive spirits in our aura.

It would be adverse to progressive laws, to anticipate after a spirit has progressed beyond our highest standard, their turning back to our material atmosphere, and force upon our unrefined clay the light they have found in higher and purer conditions.

Living as correctly as we hope to receive the knowledge we are eager for, who can say we may not be brought into communion with the highest influences possible to attract to the material world?

It is natural that all investigators and thinkers have been at one phase in their life doubters.

It is through doubt we search deeper into the soul of things.

We must gain a knowledge for ourselves, for without understanding, we are not satisfied fully to accept it from another.

A belief is not a knowledge. To undertake to explain something through faith, or what you term "my belief," is finding yourself in a dilemma.

Knowledge must come to us through positive evidence, and an understanding of the laws that make it absolute. It is a truth, and not a theory advanced by material conceptions.

Truth is demonstrated to us in hundreds of ways every day.

The unfolding of foliage, a flower, is a truth. What does this? You may answer God does it; or natural laws. True, it is the result of natural conditions. Natural laws are an absolute truth, a power, force, condition, that no human author can suspend.

There are theologians to-day who are worshipping a God that controls the laws of nature, and the elements of the atmosphere, and by his will every condition is changed; the people in certain localities are swept away by tornadoes, succumb to pestilences, swallowed up by earthquakes, etc. They make God finite, God of nature the infinite; to such thinkers, is not within their under-

standing, or if he is they preach one thing, and think another. What more beautiful than to worship the infinite, in the flowers, and everything grand and imposing in nature. Is not this soul awakening, sacred and true religion? It is deep, it is broad, it is eternal, and not envired.

M. L. C.

## “SPIRIT MISSIONARIES.”

Beautiful thoughts are echoes of voices from the “invisible beyond.”

We see and hear with the mortal eye and ear but little of the sublimity that will break on our vision when we take on the immortal.

The transition is but the stepping over the boundary from one state to another.

The scene we leave may be one that has pleased us from our earliest recollection, and we cannot conceive anything more perfect more beautiful or more inspiring.

But what of the parting of the curtains that reveals the mysterious beyond, that mortal eye has never seen? Language pales to paint the colors, or frame the beauties of the spirit-land and homes, and the good works going on over here.

We live, we see, we hear in the form of ye mortals. We are here, filling missions for the mortal and immortal world. We minister to your ills in all their varied distress.

You do not see us, but we are with you. When we minister to one susceptible to us, our influence is felt almost to completeness.

We labor as earnestly to help those who are not conscious of our presence, even though we do not meet with as happy results.

You who have had the light and the way opened to you are the instrument through which we work to teach you, there is no death, and no severing of ties, and that we share your joys and your griefs. Our interest in the friends we leave never grows less as long as they think of us, and we work with you in everything.

To those who are conscious of it, comes the most happiness. The transaction of business matters is largely controlled by us, if we fail to make you act upon your impressions, a day will come when the impression that was not carried out will echo in your mind like a voice unanswered.

Obey all good impressions and you will call about you good influences that will come from friends unseen.

When you have become conscious of our presence, you will not have a desire to deviate from any plan we make for you, or advice we give you ; for we can see many things in the future you cannot.

May 22d, 1893.

ALICE CAREY.

## “WE ARE WITH YOU.”

I was fourteen years old when I came over here, so do not expect a sermon from me. It is only a little—to tell you we are with you.

We are busy as bees, but we do not make a noise when we work. The honey we gather is just as sweet, but is another kind.

It feeds the soul, and when we are gathering it, we are drawing strength from our mortal friends to work with.

Don't it seem strange to many of you that your friends out of the mortal body are around with you, and know just what you are doing, and what your thoughts are?

I was surprised when I opened my eyes over here, to see a little change with me. It is only one step, and that is out of your mortal body.

It is just the releasing of our spirit. I am happy, but sometimes I would like to be back in my mortal body.

We would all be so much happier if we could make all our friends know we are with them.



It hurts me to think all the friends we love do not have the power to feel us near them.

You that have not got the power would give us pleasure by wishing to know about the spirit's life.

Oh, you will be surprised when you come over here. Some of you will be happy here, and some of you will be disappointed at first.

I have not seen Jesus, but I hope to when I go into his sphere.

I am learning what God is now, for we are all in school getting knowledge.

You won't get any knowledge unless you desire it.

You have lots of false things preached to you, and many of you believe them, too.

Why can't you think it out for yourselves? it looks so easy, and it is just as easy as it looks.

You only step out of your flesh and bones, and you live on the earth with your friends until you are prepared for the spirit world.

We are sad when you are sad, and we cry in sympathy with you at our own funerals.

We are happy when you are, and I dance with joy when you laugh hearty.

We do not like sadness, so be cheerful and happy, and make us so.

Do not think we are in a far off land. We are with you, so talk to us if you do not see us.

We see you, we hear you, and we sit by you, and sometimes lay down by you when you are thinking of us.

We like to be noticed, it makes us happy to be thought of and talked to.

Many spirits are wishing to be back in their mortal body because their friends don't notice them.

All spirits who come here by unnatural means are living in regret. It is so cruel to hang mortals. They are restless and wishing for their natural bodies.

MARION E. WOOD.

July 29th, 1893.

## “AMEP'CA.”

The North and the South. Brother to brother. Strength and might of the greatest country in the world.

Rich with all that can be lavished by divine power. Beautiful beyond compare, and magnitude.

Populated with brave hearts, most generous hearts and just hearts. The only nation in the world, whose ports are open to subjects from all other lands, and whose loving hands are extended to high and low alike. Hearts that throb with pride and most generous impulses; bountiful to fullest completeness in charities to reach suffering humanity at greatest distances, and the most courteous in reception and attention to high dignities of foreign lands.

Beat ye mortal hearts with pride, loyalty, and honest sensations, that you are living in the greatest land, the most generous land in all its distributions, and in the greatest age in all that has ever been ac-

complished, showing what brain and muscle can achieve.

My heart throbs now as it did on the battle field of the great rebellion, and I am moved to-day to inspire my fellow comrades in the mortal world to push onward, onward, in the great march to the eternal fitness of things.

Waste no reserved forces striving to settle questions against each other who shall conquer, who the power in the highest executive office!

Be united, brother comrades; pull together with one purpose to one end, the best way to utilize your powers for benefiting your people and how to control the unruly and bring harmony into all classes.

The ruler of the universe is God, and God is love and truth. Love and truth are the components of your soul. Love is kind, merciful and just.

What is the image of God? Is man the image of God? God's image is seen in all life. It has no individual form; you see it in the flowers, in the rocks, the trees, the mountains; all natural scenery has the image of God in its life or growing force.

You all hold it. It is born with you. It is the life that pre-existed. It always was and is eternal. It is your soul-life.

It is the spark that kindles all good impulses. It is that which changes your heart when it asserts its life in you. It is that which gives light and happiness. It rejuvenates and spreads sunshine about you, and in the atmosphere of others.

Look out on your world in its glorious expanse of grandeur, and think of the wonderful powers that are invisible to mortal eye, and that are holding all the worlds in space in their own radius.

Think of the magnitude of progress that has been accomplished in everything undertaken. Intelligence operates through sensitive brain, and it is through this channel you receive light from the life beyond. Spirit powers work through all your accomplishments.

You are in the keeping of unseen laws and forces, and if you are ignorant of it, or abuse your mental or physical welfare, you will have to pay a penalty.

You are your own keeper, you contract

debts, and you must pay them. You have reason to call on for your physical welfare, and you have conscience to correct your moral interests. Treat them with kindness. Respect yourself, respect humanity, and respect your glorious country.

GEN. ROBT. E. LEE.

July 25th, 1893.

## APPRECIATION.

Urbane people are not always thoughtful.

There is a rough exterior that is incongruous with its interior fitness.

To judge at sight is not always wise.

We are too apt to cultivate appearances because it is pleasing to the eye, and often through outward appearances our eyes mislead us.

We all have an essence of vanity in our make up.

It is a trait of our character to look for a word of praise, an expression of affection, and a desire to be appreciated. It is not a weak trait, but a desire, and a necessity to be noticed. It bridges over many rough places, and makes our burdens lighter.

Gold is sometimes found where we expected to find lead, and lead where we looked for gold.

In years gone by there was a people on this earth that were honest, frugal, industrious, and methodical.

It made no difference to them if the earth were round or square, if the sun rose in the east or in the west.

Nothing sensational came to their ears, they were contented, and so they were happy.

They were ignorant of everything outside of their immediate surroundings. They were apart from the progressive classes that have since opened communication with all the earth.

Restlessness and discontent has taken deep root since then, and its tide of push and progress is reaching into the heart of all corners.

Discontent or restlessness brings more desires. Education crowds to one side the satisfied issues of humanity if they do not seize the progressive spirit of the age, for they are stumbling blocks to active civilization.

Every ambition is wound up to its highest tension. It becomes a network that electrifies all centres and all lands to a consciousness and acknowledgment that this is an age of great enterprise, industries, and developed genius.

When the North Pole explorers have achieved the object of their expeditions, that



will have been the last wonderful start so far to penetrate the end of undiscovered location.

Nothing is undertaken with entire fruitless accomplishment, for there is no such barrier as failure, where earnest desire and courage and bravery go together.

Courageous and brave hearts chance everything to overreach previous disappointments, and the admiration and honor expressed for their work is stimulating them on to success. Desire is gloved with courage, but expressions of praise is a great stimulant.

Never hesitate to praise where praise and appreciation is due. Humanity needs it. It is not sustained through life without it, except in a starved, unnatural way.

Hearts wither for sympathy. Do not hesitate to say you love, and appreciate. It is not a crime. It is manly, it is womanly. It is honest. It goes far to relieve burdened hearts.

Be free to express a tenderness for others, to express kindness to all men and women.

If you should once open your heart where it is stabbed for its honest impulses do not let the regret be yours.

C

The eyes you looked in, and the voice you loved to hear may be cold in its last natural sleep ere the morrow comes to you.

Be glad that you followed out the dictum of an honest heart. Kiss the sightless eyes, and the cold lips and repeat I loved you, I love you now, but you, my dear cherished friend, did not understand me.

Unconscious selfishness breaks many hearts, so study to be thoughtful, tender, loving and just.

GEN. HARRY A. BARNUM.

July 22, 1893.

## “TAKE CARE OF YOUR CLAY.”

On the mountain, where there is a broad sweep of clearing, you have an extensive view of the valley below.

In the grandeur of the scenery spread on all sides of you, you are subject to sensations that thrill you to the innermost depths of your heart and soul.

Desires possess you, and you are impelled by influences to act some great part that never awakened in you before. This is due to the situation and surroundings.

So it is with us now. We are in a position to see the valley below, if we may be permitted to call the mortal condition.

We are higher in a sense than you are, and can look from our spirit eyes on every act in our natural existence.

When chains of circumstances or conditions, hold mortal bodies in bondage, there are but few that command power to weave a way out, and the result shows a comparative few are filling the vocation they have fitting capacity for. Genius still slumbers in many brains.

From here we can see the destiny of man that he shapes for himself.

Man's destiny is all in his own keeping, and yet he cannot always see this until he enters the spirit condition. He then becomes restless and dissatisfied, and longs to return to the natural life to do or undo many things that were closest to his heart, and to correct wrongs he inflicted on his fellow beings.

Enough has been said about the happiness secured in the life beyond, to tempt discouraged mortals to take the means of exit in their own hands, and pierce the veil that drops between them and the immortal.

How I earnestly wish I could make my voice be heard everywhere, that happiness and contentment is just as real in the natural life as it is here, until the allotted time of man is lived out.

Do not hurry your spirit out of the clay. Live just as long as you can with it, and fight to keep it.

We spirits are all struggling to continue our life-work we left unfinished, and it is discouraging at times, working where our presence is not felt, and we grow hungry with

longings that sensitive people feel from us.

It would not sound heroic to admit we are discouraged and dissatisfied, but I will say we have periods of rest and pleasure, through the enjoyments of you mortals.

We are in a state of becoming. We are pupils in progression, and living out our material as fast as it is possible.

My life-work was left unfinished, and from this eminence or clearing, I can look back at the opportunities I passed by that would have led to completeness, my ambitions and a long life.

After all, speculating on the mystery of life, every one is ignorant of the extent of their powers.

Powers collapse from abuse, and powers lie latent because the fitting conditions are not made to stimulate them into action.

Ambition, when quickened by circumstances, asserts its place.

There must be an incentive to light ambition. Incentive is a smoothly paved way, and ambition rolls over it with ease.

The horoscope of life is read by the planets under which you are born, and if every man had

his own horoscope, it lies within his power to change unpleasant conditions he sees he is coming to. This is why I say every man's destiny is in his own keeping.

In some instances, spirits can tell when a mortal is going to lay off his mortal body, but it is not to every one this is told, as many dispositions would be inclined to stop all material interests, which is not correct when forced

Wilfully denying material demands is not a stepping-stone to higher conditions. Let your material be governed by moderation, keep it in health, live it out in nature's way, and live to ripe old age. Do not sacrifice your life through ignorance.

Spiritual beings are born spiritual, and material beings are born material. It would be impossible for developed spirituality to sin to any extent. A material man must not have the finger of accusation pointed at him because he lives diversely to his brother who is spiritual.

Be regulated by reason. Be cautious, moderate and temperate. Be just, appreciative and grateful. Be loving, affectionate, and charitable. This is religion.

*"Take Care of Your Clay."*

39

Take care of your clay until it drops off of your spirit. Do not hurry your spirit out of your clay.

LAWRENCE BARRETT.

Sept. 17, 1893.

## “THE INFLUENCE OF FLOWERS.”

Flowers are emblems of purity and truth. They speak to you in sweet silent language, and from the tiniest one that grows, to the queen of all, the rose, there is one influence felt in the possession of them. It is truth.

You can stand on a mountain, drinking deep the pure air so bracing and stimulating, thrilling your senses with the grandeur of the scene, ever changing the color of the verdure that dresses the mountain-side, and you are almost lost, viewing the wonderful, splendid piling up of forests, rock, and lakes, going up, up a gorgeous perfect part of God's silent work.

Here are ravines, brooks, and grand hills, resplendent in mossy carpets, and forests of ferns, and intertwined in the varied combination, starts up like little faces flowers that seem to whisper love—truth.

You are inspired with the spirit of the surroundings, which is harmony.



You feel your insignificance with this imposing picture of nature all about you.

What cannot be expressed in language is thrilling your spirit with exquisite delight. You are moved to prayer, you want to sing praises, you are happy.

You are grateful for the discovery of such glorious surroundings, where your spirit can commune with the purest influences, All is peaceful, all is harmony, and no sound breaks this sacred stillness but the sweet warbles of the forest songsters.

What place more fitting to know thyself? This is the spot where your divine nature asserts itself, and perhaps it is the first time you are moved to do some grand work to elevate humanity.

This derire grows in the surroundings. Do not lose sight of it, keep your mind and your heart clean and active in good impulses.

It will bring to you a sweet, restful peace of mind, and your influence will be felt where you are unconscious it can reach.

So it is with the flowers. Place them about you, and when you look at them, think of the spirit-land where flowers grow in greatest

profusion, and the perfumes they exhale are sweeter than anything you have ever sensed.

HELEN HUNT JACKSON.

June 27th, 1893.

## “AN APPEAL.”

I desire to tell you something of the habits of the spirits. It is needless to repeat that we have only stepped over a boundary line, and are still living in the mortal world with you. There is much you can do to make us happier, and with right conditions, there is much we can do for you.

We go on to the spirit homes when we desire, but we are only callers there. The spirits who have lived out their material condition, have passed on to the spirit-land, and they call upon us to do their mission work in the mortal world.

It is our mission to receive the spirits when they leave the mortal body, and teach them where and how to go about.

It makes no difference what they were in earth life, the reception here is the same to all. We speak the language native to us, and the different nationalities congregate with their own. A linguist has an opportunity to use his powers to good advantage here.

We all have work to do. Some is pleasant, and some is distasteful.

The spirits of babies and children are received by us, and we take them to the homes in the spirit land prepared for their reception.

They are brought out to their homes in the mortal world to visit with their parents or those who took care of them in earth life. The children old enough to go about alone sometimes come unaccompanied.

They are taught everything that is necessary for their progress, sometimes by objects similar to your kindergarten system.

They have their amusements and are amused according to their age and disposition.

Sometimes these little spirits after a visit to their earth home where they have brothers and sisters, ask for toys like they saw there.

We teach them to be thoughtful, appreciative, patient, and be satisfied, for remember their disposition and nature is not changed by coming here, and some are very selfish and want everything they see.

Until children have acquired a certain amount of knowledge, they do not go to the earth homes except to visit, but after a certain age they are free to go and come as they

desire, for they also have material to outgrow on the earth plane.

If every mother could know how the spirits of their children come to them and carress them, with arms about their necks, they would not be so sad and unhappy. Oh, please talk to these little spirit-forms that try so hard to make their silent voices heard.

What if you do not see us? Believe we are with you and talk to us. It does us good.

It is only a comparative few that are sensitive to our presence, but all have the same solicitous care from us, as long as you remember us with affection and interest.

You can call us by earnest mental desire. Spirits that have passed to a higher condition have agents to attend to earth affairs, and missions.

We travel great distances in a few minutes, or seconds.

As you speed messages by electricity we travel by magnetic force.

Desire will call us, as a desire on our part will carry us.

When we are sent to a death-bed to meet and assist the release of a spirit, we are

affected by the sorrows we sense there. We are sensitive beyond expression, and suffer for the time the distress we witness.

It is impossible to express how we are affected by all your conditions.

The unfortunate suicides, and the criminals, whose life was crushed out by unnatural means, are suffering regret and remorse. They are the most intense sufferers we have.

They are restless and longing to return to their natural body.

O ye mortals! Could you grasp the enormity of the crime you commit by hurling criminals into eternity in the fulness of health and a material condition, you would hide your faces. Shame upon you for such a barbarous practice in this enlightened progressive age.

If you could sense the suffering of these criminals, it would lead to an avenue of the greatest reform. It would abolish capital punishment.

Reform your prison system and furnish a home there for your criminals until they have fully reformed, or to the end of their natural life if necessary. Teach them everything that will improve their condition. Educate

them. Lift them out of their brute nature.

What you call prisons ought to be reformatories, and not a place to inflict punishments.

Punishment breeds crime.

When you do this there will be no need of prisons, but instead, schools will be opened to improve weak humanity.

In your prisons introduce a system of training to develop character. Have hours for study as well as work. Have out-door recreation. Let the last hour in the day before retiring be one of song. It brings a soothing influence, and depravity must die in this. There are people with noble impulses ready with their gift of song, to contribute one hour a day for this noble work. Do not pray with prisoners, or talk about the salvation of their souls. They do not understand anything about their soul life, and they may laugh at you. A child must creep before it walks.

Tell them something amusing and instructive. Give them simple gem thoughts. It will elevate them by degrees.

Remember that the majority of criminals are made up with brute nature. You must light the good spark, and keep it burning. In time it will burn out the brute nature.

The victims who suffered death at an assassin's hand, are a happy lot of spirits.

Could their voices be heard they would tell you they do not require a life for a life.

When the spirit of the murderer steps out of its mortal body, it is met by the victim or victims, and welcomed and forgiven. It is the spirit of the murderer that suffers regret.

ANNIE M. LOUD.



## “HOW TO SUCCEED.”

Success crowns those who live for that end.

If you live for art you must idealize it, you must wed it, live for it and with it.

If you possess talent, you can develop powers to reach the zenith intuition marks out for you.

Unfavorable situations are frequently the cause of failure.

Theories are necessary, but they must be individual, so adopt your own principles and theories.

Situations and conditions are a necessary flat foundation ; now build on these.

If your atmosphere is poisoned by discord, you cannot get smooth work in it. There must be harmony. A disturbed spirit cannot endure anything discordant, and your spirit must live in the work you pursue to individualize it.

In whatever your powers lie, if it be in music, painting, writing, or a business ; look

into the conditions first, then devote your best efforts to attain the highest state of perfection possible.

Never force yourself to accomplish a work when disinclined. Rest. Rest if you are inclined, for a week or longer. You will be all the stronger to secure what you are laboring for, to your greatest satisfaction. The beauties of thought are spontaneous, and with mental work all that is forced effort is mechanical.

The brain, when overs-timulated, is in danger of collapse. Nature asks for rest, and the brain will tell you when it is ready for action again.

When it becomes regulated and receptive we will help you. When your brain is restless to accomplish a work, then you must do your best efforts, and when the brain asks for rest, do not, under any consideration, attempt to work it. Take a holiday, and if the holiday continues for a week, remember your brain is being prepared for greater things, which can never be given to you if you mar the condition by forced labor.

A SPIRIT FRIEND.

July 31, 1893.

## “SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT.”

Spirits that have progressed from the material earth communicate spiritual knowledge to the spirits on the earth plane. This is the way many of us receive knowledge to give the mortals.

As we begin to progress in spiritual work, we go into the spirit-land. We are there until we acquire what we are fitted to understand, when we come out and give it to the mortals.

Thus we pass back and forth for many periods, learning the lesson of life.

Spiritual progress (correct progress) is little understood by mortals. I speak from a comparative stand. All spiritual people are not progressive, and the lesson of life as they have studied and know it, is so opposite to the real it has no value over here.

Beliefs are numerous. Every mortal without the real knowledge has opinions and beliefs. If they are satisfying, very well. If you are not satisfied, are restless and desirous for the truth, there are many doors open for

you to learn it. We will manifest to your satisfaction we are with you, and after that you can learn our religion.

You cannot look out on any grand, natural beauty of nature and say it is an accidental. Soul life is the force of all nature. There are fixed laws, laws that are conditions, powers of attraction, that unfold all life.

It is through spirit power that humanity learned of a future condition. Through spirit-power you have acquired a knowledge of many unseen attractions. It is through spirit-power that progressive principles have been fixed in mortal understanding. The key to all unseen life forces has been given receptive impressionable minds to unlock the mysteries of life. These receptive minds have not been conscious of unseen influences working with them. Could their mental vision see the forms surrounding them, laboring assiduously to work out all giant problems, much greater things could be accomplished.

There has never been a work of gigantic, laborious research undertaken by mortal man that he accomplished alone. Man furnishes the brain or machine to operate through, and

we impress that brain with the intelligence he thirsteth for. We stimulate his powers to action, and build the foundation for him to work on, and work with him to the end of his undertakings. Spirit-power is everywhere manifested when conditions are right. Our labor does not cease in the natural body. We employ our strength earnestly and zealously in every avenue open for us in the interests that were ours when in the mortal body. That is the way we live out our material, and the only way we can live it out, and reach that state of becoming for a higher condition. The class of spirits who have no aim and desire for a higher condition, are ages reaching above this material condition to a desire to progress. This is why we say in everything we dictate to the mortal, take care of your clay, live with it long as possible, and live out all your material that is possible. Elevate humanity that is in the depths of depravity. The spirits of depraved mortals impress their conditions on weak impressionable mortals. What their practice and habits were in earth life, they are carrying out in spirit condition through human-

ity with same tendencies. This you can see often through unaccountable acts of intelligent people. The mortals who understand these situations can do very much to assist these dark, undeveloped spirits. It is your Christian duty to help us in our missions with them.

The position of mortal man is a responsible one. Spiritualists, a great work is resting with you! You have done great work in assisting dark spirits into the light, and we are much in need of more help. Teach your mortals how to refine their mortal vesture, and teach them about the spirit it is keeping. The mortal body is the home of the spirit to get experience, and experience means wisdom. Refine the material and develop the spirit. Do not violate laws that govern your material. Each part has a part to perform, but no part must be overtaxed.

Feed your physical requirements with moderation. The laws that govern the physical should be observed, but the laws that develop your spirit-nature must not be overlooked. There are sins of omission, as there are sins of commission. Refine the physical, and develop the spiritual.

Read our communications thoughtfully and earnestly. We are trying to bring the light to darkened minds. It is natural, it is reason, it is truth.

To be forewarned is to be forearmed.

EDMUND VOKE.

October, 1893.

## “WALK INTO THE LIGHT.”

Beat on, beat on, ye have courageous hearts.  
Throb full and strong and let thy pulsing  
blood refresh tired energies.

Faint not but move on, move on, and light  
the way.

A little light gleamed in the distance,  
twinkling like a star in a clear, cold atmos-  
phere. I am faint, a mist is falling about me  
and I cannot see. Give me thy hand, dear-  
est, and lift me up, up, away from this smoth-  
ered atmosphere, where I can see the star  
once more, I thought it was for me and that  
it was leading me from this mortal world  
where cruelty and ignorance is a power. Oh,  
listen, dear, my kind friend while I give thine  
ears a little story.

I have come to you this morning, a weak  
and hungry spirit. I have been sleeping on  
a road enthralled with the fashions of mortal  
minds.

Give evidence, sweet friend, through the  
responsive sympathy and generosity of thy



nature with thy powers, to the benighted minds that the spirits of departed friends are living in the mortal world.

Oh, ye sightless and deaf mortals, ye who unconsciously drive your loved ones from you, and deny our presence, aye, a right to live in thy atmosphere, deny we live except in a far away sphere, singing everlasting praises before God's altar.

Fitting as thy mind may be for self-pleasured lives, placing thy future residence beyond the pale of easy reasoning powers, I tell thee now that the truth is waiting at thy side to be revealed to your understanding. Your christian religion is full of error.

You preach what you cannot prove ; what you have no knowledge of.

I am come this morning to tell thee we want you to proclaim to the world in darkness from every rostrum available how to find the light.

You have the power to receive us and let us speak to our mortal friends. Crush under your feet that feeling it is not womanly to stand on a platform and speak in our defense. You are barring a way for progressive minds

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to give spiritual comfort to the hungry, the deaf and the blind. Listen to my story.

I passed into spirit-life when sixteen years of age. I was an only child. My parents were inconsolable. They were rigid in the orthodox religion.

At last a good, kind lady, who had some knowledge of spirit-life, prevailed upon them to go and see a medium. I heard her importunities, that they might be convinced I was not dead.

They consented to go, and I, oh I jumped with joy, and kissed their tearful faces but they knew it not.

I grew impatient at their indifference. I was unhappy at their disposition of doubt they made so evident.

I was grieved when they said we are committing an offense to God to look into this mystery.

I followed them in my eagerness to overcome their doubt, I took a host of spirits with me. The medium could not use her powers at best. She was disturbed at the perversity of my father, and in all the conditions were out of harmony. All I could give them was my

name. It made an impression for a time, but they went right back to their narrow way of looking at us.

They did not seek to know more, they denounced spirit return, called it a fraud and unconsciously drove me out of their life.

Investigate with earnestness, investigate honestly. Leave doubt behind you and look honestly at the manifestations we can give you, and learn the truth.

Make the conditions and we will teach you the truth. All depends on yourself and the instrument you furnish us with what we can do for you.

Come to us with a kind, honest heart, as all rests with you how much we can do. When once you are convinced you will begin to understand how many ways we work to reach you and benefit you.

We build the highway to higher knowledge, and when the light begins to shine on you, the delightful influences will surround you and guard you, so that the little light at first a speck, will grow to a star of great magnitude, bursting its splendor all around you. What glorious truths will unfold to you then.

The harmony, light, love, happiness we will infuse into your life will be a transmigration from darkness into perpetual sunshine.

ARLIE WESTBROOK STEWART

## “IGNORANCE.”

Incomprehensible as it appears to you, I cannot tell where I passed out of my natural life. I visit my home, and I communicate with my friends, but I can go there without having to know the name of the city. I do not know what city this is.

I remember I was thirteen years old when I passed out, and all my brothers and sisters (that were some younger and some older than I was), have grown up to manhood and to womanhood.

Some are studying for a professional life, and some are settled already. All are bright and active in every department of an intellectual nature that interests them.

I think if I had lived on in my mortal life I would have become a missionary, and I could find plenty of missions right near home to work in.

Missions are various. Good missions I am speaking of. There are so many chances and so many ways to do good, to become a public benefactor.

Did you ever think that you can save a soul by speaking a kind word? You must not think I mean that souls are lost ; oh, no ! I do not mean it that way. Souls are never lost, but a kind word will sometimes kindle a fire of kindness, and then goodness wakes up and speaks to the soul, and the soul begins to get acquainted with itself.

You should know, who don't, (many of you), that the soul has got to recognize itself before it can be any good as an influence and protector to the mortal who owns it. It is so pitiful to know how many poor beings suffer through ignorance. Ignorance is the curse of humanity. Every unhappy and unpleasant situation in life is due directly and indirectly through ignorance.

Ignorance says, oh don't believe that spirits come back to earth, but that don't keep us away, and we are sorry for that kind of ignorance, too—awfully sorry.

And ignorance says : Oh, if you could only understand the gospel of the Bible as I do, you would be so happy ! It is all so clear to me. But crippled minds keep right on in a groove, almost overlooking the real religion,

which is truth, and it don't make any difference in the name of your religion as long as you have the truth in your heart.

And ignorance, which means selfishness, too, says : you keep all the money you can make because you have brains to do it, and no one else has any right to enjoy a benefit from it, and so ignorance buys up corners on the earth, and builds a fence around it so no one can look in and see the beauty and luxury piled up in there. Humanity that can't bring another corner and put down by the first one is excluded.

This kind of ignorance stirs up lots of trouble, and we see it all and know it all better than you do.

Did you ever think that a man who has devoted all his time and life since he became a man, to the accumulating of wealth, making that his pet interest is in a position to be a very miserable spirit? His soul nature has been so cramped up it had no room to stretch itself out, and the spirit with that undeveloped soul is very wretched over here for a long, long time. But money-getting and money-hoarding are two different things.

Money-getting, and sowing it in industries that benefit the laboring classes justly, is a healthy good, while money-getting and hoarding it is a curse to man.

The social bearing to-day of monopolists and other thievish movements is being demonstrated in the suffering condition and the side issues of labor.

Man's inhumanity to man is all due to selfishness, ignorance. There should be a law restricting monopolies. Wealth is right, but wealth is not wealth when so controlled; it makes beggars and paupers of humanity. Wealth, when instrumental in distributing its benefits and its blessings, in opening avenues for all men to become intelligent and honest and good, making the lower classes of humanity harmonious with each other and all mankind, inspiring better and higher thoughts in their minds if surrounded with comforts. Wealth is a power to place you in Paradise, or that other condition you call hell.

Ignorance says we don't know what there is beyond this life, for no one has ever come back to tell me about it, so I am going to have a good time while I am here, and let that



doubtful future state take care of itself. That unfortunate individual is so environed with material pleasures we cannot reach him. In certain channels he is intelligent, but he is not impressional, and the wheel goes on. Sometime he will know that light is light, and that darkness is only a curtain that has dropped between. He may not know the light until he comes over here, but he is not altogether responsible for the curtain that hangs between him and the light. It is in the position of a mortal missionary to help him, but so many of you missionaries go to work the wrong way. Never talk to a man about his soul or higher life. Let him recognize that for himself, after you have given him some object lessons on nature and all her great and generous blessings to all creatures.

Paint mental pictures to him first to learn what his higher tastes are, and you may be surprised to see the flowers that bud and burst from his responsive mental chambers.

EVA JARVIS.

Eva desired me to say that if any of her

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family read this article, that it would please her very much if they would communicate with me.

M. L. C.

## “SADIE EVANS.”

I want you to tell my mamma that I have come down from the beautiful spirit-world to-day to write her a letter.

My dearest mamma I am happy and I have such a good time up in my big, new home.

We have big long streets and lots of flowers and gardens and no fences, or doors, or windows that shut up.

I have a sweet teacher and I call her my dear Aunt Mary.

Aunt Mary says, Sadie, if your mamma could see you now she would be so happy. I don't like dolls any more, I like all the beautiful lessons best. I don't have to study, mamma, it all grows in us, we can see and then we know what it all means.

I have a little brother Willie in earth-life. He is bigger than me, and I have a little sister and she is not so big as me.

Mamma calls her baby. My papa is a big man, and he wears gold buttons on his hat. He goes on a railroad.

Uncle Aleck is here, mamma, and he comes up in the spirit-land to see me sometimes, but he don't live up there. He has got lots of work to do first. When I come again, dear lady, I am going to bring some flowers, and lay them on the top of your head.

I am going to kiss you and say good-bye, because I must go home now. I will come again some day. I send a bushel of love and a kiss to my dearest mamma.

I am,

SADIE EVANS.

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I am in full possession of Sadie Evans, caring for and training her. She is an exceptionally well-developed spirit. Her mental faculties are intensely keen, and her perceptiveness of spiritual knowledge is spontaneous with suggestions or objects.

She is a slender built child with large spirituelle blue eyes, has quite regular features, and dark-brown hair inclined to curl. As near as I can judge, she was five or six years of age when she entered spirit-life. I do not know by time how long she has been

here, or where she passed out. Her earth-home is in a large city almost entirely surrounded by water.

My mission is almost exclusively work in the spirit-land caring for children, and I seldom come out, except as I have this morning, to bring a child to visit and instruct it in material things.

We lose sight of locations and ages and dates, for we who have no material routines to work at, are not reminded by time or of time. When I come down here, as I am to-day, I begin to feel an interest again in many of the material things, but I lived mine out what you would say, many years ago.

Perhaps I can give you some better idea when I departed from the earth-plane, when I tell you I came over here during the reign of Queen Anne. This is fixed upon my memory through a festal celebration that I was an important figure in, and through which my natural life was suddenly extinguished. I was not well out of my teens when I entered spirit life.

We are all very happy after our material interests have been outlived, and the life

beyond borderland is one of ecstatic bliss and felicity.

The dreamy sweetness of all that is so beautiful, and pure, has no language whereby we can convey it in a mind-picture to you.

Live out your material, my dear friend, that you can early draw into the beautiful realm where a great and glorious surprise is awaiting you over there. Over there where your crosses and material anxieties will have no fitness, but perpetual rest, light and love will be yours.

Your mortal life is but a moment's span, but ah, dear child, that moment means so much. Here you are sowing your harvest, on the other shore you are going to reap it.

Make peace with humanity, and teach *it*, how to make reparation while in the mortal vesture. You all have it to do, and it is with ease you can correct all wrong when in mortal habiliments.

We bless you, dear child. I go now to watch and teach my little flock.

AUNT MARY.

## “WHO ARE THE CHRISTIANS?”

I do not mean to offend when I say all Christians are not church members, and I do not mean to offend when I assert that all church members are not Christians.

There are very many professing Christians who are ignorant of the meaning of the word “Christian.”

A mind without spiritual knowledge can easily live within boundaries.

When mind with spiritual thought of its own becomes free, there is no church that can hold that individual mind within its precinct.

Christianity, in the general acceptation of the word, is not Christianity.

There are several classes of so-called Christians. The majority are not absorbed in spiritual worship. Going to church, with many, is a once-a-week habit, from long practice, or a practice for desire to be identified in a religious atmosphere. It is a once-a-week religion. Too many men all through the week are acting dishonorable parts in business

and in social life, that cloak it in the covering of the church.

Another class live better lives in the church influence, that really are not religious, or spiritual. Their own understanding is not responsible, but they respect the moral attitude of the church, and spiritual thoughts given out through others.

The religion from a foundation of truth, coming from spiritual life, spirit-power is fast becoming felt and recognized.

Spiritualism is as old as the earth's history of man, but still is in a sense in its infancy. This is not an acknowledgment that it has not been just as much of a truth as it is now, but an assertion that mankind are more progressive, and spiritually developing to a higher life. Minds are growing away from dogmas and from all church denominations they are walking out to progressive life.

There are Christians in the church, and there are just as many outside the church. If the church was all-satisfying there would not be churches enough as they stand in numbers to-day, to hold the people. The Christian in the church has promised to adhere



to rules and regulations, and keep his mind inside a limit of progress, almost as old as the earth, and a plan of mortal construction of truth.

The Christians outside of the church are free to drink all the truth without making a solemn promise or vow.

Free to drink the beauties of nature, free to understand truth.

Spiritualism is not a dogma. Spiritualism is the highest truth. Spiritualism is a knowledge. It has no creed, it is not a prison. It is freedom of thought in eternal progressive life. It means "truth". Spirit life, eternal; spiritualism, truth. It is nature, the life of eternal principles.

Spiritualism as a religion seems to be overlooked by individuals who have only inquired into its phenomena.

What would we know of a life beyond but for this same phenomena?

You can think what you please, and build any kind of a heaven in your mind that best fits your requirements, but thinking it is not knowing it to be. A belief and a knowledge have no relation with the other, Beliefs are

almost as numerous as their followers, but there is only one knowledge, and that is truth, and this comes from spirit intelligence, and it is spiritualism.

You that build on hopes and on a belief do not find it all satisfying always. You have moments of doubt, and many of you shudder at the thought of death, and some people that have had doubts about their belief have said, perhaps spiritualists are right after all, and if they are, why we are all right. Why don't you know it for yourself, you who doubt! Spiritualism is a free religion, you do not have to make a vow. It is the manifestations of spirit-power in spirit-life that has given us the truth of a life beyond this one. It is a knowledge. Look now at its religious teachings. Kindness is the first thing it teaches. Love and truth.

When your nature responds you will see the earth in different colors, and your heart will swell with a joy unknown to you before. You will not look at yourself as if you were the only one on earth that needs care, and sympathy. You will forget your own self, and reach out to the undeveloped creatures

that walk about you and work to develop their better nature and goodness.

To be Christ-like, it is not required of you to walk in enclosed walls and bind your soul with shackles—a vow.

When you do that you unconsciously promise not to look at truth in its entirety. You lock your soul in bondage.

Eternity is not bounded, it has no time, no bounded space. A vow, is a bounded finite condition. It is not an acceptance of all truth. When you environ your soul in a finite condition—for soul is from an infinite life and condition—and barriers are not raised in the infinite life.

When a mortal commits a crime, so-called, light or serious, he is brought before a tribunal, and goes through an examination or requirement of its laws, to determine the degree of his offence. He is sentenced, accordingly, and placed in a prison. His mortal body cannot be trusted at large, so he is deprived of liberty.

Now when your soul-life is awakened, it is required of it something of the nature of the criminal's mortal body.

The church commands you to make a solemn vow, to believe certain teachings, within certain lines. You must fit your soul to this teaching and *make* it fit there. You make it a prisoner, deprive it of freedom. If your soul has become conscious life what right has the church to make it a prisoner? If it has become conscious, it responds to nature; to truth; and truth makes no demands or commands of itself. Your soul is a truth, cannot you trust it to keep awake without confining it? Nature did not fashion truth the size of the mortal's narrowness and selfishness, but nature did give to every mortal a share of itself in its soul-life, and when that soul-life has fully awakened it will not, and cannot live environed.

We are not condemning the churches only so far as they bar the way to the highest truth. Make your religion free. Make it beautiful. Make your church a resting place for all tired and hungry spirits. Your churches are built on false foundations, you are teaching unsatisfying and false things, and many of you ecclesiastes are conscious of it, and lack moral courage to acknowledge it.



Go where you can commune with nature in all its splendor, and grand and beautiful work. Remember when drinking the purity of your surroundings, that a part of this great beauty and life is within you. Remember that your soul that may not yet have become awake or conscious, is of this same beautiful life that you see all about you. Remember if you once can understand nature, and can call out your soul nature, that you will become a part of nature, and of truth. Truth is religion and it is free, and truth and freedom should be yours every day in the week, and when your mortal vesture drops off, you will be ushered into eternity with a full understanding of it.

JOHN WADSWORTH SUFFERIN.

April, 1894.

## “LISTEN FOR OUR VOICES.”

When the play is over and the curtain runs down, the last scene leaves a memory picture.

We stand before memory pictures every day, breathing life into them ; recalling voices of loved ones gone before, with the associations and experiences where we played a part.

Absorbed with past recollections, its ashes only before us, it rises vivid as the real, and we look at it with critical regret.

We would pick up our palette and brush to blend a more perfect work, but is too late, too late.

When the time was ripe in the long ago we did not see it.

The fruit hung on the bough long after harvest time, but it was passed by for greater things that came through imagination and hope.

Ah ! that word hope ! How often it sustains us, and how many discouragements are braved with it.

When the heart is ready to burst with its

oppressive burdens, real or imaginary, a ray of hope gleams in the distance. It may not be great, but it lifts us above the mists that have settled around us.

Hope is the tonic that gives fresh life, and stimulates energies that have become inert.

Hope is a kind and unkind fascinator.

When the winter of life comes to us, it is too late to go back and fill the blanks of the springs and summers.

We missed the opportunity long ago because we looked for greater things. If man fails to mould conditions and make opportunities to build up ambitions, regret will follow him with a phantom tread.

Visions of success that might have been, rise in dream form and haunt the mind with masked faces.

There are ambitions ready to take root at the door of every opportunity, and if we carry our seed too long we may sow it where there is no fertility.

When man's attitude leaps above his powers, wishing to climb the ladder to fame will not take him there. You must labor with earnest, sincere desire.

First, ability, then ambition with patience and determination, will furnish the material to build the foundation and pedestal to fame.

What if it is not finished until the white mantle of winter closes about you? The solace of ripe age is to sit before the open hearth, watching the glow on the burning embers, as they change in quick succession with your thoughts.

From your mind the burning embers form the pictures and book of your life, and build the stairway to the gates beyond.

The retrospect is a fair dream that lays laurel and roses on your breast wafting you to sleep in its sweet perfumes!

Ye with heavy burdens open the windows for your soul's eyes to pierce through the darkness. Do not be impervious to impressions and influences. Listen for the voices that whisper to you from the invisible beyond.

With powers ye possess, and powers that can help you, work with avidity to the end.

Ye who have receptive minds, ye who are impressionable, can follow us as we light the way across the stage.

We will give you the cue and the lines if



you will listen to us, and when the curtain drops on the last act, the audience will give you the applause that crowns you with success.

EDWIN BOOTH.

August 31, 1893.

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NOTE—I had no personal acquaintance with Mr. Booth before he passed to spirit-life.

My impression of him is, that he lived much within himself, was reticent, sincere, loyal, generous.

His love for all that is beautiful did not find expression in language alway. He was a silent worshipper.

He was dignified, quiet and modest, but quick to correct what he did not consider best effort.

Conscious as I am from my associations with him, of his great genius, and appreciation of everything ennobling, I have questioned why he did not give me articles of greater power:

Progressive spirits inform me that for a long period after entering spirit life, spirits in the physical condition of Mr. Booth, remain in a semi-conscious condition, evincing it when revivifying life interests, and while in that condition have not full control of their powers.

With this explanation I hope you will be just in your criticism.

I have given the articles as they were dictated and corrected, some of them have been revised months since they were written. It is a singular fact, that every time I read them over, some spirit stands ready to criticize and to make

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a change in the communications. Of course as spirits progress in spiritual knowledge, it is natural they desire to cut out or make a change in the material interests touched upon.

M. L. C.

## “ROLLING STONES.”

Time is progressive. It waits for no one. It carries the babe from the cradle to early childhood, and thence to girl and boyhood, and so on to manhood and middle life, and last to old age, or the harvest season.

In the youth of life the future puts on a rosy hue. Everything is bright, and we see no obstacles barring us from our ambitions. We do not know just how we will attain our heart's dearest hopes, but somehow we feel that it will come to us by some mysterious power that works things out for us.

It is when we come unexpectedly against a big stone wall that we get our first dash of bitter. How easy it was to come to this wall, but not so easy to scale it. We look up at the top, but, oh, it is high, and we can see no way to go up.

We sit down and think about it until the edge of the bitter is worn off. If we were only on the other side, surely there would be no walls to face!

It is this first wall most difficult to climb. Now the only way to get over it is by stepping-stones. We must build a stairway, and begin to look for the material.

It is discouraging, because it is our first effort at building, and we are awkward builders. Step by step we are ascending. When nearly to the top we work faster, and our hopes are building, too. It is not long now we have to wait, and we will soon reach the summit of "Prospect Ridge."

We rest again and look around, for surely we have almost come to the zenith of what we are working for.

The view is fine, and a certain restlessness says push on; so we descend to the valley, where we know that success will crown us.

Before the descent we discover two roads, and the question is which one will bring us down the easiest. After deciding, we start on. There are flowers growing in our path, and we stop to pick a mass of them. The perfume is refreshing. Soon we come to two more roads, leading in diverse ways; but both appear to turn up the hill again. We must take one, or retrace our steps, and that we do

not want to do, for some one will laugh at us. (It is better to be laughed at once than keep on facing stone walls.)

Suddenly a stranger appears. You greet him. He tells you he has come a circuitous way to reach the other side of this hill. He is traveling to the spot you started your stair-way, so you tell him to follow the way you direct, and he will reach his destination by your stepping-stones.

He thanks you, and remarks: "I will be all right, friend, when I get down there. It is what I have been working for all my life, and I am now an old man, and I have yet to say, I have harvested my first grain."

You say to yourself I saw nothing there, and wonder what he is working for; but you are glad you have been the way to help him.

You push on in the opposite direction. At last you see a clearing. It is the entrance to the valley.

What surprises you first? A barren stretch of land, and on a sign-board posted near you, "The Valley of Despair."

It is crowded in spots with weary foot-sore travelers.

You tarry and listen to their woe. Most of them are cursing fate. Some are planning an escape from life, all are discouraged, and many without hopes. Their cry is, if we could only get back where we started.

This don't discourage you, and you say, poor things, I am so sorry for you.

A beautiful prospect dawns on you after traveling a distance, but as you draw nearer to it, it turns out to be another stone wall, steeper and higher than the first one.

These are the discouragements you face in life's travels. He who never sees anything to build on where he starts in life, planning to meet it somewhere near middle life, is almost sure to face stone walls.

The longer you put off for future successes, the further you will travel, and the higher the stone walls to face.

The present time and place afford opportunities and material to raise every ambition. Youth is the embracing spot in life, the first stepping-stone to build up your strength of brain and muscle. If you pass it by, you can scale stone walls to the end of your natural life, without accomplishing anything. It is

an old saw, but a true one. Rolling stones  
gather no moss.

ALICE CAREY.

July 26th, 1893.

## “THE OUTLOOK.”

It may appear over-drawn when I tell you that sects and societies are as numerous here as in earth-life.

It should not astonish you, if you look with reason on situations in earth life, that a man wholly absorbed in politics, mercantile business, and other material interests, could enter spirit-life, and immediately drop his material desires, and become spiritual. That is an impossibility. Whatever your profession, or life-work is, so it continues here until you work it out.

We all labor. We all do mission work, for the spirit condition is a great missionary field, and these earnest, faithful, progressive spirits, devoted to spiritual missions, are the spirits that work through every channel that can benefit their mortal friends. These same faithful spirits hear your prayers, and it is through their power you are benefited by prayer, if your prayers are within possibility to be granted, and if for your good.



We begin our labor here with the spirits in darkness, known better as undeveloped spirits. When we have a respite from our labors, we congregate to discuss our life interests.

We listen with eagerness for news of political importance and other absorbing interests.

All important interests have their faction just the same as in earth, and our arguments become as heated as if we were in the flesh. We make a great effort to impress our opinions and advice, and when we do find a sensitive, impressionable man, we work him to the limit of our power. All men are not impressionable, so our efforts to improve the municipal affairs is pulsating slowly from this outlook.

The attitude of the church is changing with greater potency than politics.

The political condition of the country at present is suffering with a disease. It is as loathesome as the plague of Egypt. You can call it leprosy in politics, and its insidious nature has scarred and made hideous past resemblance, what a true, honest, political basis once was.

Men of no principle are a power. They resort to fraudulent practices, devising ways to get in power, and politics are on a rampage. They have become a gambling exchange. The individual that can pull the most wires is given a place to pull them, so that individual interests and party organs can receive the benefit and the spoils. Purity of principle is not looked at.

There is sore need of a revolution, and the present mutable condition is bearing toward it.

Every corrupt situation exposed has a majority against it, but it takes time to work out of corruption.

There is a leak in the dispensation of power, and it seems incumbent that the Chief Magistrate place a watch over it. Too many are working for commissions, too many are opposing the best interests, but it is an experience, and will work to a finish. It is unfortunate the helpless populace suffer heaviest from eruptive chaotic party disturbances, but the fruitful harvest comes round with periods of changes and conditions, and what one power dispenses, another gets the benefit of. A

change of administration does not always amend situations.

We are in sympathy with the Chief Administrator. We believe him firm in his convictions of the best interests of the country, and that his judgment is good and unswerving. That he cannot be intimidated by his own party if his personal decisions differ, and that he will work to conciliate factions at variance.

We have a class of spirits here you would call tramps. If you met one on the street you would give him the width of the sidewalk. They have no aim, and go about aimlessly, calling at homes of distinction, or the humblest homes; they can sit at the table of a king, and kiss the lips of the queen if she attracts him. These are undeveloped spirits that we labor with.

GEN. H. A. BARNUM.

October, 1893.

## “I HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN.”

Constancy does not belong to a material condition. He who proves constant has a developed spirituality.

Most of mankind are of the material, and material is restless, seeking new fields for diversion, something new and of more than usual interest.

Man is a friend with generous impulses. He is kind, sympathetic, and gentle; but it does not follow he always wears his heart upon his sleeve.

Man's heart may be compared to a rubber ball. It can be tossed about, squeezed, and stepped upon, but it comes back in full roundness, forgiving but not forgetting unpleasant impressions.

When it is in the hands of a new player all goes well until the game is called foul, defeat, or victory. A new game is soon begun, and how it closes we will see.

With fame, whate'er the profession, the exterior of man has great weight with the

possibilities of his success. There is undeniably a magnetism about a full physique that attracts dangerous conditions.

The road to fame is like a tight rope, and if you lose your balance crossing, you are lost.

Fame is a bubble of iridescent tints that will burst with a sigh, a tremor of half-closed eyes, trembling lips, a half-smothered sob and all has vanished. Yet, there are more to follow. Coax the bubbles to the velvet at your feet, and let the glint of their iridescent tints shed a radiance about you, pleasing while it lasts. I have had them shimmering about me but they vanished forever in the confusion of a weakening mind.

Roll back, time, to one green spot where two roads meet and there diverge. Let me recover the wanderer and start him again on the right road. He grew weary on the road he traveled. It was short and the stopping places were many and enticing.

The terminus led into a great rotunda. Over it hung a canopy of dead floral offerings. It was I who entered with weighted feet.

I looked for the exit to escape the oppressive odor of dead roses.

What is it I see? A mass of jumbled up humanity. Now indistinct, but in a moment clear to my vision. Hark! I hear a hiss! No, no! not that; I did not lend mine ears aright. It was the plaudits I loved so well. I have pleased mine listeners.

Awake, John, don't sleep here and forget your lines. Now! Now! All is well.

Thank God it was only a dream. I will go on. Here I am before you. Take away those dead roses. You gave them to me long ago. Their dead odors haunt me with a sickening dread. My kingdom has fallen from me, and the loved and unloved monarch is dying like the roses. O broken peace, aching brain and collapsed temple of a promised fame, farewell! Farewell to the actor gone out with his lines forgot, behind the curtain that failed to hide his confused and distorted mind. Let the failure of a noble aim be buried and forgot. Garlands of roses are growing for the fittest when the curtain of time rolls up in the invisible beyond. Hope is still alluring, and the pathway well beaten for those whose footsteps tread it. Thorns grow by the roadside that are death to fair

promises, and the ones who linger to pluck the flowers will feel the sting of the hidden thorns. Trespass not on forbidden grounds, lest the serpent with cunning wiles turns on you, infusing you with its fatal poison.

There is a touching pathos viewing a broken down mind, made subject to sneers and jeers of an unjust people. Why trample on the heart that is bleeding and sore, e'en though the pain was self-inflicted !

The time may be past to revive these unpleasant memories, but I have not had the opportunity until now to speak in my own defense. I ask the kind minority who protected my name, to have charity at all times for the errors and indiscretions of mankind. I appeal to your finer feeling in behalf of my brothers in the profession who may also be tempted to follow the direction of the gilded sign-board.

Temptation sits on the doorsteps of every one's life. You can step around it if you will, to do so.

Recognize your other self, and cloak your inclinations with his caution.

*I will, or I will not*, forget the duty I owe my manhood will save you every time.

It is not cowardly or weak, to protect your name.

It is not cowardly to defend it from the ignominy of a merciless people, that will kick a man after he has fallen. We all have a right to speak from the beyond if we find the way, in defense of our better self that seemed to drop from sight when we are doomed and pronounced a failure.

I have been among you, and I have heard your voices, and although I am in the spirit condition, I was hurt by your denunciations. My soul burned with injury.

All humanity encase two natures. If once in man's life he was an honor to his profession, and thrilled his audiences with his powers of genius, remember what he was, and not what he became at his end.

The lower nature overpowered the good. It was error, and not wilful purpose.

I voice this appeal in justice to every one that may fall from a throne. I am protecting the cause of true manhood.

I have had a struggle with discontent and restlessness in this condition. It is the fate of every one who comes over in the prime of his life leaving his work unfinished.



When you leave your books filled and finished to the last page, and the evening of your life closes around you, with your material desires naturally run out, you are ripe for the spirit condition.

Your material must run its length and die the natural, like the burning out of a candle. If the candle is snuffed out half way down, it is not fitting here, for you must light it again and burn it to the end.

I am happy at times, but regret and remorse still cling to me, and the candle burns too slowly.

Now that I have found a congenial friend whom I can cummune with, I will become happier. This she will give to my friends, in whose memory I still hold a place. I have forgiven, but I have not forgotten whom wronged me, [and the friends that loved and protected my true manhood I owe much.

JOHN McCULLOUGH.

Sep. 18, 1893.

## “STUDY THYSELF.”

Be tender of your virtues, and your vices will not require watching.

It is when we discover vices that our virtues have been forgotten.

There is an element at work within us that marks every chapter in our life.

It is something that insists to be noticed. It makes no difference what it is, we use it as a light to follow.

The higher its nature, the better for us. It may be a religion, it may be a material ambition, or a vain love for transient pleasures.

Sometimes the light grows dim, and it is then we reflect on our back chapters.

We are seldom satisfied with the review, and too often appalled with the dearth of honest deeds.

Two voices speak to us every day, and which one we listen to is of vital import to our future.

One is the voice that directs us right, and the other the voice that leads us wrong.

Young women are vain, and they make rapid strides toward annihilating their spiritual nature when love for personal admiration lets the tempter in.

Youth is the honey flower of life, and the tempter a bee that sips the honey, and when the sweet has all been sipped, he flits off to other honey flowers, leaving his last impress a sting.

Ah ! the light has gone out.

You close the book. It has ended in tragedy.

HELEN POTTS.

July 1st, 1893.

## TEMPEST AND SUNSHINE.

Figuratively speaking, this means the condition of the mind.

When mind is not disturbed, but at rest on all life problems, it is in sunshine ; but when it is in a perturbed condition it is in a tempest.

The Christian, whose life is in every way consistent with his worship, is in perpetual sunshine ; but the Christian in doubt is in a tempest.

There are multitudes and multitudes of followers to every religion, and every philosophy. That is well, too, because they are following what is best for their case, and their standard of intelligence. Mortals must make religions to fit the people. Undeveloped minds don't require a religion that can only be gotten by research, but it matters not what the religion is ; it has its sincere adherents, and they are Christians, for sincerity in spiritual interests means Christianity in or out of the church.

There are multitudes that do not disturb their sleeping faculties about a future life, and they, too, may be Christians. They live according to social requirements, are quiet, peaceful, charitable in letting their neighbors live as they see fit, and are altogether harmless. Who can say they are *not* Christians? Because they are not roused to religious interests is no ground to base your assertion they are not Christians. We will go so far as to say a so-called infidel may be a Christian. It is not what he believes that makes him infidel; it is how he acts that makes him a Christian. Goodness, a benefiting humanity, charity to all, makes Christians. Because one man's faculties do not develop according to another man's, is not making the first a sinner, or the latter a Christian. Some of the worst kind of pessimists are in the churches. They do not know it, but the religion that best fits their needs is not out yet, and they are in a tempest.

Never say I am right, friend, but you are wrong. You cannot be Christ-like and take that stand. Judge not, but be sincere, generous, charitable. Faith is sustaining a third

of humanity. They are in sunshine, and leave them in it. Too many that begin to look into the theories of a future state get lost—the future looks complex. They cannot understand they are in that future state already, with a natural vesture holding their spirit. Their awakening out of that natural is what is going to surprise them.

Many who have witnessed manifestations of spirit-power, doubt it, because they do not witness it when alone. They do not understand we must have a suitable instrument to operate through, and this instrument is a medium. All mediumistic individuals can develop powers of medium if conditions are right.

A SPIRIT.

July, 1893.

## MY AMBITION.

When the mortal puts on the immortal, he is pleased or disappointed with the change.

It is like going on a journey to a foreign land you have read about. In your imagination you have been there, and in a vague way know what will meet your eye.

When the journey is a real journey, you are pleased or disappointed. If you are disappointed, you do not take much interest at first in the surroundings, and the beauties are slow to open for you.

I find with the exception of not living in my natural body that there is little change coming into the spirit condition.

I have brought with me every thought, desire, and interest, that clung to me in earth life. I cannot acknowledge yet I am pleased with the change of conditions. I dreamed in thought, too long before dream life had rightly come to me.

I can see everything so much clearer now, that could I have foreseen it in my natural

life, I would I could go back to my natural body (barring premature infirmities), until I have outlived my material life-work.

I say to every friend, and to every one who reads this communication, take care of your natural body.

Treat it with tenderness, and do not force it to overreach any of its powers.

Live with it just as long as it is possible to keep it together. There is nothing gained coming here before your harvest is ripe. Get experience and knowledge, fitting you for the change of conditions.

By overtaking our powers, suspending their activity, we come to an unconscious consciousness, and in this premature sleep, our life-work is laid upon the shelf unfinished. When we come into the spirit-life, we are roused from this mental stupor to find we must finish up the work.

Without material vesture the work is arduous.

Awaken ye mortals in darkness. Seek to know the truth of this condition. Learn it for the comfort a knowledge of it will bring to you.



There is much we can do for you, and there is much you can do for us.

Receive us in your homes, in your every day interests. Make a way for us to manifest, and we will assist you to work out your ambitions.

I desire to benefit my profession. I want earnestly to see its standard raised to a higher place in history.

The theatre soars before the people as an educational power. Its graded comedy and drama are the A B C and book to higher aspirations, ambitions. Wit and humor, and the expressions of higher sentiment find responsive hearts and minds, that have been quickened into activity through the instrumentality of the theatre.

Shakespeare, thy name is a golden one. Shakespeare, the greatest of all play writers. His was the brain of brains. What a mind, what thought-treasures he gave to the world. A nature of intense fire, perceptive power, and everlasting knowledge. He forgot nothing, but every situation in life is covered, portrayed, yet so few knew him, so few could appreciate.

How can we understand art without thought and study. How can we know a character without living with it, studying it. We must know our characters ; we must look at each one as breathing and living with us, and in us, and we as they.

To become a success, no matter what the departure, we must first know ourself. Measure our powers and be earnest, determined, impressive, Study ease, avoid narrowness and impatience. Study your powers and grow them to their highest, and impress everyone with them.

Possess your own, yourself, but do not be self-conscious. Do not resent honest criticisms. If you are an actor, remember unless you please the public you will not become a success. Live as the character you personate, forget your own individuality. The public, will give you all the praise you merit, and crown you with success if you have won it.

My ambition is to help you. I will lead you who are earnest, I will use my spirit power in every portal opened for me to benefit the interest of my profession.

· EDWIN BOOTH.

Sep. 9, 1893.

## “FACTS.”

Facts are stubborn things. What *is* cannot be changed absolutely.

In earth-life there are many ways to go around a fact to deceive, in order to gain some special object or interest, such being the case where money is a question—or a political position an ambition.

Life is one of vital importance to us, and no man should be condemned for fighting to live.

It is a fact when I say, could I have my choice of conditions, I would say I prefer life in the mortal body, providing, of course, I was a free man, to work out what I had planned for my future good and that of my fellow beings.

It is a fact I am in the spirit condition, and the mental torture I am enduring is sufficient punishment for the wrongs I committed in the flesh.

It is not until you come over here that you know what the price of sin is. We must pay

the cost ; there is no escape. It is a fact ; every debt must be paid !

We forgive and are forgiven, but that don't remove the fact of the crime, or the regret, that is like a thorn in the flesh, cutting deeper and deeper, until the torture is greater than language can express.

You have asked me of one I sent into eternity.

She met me and led me into the light, and the realization of the change !

I thought I was dreaming, when I opened my spirit eyes.

The light appeared faintly at first, but it gradually intensified, until everywhere was a brilliancy indescribable.

The faces that appeared on all sides greeted me with a welcome.

I was in darkness as to my position, but when I learned where I was, the thought flashed through my mind : How will I be treated when they know what brought me here ?

I read the answer instantly ; they knew all.

It puzzled me to know why I was treated with so much kindness.

The spirits of all criminals are met with kindness. This may lead you to believe we forget all the wrong we have committed, through our kind reception. No ! we do not forget ; it does not blot out crime ; it does not cure mental suffering.

In earth-life you may forget for a time crimes you have committed. There are diversions for you that momentarily place you in a state of oblivion.

You stimulate your mind with new surroundings and in new interests, and they cover over by degrees until the time comes that the act is only a dream.

In this condition all is different. Crimes committed are always before us.

The memory of it burns deep into everything, and it comes back to us like an echo : "This is what you did ; this is what you did."

Oh, the restlessness it brings us ! It is work, work, only work that wipes out the memory and the regret of wrongs we commit.

The greater the crime, the longer and more earnest we must work.

You wonder what a spirit can do that can be called work.

We call it mission work. It is to labor with spirits that come over here in all conditions of an undeveloped spirituality, and try to reach the mortals we have wronged, and, if possible, help them, and improve their spirit-nature if they need it, and we are in a position to do so.

We try to raise mortals, as well as spirits, from degradation. It is slow and discouraging work very often, for too many spirits and mortals have no desire to be different.

There are tramp spirits, as well as tramp mortals.

This is the class I am laboring with. They come here in their low conditions, and cannot get away from the places they frequent in earth-life. They have an influence over the mortals with same dispositions and habits.

You mortals have very little idea how strong the influence of a depraved spirit over mortals with like tendencies.

You have a great work to accomplish in the fields of depravity. We know how discouraging it is, but that don't disguise the fact that it must be looked after. The mission-

aries in the spirit world outnumber the missionaries in the mortal world.

Crimes are committed the mortal was not responsible for. The thought of it was given him by a vindictive spirit, and becomes an absorbing thought in the mortal's mind, taking possession of him so firmly that he is forced to act upon it.

It seems quite impossible to control this class of spirits in many instances. The work must be started in the mortal world.

We are laboring with all our powers. It is not pleasant, but that is our work. It is not so pleasant as studying medicine, but I am at labor, trying to wipe out a crime I committed, in the service of helping spirits out of darkness.

#### A WELL-KNOWN CRIMINAL.

May 26th, 1893.

## “FORGIVE ME AND FORGET.”

Confidence diffuses the atmosphere of home life with sunshine. When lack of confidence enters a household peace takes flight, for confidence is hard to install again when once faith and trust have been shaken.

Doubt is a serpent in hiding, and no one knows what moment its head will appear with darting tongue and poisonous fangs to mark you with its cruel scars.

Hearts ache, and hearts are shocked to dumbness, when estrangement walks over your doorsill. All conditions of mental torture run riot in the home circle, and sit by the fireside with you when confidence is lost. Mind appeals to mind for that balm that restores peace, comfort, and communion, but all is silent, all good impulses mute, for the strength and courage to let escape the lips, forgive me and forget.

Open your hearts to each other and let your mortal lives intertwine with trust and affection.



There will come a day when one you injured, or one you loved, lies before you in statuesque life only, with eyes closed forever, and lips cold and dumb to your late kisses.

Before it is too late open your hearts and your minds. When the minister stands over the black pall that covers the clay of your lost friend, and repeats the words "dust to dust," it is too late to make right the wrong that inflicted pain in the heart that has ceased to throb.

How restful it is to say forgive me, and how sweet the sleep that follows restored peace of mind.

Oh, humanity, why be unjust, why be ungrateful, and indifferent, and why be too proud to take the hand of a loving friend and say, "I know I have not always been kind or appreciative, forgive me and forget."

It is a long, painful suffering for you in the invisible beyond, for all the wrongs you inflict upon loyal loving mortals. It is hard to make wrongs right from this shore, and clearer to you to see how much suffering you have caused.

While you are in your mortal condition, let

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every night come to you peacefully. Look over every act of the day and be prepared to say, I have lessened somebody's cares, I have made others happier, and I am happier for it.

Remember you are all living for each other. What is your spirit placed in your natural body for? It is there for experience. You with intelligence given you, and quickened by education, know that experience don't mean to destroy peace and happiness of your fellow-beings. It means you are to contribute according to your resources; to build up, and elevate yourself and others.

Kindness, charity, justice and love, can do it. It is the means you have to build happiness. It is the way to open the jewel casket in your heart and in the heart of others.

When the curtain rises on the future, and you step upon the stage of the life beyond, you find there an office, awaiting a manager. You want the position, and so apply. You are asked many questions relative to your past life, services rendered, etc. You are disappointed when told that your record is not all it should be in order to fit the requirements of this office.

When you turn to leave the place, it dawns on you that you have lived a very selfish life in the mortal body, and now you have reached a condition when every selfish act in your life must be undone. You have a long, long road to retrace your footsteps, and many places to stop and work silently and so unsatisfying with the friends who do not know you are with them.

You labor with all your power to impress them you are there to correct something you have done that injured them.

This is the discouraging work you must labor at. Every wrong must be made right before you know what happiness is in the spirit condition.

Think of the ages that it takes for mortal man's immortal to outlive the conditions he brought to himself. Begin from to-day to make peace with your injured fellow-creatures. Try from now on to your natural close of life, to make right every wrong inflicted upon others, and then when you step into the spirit condition, you can enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

Let not your mind be tortured with memo-

ries of tear-stained faces, and the sobs of aching, injured hearts, that your spirit labors hard to reach, and unless they possess powers to sense your presence, will be blind and dumb to your suffering condition.

Forgive me and forget, dear friend, are simple words to speak. but prompted by sincere desire, will save you ages of mental suffering in the invisible beyond.

HELEN HUNT JACKSON.

November, 1893.

## “WHAT ARE YOUR TENANTS?”

The surroundings of a mother from the time the germ of soul life takes a place in her being that will bring into the world another mortal, is a study for earnest and serious reflection. Her disposition with all the situations she meets each day will mould the character of her child. The parents mould its disposition and character, but the greatest responsibility rests with the mother.

What she thinks, how she governs and controls her own character, are stamping the same in the unborn child ; so you understand that conditions are necessary to make. Bad conditions are lamentable, for they are slow to be outlived.

When your mental faculties are sufficiently developed to understand cause and effect, you can make conditions almost, if not entirely what you require.

Your natural body is a tenement, housing many tenants. In it you have mission work to perform. There are tenants to be ejected.

It is not so easy to perform it as it first appears, for they have lived in the house ever since it was constructed.

We will say one is an ungoverned temper. You are not proud of it, but you have found it convenient to call out on occasions when some one imposed upon you. You used it as a balm for lacerated feelings, but it turned to acid and burned you. The ungoverned temper brings chaos and other disordered conditions, but it is not so dangerous to house as the untruthful tongue. This is the element that buries goodness, and the one hardest to eject ; for with it often go malice, envy, and deceit.

When you say, "I am ashamed of you, and I will not have you in my tenement," this is the first step toward putting a guard over them ; and you know you have awakened that spark of goodness that cannot live with these demoralizing tendencies. The good spark gains in ascendancy for a time, and though it may fall once or twice, it will gain again. When you become acquainted with your tenants, and weigh their par value, you will know what to keep.

Root out the weeds. Do not leave a fibre to grow again. Let your manhood, or the good spark within you assert its place. It is spotless. It is born in every one, but unfortunately surroundings and conditions are the cause of its slow development.

When surroundings mould conditions favorable for developing only the good in your nature, your tenants are all harmony.

The laws that govern you are made by a higher power, and your manhood is the executor that works out the results.

When all are observed, it completes a perfect plan.

The lowest order of mankind possesses this spark of goodness, and many low wretches commence a reform in themselves by making a discovery they have it. It is a jewel. They gaze at it with a sensation of delight, and dig for more.

Now is the time to hold out a helping hand. Not until man recognizes the treasures in his mine is reforming him assured.

Take depravity by the hand and show him what true manhood is.

Don't tell a low order of man that God

won't love him or bless him if he is wicked. Don't try to intimidate a creature. That is not religion.

Tell him he cannot respect or love himself until he knows how many good things lie buried within him.

Don't say you are wicked, but tell him he is full of goodness, and don't know it. There is but one religion; it is goodness, truth.

A SPIRIT FRIEND.

July 14th, 1894



## “ANARCHY.”

There is an insidious people pouring into your land that have been scoured out of their own countries.

Immigration through your ports, into your own country, has past the limit of prolific good.

You have received too many elements for the safety of your land. Incipient conditions weighed with poverty, disease, and treacherous designs, are lurking in the freeholds of your city and cities.

Power wrought through parties with vicious principles will bring blood-stains on your generosity and hospitality.

These despots, branded with infamy in their native lands, are here with the sole object to drill inceptive influences, bearing to undermine a free government.

I am the spirit of a mortal, who came into your country when a young man, and breathed its free air, accepting its hospitality, enjoyed the freedom accorded to all that ob-

serve its laws, and passed to this condition a lover and loyal friend of Americans.

I can speak from personal experience about the scum and scourings of foreign lands, and I tell you from my spirit condition that you have opened your ports too long to a class of humanity that are here for despotic rule.

It is not incumbent upon you to still hold open doors.

Change the tide, and send back these bloodhounds that run loose at night, gnawing here and there to hide a bomb that must ultimately explode with fatal force.

Time nor money can never mould over this element of volcanic disposition. Justice plays no part with the bloody hands of anarchy.

The followers of their principles are mostly educated thinkers, and bombs of dangerous character.

They defile every walk open to them, leaving the poison that wrankles in their breast-like, seething waters in a whirlpool.

Close upon them, and place them beyond the portals of your land. Banish them to shores where they must succor their chapters

of an insane imagination with their own medicine.

ANONYMOUS.

Nov. 25th, 1893.

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NOTE—I do not know the author of this article. He told me he came from England to America when a young man, and passed into the spirit condition recently, at the age of fifty-five years.

M. L. C.

# “MAN’S INHUMANITY TO MAN.”

*versus*

## IGNORANCE.

There is a turbulent and unsettled condition in the tributaries of society and the industrial interests of these times, and it is everywhere pulsated to a quickness that is painfully evident.

What can be done to calm the troubled waters ?

There are many deplorable situations. Situations that are a blot on the age of civilization.

America, the home of the oppressed, with her freedom, free-hearted men and women, ambitious and energetic always to fructify the interests of all mankind, has become involved in a complication of unrestful, irritating growth of elementary unassimilating natures.

What has brought it, and where the root, that it may be removed, exterminated?

It is not all a political cause, but a bearing

on social situations, requiring emergency measures, and they of fitting appliances in and out of politics and society.

Away back in centuries, musty, it began, and far hence where destinies are hiding, there will be the same baneful disturbances.

There is a defined progress of mortal mind in several departures prominent of this age. Minds have been stimulated and impressed to accomplish many things. But turn back to history and you will see that the greatest philosophers and thinkers lived in past ages. The greatest engineers are not all living to-day. Centuries ago minds searched deep for knowledge, and minds skilled in constructing and designing palatial art, accomplished greater work, in consideration of what they had to work with, than they are doing to-day. Science and ingenuity have made labor easy to-day. In ages past there was not as many kinds of blood to assimilate as there are to-day.

In all progressive departures there are contending, unaffiliating influences. There are more by-roads to work through to reach the broad highway.

In this great free land, America, are all the elements that put together every situation from the industrious, peaceful, home-loving citizen to the hostile, restless, fire-brand mortal. All are expected to affiliate through certain powers, as the best interest of the land designed and moulded by the understanding of man ; but with this, is worked in ignorance that bespeaks of man's inhumanity to man.

Ignorance is a mighty power, and he who battles with ignorance is standing among enemies of opposition. Ignorance shadows everywhere.

There is little recognizance taken of that word—freeman. It means man with man establishing rights, his voice, his honor and his positions of freedom. It does not mean man against man—to pull each other down. If you stand out to build up individual interests, your own individual me, the me home me business, me-lands, everything me, you cannot do it without infringing on the rights of others. Life is not life if the requirements of nature are violated. All mankind deteriorate if neglected, and if subjected to physi-

cal suffering. The human organism was planned for the abode of the soul and spirit as a school and developer, and the way to know a higher life; and if the laws that control this human structure are violated through unjust forced situations, the lower or animal nature must and will assert itself. This hostility, that is the outcome of suffering conditions, is transmitted from one generation to another. The lowest of mankind are living examples of the unfortunate environments of physical suffering caused by ignorance. Poverty is but an outgrowth of ignorance, and it is a root that grows various rebellious tendencies.

Take as a living illustration an industrious, peace-abiding man, surrounded by comforts requisite for the needs of a normal condition. He labors with love in his heart, love for a family and his home. He has an incentive—something that gives him hope, courage, and contentment. He is accumulating by careful management to educate his offspring, and to lay up enough of the necessary to relieve anxiety and suffering in old age. He is a benefactor, a helpful citizen.

Hów is he when, through the selfishness and ignorance and power of money, situations change, and the industrial pursuit of his life is suddenly taken away from him. Time unemployed brings dire confusion of mind, disappointment, dying hope, and at last, suffering. Let this condition last until that which he loves and lives for are in need of everything that makes life life. What is that suffering of loved ones to him? It is madness. It is tearing up all the rebellion that lies smouldering in his physical mind, and that would rise in yours, and yours, readers, in like circumstances. All about him are the evidences of luxury, comfort, while he and his little world are hungry, on the verge of starvation. He grows more and more bitter, he begins to study situations and conditions, and the outcome of it is his spirit feels the injustice of it. His spirit has a right to cry for justice. In his despair and desperation he may become another peace-disturber in that human vortex of the oppressed. These fires grow from oppression. The beginning is not now, and the spirit of the times is but the result of ignorance or man against man. Your



politics are full of corruption. The incentive that spurs and burns in the politician's breast to-day is not one imbued with pure principles and motives. It is the aim and fight with each and all for individual dictation and power.

The present volcanic eruption is not the result of a change of administration, nor a reaction of a preceding administration. There is a festering interest that comes to a head with every change, something that comes to a focus by its hidden and under-current operations, to slip into power when the opportunity snaps for it.

Not now do you see man working for mankind. Man strikes power for individual, to be king in some big scheme, and where he can ring the bells for personal interests and welfares.

Political parties have become black. They have gone down in the scale of moral principles, until there is no semblance left of honesty, loyalty and justice. Honesty is not recognized, man is not absorbed in fair dealings, all can be bought for a price, and all are tearing down just living by underselling each other, morally, socially, and professionally.

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The stand made by a few to support true principles is undermined; such spirits are crushed back.

Unable as we are in the spirit-kingdom to do all we desire in the fight for equal recognition as man for man, right for right, and in our love to benefit humanity, we implore and petition to you all who are in the mortal life, with active brains and material tissues to labor with, to reach out to each other in the byways and highways, and crush out ignorance. Help each other, and not assail each other. Is it necessary, do you think, to publish all the evil men and women do? You all stand in one land, you all are of one flesh. Life is not a mystery when once you understand it. You all pass out through one gate, and while you are under the one roof, God's firmament, help one another. It is a trying mission from some stands, for ignorance and refinement are hard to assimilate. Ignorance and education cannot move hand in hand at once. There is no necessity for it to be so. If untrained, undeveloped humanity were not hurried from one shore to another like herds of cattle, but each and every country en-

deavor to give their people comforts, and the way to refine and develop that higher nature, there would be less struggle and strife for supremacy. Kindness will undo all that ignorance has placed disagreeable around humanity to-day. If once kindness is fixed in mortal hearts, with the high and the low, the uneducated and the educated, then there will have been accomplished a reform in every movement on foot in the mortal life. Who of God's creatures can work against each other, if kindness is deep rooted in the heart? Not one, dear friends.

Kindness is the highest principle of truth, and when once you have all become moulded from this principle, little can you imagine what a peaceful, prosperous world you will be living in.

It is root and branch of religion, and you have not all got religion that believe you have. It is not in being good to yourself, simply living to clothe and feed and pamper your own body, but go out in the world and help some one that is ignorant, poor and needy. Look at the work performed by that Salvation Army! God bless every one of

these street and slum angels—angels that labor among the lowest elements, but all God's family. They do not hesitate or falter before the door where degradation, crime, poverty, and loathsome disease faces them, when there is a soul there they can lead out and away to better and brighter things. Through their kindness they develop the undeveloped clay, to become Christian people. Build more churches, ye millionaires! Use your money to put down ignorance and reform humanity! Make your churches free, and call in the cold, half-clad unfortunates! Preach true religion, kindness! Teach the undeveloped kindness through kindness!

It is religion, and what difference does it make what you call your religion if you have kindness in your heart? The name of your religion is nothing, or the form of your worship. That will not bring you any rest or happiness. It is the acts of your life toward one another, and the nature of it. Get truth into your heart, and no one will need to watch you.

Man's inhumanity to man is forceful ignorance, and when once all men understand

kindness and truth, and see its power to wipe out ignorance, *all* men will have become Christians. There is really but one religion, and that is nature. Nature is the result of kindness and truth, and every church in the mortal world is trying to teach it, but they have mixed it up with so much material, and so many forms, it has been robbed of its sweet simplicity.

Ignorance is the root of all evil, and ignorance is the cause of every sorrow.

Study kindness, teach kindness, act kindness. Reform everything with the power of kindness.

ANNA E. HATHAWAY,

San Francisco, Cal.

## **“YOUR SPIRIT-MOTHER’S HOME.”**

We have been to your spirit-mother’s home. I am not gifted with language to give you a good description of it so you can see it through my eyes, but I will try and tell you as well as I can.

The first thing that impresses you in the spirit-land is the profusion of flowers.

Your mother was expecting us, as a message had been sent informing her of our mission.

It was your mother that helped release my spirit from my mortal body. It was the first time she had returned to this earth in a long period. She came at that time because you were in trouble.

Her beautiful face greeted us with smiles. As we went up the terraces that lead to her home, we saw her standing in the doorway.

The home is massive, the design grand but not showy.

She took us into a large room at the right of entrance. Windows opened out on a broad piazza. This piazza is supported by

massive columns representing marble, and twined around them are masses of roses.

In looking through the windows that reach from floor to ceiling, your eyes meet a sea of flowers.

The room we were in was lined with book-cases, showing your mother had a taste for books.

The floors and ceilings looked like marble and mosaic. The furniture is not unlike that in earth-life. Everything in spirit-life is in keeping with comfort, and in accordance with the taste of the spirit occupying the place.

There are no closed doors or windows in the spirit-land. Every place is always open, and visiting spirits to the spirit-land on missions or to take their first lesson on life, are welcome in all the homes.

None but spirits who desire to progress go to the spirit-land, and they are progressed fitting to it, before they stay there, so we go and come until we are prepared.

Many beautiful homes are on high elevations. Your mother's home has marble-terraced walks, and the lay of ground leading up to it is banked with flowers.

In these banks of flowers are fountains. It is not every spirit that has a separate home, but many families live in one home sometimes.

Your mother is at the head of her home, but many spirits are with her. The home was raised for her, and completed with her progress when she entered the spirit-land to stay.

It was her purity of heart and the good deeds done in the flesh that raised this home for her.

Not a kind word is lost, not a good deed forgotten, and no good thoughts and impulses lost sight of. They are building for you over there in a home.

We do not know how long we were in the spirit-land. There is no time in eternity. Time has no part with us. Spirit and soul-life are eternal, and that is why we do not remember time. When we are with you constantly we know a day or a week by the routine of work you follow, and spirits that look after earth affairs entirely, keep better account of time.

In the spirit-land, the lay of the land is like that of the earth as far as I saw it.



When you are in the country, and the orchards are sweet with blossoms, or heavy with ripe fruit; think of this: that over in the spirit-land there is another orchard bursting into the same condition.

We must be earnest in progression to secure knowledge from higher conditions. We must be in a state of becoming, and cannot gain knowledge we cannot understand.

Through your interest and earnest desire we have progressed. The knowledge we have worked for to give to you, has helped us to outlive much of our material interests,

Through you we are all happier, and now for a time go to work other missions.

MAMIE W. YOUNG.

November 24, 1893.

## “SEEK TO KNOW.”

Raise thy voice, thou whom petitions for a hearing at a higher court, thou whom earnest pleads to know the way.

Open thine eyes on the light, and not in blind darkness.

The light of truth is flashing all around you with blazing splendor, and is thine would'st thou be its recipient.

The glory of everlasting light and life is everywhere manifested in all thy walks, yet so many see it not.

When finite minds raised temples in this spirit-kingdom it was unlike what we have found. They were raised in a delirious imagination, and misinterpretation of truth, and so ye adherents of dogmatic religions peer into unseen habitations for a residence you will never find. You have been led astray by distorted history. Led from the light by unsatisfying promises.

Oh, ye mortals, seek to know the way that we may manifest to you, to show to you we

are with you. Let us lead you to the true way, and everlasting light and peace.

You mourn the loss of your loved ones when death or the dissolution comes. You enshroud your mortal bodies in hideous black robes, and you sit in gloom with mournful mein. You lay the empty clay away in a casement fit for royal kings, and when this clay is falling into shapeless dust, your season of mourning confines your thoughts to that narrow resting-place.

The life and light of that empty clay stands at your side, endeavoring to tell you there is no death.

You do not see, and you do not hear, so you do not believe we are with you.

You close the doors and the windows upon us, and we turn unwillingly from time to time, to find a welcome among strangers whom never knew us in earth-life.

As ye mortals need sympathy and love, so are we spirits still looking to you. As ye expect prayers to be heard, so do we turn to you in supplication to be recognized at our old homes, that we may aid you also.

Oh, spirit of light, bring your greatest powers to bear that the darkness may be changed to light.

Ye votaries of narrow religions, look out into the transparent ethereal spheres, and drink deep of the freedom of truth. Drink deep of the unfettered lessons of nature, its eloquence and music of commingled strains of song-birds, the sighing of summer winds, rippling waters, and all sweet nature. Call thyself what thou are, a child of nature, and draw nearer unto nature that it can commune with thy inner silent understanding. Bury your book that can show you no proof of its teachings; what use has nature and truth for its confines?

Nature has no bounds, freedom is unbounded, truth is everywhere. Life is always life, and everywhere life.

Look up, and out, and on, and not everlastingly backward.

Do not persecute your freedom of thought that tries to look upward, with opinions, theories and beliefs.

A belief is a menace to knowledge, it is of mortal origin and structure. Worship every

day, everywhere, be grateful for life, appreciate, and love, and be kind to all life. Do not cramp yourself within the four walls of an edifice raised for a price. Truth is free, religion is free.

Worship in the wide, uncovered atmosphere in all your walks. Lead your thoughts upwards and onward, and raise your banner inscribed "Freedom" to all who worship.

You hug faith and rest your burdens on a mortal Christ. Christ as you think of him does not hear thy petitions. Christ don't lift your burdens.

The adoration of Christ as a principle is right. The love for a character like Christ's, and as the example to fashion your own life, is making all of Christ that you can.

We who have entered spirit-life have learned the lesson of life. We know there is no Son of God, only as all men are sons of God.

All goodness, all truth, comes from the eternal source of life, and that life-principle is born with everyone, and all men are sons of this source, one way and in one relation. It is the soul of man; life from the infinite life.

Christ's powers (and we have no positive

evidence here the Christ of the Bible ever existed) were not a manifestation of the infinite as Christians look upon them. Christ's powers were manifestations of outside agencies, because he was a fitting instrument and condition.

It is through the power of spirit-life that the mortal has gained knowledge of eternal progress.

It is not blasphemy to speak of Christ as a man. Whether the church Christian look upon him as the Son of God, or the spiritualists call him a man a medium, the character remains the same, and to follow the principle is the highest expression to the character. Ye who assail us for speaking a truth are not all living Christ-like.

Understand thy life, and Christ principles will develop in you.

JOHN G. SAXE.

## “WORMWOOD.”

Have you ever tasted wormwood? If so,  
You know it is a bitter herb.

Perhaps some of you taste it every day in  
your social relations. An unkind word is  
wormwood, and so is neglect. It leaves its  
bitter on the features.

Its evidence is expressions of pain, and rigid  
lines on the face.

There is a bitter with nearly all our sweets.  
but there is no sweets with our bitter.

A happiness that comes to us with some  
misgivings is sure to be transitory, and leaves  
its bitter.

To be secure from clouded happiness, there  
must be union of thought and sentiment.

There can be no harmony without con-  
fidence, and no confidence where the shadow  
of doubt plays.

Hesitation is a death-blow to good opinion.  
Words weighed with wisdom have died un-  
uttered, because wormwood hushed the voice  
that longed to be heard, killed for the absence  
of courage to pay bitter for bitter.

Bright minds often bury thought-gems, because social wormwood has closed their escape.

There is a hardness in the human family that is as death-dealing as a warrior's weapons.

One weapon is cruel indifference. It drives into obscurity the base and pedestal of a noble character.

Wormwood seals its fate, and buries God's gifts from mortal eye and mind. Circumstances are cruel as kind.

Lovely characters moulded to a fulness of grand aims have never unfolded what they were born to achieve.

They are unworked minds, rich with thought-germs, but heart-starved.

It is the sensitiveness of your spirit that is wounded.

A delicate flower propagated in a hothouse will die in a chilling atmosphere. Bright minds will die the same, for both develop their beauty in genial atmosphere.

Now, think on this. At midnight a mother dog will carry her young ones to some distant deserted shelter, and secrete them. It may be related that some one in her presence has



remarked that to-morrow we are going to drown your babies. Instinct warns her of the impending danger, and she at once begins to scent a place of safety. This is an evidence of a divine spark in animals. It is kindness.

Now remember, dear friends, if any of you have a bottle of social wormwood, throw it away, and again do not bury powers by living in an atmosphere impregnated with wormwood. Give your real nature freedom.

GEN. HENRY A. BARNUM.

July 21st, 1893.

## “I AM PROGRESSING.”

Convincing proof is the power that conquers doubt.

When man controls his gross appetites, he has convinced himself that all things change in time through desire.

Professors and non-professors of religion are both susceptible to influences, the influence not varying practically in kind.

It is admissible that man's influence is distributive through all social ranks and party powers, either benefiting or sullyng its moral attitude.

He is susceptible to individual atmosphere, and an oft-repeated victim of misguided judgment.

When two minds approach through attraction, and reasoning powers are equal, they balance, vibrating one to the other for a season.

No barren situation offers less fertility than the mind that comes to a dead stop. I mean by dead stop, a mind that is not stimulated to

pile up a little thought from personal research.

Do not accept other mens' thoughts, merely because it appears too complex to work out the problem yourself. Stimulate your brain into action by desire ; open the portal wide, let in the air that invigorates, infuse new life to the powers in your mental cavities.

What great opportunities laden with riches of high magnitude circulate all around you.

Intution weighs your powers for you, and you had better aim too high, than never aim. If there is an oppressive influence holding you down, barring you from ambitions that crop up occasionally, change your surroundings, for the barrier to your genius, your talents, or other latent powers, is some individual atmosphere.

Ambitions rise with encouragement, and ambitions can be snuffed out with discouragements.

The earth is full of anglers, speculators on other mens' research. One man's brain piles up fortunes in another man's pocket.

Your brain, what is it ? Cultivate it, give it a place to show you what it can do for you.

Cultivate the highest of your intuitive powers, and then you will know what contentment, peace and happiness are. Happiness comes from high conditions, from the eternal life. Raise your standard.

Deliver me from evil; let this be the watch-guard always on your tongue and in your mind, when tempted to offend your fine nature.

Refine your material being, that it can assimilate with your spirit as it develops. Progress my friends, progress.

JOHN McCULLOUGH:

November 27, 1893.

## UPWARD TENDENCIES.

It was a dark age when humanity was not allowed to work out their own soul's salvation.

Gods and idols were numerous as the people, and to these the highest and the lowest bent their knee.

Superstitions and signs were a power, and the government of affairs ruled by augury.

Kings and queens were the victims of conspiracies ; and sleep was tortured by fears and a dread of no to-morrow in this dark age. One after another was cut down in most horrible cruelty. Spirituality was undeveloped in this age, and the people were sensual, treacherous, suspicious and cruel. This was the power that controlled, a bloodthirsty people indeed.

Kindness was a crime, and sympathy unknown.

It was blood for blood, and the cold steel glistened restlessly in its sheath for a victim. There were born warriors in those days ; days when the Romans vanquished all before

them in their thirst for blood and power.

With each cycle of time since then, there has been growing a change in all ranks. With every decade of years there have been marked events in social and other affairs, characteristic of the people of the age. The inhabitants of the earth have not grown worse or more wicked, as so many ministers shout from their pulpits in lamentable form, but there is a great reform showing its strength and influence in all societies.

There was a time, not far back, when athletic sports were considered demoralizing, but to-day it is based on science and physical development.

What has done it? Education. Every tendency is upward. This is an age of rapid strides, and important and progressive changes. Reforms are slow in some things, but every thing is moving to the centre of higher principles, and dwarfed minds are expanding, and developing powers that work out every ambition. It puts all physical powers to the test; and brain pushes activity to the innermost corners of civilization. It has belted the earth, electrifying all mankind

with its progressive spirit. Activity is perpetual motion. It is the hub of the wheel, and the spokes that radiate from its centre, pulsates its progress in the tire, that rolls round and round in the cycles of time.

With every revolution comes evolution. Spirit-power is working silently and mysteriously in every channel opened to it. Spirit power unseen that operates through receptive minds, and this power will be recognized and acknowledged as the wheel revolves in time.

You are living in the greatest age this earth's inhabitants have ever known.

HELEN HUNT JACKSON.

July 27th, 1893.

## “WHAT IS LOVE?”

That which reaches man's inner self, penetrating beyond the surface of things, that something unveiling the principle divine ; that is love.

Lost in reveries, lost to the outer world, communing with thoughts inspired by influences unseen, lifting our minds above the glare and delusion of fettered, mortal bodies, where we can read our record clear, where we may see and know what is love.

Oh, thoughts divine, and inspiration from God's ideal land, infusing our inner metals with the fire and light of Heavenly love, this is what we know of love.

From God alone is love, real love, and yet how few have drank of it. .

Let your soul look out of its mortal parchment, where menacing situations are burning you with conflicts to the dust. You who are encumbered by every material burden can find no sweet rest until you recognize your soul.



Out in the summer fields, out in wide sunshine, far away from the struggle of weary humanity, out and away from selfishness and bigotry and egotism, here are the conditions to understand what truth and love is.

All humanity are holding it, and it is spontaneous to nature.

Not so many have found it as think they have, for material love is too often called real love. Material love is unsatisfying ; it is finite condition.

Real love is spiritual, and it can never die. It is spiritual love that gives birth to happiness. They are twin conditions, and go hand in hand. It is something mortals thirst for, are hungry for, and do not know how to find it. It is something in the bosom of every mortal, and unrecognized so long, so long.

It is often awakened in the atmosphere of the church, and it is said to be a conversion, a change of heart. True, it is a change of heart, but this same subtle power and influence is found outside the church as well. When awakened outside the church border, it says : "I am become a philosopher. I look

at life differently. I understand humanity better. Humanity is weak; we must be charitable, be kind."

You can all experience this sweet existence, and it is most fitting you taste the sweet, before coming into spirit-life.

There are a few of us who have been partly roused, but we dropped back into the bon lage the low tide left us, too sleepy, too weak, to see the light that beckoned us on, on, to brighter things.

I am now emerging from the long sleep. I am in a preparatory school, and as experience is the great teacher of truth, I can pour some light I have found into minds that are yet dark.

Life is not life without love; but love not of the eternal source, is restless and unsatisfying. The attributes of love are all there is to life. They are the highest.

Love never murmurs complaints, e'en though the surroundings are the humblest.

Real love raises temples in poverty districts. It brings eternal light and knowledge.

I wish you all to progress, and I will help

you to find the light. I have taken my first lessons, and unto you will I bear its fruits as I progress.

Until now I was in darkness of understanding my spirit body, that has all semblance of my natural body, possessing the same mind, interests and desires. Since my last writing I have learned my natural body was but a condition for experience.

I can now assure you all, I am becoming reconciled to my spirit-life, and willing to resign from my profession, leaving all with my brothers in the profession, to elevate its standard.

My desire is great to impress you all of the necessity to live just as long in your natural body as you can. Study your physical conditions, and become acquainted with your spiritual nature. This will insure contentment-happiness and real love.

EDWIN BOOTH.

November, 1893.

## “THE RELIGION OF NATURE.”

Nature is truth.

When you build a faith on a basis of mortal origin, it is of a kind to fall.

You may live without the truth of nature for a time, but the age has been reached when mind works out of bondage to an understanding of the issues from whence and what is life.

The Christian churches are to-day growing less a power to hold within its confines, the individuals who are thinking beyond a boundary.

Mind that is awake in spiritual knowledge is not satisfied to adhere to a system of religious laws that are devised by model instrumentality.

The eagerness with which truth is taken up, and becomes understanding to individuals who are working away from the church, should be evincing to the clergy that the religions they are preaching, are not soul-satisfying.

A hungry spirit encased in mortals with receptive active minds, finds less food in the precincts of church domains, than nature can furnish in her most remote desert.

What is nature? What is a flower, a shrub, a tree? What are mountains, lakes, and all objects animate and inanimate?

They are products of nature, products of truth.

What are animals, what is man?

Products of nature!

What grows the flowers, the shrub, the tree, what builds up the mountains, what are the lakes and rivers and oceans?

They are all conditions. They are all results of natural laws. They are a principle, a truth, and truth is an absolute law.

Now how can you environ truth? How can you surround it within a radius; to a formalized design of arrangement?

What right has a mortal to draw a circle, put a mortal inside of this circle and say, "now you stay there, don't look outside; if you do, you are lost!"

Man cannot make laws for truth, because truth is a law, and man is teaching and

preaching an untruth who misconceives the principles of truth. Some day it will rebound and strike with such fearful force it will swallow up man's devised foundation, to show him truth so he cannot deny it, or reject it.

When the church opens the doors and proclaim truth is free, it is everywhere, and we have just found it, enter in, enjoy and understand with us, there will not be seating capacity. Then you can worship nature as nature has asked to be worshipped in all ages, with nature out of doors.

There is a dividing line in the church doctrines, and the modern teacher of truth, and that dividing line is on that very principle, an understanding of truth. Truth has no environs. Dogmatic religions hold truth in bondage. They cannot get away from rules, from monumental erroneous laws made by man.

You say Christianity is much more liberal than it used to be. Why this, dear mortals, is the first move toward truth. This is an acknowledgment truth is spreading in the midst of the churches, and they begin to acknowledge truth cannot be fettered.

There is no necessity for a creed. There is no necessity for church doctrines. There is no necessity to pledge yourselves to keep yourselves bound to rules, to promise to do certain things you have no understanding of, a doctrine you cannot analyze and that you have no positive evidence is knowledge.

You have no right to imprison your spirit within walls that cannot prove to your understanding what truth is.

You are cramping your divine nature into narrowness, a deformed expression of what you call truth, in place of letting it out into the real spirit of truth.

If you desire to elevate humanity, if you desire to work miracles, if you desire to develop your spirit, and desire to see the angels or ministering missionary spirits, as the Bible tells you angels appeared; if you desire to know thyself, take for your object lesson—

## NATURE.

Go where you can see and study nature in its sweetest, grandest situations.

Take a concourse of humanity with you, say to these misunderstood, and misunder-

standing people. My dear friends, we all stand here together to-day, children of nature. Children of this grand and beautiful scene. We have come here to-day to take our first lesson in the mystery of life.

Nature is our father and our mother.

Nature provides for us everything that feeds and clothes our natural bodies, and nature teaches us through her beautiful, silent work, how to know our inner and better self.

Here are some flowers. Look at them. They are beautiful, they please our eyes, and they are sweet to our sense of smell. Now something, some power has made these flowers so beautiful, made them for us to look at, and for our very own, and they are a lesson for us to study, and to know.

The force that grows them, we know to be a life-principle, and this life-principle emanates from nature. It is a law, it is a truth.

Now look at yourself. You, too, are a flower of a higher character, but in order to be attractive as the flower I am holding in my hand, you must do some weeding out. You must refine your clay, first. In your clay body you have a life-principle we know as the



spirit, and this spirit holds the highest condition of truth, which becomes a conscious life-principle just as soon as you discover you have it, and that life-principle we know, is soul. To refine your clay, means, develop your spirit, and to develop your spirit you must study the power of kindness and charity. seek to understand everything that is beautiful, and when you love all that is in nature, you then know thyself, for all have the beautiful, and the good, and the truth within.

Now, be it known that spiritual knowledge, truth come sto your consciousness and understanding through intelligent influences you cannot see all of you, and this outside intelligence is spirit-power.

One day that spirit was environed in a natural body just like the natural bodies you are all appearing in to-day. Those spirits, some of them (not all) have been living on this earth among mortals for centuries.

Why are they here, why are they not in the Kingdom of Heaven, before the throne of God? The Heaven and God you would have them?

J

Because they passed out of the mortal life without knowledge.

Because they did not know the truth. They then discovered darkness surrounded them, and many were not conscious that they were in the spirit-condition. They were unrecognized in thier own homes where they looked for help, and so between missionary spirits, and missionary mortals who are sensitive of their presence, they are taught how to progress.

Through the sensitive people called mediums, the spirits of departed friends brought light of the life beyond. The mediums of modern spiritualism ought to be called saviours.

Why?

Because they are doing a great work to assist the spirits in darkness, as well as spreading light and truth through many dark avenues in mortal life. The number of mediums compared to the tens of thousands of people who are deaf, dumb and blind to spirit-powers are few, and you have no conception of how many hundreds of hungry, anxious spirits swarm around one medium eager

to gain a message, or ask for aid from friends. Mediums are doing the greatest mission work done in the field of mortal life to-day. We need more. We are exerting our powers to develop more for missionary work.

What has brought this age to its progressive standard?

Spirit-power.

What has brought humane societies together in this day?

Spiritualism.

You may deny it, you are looking through a veil, but the truth has been recognized, and it is gaining strength every day, and through many channels in mysterious ways the light is flashing.

What does spiritualism teach you?

To be humane. It teaches you kindness, charity, justice, love to all things, with care for all. It teaches you to spare life, and kill not. Study the exhibition of skill of the smallest of insects, the bee, the ant for instances. Science cannot teach more perfect engineering than the beaver can teach science.

Learn a lesson from the insect. Be kind to every breathing, animated life. Be patient

with those who torture the faithful, dumb beasts, and with your patience and example of kindness you will be able to awaken the spark of truth in the torturer, and he, in turn, will begin to teach the lesson taught him.

Remember that all life is continuous, and all animated life is endowed with intelligence, and life and intelligence are always life and intelligence, and they that deny animals a place in future conditions are in ignorance of many conditions.

Oh, that I might have power to infuse an understanding of truth—the truth—into all minds.

And now a word to you, Marie. You have become an instrument into whose mind we can give you for the benefit of the earnest seekers, a knowledge of how we live, where we live, and how we are enabled to progress through the mortal's aid. And how we assist the mortals in all their labors, when the way is open for us.

We look to you to become a benefactor to humanity, where humanity are in need. You will face obstacles, but we will assist you to surmount them if you feel discouraged.

We ask you to do this in the name of truth,  
and the cause of truth.

Stimulate humanity in need, through lessons from nature, to refine the natural body. Recognize that inner consciousness, spirit and soul, through the grandeur and beauty of nature in its highest, so that when you lay off your natural vestments, you will be fitting to go on in the progress of spirit-life, and its spirit missions.

EDMUND VOKE.

## "TRUTH."

This is a progressive era in the history of the world. Within the past century the truth has been brought by unseen forces, until now it is opening voluminously.

The mortal minds looking upward for light has dilated to a consciousness recognizing the powers and intelligence of unseen agencies, from the unseen land.

In the annals of Christian reticence to investigate spirit-life to-day, we can record its progressive standard at the highest altitude yet reached.

The terrestrial and celestial spheres have come closer to an understanding and acknowledgment of each other.

The fundamental laws of life are now a knowledge, and its glory has burst with effulgent light in many places once in darkness.

Like the mountain-stream that creeps in rhythmic cadences from its spring in the rocks, to the great broad bosom of the placid lake, so the soul of man a truth, a pure crystal-drop

from the eternal spring, winds its way through many pathways to the eternal, or infinite fountain.

Every condition of life evolved through prior conditions. Its priori state an infinitesimal atom, a life-principle that you find difficult to grasp in your mortal understanding as becoming a soul or conscious-life, and only can understand through your intuition or language of the soul, responsive to truth.

The Christian churches are resting on the verge of an avalanche to-day. The mortality of man has ascended to that apex of truth, where it recognizes that light and truth comes from the invisible conditions of life, and the roof of the churches are becoming pierced with this great soul-light, and shining down with the splendor of stars of great magnitude.

The immortality of the soul has waged warfare with ignorance centuries too long.

The priori and ultimum of soul are one and the same. The evolution of all life is continuous. It emerges and converges from and with one principle—the infinite wisdom.

Mind environed by sworn allegiances to

live within a bounded space, goes to history for proof of its religious footing.

Mankind in general cannot see beyond the pale of human organization. He is cramped into narrowness that crowds back and starves his soul upon itself.

From the first man to the present man, the material has been woven from one warp, some finer and some of coarser quality. This woven vesture we know as the natural or material organization.

Every fibre in this human organization throbs with life. Every fibre has a function to perform. In the event of some part of this great design, or structure, ceasing its activity; suspended life through ignorance of laws that govern it, the whole grand plan is thrown out of balance—out of harmony. A perfect plan is seriously and pathetically injured.

Mind in bondage tacks its pennant of religion on a dead-wood staff, and the four winds of nature tears it from the unsound confines, supplanting a staff of evidence from the life beyond with its light and the truth.

Unseen intelligences plows furrows through



ignorance, and sows seeds of truth here and there, disseminating knowledge with a mutable volubility in the highest truth.

Truth is not a bud of promise. Truth is a flower in full bloom. It is not something to wait for. It is—It is here, there, everywhere. It is crown and jewels of your inner self. The key is in your own hands, and there is no combination to learn, to unlock it. It is truth. You all own it. It is harmony, and all nature is attuned to it. No bars cross the doorway that lead to it. It is ye that bar the way from truth.

Eternal principles cannot be changed by man. Eternal life and truth is expressed everywhere. It has no creed. It is not a finite condition, paying homage to a finite being.

Truth makes no promise to reward; truth does not mete out punishment.

To violate a divine law is to place the debt on yourself, and with you alone rests the responsibility, the punishment, and the reward. Are you good for a price, for a reward? Then you will never know what goodness *is*. Conscious goodness has no kin with truth.

Goodness is a divine principle—it has no thought of self and rewards.

As you walk out in the wide, free land of nature, and you look over on the horizon, and higher to the firmament, you can, for a time, forget you inhabit a clay body. In your oblivion of self, your higher nature grows into the magnitude of unbounded space and its veiled mystery. You are absorbing influences inspiring.

Oh, infinite wisdom, pour into our hearts and minds Thy great light ! Let us penetrate with our inner vision the way to an understanding of Thee !

Let Thy great light of life pierce through ignorance, and let arrogance cease to rule. Let our spontaneity be quick in acknowledge of the truth.

Bring us to a consciousness of all the laws that govern our being. Let us not dissemble under a cloak of ignorance, but quicken the fruition of our highest life and its truth.

Lead the way from darkness, oh, ye spirits, for our mortal friends that need the light. Show them ye higher spirits from whence the light, and hence it will evolve. Lead them

into the silvery light that bursts in every place with beauteous knowledge, when the way is earnestly desired. Bend them to the eternal light and knowledge, where ministering spirits can lift the veil that falls between the mortal and immortal world, preparing the soul to take its freedom and enjoy to greatest fullness nature, light, and truth.

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(NOTE—This was commenced by Cardinal Manning, but the conditions were disturbed, and another spirit called and finished it.)

## THE NATURAL BODY, THE SPIRIT AND THE SOUL.

The natural body is a school of experience. It is a condition of active, conscious-life. It was born in time, and it will die in time. We say die, and yet there is no death even of the natural. In its corruption another condition of life is going on, but we use the term to designate change.

The spirit represents the form of the mortal body. It is a life, an ethereal matter subject to change. It represents the sex, and the individuality of its mortal habitation.

To grasp the possibility of losing your individuality shocks you.

There is a question in the minds of deeper thinkers not clearly settled about the ultimate of soul-life, or an intermediate event of spirit-changes. There are accidental situations when the spirit does lose its individuality.

Listen! A mortal is suddenly imprisoned in a burning building, immediately and com-

pletely surrounded by fire. This solid wall of fire renders the impossibility for spirit-agencies to reach that mortal body, to assist its spirit, a release. A spirit can release itself under other forced pressure, where the body is subjected to preservation situations, like suffocation by smoke, the surgeons' knife, etc., but spirits do not often leave the mortal body unassisted. They do not all know how to come out, and often stay in it through desire, until decomposition drives it out.

It is the most difficult to release a spirit from the body when it is in a purely normal condition, if it is unwilling to be released.

In the event of imprisonment by fire, there is no escape for the spirit through a blazing mass of fire, and its separation from the soul is inevitable.

In this situation, spirit and soul separate, and the individuality of the mortal is lost.

As life is always life, this spirit remains a life yet; but it has departed from individual form, and sex, to an insensible condition, that will be attracted and drawn into other life-atoms evolving through conditions, and be-

comes objective form in the material it inhabits.

The soul is the highest life. It has no sex. The soul does not become conscious-life until the spirit is in a state of development.

When the soul and spirit reach the final change or rest, they blend into that great source of life, the Omnipotent or the over soul. Spirits that passed into the spirit-life before the history of Christ dates from, are still in their material form, so it is difficult to give to your understanding a comprehension of the time your material form remains individual.

There is no cessation of life. It is an eternal principle, an evolution of conditions. The infinitesimal particles of life floating everywhere have a destiny. They are constantly moving and falling like showers, principles that are subject to attraction and conditions.

All life is a law, and all natural laws are continuous.

The ego, or soul-life, is a spark from the infinite or over soul, and becomes highest life

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in man through the evolutions of conditions, and becomes conscious-life through the laws of progress, or spiritual development in the mortal-life, and hence, in the spirit-condition, on, on, into the final rest, or priori source. This is your life as it is.

ADAM COUSE.

## “PERSONAL MAGNETISM.”

Personal magnetism and individual atmosphere are one.

Magnetism is a power of attraction.

It is born with the individual.

There are three kinds of personal magnetism. The physical, the mental, and the spiritual. In different individuals these powers attract and repel to different degrees.

The physical in some individuals is a healing and curative power.

In another individual its attractive power is entirely of a sensual nature.

There are medium situations ; fascinating, agreeable, and highly beneficial.

It is also poisonous and repelling.

Mental magnetism is a power of attraction that opens the thought-valves of the minds it attracts.

Spiritual Magnetism awakens the spirit-nature attracted by it.

PROGRESS.



These notes on personal magnetism were given to me by a spirit, calling himself Progress, with the direction to write what I have earned on the subject from my observation. I will not attempt to define it to any extent.

It is exceedingly assuming and presuming in me to give an analysis of powers where science and natural laws hold the solution, and I realize my digest of it is a feeble one.

Even the most learned pupils are but children yet in knowledge, and thus we all stand in a position to acquire more, and aid each other as we progress one away from another in mental development.

I have given considerable thought for two or three years to comprehend the philosophy of individual attraction, but I did not recognize that it is so largely magnetism.

When once we understand with what potency these powers are laden with stimulating and poisonous influences, it is surely within our instrumentality many times to improve our situations and conditions.

If the atmosphere of one person is agreeable, or another disagreeable, how often are we conscious of the nature of the influence?

K

We do not look into it deeper than the surface presents it.

It is the sensitive organizations that feel intensest, the influences of individual atmospheres, and know to what extent they smooth or perturb our every day life.

The disposition of individuals is not all of the individual that attracts us. We have discovered, long ago, that there is a law of attraction back of a perfect disposition, and a pretty face.

We frequently meet individuals with disagreeable dispositions, who do possess a fascinating, physical and mental magnetism.

Physical magnetism may be compared to a weave of cloth—gives comfort and discomfort to the physical body.

We meet men and women that sometimes control us in manner mysterious. While in their atmosphere we are stupid ; every faculty is inert. Sometimes we almost require a shock to absent ourselves from their presence. Occasionally this silent mood we find ourselves in is restful; and again under another influence that closes up our mental faculties, we are conscious something is irritating us. We

are uncomfortable and unnatural in our bearing. It is indisputably the influence of physical attraction.

We meet people who are intensely refreshing, possessing the power to draw from us all that is agreeable and best; and meet another who exerts an influence over us that make us blush in after-thought of our simple and almost imbecillic expressions.

Again we are attracted by a healing magnetism that restores for the time, weak vital forces. Men and women blooming with health and types of perfect physiques, does not imply they possess equally attractive magnetism. It may be inferred that normal health and an imposing physique is indicative of a preponderance of magnetism, but not always so to any marked degree. There are the usual exceptions to be considered.

An enfeebled physical organization is frequently the possessor of powerful physical magnetism. His (or her) magnetism is feeding faster than nature can restore the life forces, the outgo is greater than return forces, and situations are not equalized.

It is a serious situation for a sensitive or-

ganization to be subjected to the influences of repelling and poisonous magnetism.

It is a lamentable position because it is quite possible the entire nervous system will become involved, and it is difficult to determine what the end will be.

Physical magnetism is a great field of medicine. It has so many healing and curative powers, and too, it deals with many poisonous powers.

There are more situations presented to my mind, but an observer will understand there are many, and to note them in every-day experiences, will furnish you with much that is interesting and instructing, and individually profitable.

#### MENTAL MAGNETISM.

We are sometimes surprised at the avidity with which our mental powers assert life and action, when in the atmosphere of mentally magnetic people.

We find expression for thought with a fluency quite unlike anything we have been inspired to before. They come with ease and graceful interest. All the well-springs of thought in us are tapped on this occasion,

and their pent-up force bursts to surprising heights.

It is the mind with intuitive knowledge that attracts and awakens another, that responds from that inner, mysterious fountain of knowledge.

It is not the mind stored with book knowledge, stored full like an encyclopedia by memory. That kind of a mind is like reading from a book. It is interesting, but not magnetic. That mind is entertaining, but not always refreshing. No doubt it can quicken some channels in your memory, recalling experiences, incidents of travel, etc., but it is not a stimulating, refreshing magnetism that does it. It is not long satisfying.

Ready talkers, endowed with a retentive memory, often bore us. Perhaps some one who reads this can recall some past occasion where he was expected to contribute at a function in more than a thinking part, and have been guilty of playing stupidity, and that was the estimated valuation of your presence by the assembly.

Where are the well-springs of thought now? Closed; completely covered over.

We are conscious to a suffering degree how stupid we appear at times, and what a relief to get away from the oppressive situations. What have we given, and what have we absorbed? Nothing. Perhaps some one has been benefited, but certainly not through us, or we through any magnetism influences.

#### SPIRITUAL MAGNETISM.

A suitable place to study spiritual magnetism is in the atmosphere of the church. I have observed that all ministers are not spiritual, and all religious workers not spiritual.

Brilliant expounders of spiritual knowledge that hold our attention and win our admiration, are not attracting us with spiritual magnetism always. Remember physical and mental magnetism are pronounced attractions in the pulpit.

We listen to a sermon occasionally that treats with the sciences, and it is instructive and thrilling in its breadth and depth. It is delivered in an impressive manner, from a mind that is cultured and highly developed. What power was it that chained our attention? It was a mental magnetism. The ser-

mon stirred up fires within us, and we were mentally benefited.

Another man takes his text, looks out from deep, soulful eyes on his congregation as he reads it.

With his first words you begin to feel the spiritual influences. They are reaching out, diffusing the atmosphere of the entire church with his pure, spiritual nature. His spiritual mein impresses you with perfect confidence, every word he gives utterance to rings from the depths of his sincere, earnest heart. You feel he is a sympathizer in all distress, and a worker to relieve the burdened backs of all he meets. His words are soul-felt interpretations of truth, and they fix their soul-influence close to your own. Your intuitive perception tells you he has reached your soul-nature through his spiritual magnetism, and you take this sweet influence home with you. It is not always the words clothing the sermon that gives it the power of spiritual attraction. It is the spirit and soul of the man standing before you. It looks out in its purity, and it draws your spirit close to that higher life, in the power of spiritual attraction. You recog-

nize he is generous, just, charitable, kind and sympathetic. Every attribute of goodness is living in him.

As there is a physical magnetic grace, a mental magnetic grace, and a spiritual magnetic grace, that attracts, quickens powers, and inspires to higher and better things, it is well we be prepared to understand which, and where, and what attracts us, in every walk, in every day we live.

M. L. C.

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NOTE—Spirits manifest through the power of magnetism. This explains, perhaps, why they are so sensitive to all the conditions, or atmospheres of individuals, and can read character and dispositions so accurately. There are people whose magnetism is so repelling to spirits, it is impossible for them to come into their aura, or atmosphere.



## “JUST A MESSAGE.”

Be brave, dear friend, and cross life's rough seas fearlessly.

Look beyond the portal where mortal combats are trying and cruel.

We are here to-day and to-morrow on the other shore, where angel voices will sing a requiem for the laying to rest of the vacated clay.

It is thy fitting mission to herald our joyful tidings, and God speed the sweet messengers of peace, and sing clearer the triumphant hymns of our spirit-mission's victories.

We are with thee in all thy sublime aspirations, and unmeasured love is yours from your spirit friends, waiting to aid you in all your undertakings.

On the eve of departure to another land, where we are unfamiliar with the people and their customs, we adopt the universal textbook of information to become enlightened.

To our shores are many sojourners, and we earnestly desire and ask of you to become a

text-book, to publish what kind of people we are, and how we live over here; this we ask in behalf of humanity, that when they cross the ferry they will not be disappointed.

The quickness of the natural life makes the dissolution appear repellant, and the ego or soul is too long a stranger to its earthly habiliments.

Where nature lays down to rest the spirits convene, and there our missionary labors begin.

CHARLOTTE TEMPLE.

## “FINIS.”

Before closing the book I desire to say a word to my friends.

Perhaps I do not realize what a surprise, and possibly a shock it was to many of you, when first apprised of the interest I have taken in spirit-return. It cannot be otherwise with me.

Not one of you could work away from it, or desire to, had the light come to you as it has to me.

For over two years a restlessness took possession of me I was powerless to overcome and when the power developed to commune with invisible friends, I learned the restlessness was due to influences endeavoring to attract my attention.

I did become conscious at last, it was something I must investigate for my peace of mind, and so consulted a medium. Even after I was told what I was desired to do, I viewed it as an impossibility, and there dropped my investigation and interest to know

any more. At last through a very sad circumstance, that caused me to dwell much on a future life, I unconsciously and unexpectedly had the veil removed from before my material mind and hearing, and the communications in this little book are a part of the mission, spirit friends have worked out through me.

Many of these people I did not know in earth-life, but I am satisfied I am better acquainted with their individuality than had I known them in earth-life.

I felt all their conditions; sensing their, irritability, impatience, jealousy and anger; also their amiability, patience, affection, tender solicitude, with their aptness to resent anything like imposition or injustice to me. They were quick to correct, and ready with advice.

The communications placed in this book, are but a small part of what I have received, for remember it is not communications alone, but long conversations from people that were distinguished in earth-life.

I have had conversations with Henry W. Longfellow, Wm. M. Thackeray, Robert Ful-

ton, Gen. Grant, Margaret Fuller, and many, many others, I do not recall at this writing.

It has brought to me a great light that can never grow dim. It has left an impress, time will never efface.

There is never a time spirits are not around you. They come to every one, never ceasing in restless eagerness to find some one to commune with. Many times you are depressed without apparent cause, irritable without reason, restless and nervous, and it is often due to influences unseen.

Sometimes it is your own dear friends, laboring to make you notice them, laboring in vain because you are not impressionable, or do not know anything about spirit return, and do not want to, most of you. You who will pass over to that invisible condition and will labor as your dear friends are doing now, to manifest your presence and wonder why you could not have known all about it when living in your natural body. You mothers with little children on that other side, and you husbands and wives with loved partners desirous to speak to you, to all, I say in behalf of voices that are ringing it into my ears this

moment, think it all over in the quiet of your room, look at it sensibly and with earnest desire to know the truth.

Do you believe you have a spirit in your mortal body? If you do, where think you it will dwell when it leaves this life?

Do you think because it is released from its clay tenement, it is immaculate, and that it will be ushered into a place *you* call heaven? A sphere where all is purity before your spirit is fitted for it?

No, no, my dear friends, you err. You cannot lay off your mortal nature here, and open your eyes in the spirit-life, leaving your material interests and dispositions with your mortal remains. You will take your material interests into the spirit-life, and you will live right here on this earth for a great while, most of you, passing from door to door, and stay longest where your presence is felt, and where you can commune.

I am proud of the light that has come to me; I am proud of my power to commune with spirits, and I am proud to think bright minds were attracted to me and could give me knowledge of future life.

I am happy to be in a position to speak in their interest, and as long as I live here I will endeavor to benefit every spirit that asks for help. It is a Christian duty to speak a kind word to them. Give them a welcome although you are deaf, dumb and blind to their presence. Rest assured you will not give a welcome to deaf ears, and do not try to make yourself believe there are no invisible forms around you, simply because you do not see them. It is only the mediumistic individuals that are sensitive to spirit-power, and you who make light of its sacredness are doing an injustice to your own dear spirit friends. Spiritualism teaches the highest religion, and proves its truth in manifestations from the other shore. Your spirit-friends whom you do not recognize in a residence on earth, are laboring everywhere among mortals to bring the truth and lesson of life, while you have sent them out and away from you because you try to fit them in a sphere in a far-away condition you really have no knowledge of. I can only say how selfish of you, and how unfeeling, and you cannot realize it.

MARIE L. COUSE.

New York, 1894.