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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Fourth Annual Convention

OF THE

1848 1896

National Spiritualists Association

Held at
WASHINGTON, D. C.,

October 20, 21 and 22, 1896.

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☆ PUBLISHERS' WEEKLY

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

FOURTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

OF THE

NATIONAL SPIRITUALISTS ASSOCIATION

OF THE

United States of America and Dominion of Canada,

HELD AT

WASHINGTON, D. C.,

OCTOBER 20, 21, 22, 1896.

CONTAINING ALSO

REPORTS FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES, AND AN ALPHABETICAL LIST OF DELEGATES IN ATTENDANCE.

I. C. I. EVANS, STENOGRAPHER.

ISSUED BY
THE NATIONAL SPIRITUALISTS ASSOCIATION,
600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE S. E.,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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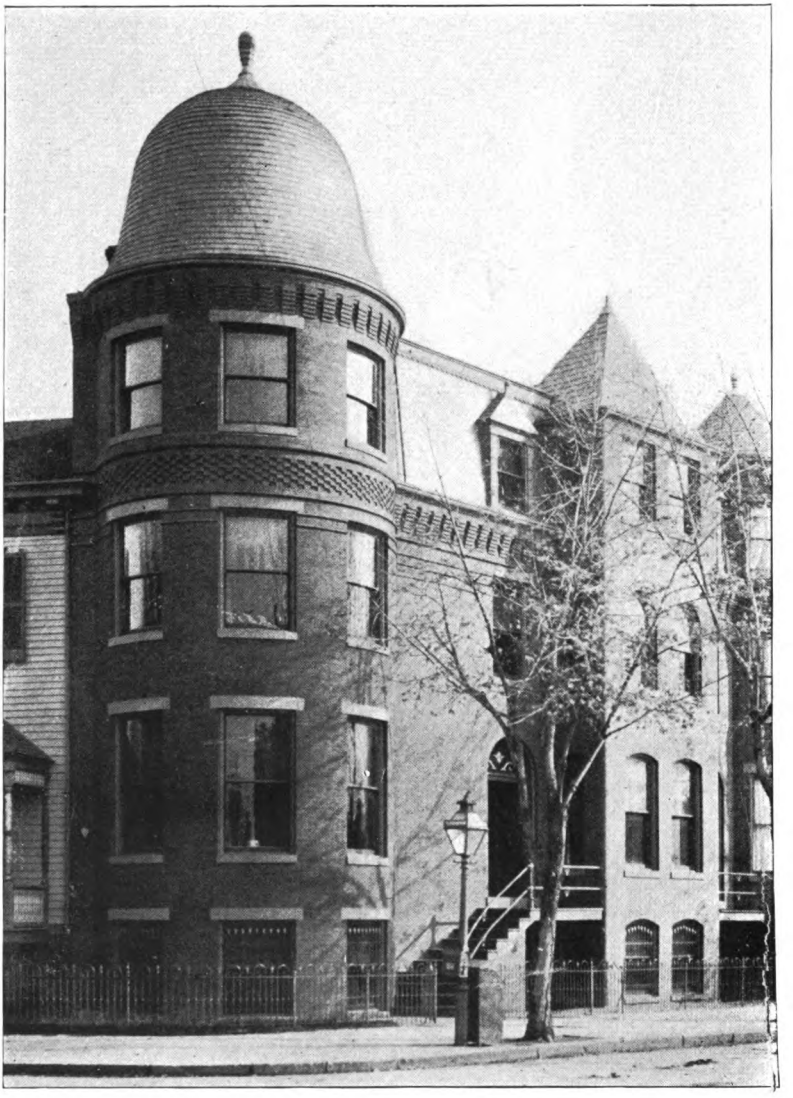

HEADQUARTERS NATIONAL SPIRITUALISTS ASSOCIATION,
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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Fourth Annual Convention

OF THE

National Spiritualists Association

OF THE

United States of America and Canada.

The Fourth Annual Convention of the National Spiritualists Association of the United States of America and Canada convened at Masonic Temple, corner 9th and F Streets N. W., Washington, D. C., on the 20th day of October, A. D. 1896, S. E. 49, whereupon the following proceedings were had, to wit:

The President, HARRISON D. BARRETT, of Lily Dale, N. Y., at the hour of 10 A. M., called the Convention to order, and appointed the following officers:

Sergeant-at-Arms, Geo. W. Shook, Mich.; Musical Director, J. H. Altemus, D. C.; Reading Clerk, John Eggleston, New York; Assistant Secretary, William Richmond, Ills.; Stenographer, I. C. I. Evans, Minn.; Doorkeeper, Henry Steinberg, D. C.

The audience then joined in singing the hymn "America," after which an invocation was offered by Mrs. Cora L. V. Richmond, followed by a solo by Mr. J. H. Altemus.

THE CHAIRMAN: The next number on our program is the opening address by your President. The Vice President will please take the Chair.

Mrs. Richmond in the Chair.

PRESIDENT BARRETT: As I have been talking more or less for the past twelve months my voice is now rebelling, and I do not

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think that I have any right to inflict its hoarse sounds upon you this morning. It is, however, a pleasure to me to see so many delegates from the different sections of our Union upon this floor. From the shores of the Pacific Ocean, where, through the Golden Gate, comes in the commerce of other nations; from the far Northwestern States, where the Puget Sound beats its soft music upon the air; from the fertile States of the Central West, and from glorious old New England, I see representative men and women here as delegates to-day.

This splendid convention has assembled in answer to a call that was sent out by the angel world; in response to the call of duty, that we may do something as individual workers to make the union of the spirit world with the world of mortals something of moment to the people of the United States of America and Canada, for Canada, too, is represented here to-day. Canada is welcome upon this floor, and is an honored member of our National Association. (Loud applause.)

There is a work before us—a work in which each and every individual must perform his part. I welcome you all to your particular work. Spiritualism is greater than individualism. Spiritualism is greater than personalities. Spiritualism consigns individualism or selfishness to one common funeral pyre, and causes true individuality to rise purified and ennobled from their ashes. (Applause.) We are not here to serve party ends. We are not here to serve the personal caprice of individuals. We are here to assist in forwarding the work of the spirit world. We shall seek, during the ensuing three days, to become better acquainted with one another and will work together for the purpose of showing the world that Spiritualism is the greatest reform movement that has ever blessed mankind. I welcome you to that work. (Applause.)

I would be pleased to address you at greater length, but I am weary from excessive travel, and I must leave a heartier welcome to be expressed by those who are less weary in voice, mind and body than I am. This is a momentous occasion, and the eyes of the civilized land are upon us. From the west to the east, and from the north to the south there comes a question from all hearts, "What are you Spiritualists going to do in Washington in October?" We are here to answer that question and to obey the commands of the world on high. We are here to express to the world the truths of Spiritualism. We are here to shed its light upon the souls of men, and to benefit ourselves as individuals by adopting such measures as will prevent us from becoming too selfish, thereby enabling

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us to do our whole duty by prompting us to live and do the right. (Cheers and loud applause.)

President Barrett resumed the Chair.

Singing by the audience.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair now has the pleasure of presenting to you the gentleman who is to deliver the formal address of welcome. Many years ago, when Spiritualism first came to this nation of ours, our brother was one of our foremost workers. His name has figured prominently in Spiritualistic councils, and in our literature. It gives me great pleasure to present to you one of our oldest workers, brother Geo. A. Bacon, of Washington, D. C.

MR. BACON: Mr. Chairman, fellow delegates and friends, our worthy Chairman is nothing if not generous, even with his introductions. From him you have learned that one reason why this pleasant duty devolves on us of saying that our hearts and homes were yours for the time being, is because while we were not born at the beginning of the century, as some suppose, we are perhaps the oldest representative in active service, not yet on the retired list, of the cause of Spiritualism in this city, in whose honored name you are here assembled—the oldest resident publicly connected with the movement who is present on this occasion.

Honored by your gracious partiality beyond our just deserts in being thus privileged to speak to you the customary words of welcome, by way of prelude to the opening exercises of the Convention—we beg you measure not the warmth of this welcome by any lip service of ours; nor by any multiplication or collocation of words that may be uttered, for surely our heart is stirred, our emotions touched, our feelings kindled, our thoughts aflame with that which must be unexpressed. That which on behalf of the Spiritualists of this city, we extend to you, each and all, individually and collectively, severally and jointly, delegate, alternate, proxy and friend alike—a right royal welcome to this most distinctive city on the continent, the Mecca of American politicians, the political hub of the National Wheel (as well as the paradise of wheelmen generally), the Federal city of the Union, the official home or headquarters of the National Spiritualists Association—a cordial, hearty welcome to all the attendants upon the Fourth Annual Conclave of the representative body of Spiritualists of the country, and all that that implies. If we could only do so at this time in a hall of our own, such as is in contemplation, such as has been outlined, such as we are going to have (Applause), for is it not true that when once resolved, the fact is half accomplished—then indeed

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would our words take upon themselves a more rose-colored hue than is now possible. (Applause.)

The question that presses in upon us at this hour more than that of any other is, how to better equip and put into still more successfully running order, the necessary machinery by which the greatest amount of spiritual illumination (synonym of light and truth) may be generated among mankind; how best prepare to receive and transmit the spiritual messages of the Fathers of the Republic to carry out as far as practicable the suggestions of the Spiritual Congress; in short, to determine among ourselves what legislation in behalf of organization is necessary, on the part of this National Association, that shall best serve the spirit world, or spiritual forces, now working through such human instrumentalities as are here and elsewhere found available.

Touching this question of practical organization, we hesitate not to say in this presence that we have no respect, less patience and no sympathy with that class of nominal Spiritualists who, selfishly satisfied with their own spiritual experiences, are indifferent to those of all others—who stand coldly apart, and by their criticism, profuse and captious, predict only dire results to every effort, however sincere and intelligent, that seeks to put into proper, practical, concrete, shapely form, that which is so generally diffused. (Applause.) Following the nebulous state, in natural sequence, comes the process of crystallization. The principles of evolution outwork in every department of nature, both objectively and subjectively. Wherein can we better utilize the spiritual showers that have so bountifully descended upon us than by conserving their forces, arranging for and wisely directing their beneficent influences in adapted channels of communication; in fact, opening up spiritual Mississippi highways throughout the land in all directions?

Organized effort on behalf of practical Spiritualism, by many of its best exponents and friends, has long since become a vital necessity. Are not the conditions of life fully ripe for it?

O God! how else can the present chaotic conditions that everywhere prevail, be half so easily settled? (Applause.)

Borrowing a thought from Wordsworth, who says, "Place the prospect of the soul in sober contrast with humanity," we are led to say that, if Spiritualism would only manifest half the earnestness and enthusiasm for a spiritual election among the people, as they do in behalf of a political one, the movement would receive a mighty forward impulse, and present an altogether different front before the world.

To your honored delegates there are many aspects of the

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work necessary to be done by the Convention that will tax your patience, your judgment and your wisdom to the utmost. There are questions to be settled, work to be outlined, plans to be perfected, the present and future claims of the Association to be provided for, and sufficient money raised to meet all these demands. To satisfactorily arrange these various matters will surely require your best attention, your clearest councils, your highest as well as most practical thought.

In the adoption of measures deemed necessary, however variant the views of different advocates may be, remember that the wisdom of many is greater than the wisdom of one. Keep your sessions free from the spirit of antagonism, personalities and strife. Whatever differences arise, differ only as friends. Surely if we seek our individual advancement against that which makes for the best good of the whole; seek to further our own personal aims irrespective of equity and justice; seek to exalt self at the expense of the soul, shall we shackle our own higher good and give "aid and comfort" to the enemy, by sowing the seeds of selfishness, ambition and dissension in our ranks. (Applause.)

Only along the lines of progress toward the heavens can we hope to build for eternity. Creeds nor rituals, declarations nor ceremonies, halls nor societies can, of themselves, spiritualize us. At best, they but serve as external aids. Only by work and worship in the temple of the spirit are the impulses of the soul outwrought. (Applause.)

It has been truly said we are the only body representing a constituency that claims to practically know of the power that links this world to that of the spirit, that through human instrumentalities those of our friends, our relatives, members of our own families, we have been made to know and realize somewhat of our relationship to eternal realities. What body of men and women, with such knowledge, such a light, such a truth, have greater reason for being recognized by the thinking world? What body of men and women have greater cause to make known, to spread abroad their knowledge, light and truth?

O ye dwellers of the upper spheres, grant that we may have at least an approximate recognition and appreciation of our transcendent blessings, and bestow upon us the power and practical wisdom to extend these blessings throughout the world! (Applause.)

You have come to this Convention because of your interest in the work which this National Association represents; because of your desire to aid in perfecting its plan for practical work; that this work shall be more effective, far-reaching

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and uplifting; that it shall be more fundamental and comprehensive; that it shall more and more clearly show the relation between its phenomena and its philosophy; between its multitudinous facts, their proper classification and scientific deduction. In short, by your presence and your active, practical sympathy, to do what you can to aid in the further extension of its beneficent aim and ends.

If in union there is strength, be as one against injustice in Church or State. Array yourselves as that which makes for peace, righteousness and progress. Stand so together that as in the elemental world, when the storms that are sure to come and beat upon your heads with a force hitherto unknown, you may be a rock, a refuge of defence.

Repeating our opening words of welcome, we greet you on the threshold of these exercises in the broadest spirit of the inspired motto, "Liberty, Fraternity, Equality." (Loud applause.)

Singing by the audience.

THE CHAIRMAN: We will now listen to the response to the address of welcome by our Vice President, Mrs. Cora L. V. Richmond. (Applause.)

MRS. RICHMOND: Mr. President, friends, co-workers, Mr. Bacon: On behalf of these delegates in convention assembled, we realize that the glory and sunshine of this beautiful autumn day, and the glad sunshine of your address of welcome have entered into the hearts of all who are here. Washington is beautiful at all times, the lovely "City Beautiful." If it were a city of incorruptible legislation it would be the most lovely place on earth. (Applause.) As the city of the National Government, the people hope one day it will be the fair white lily representing Liberty, Justice and Equality unto all the world, and not the less so these delegates in convention assembled hope that one day there will be such a body of people representing our cause, such a center as the headquarters of the National Association, with such a temple as is in contemplation, suitable for such a meeting as will fulfill the vast expectations of the Spiritualists the world over. (Applause.) But even if these external views are not fulfilled, our delegates will come here with hearts full of sincere and pure purposes; intent upon representing the cause to the best of their ability and upon placing the mechanism of the National Association in still more perfect running order. If burdened with difficulties such as the body has had to contend with in its first years of growth, they understand the difficulties incumbent upon the board of officers who have taken charge of its business, but they also understand their

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full privileges, and that they have a right to make as complete as possible, with human beings as servants, the body that we have created. But the National Association is not only a body, *it is a living soul.* It represents the spirit-soul on earth. It aims and endeavors to express light, and while each should have a perfect liberty in his or her individual judgment and feel and work as he or she may think best, still, when working together as a deliberative and creating body, it is and will be the aim of its delegates, or your speaker is very much mistaken in the spirit that is seen here, to serve the spirit and the soul of Spiritualism as well as its power. (Applause.)

It is true that here upon earth we need physical things, and physical necessities must be provided; but it is also true that there would be no excuse for the existence of this National Association if we do not recognize the soul that it represents. We must ever bear in mind that the soul is maintained by the highest spirit known on earth. We must express the truth and sink all of the individual in the interests of the many (Applause), the forgetfulness of self in the interest of the whole, and if this cannot be done we have no right to be together. We have no right to have an organization, for it is the spirit of Spiritualism, as it is the spirit of every true religion and philosophy in the world, to care for and guard the rights of all. While human beings are in existence, and until the earth has reached the millennium, there will be selfishness, and the inquisition will result from our own selfish desires and wishes. Everything should be put aside that is not commensurate with the spirit of individual understanding. Then I can promise that this people, of such intelligence, of such vast experience, and with such work and fellowship and benefit to the cause of Spiritualism as they represent, cannot possibly come here with any other motive than to serve the truth; to serve it, perhaps, with different views as to their methods, but with one idea as to the supreme end to be attained, *i. e.*, to make the National Association in every respect worthy of the cause it represents. What right should we have to be here—what right would these delegates have to be here if they did not come with hearts and lives overladen with the sweet dews of gratitude for the messenger of immortal life? What right would there be for us to form a National Association if the indisputable truth of a future existence had been visionary to us? Therefore we are ready, under suitable conditions, to furnish that proof to every inquiring mind on earth. And if ready to furnish that truth, it becomes the duty of the National Association to facilitate the methods by your aid; if you furnish this aid and demonstrate the truth

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by the phenomenal manifestations and your own devotion to principle, you can give to the world every evidence of the truth of Spiritualism. There is cumulative testimony that the last fifty years have furnished, which this Association is endeavoring to secure and to make conclusively correct. Under these circumstances, Mr. Chairman and dear friends, I have only to say that the heart-throbs of every delegate here present are filled with thankfulness for this cordial welcome, for this sincere spirit of fraternity that confronts them at the very threshold of this meeting; let that spirit be deserved, let there not be one breath of man or woman to mar this beautiful spirit and turn it into other than the exalted fulfillment of our duty, irrespective of personal prejudice, doing that which our hands find to do with our whole hearts and souls, trusting the results to that divine source of inspiration that governs this movement throughout the world. (Applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN: The next order of business is the appointment of the standing committees. Your chairman will, however, appoint now only the Committee on Credentials and the Committee on Rules.

The Committee on Credentials will consist of the following: Frank Walker, of New York; J. B. Hatch, Jr., of Massachusetts, and T. J. Preston, of Missouri.

The Committee on Rules will consist of W. H. Bach, of Massachusetts; Col. James Freeman, of Illinois, and E. R. Whiting, of Connecticut.

All persons having credentials will bring them forward and hand them to the Chairman of the Committee on Credentials here at the platform.

MR. BACH: I would like to request the Committee on Rules to meet me on the platform at once.

THE CHAIRMAN: We will now have a recess of forty-five minutes.

Recess.

THE CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, the Committee on Credentials has but begun its labors and will not be able to report this morning. The Committee on Rules cannot make its report until after the Convention is legally organized.

The Chair is in receipt of the following telegram:

"*National Convention of Spiritualists,*

Masonic Temple, Cor. 9th and F Sts., Washington, D.C.

"May this Convention, representing the greatest and highest intellectuality of two worlds, be a beacon light to future ages. W. H. MYERS."

The Secretary is instructed to acknowledge this telegram

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in behalf of this Convention. Mr. Myers is one of our able workers in the West.

At this point Secretary Woodbury was presented with a purse of $138.50 by President Barrett, in behalf of a number of the Secretary's especial friends in the United States. Secretary Woodbury eloquently responded in a fitting manner.

MR. GOULD: I want to ask a question. It occurs in the program, "Reports from Delegates." I want to ask, is that report expected to be in writing? A word from the platform of what is meant by these reports from the delegates would be acceptable.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Reports from Delegates means this: All delegates are to present reports made out by the secretaries of their home societies to the Committee on Delegates' Reports. The delegates have no verbal reports to give. The Committee on Credentials is still unable to report. Adjournment is in order. The Chair wishes to make a statement here. When the figures ten o'clock, two o'clock, two-thirty o'clock, or seven-thirty o'clock are seen on the program as the hours of meeting, it does not mean half an hour, nor one minute later; if anything, it means one minute earlier, therefore, each delegate should be on time. The Convention will be called to order promptly at two o'clock. The morning meeting is now adjourned.

AFTERNOON MEETING.

OCTOBER 20, 1896, 2.00 P. M.

President Barrett in the Chair.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Convention will please come to order. The Sergeant-at-Arms will remember that the seats in the front of the hall are reserved for the delegates and Trustees. He will seat them in the first ten rows of seats in the center, then there will be no misunderstanding regarding those who have the right to the floor. The Sergeant-at-Arms will see if the Committee on Credentials is ready to report.

THE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Mr. Chairman, its members are not in the hall.

THE CHAIRMAN: An intermission of thirty minutes is declared.

2.30 P. M.

President Barrett in the Chair.

THE CHAIRMAN: The delegates will be seated in front and

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not in the rear of the hall. The Committee on Credentials is now in the hall. Will the Sergeant-at-Arms request the chairman to bring forward its report?

THE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: The Committee will report in a few minutes.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Convention will be in order. The Committee on Credentials is now ready to report. If there are no objections the report will be received.

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman: Your Committee carefully examined all credentials presented to it and presents herewith a list of the delegates who are entitled to seats in this Convention. (The list of delegates will appear at the end of this report.)

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the report of your Committee, what will you do with it?

MR. WALKER: I move that the report be accepted.

DR. EWELL: I second the motion.

Carried.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Committee on Credentials will be continued throughout this Convention, and will report from time to time as occasion requires.

The Committee on Rules is now in order, and its report will be received.

MR. BACH: Your Committee on Rules respectfully submits the following:

RULES.

First. That, as far as practicable, the order of business will be in accordance with the printed program now in the hands of the Convention.

Second. This Convention shall be governed by the parliamentary rules found in "Roberts' Rules of Order," save where the same are contrary to the Constitution and By-Laws of this Association.

Third. No delegate shall speak longer than ten minutes on any one subject, and no delegate shall speak the second time on any subject until all have spoken who desire to do so.

Fourth. Speakers must confine their remarks to the subject matter before the Convention.

Fifth. Unless otherwise provided for in the Constitution, all questions shall be decided by a majority vote.

Sixth. Appeals from the decision of the Chair must be sustained by at least five delegates.

Seventh. The previous question shall not be ordered unless the same is demanded by at least five delegates.

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Eighth. The sessions of this Convention shall be as follows: 10.00 A. M. to 1.00 P. M., 2.30 to 6.00 P. M., and 7.30 to 10.30 P. M.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Signed. { W. H. BACH,
JAS. FREEMAN,
E. R. WHITING,
Committee.

MR. BACH: Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of the report.

DR. EWELL: I second the the motion.

Carried.

THE CHAIRMAN: The next order of business is the appoint- of standing committees.

The Committee on Resolutions will consist of Charles R. Schirm, Maryland; Moses Hull, Utah; Mrs. E. R. Williams, Oregon; Mrs. A. E. Sheets, Michigan; I. P. Walton, Pennsylvania.

Committee on the President's Report: H. W. Richardson, New York; E. W. Sprague, New York; Ida P. A. Whitlock, Rhode Island; Dr. S. N. Aspinwall, Minnesota; Mrs. F. C. Stinehart, Iowa.

Committee on Amendments: John Hutchison, Michigan; Mrs. J. J. Whitney, California; Mrs. Maggie Waite, California; Mrs. Loe F. Prior, Canada; C. W. Stanglen, Maryland.

Committee on Delegates' Reports: Mrs. M. E. Cadwallader, Pennsylvania; Mrs. A. M. Jaquess, District of Columbia; Hebron Libby, Massachusetts; Dr. G. C. B. Ewell, Colorado; Geo. C. Day, Pennsylvania.

Committee on Secretary's Report: Captain E. W. Gould, Missouri; Mrs. A. M. Glading, District of Columbia; Mrs. C. L. Hatch, Massachusetts; L. C. Hutchinson, Ohio; J. D. Storrs, Connecticut.

Committee on Treasurer's Report and Auditing: John Mullen, California; F. C. Freeman, Illinois; Mrs. C. P. Pratt, Massachusetts.

Committee on Finance, Ways and Means: Dr. O. G. W. Adams, Iowa; Mrs. Bessie Aspinwall, Minnesota: Mrs. E. F. Kurth, New York; Dr. E. E. Conant, West Virginia; John Grayburn, Pennsylvania.

MR. GRAYBURN: May I ask what this committee is for?

THE CHAIRMAN: It is the Committee on Finance, Ways and Means.

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The next in order is the reception of the report of your President.

MR. BACH: I move the report be now received.

DR. EWELL: I second the motion.

Carried.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Vice President will please take the chair.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: The report will now be read.

PRESIDENT BARRETT: Madam President, ladies and gentlemen of the Convention, this report is very lengthy, and I bespeak your careful consideration and patient hearing in view of some important matters that it will present to you.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

To the Officers and Members of the N. S. A.:

In compliance with the requirements of the Constitution and By-Laws of the National Spiritualists Association, I herewith submit my report, as President of said Association, for the year ending October 17, S. E. 49.

It gives me great pleasure to state that the past year has been one of steady growth for our Association in its membership and in the esteem and confidence of the general public. This growth has been slow, but sure, which augurs much for its permanency and future usefulness. There has been a more general inquiry into the work and standing of the N. S. A. than at any other period in its history. Speakers and writers, foremost in the work a quarter of a century ago, having thoroughly studied the plans of our Association, are now co-operating with us in a way that makes the future seem bright for the ultimate triumph of organic effort. The general public has given this National movement greater consideration than ever before. The Spiritualists now see that it is but an effort to unite our forces into a methodically working body along business lines, and to make it a strong fortress of defense for our cause in every possible direction. Our opponents see in it an opportunity to ascertain first-hand, reliable information in regard to the progress and standing of Spiritualism, not only in the United States, but in every quarter of the globe. It is also deemed the one source from which there can be obtained such literature as will best enlighten the reading masses in regard to the exact scope and purpose of Spiritualism. All of these points clearly show that co-operative effort is the only method by which our movement can hope to succeed, and further that our National Association is filling a long-felt want in this direction.

The work of the past year has been varied in character, yet

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has had reference to the advancement of Spiritualism in every section of the nation. Secretary Woodbury has had to work very hard in order to keep up with his vast correspondence, and to discharge the perfunctory duties of his office. Of his work and its results I can say but little as I have been absent from headquarters more than nine months during the past year. The report of our Secretary will fully enlighten us all in regard to the matter. I was at headquarters only from October 17, 1895, to January 10, 1896, and wish to speak briefly of what was accomplished during that period.

The Committee on Literature found its hands full, as a great deal had been laid upon it by the convention last year. This committee consisted of Mrs. M. E. Cadwallader, T. J. Mayer and your President. The committee on printing was composed of the same parties. Your President caused to be compiled and published the revised Constitution, By-Laws and Board Rules of the N. S. A., in convenient form for free distribution among the Spiritualists of the United States and Canada. An edition of two thousand copies was issued, and almost exhausted at an early date, the demand for them being much greater than was anticipated. I recommend that the incoming Board be instructed to issue an edition of five or ten thousand copies for free distribution.

About October 25, I was called to Spartansburg, Penna., to assist in the dedication of a Spiritualist Temple erected by the society in that place. A grand three days meeting was held, and large audiences were in attendance throughout the entire session. The Spartansburg society does not contain more than thirty members, and yet it has built a fine temple free of all incumbrances, and now has a home of its own. (Applause.) Its members believed in the doctrine of co-operation, and took a decided stand against paying out large sums in rent, when the money thus used could be better applied to the building of a church or temple. It seems to me that the work of the friends in Spartansburg is a striking object lesson to the Spiritualists of the nation, and that their example could be emulated with much profit. Money enough is expended annually in exorbitant hall rents to build a dozen fine temples. This is due to the "penny wise and pound foolish" policy of many Spiritualists who feel that it is better to feed the pockets of syndicates and landlords than to put Spiritualism upon a firm footing before the world by the practical results of its work in temples, churches, schools and hospitals erected in its name. (Applause.)

While absent from Washington, I spoke in Waterford and Erie, Penna., to large and interested audiences. The former

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was a missionary lecture, while the latter city has a good society in fair working order. The Erie society is chartered with the National Spiritualists Association, and so is every society in the State of Pennsylvania, so far as I know, with the solitary exception of the society at Spartansburg. The officers and members of that society are friendly to the National Spiritualists Association, with two exceptions, and gave me their word that they would unite with our National body before the Convention of 1896 had assembled. That they have not done so is due to the influence of the members just referred to, whose opposition is solely based upon the narrow ground of personal prejudice. Ultimately our Spartansburg friends will be found in line with us.

The work of editing and compiling the report of the proceedings of the last convention first occupied the attention of your committee. After two months hard labor the report of 1895 was out of press. With no wish to boast of the superior judgment of your Committee on Printing, I take pride in stating that I consider it one of the best works ever issued in behalf of Spiritualism. All objectionable matter was carefully eliminated, and only the best thought retained for the benefit of the reading public. The work is everywhere commended for its literary value, and the exposition it makes of the principles and work of the N. S. A. It is a pity that such a book could not be placed in the hands of every Spiritualist in the United States. The cost is so slight that it would seem as if every one could purchase at least one copy, and no better investment of twenty-five cents could ever be made. It is humiliating to your Trustees to be obliged to state that only a portion of the edition of one thousand copies has thus far been sold. About two hundred of those copies were sold by your President on his missionary trips through the United States. I recommend that each delegate present to-day be requested to pledge himself or herself to take a certain number of copies of the report of the present Convention, such pledges to be accompanied by cash, or its equivalent. These annual reports are very valuable as historical documents and must be issued whatever the cost may be. For the past three years their issuance has entailed a pecuniary loss upon the N. S. A. that it can ill afford, therefore it should be obviated by the work of this body of delegates here to-day. Co-operation in practice as well as in theory will bring about the desired result, hence I urge that we, as delegates, subscribe for and guarantee the disposition of an edition of at least one thousand copies of the report of this Convention.

The next work of your two committees was to bring the

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history of the N. S. A. down to date, and to superintend the publication of the same in pamphlet form, together with the report of your President for 1895, and to issue an edition of three thousand copies each. These two pamphlets were placed on sale for the small sum of four cents each. I regret to say that very few copies of either pamphlet have as yet been disposed of. I recommend that the Secretary be instructed to send a few copies of each of them to every Spiritualist society now in existence for free distribution. I also recommend that the Board of Trustees be instructed to bring the history of the N. S. A. down to date and publish it in full. In this connection it might be well to designate some one to act as historian.

The lectures of Mr. J. Frank Baxter and Dr. C. W. Hidden on "Organization," a symposium on "What is Spiritualism?" by Harrison D. Barrett, Thomas Gales Forster and Hudson Tuttle, and Mrs. Cora L. V. Richmond's remarkable paper to the World's Parliament of Religions, were edited by the Secretary, and an edition of five thousand copies each issued for free distribution. The two latter were exhausted at an early date and there has been a constant call for the same during the year.

Early in November inquiries were received at headquarters from the Secular News Bureaux of Boston and Chicago asking for information in regard to Spiritualism as a distinct movement in the United States. Requests were also received from clergymen of different denominations for reliable data in regard to the literature and the general religious tendency of Spiritualism. Magazine writers of national reputation also asked for official statements in regard to the hearing and standing of Spiritualism, stating that they were especially desirous of awarding the Spiritualists of the land every possible courtesy. The editor of the "New York World Almanac" for 1895 asked for a sketch of the N. S. A. and the present status of Spiritualism. It took no little time and effort to respond to these many requests, but the work was done, and each of the various parties named received from this office brief statements containing the information sought. The World Almanac published my article in full, while the *New York Tribune* only gave an abbreviation of the same.

During the months of November and December, in connection with the work outlined, correspondence was opened with the managements of the different camp meetings for the purpose of securing special dates upon the official programs, known as "N. S. A. Days." The responses to these appeals

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were generally favorable, and ten or twelve camps assigned us dates on their programs, when the camp season opened.

I filled all of these dates myself, save at Cassadaga, Island Lake and Grand Ledge, Mich., at which places the work was done by Mrs. Cora L. V. Richmond and Hon. L. V. Moulton.

During the Sundays of November I occupied the platform of the First Association in this city, in company with our esteemed co-worker, Edgar W. Emerson. The N. S. A. received the salary paid me during that month.

The orders of the last Convention were that the President should, at the earliest possible date, enter the field as a missionary. After consultation with the entire Board, it was decided that his itinerary should cover the Southern, Southwestern and Pacific Coast States and as much intermediate territory as he was able to visit during the year. Correspondence was at once opened with the leading Spiritualists in the sections named, and plans laid for his work to open about December 9 at Atlanta, Ga. Ill health, however, kept him at headquarters, and Secretary Woodbury was sent out for two weeks in his stead. Good results followed, as will be shown by our Secretary's report.

It was voted by the Convention of last year to instruct the Trustees to secure complete files of all the Spiritualist papers ever published in the interest of Spiritualism in the United States, and to have them properly bound and placed in the archives of the N. S. A. This work was begun by your President during the two months following the adjournment of last year's Convention. Complete files of the *Banner of Light* for twenty-four years, handsomely bound in cloth, now rest upon our shelves, and a few volumes of the *Philosophical Journal*, and one or two other papers, have also been secured. It is important that the *Banner* files from 1857 down to 1872 be secured, as well as files of the *Spiritual Telegraph*, *Progressive Age* and other papers published from 1850 to 1860. These papers contain the only history of Spiritualism that is really authentic, and it is of the greatest importance that these valuable documents should be secured. I would not omit any Spiritualist paper ever published from this list, for they are, one and all, parts of a great movement destined to occupy a very important place in the history of the world. I therefore earnestly recommend that this Convention give positive instructions to the incoming Board of Trustees to use all means in their power to secure these papers, even if it takes cash to obtain the volumes needed to complete our history. To this end I respectfully ask that a special appropriation of two hundred dollars, for the purchase of the files most needed and

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proper binding of the same, be made by this Convention. The returns therefrom in future years will prove the wisdom of this action far more than words of mine can tell.

MISSIONARY WORK.

On the 10th of January I began my work as a missionary-at-large for the National Association, and with the exception of two weeks in April, have been constantly at my post ever since. I have given nearly or quite two hundred lectures in that time (applause), besides my numerous conference talks, work with visiting delegations, committees, etc. I have spoken in Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois, Tennessee, Arkansas, Texas, Colorado, California, Oregon, Utah, Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota and District of Columbia. To do this work I have had to travel 33,000 miles, through forty States and have crossed the continent four times, by four different railroads. (Loud applause.) Besides my lectures and general official duties, I have had more or less newspaper work to do and a large correspondence to attend to. No less than one hundred articles for the Secular and Spiritualist papers have been written by me, but also more than one thousand two hundred letters, the majority of them relating to lecture engagements, official matters, etc. To go into details of this work would occupy the entire time of this Convention and leave the more important issues untouched. When I say that my work has been signally successful, that large and enthusiastic audiences have been the rule, not the exception, wherever I have gone, and that I have turned into the N. S. A. treasury a sum of money over and above all expenses of board and travel, my friends and enemies can readily see that something has been accomplished of moment to our cause. (Applause.) It has given me a deep insight into the needs of the cause in the States I have visited, and enabled me to formulate plans by which these needs can be met.

In concluding my remarks in reference to my missionary work, I wish to say that wherever I have gone I have been warmly welcomed by all Spiritualists, even by those who were not interested in the National Spiritualists Association, and have had the pleasure of seeing them enrolled as friends of our National body before my departure from among them. All denominations have treated me courteously, and the secular press has everywhere awarded me equal recognition with the representatives of other religious bodies. (Applause.) It has taught me the necessity of having a complete corps of missionaries in the field, for I have found the people every-

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where hungry for the truths that Spiritualism alone can give. This extended trip has shown me that the Spiritualists of the land are not afraid of an organization when based and conducted upon business principles. I deem it of interest to note that I have been generally successful in impressing this important fact upon the minds of the Spiritualists with whom I have come in contact. In doing away with the prejudice that existed in some localities against the N. S. A. this trip of mine has been of great service to our National Association. (Applause.) It has made friends for it and induced those friends to do something practical in its behalf. It has advertised it and made it a recognized National institution by the secular press all over the land and given the essential teachings of Spiritualism a fair hearing before the world in addition to all other advantages gained. Over and above everything else, it has shown the respect that is paid to union of effort in every direction. A religious body, well equipped with members disciplined to act in unison, can always command the respect of the entire world. Spiritualism is now in a position to command such recognition through this National Association, and, in fact, has already received it at the hands of the press of the United States and Canada. (Loud applause.) I recommend the continuance of the policy of keeping a National missionary actively at work in behalf of the N. S. A. wherever the N. S. A. can best be served by such labor. (Applause.)

CAMP MEETING WORK.

One division of my missionary work was the labor done at the various camp meetings. I began that work June 21 at the Northwestern Camp in Minnesota, where I labored eight days, and with the assistance of Dr. O. G. W. Adams, secured the sum of $200 for the N. S. A. from the good friends at that place. (Applause.) In fact, Dr. Adams was the main factor in this work and is entitled to his full meed of praise for the results obtained. The N. S. A. is also under obligations to Dr. S. N. Aspinwall, the able and efficient president of that camp, to Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Lepper, Mrs. Bessie Aspinwall, T. D. Kaynor, and others for courtesies extended, and valuable assistance rendered. (Applause.)

I next visited Niantic, Conn., where I was warmly welcomed, and the sum of $42 turned over to the N. S. A. from this point. As Niantic is a small camp this sum is a very generous one, and is worthy of especial notice. The efforts of Sisters A. E. Pierce, E. R. Davis and Bro. E. R. Whiting should not be forgotten by this body. (Applause.) I next

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went to Onset, Mass., where I was again warmly welcomed. Large audiences were present at all of my lectures and generous donations were made to the N. S. A., one hundred and fifty dollars (loud applause) being the contribution from this camp, besides ten dollars for a charter from the N. S. A., whereby Onset became a member of the National body. I am indebted to Mr. J. Q. A. Whittemore, Maj. C. F. Howard, Charles Whittemore, W. F. Peck, W. H. Bach and many others at Onset for courtesies received at their hands during my brief stay there. (Applause.) Queen City Park was my next camp. Here the same warm welcome awaited me at the hands of the people, and the same interest in the N. S. A. was manifested. Something like $42 was the result of my work here. Valuable aid was rendered me by Dr. E. A. Smith, Gaston Fowler and wife, Dr. S. N. Gould and others during my stay there. (Applause.) I then went to Lake Pleasant Camp, Mass. I had no date upon the program, but was courteously assigned an engagement to fill an unexpected vacancy. This gave me an opportunity to address a good audience upon the subject of the N. S. A., its aims and objects. Owing to the severe financial strain then resting upon Lake Pleasant, I gave this address as a labor of love, but I feel that in settling many of the vexed questions in regard to the N. S. A., it has done our National body more good than a small sum of money possibly could. It certainly made friends for the N. S. A. I am indebted to Hon. A. H. Dailey, J. B. Hatch, Jr., Mrs. Waterhouse, Mrs. Clara Field Conant and many others for favors received. (Applause.) Cassadaga, N. Y., was next visited. I had no date upon the official program at Cassadaga, but was assigned a special hour by the generous and considerate management. A large audience greeted me and the warmth of my welcome to my home gave me new courage with which to go forward in my work. I talked for an hour upon the principles of the N. S. A., and a special collection of $42 was returned to me. This sum represents but a fraction of what was contributed at Cassadaga, as our Special Financial Agent, Frank Walker, had already received pledges for the N. S. A. for a large amount prior to my arrival. I am under special obligations to Frank Walker, Hon. A. Gaston, Mrs. A. L. Pettengill, Dr. E. C. and Mrs. J. E. Hyde, Geo. H. Brooks and Mrs. O. E. Hammond for favors received at this place. (Applause.)

My last camp engagement was at Clinton, Iowa, to which place I journeyed upon leaving Cassadaga. I was a stranger at Clinton, but received the welcome usually awarded an old and trusted friend. I was seconded at this camp by the effi-

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cient efforts of Dr. O. G. W. Adams, through whose zeal a series of benefits for the N. S. A., by the mediums, was arranged. Mrs. Isa Wilson Kaynor gave a fire test seance, Mrs. Elsie Reynolds and Mrs. J. M. Trippe materializing seances, from which very generous returns were made. Under the inspiring appeals of Dr. Adams and Pres. Alonzo Thompson, the sum of $113.65 was raised at the close of one of my lectures, making a total of $184.15 from Clinton. (Loud applause.) To this must be added a sum raised by our worthy brother, Edgar W. Emerson, after my departure. Dr. Adams, President Thompson, Mrs. F. C. Stinehart, Will C. Hodge, T. J. Preston, Will C. McGrath and Col. J. A. Freeman are entitled to especial thanks for services rendered the N. S. A. at this point. (Applause.)

I had an engagement at North Collins, N. Y., for September 4, 5, and 6, and was booked for the same dates in San Francisco, Cal., at the State Convention there. As my health had begun to fail, I telegraphed San Francisco cancelling my dates there and started East. I had gone but a short distance when I was stopped by a telegram from the Secretary of the State Association saying I must come to San Francisco—that everything pertaining to the success of the State Convention depended upon my presence. In this dilemma I called upon my spirit helpers for counsel, and was at once advised to start immediately for California. I obeyed the call; telegraphed and wrote the North Collins friends the cause of my disappointing them, and went to California. I labored there the month of September, and gave no less than twenty addresses during that time. The returns from those labors are not all in, but I can speak with authority when I say that the N. S. A. has gained several charters by my going there and will ultimately receive $200 for my work above my expenses. In addition to this a delegation of able workers was elected to this convention to testify California's loyalty to this Association.

The returns from the camp-meeting work done by your President alone justify the wisdom of my recommendation of last year that special N. S. A. days be secured, if possible, upon the official programs of all camp meetings. The returns from my personal work aggregate $500 net, while Frank Walker and Mrs. M. E. Cadwallader are yet to be heard from. I recommend that the incoming Secretary be given positive instructions to take immediate steps to secure dates at every camp to be held during the season of 1897, for special N. S. A. services, and that some one of the State Agents or general missionaries of the N. S. A. be sent as a special representa-

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tive of this Association when such services are held. (Applause.) It is an utter impossibility for the President or any other worker to visit the fifty-three camps on the days when the N. S. A. has its hearing. He cannot visit more than fifteen camps should he work every day from June 1 to September 1 inclusive, from the fact that railroad travel takes time, and he must have at least three days at each camp. The representatives of the N. S. A. must be enthusiasts in their work and able to present the necessities of organization in a way that will enthuse and arouse the people to a sense of their duty to the N. S. A. pecuniarily. I know at least six people who would fill this responsible position with credit to themselves and honor to our National body. An equitable division of labor is a portion of the ethics of Spiritualism, and to ask or expect any one individual to shoulder the entire burden is utterly absurd, and far beyond the pale of reason. (Applause.) There is one thing in this connection to which I regret that I must call your attention. It is the fact that far too many of our people cannot feel it their duty to do one thing for our cause unless they are paid for it. In the church they labored for the love or fear of their God; in Spiritualism they labor for the love of money and not for the sake of the angel world whose willing instruments they ought to be. Therefore it is necessary that the representatives of our N. S. A. at these special camp-meeting services should be those who feel deeply their obligations to the angel world and to the Association whose official representatives they are for the time being. The laborer is ever worthy of his hire, but he is under a moral obligation to render a just equivalent for wages paid him. (Applause.)

MEDIUMS AND MEDIUMSHIP.

I took pains last year to lay especial stress upon the persecutions to which many of our worthy mediums had been subjected in various sections of our country, and urged prompt measures for their relief and protection. These persecutions have been less numerous during the past year, and the few that have occurred have not been such flagrant outrages as have been some of the instances in days gone by. The most notable of these cases are the six worthy mediums in Philadelphia, and Dr. P. S. George, of Nebraska. Of the former I can only inform the Convention that the indictments are still suspended over their heads, and that the Defense Committee in Philadelphia has done all in its power to give our people a fair hearing and a just defense. Of the work of this committee and its results, I have reason to believe you will hear

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later on in this Convention from Mrs. M. E. Cadwallader, who has been ever on the alert to defend the mediums from every form of injustice from a prejudiced public. (Applause.) These cases simply await the action of the District Attorney, who is almost an autocrat in his position so far as it relates to a speedy trial or continual postponement of the case is concerned. (Applause.)

The case of Dr. P. S. George, of Lincoln, Neb., is of the same nature, save that he was a gifted healer, and presumed to cure suffering humanity against the laws of man, but in full accord with the laws of God. For daring to do this he was imprisoned for a number of days, but finally secured his release through the intervention of friends. The statutes of the State of Nebraska expressly forbid the practice of healing without having a license from the State Medical Board. Technically, Dr. George disobeyed the law, but he cured his patients in full accord with the laws of nature. For the high crime of doing good, this man suffered the indignity of being incarcerated in a prison cell, and the Nebraska Medical Society scored a temporary victory. This society can kill or cure, as chance may say, according to law, but no man is allowed by this humanitarian (?) body to cure a single human ill, under the penalty of a prison cell. Forty-two States in the Union now have similar laws upon their statute books, and last winter the Congress of the Nation passed a like measure for the citizens of the District of Columbia. It does not speak very well for the Spiritualists of Washington, nor of the United States, to have it known that this measure was passed without the slightest protest from the local society here, or from other Spiritualist societies in the United States. An ineffectual protest was made by the N. S. A. through Secretary Woodbury, and upon it the opposition of our Spiritualists solely rested. Such experiences are not uncommon throughout the Nation. In far too many cases our people pay no attention to the work of the State legislatures, permit pernicious legislation to be enacted without protest, and then kick against the law that hurts them after it has been duly enacted. So long as we permit this to be done we deserve to suffer. We have no right to protest against a measure that we permitted to be enacted without making any effort to prevent it. When we have vigorously antagonized a measure from the start, we have a right to continue our opposition through legitimate agitation until its repeal is secured. I have no sympathy with the idea of breaking the laws of our Nation in anarchistic fashion. I favor vigorous action looking to the repeal of all obnoxious measures, and earnest, hon-

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est effort to prevent the further enactment of like laws. But I repeat that the proper time to do our hardest fighting, to utter our loudest protest, is while these unjust measures are pending before our legislative bodies. (Loud applause.) Failing to do this, we must submit to injustice, and abide by the consequences of our supineness and downright laziness. The State Association in Michigan, because of the fact of organization alone, defeated a medical bill in that State last winter. This is an object lesson that needs no illustration in words.

All genuine mediums have rights that should be protected to the uttermost limit of the ability of every Spiritualist. But there are certain causes that obtain in our ranks that jeopardize every medium possessed of high spiritual gifts. These causes too often can be traced to the actions of many of the mediums themselves. I pause here to say a word in my own behalf, in view of what I must say upon this subject because of what I have learned during the past year. There is no truer, more earnest, loyal friend to our mediums in our ranks to-day than I am. (Applause.) My record for three years proves my claim to be true; but because I am a friend to honest mediums, it does not follow that I must shut my eyes to, and defend and protect the iniquities practiced in the name of mediumship. Nor do I propose to do so. (Applause.) I shall state the facts as they are, and take the consequences, let them be what they may. In so doing, however, I want to be understood that my remarks do not refer in any way to genuine mediums. I am their friend and shall be to the end. As I have just intimated, there is a *cause* for every form of persecution that the world has ever known. Malice, bigotry and revenge figure largely in all these cases, and the consequences have to be fearlessly met by the victims under suspicion. These same causes have obtained in the past in regard to the unjust treatment of our mediums and workers. But those days have largely gone by, and the exceptional cases that appear sporadically but prove the truth of that statement, and go to show that another cause has crept into the public mind in this especial direction. This cause is this—a wholesome desire for justice on the part of the law-abiding citizens toward a class of people at once disorderly and lawless, who are preying, like harpies, upon our common humanity. (Applause and cheers.)

I said a moment ago that the actions of some of the mediums were responsible for many of the persecutions that occur. This is a sad fact. Wherever I have gone the past nine months, east, west, south and north, I have found the slimy

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trail of the charlatan and fraud preceding me. I have been met with tales of wrong doing that would cause the hot blood to mantle the brow with the blush of shame over the disgrace that such actions brought on our beloved cause. In some of these cases, the parties to whom I refer were possessed of mediumistic gifts, and could and did give genuine manifestations to their patrons. Having won their confidence, they boldly perpetrated the most outrageous fraud, and unblushingly pocketed their ill-gotten gains. Some mediums could give genuine phenomena, and yet spent the greater portion of their time in liquor saloons, drinking and carousing. Others still would give occasionally a genuine seance, and then enter into the vilest debaucheries, the nature of which cannot be expressed in words. Some of these mediums were warned out of the town under the penalty of death, and once in safety, would turn around, cry out "persecution on account of our mediumship," and appeal to the public for aid. Some Spiritualists feel very grateful to our mediums, and when they hear that they are being persecuted, their pocket-books fly open, and the cash begins to flow out to the sufferer whoever and wherever he or she may be. Once again in funds a new field is sought, and the same experience again enacted.

Another case is of this nature. A medium for clairvoyance and for one or two of the physical phases, capable of giving excellent results, would settle in a community for a term of months. His outward conduct would be all that could be required of any man, and his talent unmistakable in many ways. Perhaps he might even essay a series of lectures upon Spiritualism, which he would give in an eloquent and scholarly manner. He would do much for the children, and fill the Lyceum with eager searchers for truth. By and by he would have the people disarmed of all suspicion; he would now attempt developing circles for the unfoldment of mediumship, and request them to leave certain articles in his possession that his magnetism might impregnate them, and thereby enhance their powers. Jewelry, silks, valuables of different kinds, even money would be confided to his care, until several thousand dollars' worth of property would be in his possession. Suddenly he would disappear between two days, taking all of these valuables with him, and his victims would be left to mourn his duplicity and their own over-confidence. I have found one man who has done this trick, not only once, but five different times in as many cities, within the past two years. He changed his name at every town he visited and reaped a golden reward for his rascality in every

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instance. His exposure has been attempted many times, but the moment it was undertaken the cry of "persecution" was raised and the old threadbare plea of "taking fraud with you to the seance room, and receiving what you deserved," would be sprung. (Applause.) His victims would naturally be too sensitive and too deeply humiliated to say much about their losses, hence the affair would be hushed up.

In view of the above facts, I have been led to wonder, not at the arrests of *some* of our mediums, but at the fact that so *few* of them have been brought under the law. (Applause.) When some of them can haunt gambling dens, liquor saloons, questionable resorts, indulge in three card monte and other rascally devices, it is a matter of self-congratulation to us all that we have not all been classed together as thugs and blacklegs, and huddled off to prison. But the curious fact remains that only our most reliable and representative mediums suffer the indignity of arrest. The reason of this is that the ones to whom I refer, unable to drag their brethren down, unite their efforts to utterly destroy them. (Applause.) Whenever a genuine medium is brought to trial the chief witnesses against him are apt to be pseudo-mediums, fakirs and mountebanks, whose testimony is accepted by officials who know nothing of Spiritualism, as indicating the true standing of all Spiritualists. (Applause.) Other points also show how our workers stand in the eyes of the public. Open your daily papers and read—"A veritable queen among women;" "Hope, Help, Love, and Luck for All;" "Never fails;" "Fees $1.00 and upward;" "Gypsy Queen just returned—Past, Present and Future revealed for ten cents." "Great Card Reader and Soul Seer—Reunites lovers and establishes harmony in the house—Fee twenty-five cents." "Seventh Son of the Seventh Son for Seven Generations—Greatest Medium of the Century," etc. These glaring advertisements, under the head of Spiritualism, give the general public the idea that all of our work is of that kind. Many mediums, possessed of genuine spiritual gifts, resort to such questionable methods of obtaining public patronage, while others sell charms, pots of earth, and talismans of various kinds, for protection against evil spirits, black magic and other ills, and also for the special purpose of increasing or developing the mediumistic powers of the individuals purchasing the same. (Applause.)

Ladies and gentlemen of the Convention, I have not told you one one-hundredth part of what might be said along these lines. If I were to go on you would cry "enough," and take me from the platform. What I have said goes to show the ne-

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cessity for two kinds of protection—a protection for our genuine mediums by rendering them safe from competition with the frauds and fakirs who have enrolled themselves under the banner of Spiritualism, and a protection for an honestly investigating public from imposition on the part of mediums without consciences, from fakirs and frauds, and from the sordid cravens who are forever preying upon the sorrows of mankind. I have not drawn upon my imagination in painting this picture; I have but brought into view from various quarters a few of the dark shadows that hang like a pall over our Spiritualism. It is no idle story, and, knowing the facts as I do, I cannot wonder when honest people say "There is something in Spiritualism, but that something costs too much to get at it—the associations are too questionable." Spiritualism is an eternal truth; had it not been, it would have been crushed long ago. It can and will rise triumphant, but it rests with us as individuals to elevate it. We ourselves must cleanse the Augean stables; if we do not do it, the work will be done for us by our enemies and with no gentle hand. The innocent will then be the chief sufferers, while the harlequins and charlatans, fortune-tellers and confidence men will escape scot free. Even now the innocent are the victims of the terrible conditions to which I refer, as is instanced by the persecution of honest mediums in the name of the law, for crimes committed by the very ones whose testimony is sending them to prison. The time for action has come. A spade is a spade, no matter what name is applied to it, and the truth should be told—told so that our people will awaken to a full sense of the danger by which they are threatened. (Applause.) Unless Spiritualists themselves discriminate in these matters, true mediumship will be outlawed, and public seances will become a thing of the past. The fraud element will be the chief cause of this condition, but it will be aided by those among us who object to truthfulness and justice on the part of investigators. Unless something is done, there will soon be a dozen places where the paraphernalia of the materializing seance room is manufactured instead of the two now in existence in New York and Chicago. If we as Spiritualists do not act we may reasonably expect in a very short time not only one large blue book of tests for half developed or counterfeit mediums, but one for each city and town on the continent. (Applause.)

We have a remedy, and it will cure the disease if it is but rightfully used. *We must make crime of all kinds odious* (loud applause), *so odious* that it will cease to flourish save in the darkest corners of the earth. How can we do this? By al-

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lowing our better judgment to determine our actions, in regard to such matters as I am describing, and by ceasing to rush to the defense of every person who claims to be a medium without having given proof of the same. In other words, we ought no longer to defend criminality because of some fancied mediumistic gift on the part of the criminal. (Applause.)

I now hear the words "The N. S. A. wishes to establish censorship over our workers." I reply most emphatically, "Not so; it only purposes defending honest mediums from enemies without and from foes within our own ranks." (Applause.) It can do this when all of our Spiritualists will rally around the flag of truth, and record in letters of living light the work done in each community in the land. The N. S. A. must never, and I don't believe ever will, be permitted to establish a system of espionage upon our mediums. But it should faithfully keep the records when placed in its hands, and truthfully state the deeds, good, bad and indifferent, that are herein filed from different sections of our country. I recommend this action—the establishing of an information bureau at the National office from which the public can be informed of all that it needs to know concerning the standing of all workers in our ranks. (Applause.) Place my own name at the head of the black list when you find me indulging in fraudulent practices or committing that which human speech fails to have words to describe. (Loud applause.) Friends, a highwayman, with loaded pistol and gleaming knife, is a man of honor when compared with those who traffic in the sacred emotions of the human soul and palm off as genuine phenomena upon our suffering humanity bogus manifestations in place of the real that only the spirit world can give. No sin so deadly, no crime so black as the one to which I now refer exists among men. We can destroy it if we will only try. (Applause.)

At this point something should be said concerning the over-credulous brethren in our ranks. They are perfectly sincere in all that they do, yet they serve as a stimulus to the fakirs and counterfeiters to increase the number of marvels they try to give the public. This class will scoff at the story of Jonah and the whale, yet attend six materializing seances per day with the same medium, in company with sixty or one hundred others, because this medium has eight or ten spirits on the floor at one time and never fails to materialize forty or sixty forms at each sitting. "Verily this class strains at a gnat and swallows a camel!" This love of the marvelous has become a disease that should be cured by

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heroic measures if necessary. We have wandered away from the simpler forms of manifestation until we are almost adrift upon the open sea of hazy speculations, over which hangs the enchanting mirage of our own fancies. Like Ulysses, we must lash ourselves to the mast of the ship of Truth lest the sirens upon the shore lure our beloved barque upon the jagged breakers and destroy us forever. (Loud applause.)

Let me point you the way to remedies for these manifold ills. *Re-establish the home circle* (applause), *and call around it the loved ones in your own households.* (Applause and cheers.) You can trust *them*, and they can trust *you*. From the sacred hearthstone of the home will arise a mighty power that shall heal us of all our diseases. That power is Spirituality, which will restore us our lost estate. Through the home circle we can bring in the higher influences, and re-establish the phenomena of former times. It will weed out the sordid lust for the marvelous and cause us to accept the simpler and truer forms of manifestation that did so much for us in the earlier days of our movement. (Applause.) I do not advocate the taking of backward steps, but I do advocate the restoration of the clearer manifestations of the spirit among men. We can do this by re-forming the home circle. As soon as this is done, we can move forward to the establishment of schools of psychic science and philosophy, in which all sensitives can be placed, their mediumship properly developed and explained to them, so that when they go forth they will be equipped with the solid armor of truth, able to demonstrate their religion with mathematical exactitude, thereby proving a blessing to their race. (Applause.) Now our mediums enter the work half-fledged—the prey of the curious and the victims of the unscrupulous. (Applause.) Until we can obviate the causes, the results will be as I have stated. I most earnestly recommend, therefore, the re-establishment of the home circle (applause) and the immediate founding of psychic schools, not institutions with sectarian bias, but schools of advanced thought whose culture will fit our platform workers for leaders and teachers in the arena of everyday life. In this way we can best protect our mediums, and render the public a signally beneficial service. Last year I urged the necessity of protection and defense of our mediums; this year I do the same thing in stronger terms than before. Let us protect them with our love and good will, with our cordial, sympathetic support, from competition with the vampires in our own ranks, and from the human harpies in the ranks of our opponents, who seek to destroy these instruments upon whom the hand of inspiration had been laid by the angels,

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calling them to be the comforters, leaders and teachers of their fellow men in humanity's upward march. (Loud applause.)

One method suggests itself to my mind at this time which I respectfully recommend to this Convention. As a body let us earnestly request our people to take a deeper interest in our mediums and mediumship than ever before, by seeing to it that they receive just compensation for their services, and thereby be removed from all kinds of temptation to add by illegitimate means to their limited incomes. If means were at hand, it would perhaps be well for the N. S. A. to employ at a living salary all worthy mediums, whose whole time should be devoted to the N. S. A., and whose earnings should be placed in its treasury. (Applause.)

STATUS OF LOCAL SOCIETIES.

During the past year I have visited a large number of our local societies in various States. With the exception of a very few, I found them financially weak, if not weak numerically. Local jealousies and petty personalities have combined to produce this result in many instances, but there are other causes to which this weakness is also due. Poor music, badly ventilated and dingy halls, and carelessness in selecting the platform talent as well as the personnel of the officers of the society must not be overlooked in the consideration of this question. In many cities and towns flourishing Spiritualistic societies existed twenty years ago, whereas to-day a dozen outspoken Spiritualists cannot be found. In some of these places, the Unitarians and Universalists have come in, built cozy little churches and chapels, called together the liberal element, and established a creditable society, whose leading members, from a financial point of view, were the once prominent Spiritualists of the place. Wherever Spiritualism begins to recede the churchman can begin to do his work, and out of the wrecks of the Spiritualist societies he builds his sectarian church. It is not to be supposed that these people lose their knowledge of Spiritualism in uniting with these so-called liberal churches. In far too many cases they have just cause for their actions. They wish a spiritual, religious home, removed from the bickerings and jealousies that have so often prevailed among us as a people. They wish also to listen to instructive, scholarly discourses, and not to the vaporings of a half-developed, inspirational speaker or to hazy statements that somebody's John, Mary or Henry had returned to say there was no death. Thus, my friends, you can see the drift—let the interest once begin to wane and

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the inevitable result will follow. In some instances I have found societies that have engaged notorious swindlers, sodomites and gamblers for a month or more, because of some real or pretended gift of mediumship. This fact prejudiced the entire community, especially the better element in the ranks of Spiritualism, against the society, and in a short time they would drop out entirely. (Applause.)

I do not approve of this course. I believe they should stay in the society, secure a change of management, purify the platform of this undesirable element and go on their way. No one has any right to withdraw his or her support from a local, State or National society for personal reasons. (Applause.) To do this betrays a narrowness of mind and a bigotry of spirit not countenanced by the angel world whose servants we are. They should remain in the society, and reform it by working within the body, and not by attempting to destroy it. (Applause.)

Some of our societies practice the unique method of employing a speaker for one or two months, and then by charging an admission fee at each service, compel the speaker to pay his own salary, hall rent and music from the proceeds. This custom has so thoroughly exhausted the patience of many of our public mediums that they refuse to work for societies at all, preferring to rent a hall at their own expense, manage their own platform, and reap the full reward of their labors. There is justice in their claim, too, for the management of the society is often unsatisfactory and the conditions made so unfavorable as to render it impossible for a medium to do his best work. I know of cases where a president of a local society, as he called it, would engage a speaker or medium, advertise him well, fill a hall eight times per month, pay the worker fifteen or twenty dollars per week, and put into his own pocket one hundred and fifty or two hundred dollars each month clear profit to himself. Naturally the medium would feel that the extra cash could have been his if he had only been by himself, and the next engagement in that place would be an independent one. Had a duly organized society received the benefit of the surplus not one medium out of a hundred would have objected, but the idea of working to fill an individual's purse as against the purse of the cause is certainly objectionable to the mediums. I have already adverted to the bad location of our places of meeting and the condition of the halls themselves as militating factors in this problem, and I need not enlarge upon this branch of the question any further. The facts remain as they are, and

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we must consider the question, What can we do to remedy them?

It is an unpalatable truth that we as a people are largely to blame for the condition by which we are confronted, and can thank ourselves for it. Had we organized years ago upon business principles, built halls, or churches, or temples, with the money we have squandered in exorbitant rents, employed inspiring cultured music, our local societies would be double in number to-day, and their membership tenfold larger. I can see no immediate prospect of a change in this matter, so long as the pernicious practice of changing speakers every Sunday or every month is persisted in. (Applause.) The settlement of our speakers and mediums means permanency for the local societies by implanting the idea of stability in the minds of the people, and by concentrating the spiritual influences in a helpful manner upon the community in which the society exists. I recommend, therefore, that long engagements for both speakers and mediums be urged wherever practical. I also recommend that due attention be given to the question of securing suitable places for our meetings and urge that a temple fund be established in each society. (Applause.)

In connection with this subject of local societies, let me call your attention to the fact that many of them can be revivified by the visit of an organizer or missionary of some State or National society. My own visits to several such places during the year put new life into their veins and roused them to activity along healthful lines. Such visits did not always render immediate financial returns, but paved the way for grand results in the future. If a National organizer or missionary could be employed by the N. S. A., whose duty it should be to visit for two weeks or a month the weak and struggling societies, as well as organize new ones in communities where none now exist, it would be one of the best things that could be done to advance Spiritualism. I consider this matter of vital importance, and earnestly recommend the appointment and equipment of such an officer under authority from this Convention. (Applause.)

MUSIC.

At this point permit me to say a few words upon the question of music in its relation to the growth and permanency of our local societies. I consider it is so very important that I give it a special place in this report. If the right kind of music could be employed, it would remove one half of our troubles. (Applause.) For some unaccountable reason our

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people have neglected this important topic, and dwelt more in the realm of the wonderful than in the realm of the practical, or of the true ideal. (Applause.) Inspirational poems of great length, able lectures, profound essays upon all sorts of themes, have been given to the public for nearly fifty years, yet less than a dozen attempts to furnish us a spiritual hymnology have been made. The "Spiritual Harp" and other musical works are all very well in their way, but none of them seem to have the melodies that catch the public ear and fasten themselves to the public heart. The music is nearly always difficult, and the beauty of the words is often lost in the attempt to adapt them to the peculiar airs attached to them. Some of our good people have tried to change the wording of popular melodies so that a spiritual meaning would be thereby conveyed, yet the tunes are unchanged, and whenever one begins to sing to the tune of "What a Friend We Have In Jesus," the supposed new meaning is forgotten in the memories roused by the song. At some of my meetings during the past year such inspiring songs as "Jesus Paid It All," "Come Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove," etc. (laughter), were wailed out to invoke to my aid the inspiring spirits who have long since entered the Home Beautiful beyond the Gates of Dawn. We have talent enough in our ranks and inspiration of so high and pure an order as to be able to give to the world of song something that will entrance the popular heart and call the people to us as the Gospel Hymns rallied them twenty years ago around the standard of orthodoxy. All attempts to put new wine into the old bottles, by a few verbal changes in the catchy orthodox songs, will work no lasting benefits to our people. Music, sweet and simple, that touches the heart as well as pleases the artistic sense, is what we need, and I recommend that immediate steps to that end be taken by this Convention. Our year of jubilee is near at hand, and we cannot celebrate our fiftieth anniversary more wisely and well than by proclaiming to the world that we have music of our own, which, while not wholly raising mortals to the skies, nor yet drawing angels down, will cause the two to meet in one grand pæan of joy, one uplifting symphony of song in a realm where all souls can find rest and peace. We have been on the borders of that realm for nearly fifty years, wailing "Nearer My God to Thee," and shouting "The Sweet By and Bye" (laughter) all that time. Let us go nearer still, do our own work in the sweet now and now, to the end that Spiritualism may be benefited and our race blessed by our labors. (Applause.) Prof. Longley's grand works are steps in the right direction, and he and all others should be sustained in their efforts to give us creditable music.

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ORDINATION.

I approach this topic with many misgivings, and I bespeak your careful attention while the subject is under consideration. Like the noxious plant of the fable, this subject recurs again and again to trouble us. It was discussed at length at the Convention last year, and the general public was given to understand that the National Association had never engaged in the ordination business, and that it did not intend to do so. The true meaning of the word "ordination" was clearly shown, and our platform workers were given to understand that ecclesiastical ordination was rendered obsolete years ago by the divorce of Church and State, in this Republic at least. A secular ordination, however, is permitted under the laws of many of the States, by virtue of which all ministers of religion are empowered to perform certain acts, not because of the ordination ceremony alone, but because of the recognition of them by the law of the States. The word in this sense means to appoint to an office, to empower to act in a certain capacity; hence our local and State Associations, by availing themselves of the laws referred to above, can select competent persons to fill the office of leader or speaker for our legally incorporated societies.

The officers of the N. S. A., as well as the delegates to the last Convention, united in urging all local and State Associations to exercise great care in selecting candidates for this office, by appointing only those whose inspirational, educational and spiritual development especially fitted them for the important positions they were being called to fill. Despite the kindly advice and earnest suggestions made by the N. S. A., as well as by the leading Spiritualists in our ranks, an utter disregard of law, order and decency has become apparent in far too many instances, and I must now call your attention to the facts as they exist. The best elements in our ranks are appealing to the N. S. A. for protection from ordained charlatans, prostitutes, tricksters and criminals, and I feel that we should speak with no uncertain sound upon this subject. Some societies have engaged in the ordination business upon the wholesale plan, granting unto all candidates papers by which they were enabled to solemnize marriage, officiate at funerals, and stand before the public as recognized representatives of Spiritualism. Many of these people find it difficult to write their own names, while others are totally unacquainted with the simplest rules of Webster's spelling book. (Laughter and applause.)

Nor is this all. Several ordained as Spiritualist ministers

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have been found to be graduates of the penitentiary or wanted in certain localities for cause. Others have been found guilty of gross misconduct in regard to the use of intoxicating liquors, and others still proven to be sodomites, prostitutes, keepers of houses of ill-fame, and criminals whose offenses are too vile to utter in words. Instead of accepting the office as a grave responsibility, carrying with it certain duties as well as privileges, these people have evidently considered their ordination in the light of some spiritual *hocus pocus*, by means of which they were the recipients of divine unction, or inoculated with the Holy Ghost. (Laughter.) In any event, they have used their papers as a shield for vice and crime, and caused the blush of shame to mantle the cheek of every true Spiritualist. There is yet another class of the ordained whom I must not forget. I refer to those who get their papers for sums varying in amount from twenty-five cents to as many dollars, and then make use of them for the purpose of securing half rates on the railroads. One society, for example, granted a half dozen or more ordination papers in blank, to be filled in by friends of the officers of the society, who were intending to go to California for a few weeks' visit. These papers were duly signed in blank as stated, filled out by the parties wishing them, California was visited and the railroads mulcted of one-half fare each way.

I have outlined to you the several classes of the ordained against whom a loud, long protest is being made. But there is the legitimate worker to be considered. Such ones wish faithfully to discharge every duty laid upon them according to the laws of the land and to represent Spiritualism in its noblest aspects. If this class stood alone how readily all Spiritualists would rally around them! As it is, however, the general public makes no discrimination in their favor, and they are classed with the undesirable elements to whom I have referred above. Spiritualism is jeopardized as a movement by these wholesale ordinations and by the conduct of those who use their papers for selfish purposes only. (Loud applause.) The public looks to this honorable body of delegates for relief from this fearful nuisance, and I trust the Convention in its wisdom will so act as to settle this question for all coming time. (Applause.)

I hold papers of ordination from two societies, and a license from the Governor of Maine. I will gladly surrender them all if by so doing all other papers can be canceled or revoked. (Applause.) I am prepared to recommend that resolutions protesting against any ordinations whatever be adopted here, and that petitions be circulated in every city, town and ham-

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let in the Union, praying our legislative bodies to pass laws forbidding priests and ministers of all denominations to perform marriage ceremonies (loud applause and cheers), or to receive any special rights by virtue of his or her papers of ordination, and relegate the question of marriage to the civil authorities where it properly belongs. (Applause and cheers.) I am actuated solely by the desire to advance Spiritualism in making this recommendation, for I fully believe that the time has come for a forward step by our whole body. We should be *leaders*, not *imitators*, therefore I favor the absolute separation of Church and State (applause), hence recommend the abrogation of the rite of ordination for all religious bodies. (Applause.) If this cannot be done, and it cannot at once, some measures must be taken here by you to remedy the abuses now extant among us. State Associations in Michigan and California control the ordination question to the satisfaction of all Spiritualists in those States. But what is to be done where there are no State Associations, or where State Associations have no jurisdiction? The N. S. A. cannot act at long range, nor can it go into the ordaining business without sowing the seeds of discord, whose harvest will be the utter ruin of our organic movement. (Applause.) To pass resolutions is an easy matter, but we need *action* in place of words. We must cut this Upas tree out from the root, and the method is a matter for you who are here as delegates to decide. I feel that the only remedy that will cure the disease is legislation, and I recommend that action be taken against any and all local societies hereafter indulging in wholesale ordinations at whatever price per capita, in the courts of the several States (applause and cheers), praying for the annulment or revocation of its incorporation as a legal body of the State, because of the indiscriminate ordaining of unworthy and incompetent persons to be ministers of the religion of Spiritualism. (Applause.)

HALF RATES.

At this point the question of half rates for our speakers and mediums naturally comes into view. West of Chicago, all of our speakers and mediums who devote their entire time to religious work, and who are properly endorsed by the N. S. A., have been granted interchangeable permits over thirty-nine roads. East of Chicago and west of Pittsburg, they can secure trip permits if they are missionaries, or annuals if settled as pastors, on the various lines traversing that section. So far as I know, no one of our workers has been refused in either territory, where he or she has complied with the rules

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prescribed by the several passenger associations. East of Pittsburg, on all lines, I know of no Spiritualist who has received permits for the present year. It is rumored that clergymen of all denominations are also refused. If such is the case, then as a body we have no complaint to make. If we are discriminated against, then it is a question for the National Association to settle. I have been personally refused by all lines east of Chicago, but have no complaint to make of the roads west of Pittsburg, because their rules forbid the issuance of permits to parties outside of their territory. East of Pittsburg I still have no complaint to make, provided clergymen of all denominations are treated in like manner. If discrimination is made because of our being Spiritualists, it becomes a question of moment to this body of delegates. Mrs. Rachael Walcott, of Baltimore, W. F. Peck, and your President have been refused permits over B. & O. lines. Mrs. Walcott is a settled speaker, having no other occupation or business, and her case is a good one, provided this body decides to take legal action. Such action can be taken, if other denominations are favored, while we are denied equal rights with them. I have not the evidence that such is the case. In order that we may preserve the few rights that we now have, and to avoid injustice being done our worthy workers, I recommend that the incoming Board be instructed to investigate this matter thoroughly, and to make a test case of Mrs. Walcott's application before the Interstate Commerce Commission, or the Supreme Court of the United States if necessary. (Applause). In closing this paragraph, permit me to say that the matter of reduced rates for clergymen does not meet with my approval at all. I believe in equal rights for all, and special privileges to none, hence am opposed to special rates for any class of people. But so long as orthodox clergymen and Catholic priests secure these privileges, I hold that our Spiritualist speakers and mediums are entitled to the same consideration, for our workers travel four times as much as do other clergymen, hence furnish a greater revenue to the railroads. It is principle, and not personality that is at stake in this matter. (Applause.)

(At this point, on motion of Mr. Mullen, of California, seconded by Dr. Ewell, of Colorado, and others, Frank Walker, of New York, was chosen to finish reading President Barrett's report, his voice having become too husky to admit of further service.)

STATE ASSOCIATIONS.

The great value and importance of having a strong, healthy State Association in each State in the Union, becomes more

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and more apparent as I become better acquainted with the conditions affecting the welfare and standing of Spiritualism in America. The work done in Michigan, where class legislation in behalf of the medical fraternity was defeated by the earnest efforts of the State Association of Spiritualists, shows what the real worth and efficacy of such an association would be in all States The new State Association in California has grappled with the knotty problem of ordination, and solved it in a very practical manner. Other States where such associations exist also send in good reports, and there is no doubt but what similar results could be obtained in all States, if strong State Associations were once established. It is the most practical plan of settling the question of ordination, for the officers of a State society can come into closer relation with local societies, and become better acquainted with the standing and merit of all candidates for ordination than can a National society. By taking the right of ordination from the local society, and placing it solely in the hands of the State, it gives dignity and standing to the office, and prevents local favoritism from foisting unworthy persons upon the public as ministers of the religion of Spiritualism. State Associations can also give more attention to legislative bodies, and accomplish more in working against iniquitous legislation than can a few scattered local societies in each State. They can further ascertain the requirements of each community and send such missionaries or workers there as will serve the cause to the greatest advantage. The true basis of our National Association should be State Associations (applause), and I recommend that steps to that end be taken by the Convention, by instructing the incoming Board of Trustees to secure the establishment of the same wherever and whenever practicable. I consider them towers of strength to our cause, and hope to see one in each State in the Union ere the close of this century.

NATIONAL TEMPLE.

The rapidly increasing business of the N. S. A., as well as the extension of interest in it as a movement, leads me to the conclusion that the time has come for it to have a home of its own. (Loud applause.) The present headquarters are centrally located, and no fault whatever can be found with them, save as regards the amount of room necessary for carrying on the work of the Association. I believe it would be wise for this Convention to consider the question of at once taking steps toward erecting a National Spiritualist Temple in Washington. (Applause.) This building should contain

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office rooms for the President, Secretary and Treasurer of the N. S. A., the National Library, a commodious auditorium for our National Conventions, rooms for seances, and such others as may be needed by the Spiritualistic public. I recommend that a National Temple and Building Committee be created by this Convention, with power to solicit and receive funds, and carry forward the work of construction. Notwithstanding the hard times of the present hour, a fair start has already been made and only awaits the approval of this body to be rapidly pushed forward throughout the Nation. Small contributions from the many will soon create a fund sufficiently large to erect a temple worthy of the name of Spiritualism. (Applause.) I have found many people willing to contribute to a special fund of this kind, whereas they would not give one dollar to the general funds of the N. S. A. People like to have a definite object for which to work, and will contribute their dollars for a specific purpose freely and gladly. It will add dignity to our movement and prove to the world that we are really doing a practical work as a body. It will give the idea of permanency to the Association, and be the means of securing a more liberal revenue from the Spiritualists of the Nation. Such a temple could be rented with profit to the local Spiritualist Association, to the Children's Lyceum, Young People's Club, and Ladies' Aid, thereby creating an income sufficient to keep up all repairs, pay janitor's services, insurance, taxes, light and fuel. I urge this proposition upon you, and trust that it will meet with your full approval. The dignity and standing of our cause warrant us in moving this matter, not to build this year, nor next, perhaps, but as soon as money enough is in sight to warrant such action. Special agents, responsible to the Building Committee, could be put into the field as solicitors of contributions, from whose labors ample revenues could be derived within a year or two for the purpose named. I trust that this matter will receive your considerate attention, and hope you will authorize the incoming Board of Trustees to select the committee mentioned above. (Applause.)

SCHOOLS.

The school question has come up in various sections of the country, notably at Cassadaga Camp, N. Y., Chesterfield, Ind., and Belvidere, N. J. Writers for our several Spiritualist papers are urging action in this direction, and I learn from reliable sources that nearly all of the friends of this movement are anxious to have the N. S. A. take the lead in this matter. It has been rumored upon good authority that many

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thousands of dollars have been found for the establishment of a school of philosophy at Cassadaga. No definite action has been taken by the management of that very progressive camp, and it has been suggested to me that the contributions thus pledged could be secured by the N. S. A. upon guarantee that it would at once move in the direction of such a school. It could be located at Cassadaga, if the donors desired, and its endowment would be sufficient to warrant the statement that no expense to the N. S. A. would thereby be incurred. It should, however, be under the supervision of the N. S. A., and directly connected with it. These remarks also apply to the Chesterfield and Belvidere propositions. I cannot speak with authority in regard to the former, but I do know that a fund of $7,500 will secure the entire Belvidere property and put the school there upon its feet once more. Until this is done the world outside will have a right to say that we Spiritualists are ungrateful in our treatment of our most earnest workers and unjust to our children by neglecting to give them a thorough education compatible with the religion of Spiritualism. Contributions for such schools will readily be forthcoming when definite plans are properly laid before the people. I recommend that action be taken here looking to this end through proper instructions to the incoming Board of Trustees. (Applause.)

LYCEUMS.

In all of my travels during the past year I have not found a dozen Children's Progressive Lyceums, or Sunday Schools. From the most reliable sources, I can only learn of less than thirty of them in the United States. This deplorable condition of things should be carefully considered by your honorable body. I can see no reason for this state of things to continue any longer. Prompt action should be taken by this Convention and the equipment of a Lyceum organizer at once authorized and means provided to set him at work. Sinews of war are necessary, and something must be done for the children. It is a standing disgrace to Spiritualism to find so many children from Spiritualistic families in the orthodox and Unitarian Sunday schools. (Loud applause.) I referred to this question in strong terms in my report last year, and cannot but feel a deep regret that so little has been accomplished in the way of reform. Several of our most prominent platform workers are educating their children for the ministry in some church, upon money earned by their parents upon our platforms and contributed by Spiritualists. This is one of the strongest arguments in favor

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of schools of our own that can be advanced, and cannot be contradicted. (Applause.)

The decline of the Lyceum is no doubt due to the lack of spiritual instruction in the text books used as Lyceum guides. The books now in vogue are valuable, but the inner meaning of Spiritualism has evidently failed to touch the minds of the children. If different text books are needed let us supply them; if different methods of work are required let us resort to them. We have the talent and ought to encourage it. The splendid work done by the Lyceums in Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Cleveland, Chicago, Denver, San Diego and San Francisco shows what can be accomplished by the Spiritualists of the land when they try. The welcomes given me by the Denver, San Diego and San Francisco Lyceums are pleasant memories to me now. I would that every city and town in the land had its Lyceum, or Spiritualist Sunday school. If the N. S. A. is properly sustained, this happy result can be secured. (Applause.)

If we wish our movement to become the leading religious and philosophical cult of the present age, we must look out for the children. Parents should be urged to send them to our Lyceums, or, better still, go with them in person. The children should be shown that no Spiritualist is ever placed under the social ban by reason of his religion; our fellow citizens are now judging us by our lives, rather than by the complexion of our belief. A desire for society is no excuse for the abandonment of Spiritualism. Those who ridicule Spiritualism and its votaries are resorting to the politician's or lawyer's ruse when he has no case, viz: abuse of his opponent. Abuse is never argument and is the weapon of the coward and the bigot, not of the intelligent and progressive citizen. I believe Spiritualism to be so much better than any other system of religion now in existence, that I would advocate its presentation to the children under the same rule that I apply to myself—"the best is good enough for me." If we believe in that best, then let us prove it to the world by establishing and supporting our Sunday schools and Lyceums. I recommend action upon this vital question by this Convention. (Loud applause.)

MISSIONARY WORK.

I have already briefly alluded to this important feature of our work. Its importance demands for it a special paragraph at this point. It is impossible for one or two missionaries in so great a country as this to do the work for the N. S. A. that should be done. The United States should be divided geo-

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TO THE MUSICAL PUBLIC.

There has long been a demand among Spiritualists for a collection of choice ritual songs,— original, and not arranged from any of the old hymn or other *e worn tunes*,— adapted to the needs of the home, the family circle, spiritual etings and social assemblies, that should be published in such a form that y could be conveniently carried, and sold at such a price as would bring m within the reach of all lovers of good music and song. It is with pleas- that we now announce the publication of the first number of such a book songs by that well known composer and singer, C. Payson Longley, whose positions are known and sung throughout the length and breadth of the d. No words are needed to praise the compositions of this spiritual singer, they commend themselves to all who listen to them. The author has the timonials of all the sweet singers of note in our ranks as to the merits of work, and also those of many critical minds who are not classed among ritualists.

his little book of songs, with music, just published— is to sell at the low of 15 cts. per copy, with 5 cts. additional for postage, when sent by mail. ry song in the book, if issued in single sheet form, would sell at 30 cts., nly the choicest selections will be found therein. Nearly every song in ook is new, never having been published in any of Longley's song books. ms here to give an entirely new collection to the world, only admitting pages three or four from his universal favorites, that the public are ask- in a new and cheap collection.

expectd that societies, camp meetings, quartettes and individuals will themselves of this opportunity of securing some of the best songs and in the world at a merely nominal price. Special rates will be made to who purchase a number of copies for society use, and to agents.

he public has been crying out for music of this sort and it now remains to if the demand can be met in this way. If it is found that this is what ed, other collections will be put forth from the same source and in the rm, until a series of books has been published that will help to spirit- nd harmonize the attendants at our camps and other meetings, as well home circle.

give the titles of the NEW songs in Number One of this series of music :—

HE LAND OF THE BYE AND BYE.
HE LAND BEYOND THE STARS.
Y MOTHER'S TENDER EYES.
RESTING UNDER THE DAISIES.
WE MISS OUR BOYS AT HOME.
THE GRAND JUBILEE.
HE GOOD TIME YET TO BE.
COME IN SOME BEAUTIFUL DREAM.
THINKING DEAR MOTHER OF YOU.
DEAR HEART COME HOME.
THEY ARE WAITING AT THE PORTAL.

atter is a rousing new song, words and music by E. A. Humphrey, ia, and the only song in the book that has not the musical setting ngley.

rs taken and filled by the author, C. PAYSON LONGLEY, 600 Penn E., Washington, D. C., Or through the Spiritualist Publications.

graphically into sections, comprising not more than six States as the maximum limit, and active missionaries placed in charge of each division. Such a corps of workers in a very short time would be returning a revenue to the N. S. A. treasury, and would be the means of establishing many auxiliary societies to this body in their respective sections. The experience of both Universalists and Unitarians proves the truth of this statement, and we can afford to profit by a good example wherever we find one. I have done my best to reach as many societies as possible, but have not visited more than one-sixth of the entire number in the United States during the past year. If the field were divided into districts, every society could be visited at least once each year by one or two missionaries, and many new societies established in communities where Spiritualism is now unknown. In some cases in my experience this past year, I received a larger revenue from missionary meetings than I did in towns where there were regular societies under whose auspices my meetings were held. I therefore recommend the appointment of at least ten missionaries who are to devote their entire time to the service of the N. S. A., under the supervision of the President and the direction of the Board. (Loud applause.)

FINANCES.

This is the one vital question of the hour, so far as our Association is concerned. During the past year donations, contributions, collections, and sales of books, pamphlets, etc., have furnished a very generous revenue considering the few people approached in regard to the matter. The per capita dues of local societies have been generally paid, and every one of the seventeen societies belonging to the California State Association has paid, or will pay, its assessment of $10 each to the National body. If all States would do as well as California has done during the current year, a revenue of $15,000, outside of small donations, contributions, etc., would be annually turned into our treasury. This would insure us an income of $20,000 to $30,000 per year, which would be sufficient for all practical purposes, and would enable the N. S. A. to carry its praiseworthy objects into effect. Such an income can be raised, if this Convention will but instruct the incoming Board how to act in the matter. (Applause). People have held aloof from the N. S. A. because of misconception of its aims, and a misunderstanding of its methods of work. As soon as they understand its objects, I have invariably found them ready and willing to respond to my appeals. This fact shows the necessity of having a complete corps of

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workers in the field conveying this valuable information to the people. The District missionaries whose appointment I have just urged, could serve this Association in collecting money in their respective fields of labor for its treasury. (Applause).

Last year I recommended the appointment of three Special Financial Agents whose sole duty it should be to call upon the Spiritualists of this country, asking for contributions to the N. S. A. This recommendation was adopted and the three selected for the positions named were Frank Walker, of Hamburg, N. Y., Mrs. M. E. Cadwallader, of Philadelphia, Pa., and Mrs. A. H. Colby-Luther, of Muncie, Ind. The illness of Mrs. Luther rendered it impossible for her to serve, hence E. W. Sprague, of Jamestown, N. Y., was selected in her stead. These three agents are to report to this Convention according to the by-laws of our Association. I do not know what they have done, but I believe the results obtained will more than justify their appointment, and warrant the selection of a larger force next year.

All societies directly chartered by the N. S. A., and societies belonging to State Associations having exclusive jurisdiction over their several States, when chartered with this body, are required by our by-laws to take up one collection each year for the benefit of the N. S. A. treasury. It is with no little satisfaction that I report the fact that very few of these have failed to comply with this requirement. Some societies not connected with either State or National bodies have also sent in collections, but while all such receipts are especially gratifying they do not furnish revenue sufficient to meet the running expenses of this Association. If each one of the six hundred and fifty local societies in the United States and Canada would adopt the California plan, and pay ten dollars per annum to the National body, it would supply sufficient means to pay all the running expenses of the Association, and leave a surplus at the close of each year, while donations, etc., would supply an income sufficient to warrant the enlargement of the scope of the N. S. A. work in divers ways. (Applause.)

The plan heretofore followed of making special appeals to the delegates at our annual conventions does not meet with my approval. (Applause.) Many of them give when they cannot afford to do so, and those who do not give feel their poverty all the more keenly when they find themselves unable to respond to what they realize to be a worthy cause. Each delegate and local society should do all in their power for Spiritualism, and give to the N. S. A. such aid as they can

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spare from their own needs. Beyond this they should not be asked to go. Up to the present time, appeals to our delegates seem to be all that could be done to secure such means as are absolutely needed for the maintenance of the N. S. A. But there is another and I believe a better method. Appoint special financial agents of character and standing and instruct them to go out among the people, asking, not for "Peter's Pence," nor for alms, but for contributions to the treasury of the angel world in payment of the debt of mankind to our arisen helpers who have taught us that there is no such thing as death. (Applause.) Place these agents under bonds, if desired, and utilize their entire time in this direction. This plan will enable us to reach the wealthier Spiritualists in our ranks and cause them to take an interest in the N. S. A. to which hitherto they have paid no attention whatever. Of course great care should be taken in selecting such agents, and proper papers placed in their hands to prove to the people their official and representative standing. (Applause.)

The total receipts during the year ending September 30 may be stated in round numbers at six thousand dollars, the total expenditures less than five thousand dollars, leaving a net cash balance of nearly or quite one thousand one hundred dollars in the hands of Treasurer Mayer. It will take about seven thousand five hundred dollars to pay running expenses next year, and it devolves upon this Convention to devise ways and means to raise this sum. If the N. S. A. means to be of service to the cause, it must enlarge its sphere of work from year to year, and present measures to the people that will benefit all alike. (Applause.) In order to accomplish this, an active policy is necessary on the part of the management, and an active policy means the outlay of cash. If our people had not, in too many cases, left their pocket books in the churches, when they graduated therefrom, the skies above would be much brighter than they are to-day.

The Mediums' Defense Fund has grown slowly during the past year, and a fraction over five hundred dollars will be reported as the amount now on hand. This is a fairly good showing, but the amount should be fifty thousand instead of five hundred dollars, when the noble purpose for which it is designed is considered. (Applause.) Such would be the figures in an orthodox body of similar standing and growth, and yet we, with three years' hard labor, can only do one one-hundredth as much as our opponents can do in a single day. We do not know the day or the hour when one of our most reliable mediums may be attacked, therefore we should exercise all possible vigil-

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ance and swell this fund as rapidly as possible. I do not urge the use of hypnotism as a means of raising our revenues, but if our orthodox opponents, in two hours' time, at one small gathering in the State of Maine, can raise one hundred thousand dollars for foreign missions, we, as Spiritualists, with a recognized constituency of one and a half millions behind us, surely ought to do one-half as well as they did with only one-thousandth part of our numbers present or approachable in that direction. (Applause.)

In my last annual report (page 22) I referred to the Humphrey and Wheeler Funds, to be raised by the united contributions of one hundred persons each. A person contributing to the Humphrey Fund paid five dollars annually and twenty-five dollars to the Wheeler Fund. Neither of these quotas has ever been filled. Only four or five people paid the twenty-five dollars subscription, and not more than forty the Humphrey subscription. These are sad facts, but they are true, nevertheless. It is a pitiable confession of weakness to be obliged to say that one hundred persons cannot be found willing to testify that Spiritualism has done him five dollars' worth of good during the year. It does seem strange to me to find that there are not one hundred friends of our late gallant leader, Col. Ed. S. Wheeler, willing to unite in a tribute to his memory in the form of a fund, devoted to the cause he loved so well, and for whose sake he yielded up his life. I feel that these funds should be filled annually, and I recommend that the incoming Board of Trustees be instructed to place the facts regarding these funds before the Spiritualists of America, and to appeal to them to prove their loyalty to their leaders by promptly filling these funds to the full. They are a part of the N. S. A. funds, having been permanently established by a vote of the Convention last year, and the secretary's books await responses from a generous public. I would further recommend that weekly or semi-monthly notices concerning these funds be published in each of the Spiritualist papers, with appeals for donations thereto properly appended. (Applause.)

Another means of increasing our revenues is by securing special days at each one of the fifty-odd camp meetings in the United States, known as "N. S. A. Day," on which occasion special attractions can be placed upon the platform, and appeals made to the people present for aid for the N. S. A. I have already mentioned this matter briefly in this report, but its importance warrants a repetition of the notice. This plan was most successful during the present season at all of the camps visited by me, where the N. S. A. had special days.

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It will work to our advantage next year if plans are properly laid now. I recommend this matter to your careful attention and urge that speedy applications for special N. S. A. services be requested of each camp management for next season. As a further means of supplying revenue for the N. S. A., I respectfully urge each delegate present to constitute himself or herself a committee of one to raise a few dollars among home friends, and forward the same to our National office. (Applause.)

MASS MEETINGS.

On page 23 of my last annual report will be found a recommendation to the effect that a series of grand mass meetings be held in the large cities of the United States and Canada in the name of the N. S. A. This recommendation was adopted by the Convention and very little done in the matter thereafter. Four mass meetings only were held during the year, one in New York City, one in Denver, Col., one in San Francisco, and one in Oakland, Cal. Those four meetings did more for Spiritualism in the four cities named than fifty local societies could have done in a whole year. The New York mass meeting was under the personal supervision of our Vice President, Mrs. Cora L. V. Richmond, who was ably assisted by our Assistant Secretary, Wm. Richmond, and many local workers in New York and vicinity. A special report of this meeting will be made later on by our Vice President. I was not present, but read long accounts of the work done at that meeting in the Associated Press dispatches in all of the leading dailies of Texas, where I was then at work. I learned afterwards that reports of this great mass convention found their way into the columns of the secular press in all sections of the land, with no unfavorable comments upon the personnel or work of the meeting. This was a great gain for Spiritualism, and proves that the inauguration of such meetings was a step in the right direction. When a full report of the same is made to this Convention, you will have yet further evidence of the wisdom of this step.

I attended the mass meetings in Denver, San Francisco and Oakland in person, and never did Spiritualism have a fairer hearing or more considerate treatment in those cities. The Denver meeting was under the direct management of our State agent in Colorado, Dr. G. C. B. Ewell, who was ably assisted by Mr. Geo. W. and Mrs. Zaida B. Kates, Mrs. Loe F. Prior, John Slater, Mrs. E. A. Wells-Bedell, Dr. G. W. Martin and others. Dr. Ewell labored zealously to make the meeting a success, and every member of the committee on

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arrangements did likewise. The workers whom I have named vied with one another to do for the cause, as did the members of the local societies. Dr. Ewell cheerfully laid aside all of his own work to attend to that of the convention, and so did Mr. and Mrs. Kates, Mrs. Prior and Mrs. Bedell. The result was a grand success, and these local workers have no reason to be ashamed of their labors. A net sum of fifty-two dollars was returned to the N. S. A. treasury as the result of these meetings. The amount would have been much larger had it not been for an unfortunate misunderstanding that arose between members of some of the local societies, and had the weather been favorable throughout the three days' session. It is not my purpose to cast reflections upon the members of any one of the Denver societies. The N. S. A. has friends in them all, and in some cases, some conscientious opponents. Personal feeling ran very high, and in my final decision, recognizing, as I believed, the right standard, I offended not a few of my friends, and wounded many of them to the quick. I deeply regretted this and tried my best to deal fairly and impartially with all parties. I tried to heal local differences and was not even partially successful. The good will of many of the workers in both factions who are really laboring for the good of Spiritualism has been retained. Dr. W. F. Bogart, Mrs. A. R. Bicknell, Mr. Bevington, Mr. B. M. Cason and others whose names are not at hand, have done much in this direction.

Unfortunately these local differences got into the hands of the reporters, and the columns of the secular press teemed with distorted accounts of the unhappy state of affairs in Denver. But through it all no unkind word was published against the N. S. A., nor of myself, nor of Spiritualism in general. The local workers on both sides were cruelly misrepresented, and much fuel added to the flame of personal dislike and unkindness of speech. Despite all of the trouble the results were favorable in the highest degree to Spiritualism. Later on Dr. Ewell and Mrs. Prior united their societies and formed one strong, harmonious body, with which they both worked zealously during Mrs. Prior's stay in Denver. This society chartered with the N. S. A., and is to-day in a flourishing condition. Another society in which much feeling existed at that time, surrendered its State charter, reformed on broader lines, eliminated an undesirable element from its membership and is to-day in a much better condition than before. The Children's Lyceum, founded by Mr. and Mrs. Kates, was ably conducted by them during their stay in Denver, and at their departure passed into the hands of loyal

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friends, who now report that the attendance is very large and a good work is being done. Mr. and Mrs. Kates understand lyceum work well and gave it a great impetus in Denver. (Applause.)

The N. S. A. was thoroughly advertised throughout the Rocky Mountain States by the Denver mass meeting, a goodly sum of money being realized therefrom and Spiritualism given a wide hearing in that city. Therefore I feel that this mass meeting was a grand success (Applause.)

The mass meeting in San Francisco was a success from the outset. Every medium, layman and speaker in the city united to make it the leading event in the history of California Spiritualism. (Applause.) I first wrote our valued friend and co-worker, Mrs. J. J. Whitney (applause) about the matter, and she at once conferred with Mrs. Elizabeth Sloper (applause), a former Trustee of this Association. They both set to work with a will. Mrs. Sloper happily was a staff reporter on the San Francisco *Morning Call*, hence secured excellent notices of the three days' meeting. All of the workers in San Francisco and many from other sections of California were present. Large delegations from neighboring cities and towns attended the Convention and helped to swell the audiences in the Golden Gate Hall throughout the meeting. Mrs. Julia Schlesinger, Wm. Emmette Coleman, Chas. Dawbarn, J. Clegg Wright and other eminent talent took part in the exercises and helped to honor the cause of Spiritualism in California. The floral contributions were numerous and helped to bring in an influx of spiritual power never before felt in San Francisco. Too much praise cannot be given to Mrs. Sloper and Mrs. Whitney for their herculean efforts in behalf of this convention. The former accomplished prodigies in the way of hard work, while the latter was invaluable as an adviser and grand assistant in the good work. (Applause and cheers.)

The result of this meeting, which was attended by thousands every day, was the organization of a State Association, which was duly incorporated on July 22 and its machinery set in motion to bring the Spiritualists of California into one general working body. The press of San Francisco was especially considerate in its reports of the great convention, and gave Spiritualism added dignity and standing in the eyes of all fair-minded people. The outcome of the first mass convention was the regular State Convention, held in San Francisco September 4th, 5th and 6th. At this meeting the State organization was completed and an excellent Board of Directors placed at the helm. The second convention was

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also a great success in every helpful way, and the two together have served to acquaint the people of every denomination on the Pacific Coast with the fact that the Spiritualists of the United States now have a National Association with definite aims and objects, striving to do its part in the work of benefiting humanity. It has also served to re-unite local workers in bonds of fellowship and to fill them with new zeal for the cause. It awakened an interest in the N. S. A. that still continues and will unify our people as they never have been before. These conventions took a practical interest in the N. S. A., as is instanced by three hundred dollars returned to its treasury as the direct or indirect influence of these mass meetings upon the people. Had these mass meetings not been held nor the State Association formed, not one-tenth of that sum would have come to our treasury. I must here state that what Mrs. Sloper and Mrs. Whitney were to the first convention, Mrs. Julia Schlesinger was to the second, and should receive due credit for the great work she accomplished.

Mrs. Schlesinger labored under many difficulties and disadvantages. Many of our leading workers were away from home and others did not feel able to assist in the work at all. She persevered in her heroic efforts, and at great personal expense to herself in money and labor succeeded in calling together a splendid convention. She should not be forgotten when considering the results that have come to the N. S. A. through her labors. She is an unselfish worker for our cause, a true, worthy woman and an honor to Spiritualism. (Loud applause.)

The Oakland mass meeting lasted only one day, but good work was done there, and the results were excellent in every direction, nearly thirty dollars being turned over to the N. S. A., and a fine local society chartered with us.

The great success attending the mass meetings named warrants me in concluding that similar meetings in other large cities would have resulted the same way. (Applause.) Even if no financial returns had been received, the moral and social influence would have more than compensated the N. S. A. for holding such meetings. The three meetings I attended have netted the N. S. A. three charters, wide advertising, and nearly four hundred dollars in cash, with the New York Mass Convention yet to hear from. (Applause.) I feel justified, from the foregoing facts, in recommending that the incoming Board of Trustees be ordered to hold two mass meetings per month in various cities in the land, such as Boston, Buffalo, New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Baltimore, Washington, Cincinnati and Detroit, during the six months next ensuing. (Applause.) I also recommend that some one

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or more of the Trustees be directed to be present at each of these meetings, for the purpose of looking after the interests of the N S. A. as its official representatives. Such meetings will arouse a great interest in Spiritualism, besides placing many dollars in the N. S. A. treasury. Had this plan been fully carried out this past year, greater results would have been shown in this report as the direct issue therefrom, and now that the experiment has been successfully tried, there can be no excuse for hesitancy in the year to come. (Applause.)

SEYBERT WILL.

Last year I called the attention of the Convention to the violation on the part of the University of Pennsylvania of the provisions of the will of the late Henry Seybert. The Board of Trustees was directed to investigate the matter and to take such action as was deemed best. It is clear to the general Spiritualistic public that the bequest of Mr. Seybert has been wantonly perverted from the original intention of the donor. I feel that the Spiritualists of the United States have a good case against the University, and the investigations thus far made prove this to be a fact. We have not been able to secure a copy of the will up to date, and nothing can be done in a legal way until the full details of the case are known, and the grounds for defense thoroughly understood. It is useless, also, to undertake a case of this kind without plenty of money in our treasury with which to make the fight. The N. S. A. is not yet heavily enough endowed for it to do this. Therefore, I can simply report progress in this case, and recommend that the incoming Board be instructed to look into the matter with a view to taking definite action in the event that the conditions seem favorable to a decision in our favor. I have met Spiritualists, men and women of means, during the past year, who have avowed themselves ready and willing to contribute to a fund for the purpose of testing this will case. If positive directions are given for action to be taken in this matter, I recommend that these people be given an opportunity to prove devotion to the cause by means of large contributions to a special fund for this purpose. (Applause.)

MISSIONARY BOXES.

Directions were given by the last Convention for the provision by the Secretary of a large number of contribution boxes to be placed in the halls of the various Spiritualist societies, and in the seance rooms of such mediums as were willing to accept them, in which voluntary contributions could

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be placed by visitors. The Secretary attempted to carry this order into effect, but found that the cost would be greater than the income derived therefrom could possibly be for the current year, and reported the fact to the Board. By a unanimous vote the Board directed him to take no further action in the matter, and to appeal to this Convention to confirm this decision. I believe the Secretary and the Board of Trustees acted wisely, yet there is an argument on the other side of the question. This proposition was originally submitted by a medium who was deeply interested in the N. S. A., whose patrons, she averred, would gladly contribute to its treasury if such boxes were provided for the use of the mediums. I recommend that instructions be given the incoming Board in regard to the matter. (Applause.)

MISSIONARIES AND STATE AGENTS.

The By-Laws of this Association require that State agents to the number of three be appointed as representatives of the N. S. A. in each State, and direct the President to appoint a certain number of persons to act as missionaries-at-large in the name of the Association. These appointments have been made with great care, and the work done by many of them has been of a highly beneficial order. These departments can be made towers of strength to the N. S. A. as time goes on, and the selection of these officers should be made with such care as will insure ready and willing service on the part of those thus chosen. Of the State agents, Dr. O. G. W. Adams and Dr. G C. B. Ewell have rendered valuable service, and of the missionaries, Mrs. May F. Drynan, Mrs. Loe F. Prior and E. W. Sprague have been especially active in their labors in behalf of this organization. I recommend that the incoming Board be requested to take a greater interest in this department of our work with the view of securing the greatest possible degree of proficiency in the service. (Applause.)

DELEGATES' EXPENSES.

I had occasion last year to refer to this important subject, and find that I must once more call the attention of the Spiritualists of the country to it. Including the subordinate societies belonging to our chartered State Associations, about 200 auxiliaries are now connected with the N. S. A. These societies would be entitled to at least 225 delegates, if all delegations were filled. Should they all attend our convention it would be at an average expense of not less than fifty dollars to each delegate, making a grand total of $11,250 for railroad fares, hotel bills, etc. In the present weak state of the

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finances of the average Spiritualist society, very few, if any of them, are able to defray the expenses of their delegates. This fact renders it impossible for the more distant societies to be represented here save by proxy. Proxies are legitimate things, but can become a dangerous factor in an organization of this kind. Something must be done to keep this Association in direct touch with its auxiliaries, and all of the people. Under the present system proxies are an absolute necessity, otherwise more than half of our societies would be unrepresented. (Applause.) They will have to be used until one of two things is done. We must either establish State Associations and have representation from them only, or we must labor for an endowment fund from which the expenses of all delegates can be met. It might be that delegates would gladly stand their hotel bills if railroad fares were paid. This would cut their expenses one-half to this Association if defrayed from our funds. It would take a funded investment of at least $100,000 to secure an income sufficient to pay these expenses. If we had State Associations the representation would be materially reduced, not more than four at most from any one State, and sometimes only one. If this plan were adopted there is but little doubt that each State would then defray the expenses of its delegates. But that time has not yet arrived, and until it does come it is our duty to provide ways and means by which all societies may be able to secure a just and equitable representation. It remains for this Convention to act in the matter. (Applause.)

Various plans have suggested themselves to my mind, yet none of them can be carried into effect by one man's efforts alone. If the N. S. A. Secretary were instructed to correspond with the leading Spiritualists in each community perhaps a series of entertainments could be devised, the proceeds of which could be devoted to defraying the expenses of the delegates. It may be that several special collections could be taken for the same purpose. If requests are to be sent out to our local societies in this way each member of the Board of Trustees must be made cognizant of the fact, and must sign his or her name to all such documents when requested to do so by the Secretary, otherwise he would be charged with packing the convention. (Applause.) It is useless for me to take up your time by dwelling longer upon this question. It is a condition, not a theory, by which we are confronted, hence we must act. I urge you to make it possible for all societies to be duly represented in a way that will leave no heartburnings, and be most advantageous to Spiritualism. We now have rates upon all lines east of the

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Mississippi River, which benefit us very materially, yet it does not solve the problem. We require the attendance of our delegates and must make it possible for them to get here. If all expenses were guaranteed, appeals for funds, according to the custom of former years, would not be out of place; indeed, it would then only be a just measure and no one could complain of it. As it is now, however, I do not feel that our people should be asked to sacrifice their time, money and strength without any return for the same, save the consciousness of having done their duty to the cause. (Applause.)

TRUSTEES' EXPENSES.

What I have said of the expenses of our delegates applies with four-fold force to our Board of Trustees. By our Constitution our Board is compelled to hold four meetings each year in this city. To the more distant members this entails an expense of forty-five dollars per trip, or one hundred and eighty dollars per year. This means a total expense of at least nine hundred dollars for the five who live at a distance, besides the sacrifice of valuable time, physical comforts and financial returns from home labor. I consider this unjust, and I urge the Convention to give this question careful consideration. It will come up again and again at our annual gatherings until it is disposed of in one way or another. I favor payment of actual mileage direct from the N. S. A. treasury. This will always secure the presence of a full Board and no one can then complain of any injustice. If the full Board is present the work done can be shared by all and no undue influence can be exerted to secure special favors to any one party. An increase of revenue is necessary, if this plan is adopted, and ways and means must be devised to meet it. I urge action by this honorable body, believing that this Association will be benefited by the adoption of this measure, whereby the services of able men and women can be secured who are not able to stand the great expense of travel as the matter stands to-day. (Applause.)

JUBILEE 1898, S. E. 50.

March 31, 1898, will mark the semi-centennial of Modern Spiritualism. I believe it to be the duty of this Association to take immediate steps to observe that important anniversary in an appropriate manner. An International Congress will be held in London in May of that year, to which all nations of the earth are requested to send delegates. This is well, and I hope our National Association will be fully represented there. But Modern Spiritualism had its origin in

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America, and I feel that the first Jubilee celebration should take place in this country. In conversation with our honored Vice President, Mrs. Richmond, last spring, she suggested the thought I have just expressed, and stated that she felt impressed that Rochester, New York (loud applause and cheers), should be the point at which this meeting should be held. It was also suggested that this gathering should be National and International in character, yet be held under the direct auspices of the N. S. A. (Applause.) Since conversing with our Vice President, I have talked with other prominent Spiritualists in various sections of the land, and I have found a universal sentiment in favor of this project. Recently our esteemed co-worker, George W. Kates, has published an article along the same line, urging a one day's celebration at Hydesville, in honor of the auspicious event. So favorably is this thought received, I venture to say that our people in the United States and Canada will promptly respond to an appeal for funds to defray the expenses of such a meeting. (Applause.)

I feel that Rochester, N. Y. (loud applause), should be the place of meeting, and it should cover at least ten days' time. "The Rochester Knockings" was the name that echoed around the world, and, while Hydesville should not be forgotten, the importance of the event renders it necessary, to my mind at least, that the gathering should take place in Rochester. (Cheers.) I have endeavored to place myself in touch with our leading workers in regard to this matter, and the consensus of opinion is as I have stated above. After much careful thought I have outlined a plan, which I most respectfully submit to the Convention.

I feel that an energetic business man, a progressive Spiritualist, should at once be detailed to open an office in Rochester and set to work to secure the funds necessary for this great meeting to be held. So universal will be the interest that our representative will have no difficulty in inducing the business men of Rochester to provide an auditorium for the use of the mammoth convention. Thousands upon thousands of people will be in attendance, and the returns financially will more than repay the merchants for their outlay. They can be induced to do this if the right person is placed at the head of the movement. This officer should have means enough at hand to enable him to engage such assistants as he would need, to pay for publication of all necessary literature, and such other accounts as might be presented. He should secure a desirable office, centrally located, and establish himself in a manner becoming the dignity of Spiritualism. He

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should report weekly to the National office, and carry on all correspondence connected with the Jubilee movement, thereby relieving the Secretary of all labor connected with it. (Applause.)

In order to insure success in this movement, the work should be commenced at once. Standing advertisements should be placed in all of the Spiritualist papers, circular letters sent to all societies on both continents, inviting them to participate, letters of explanation sent to all workers, and the impression given out that it is to be a meeting for the masses of Spiritualists throughout the world. An interesting feature could be arranged by having all of the old Spiritualists, the survivors among the converts to Spiritualism in the years of '48, '49, '50 and '51, among the many attractions of the hour. (Applause.) This would be rendering "honor to whom honor is due," by giving a just recognition to the noble workers of early days. An attractive program should be made out with a wide range of topics for discussion, and all our leading workers invited to take part. Papers upon the live topics of the day should be asked of such of our scholars and workers as cannot attend the meeting, and presented in due form to the people in attendance. (Applause.)

If such a meeting is planned, gigantic as the undertaking seems, it will be a success from the start. All railroads will unite in giving us rates, and I firmly believe that one fare for the round trip would be the rule. Such an undertaking as this would require a large amount of money, but if the right person was selected as a leader, the necessary funds could be secured, and the Jubilee made the one great feature in the history of Spiritualism. (Applause.) The Spiritualists from all quarters of the globe will then visit America, become acquainted with us, and help to strengthen the bonds of fellowship amongst all nations of the earth. To make this celebration what it should be, work must be begun now and here. (Applause.) Therefore, I ask the delegates to consider this matter with great care, and unite in such action as will result in giving our Continent the grandest Jubilee ever held in the history of the world. We have men in our ranks capable of carrying this work on to a successful issue, and they will rise to the occasion when called upon to act. (Applause.) I have talked with many of our wealthiest Spiritualists, and they are all prepared to contribute, but do not wish to be burdened with the hard work incurred thereby. If a live, business man is selected, they will sustain him in his efforts and the work will be done as all would wish it,

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with credit to our cause. I know of one man especially fitted for this work, and at the proper time will place his name before the Convention. (Loud applause.)

WORK IN THE OFFICE.

I have already alluded to the increase of work at headquarters. Secretary Woodbury has been greatly over-worked and each day has found his volume of labor larger than it was before. This is a sign of healthy growth of the National Association, but there should be a corresponding growth in the material required for the labor that ought to be done. It is necessary for such an organization as this to keep in touch with the people. It requires a large correspondence to do this as it should be done. Every letter, however trivial, must be answered or there is a complaint at once against the Secretary. The columns of the secular and Spiritualist press are open to us and they must be supplied with valuable material that will interest the reading public. Such literature as is on hand for free distribution must be sent out, and a multitude of other duties, equally onerous, attended to. This condition of things will grow more burdensome as time passes on, and this Association must prepare itself for the change. There is even now work enough at headquarters to keep the Secretary, a stenographer and either the President or an assistant Secretary constantly at work. If the President is withdrawn from the field, who will keep the Association before the minds of the people? (Applause.) If the Secretary is expected to do the work alone, who is going to explain matters to the dissatisfied public all over the continent? (Applause.) There are two ways by which we can obviate this difficulty, and I re-state them now. Either keep your President in the home office or elect an assistant Secretary at a living salary. (Applause.) I assure you, fellow delegates, that something must be done in this matter. You cannot always expect a man to do three thousand dollars' worth of work upon a salary of nine hundred dollars per year. The salary should be made at least twelve hundred dollars ($1,200) and an assistant employed whose duty it shall be to attend to the literary and statistical departments, as well as to attend to the routine office work when the Secretary is ill or absent on leave. I recommend favorable legislation on this point, and ask you to give positive instructions in regard to the matter to the incoming Board, or settle the question at this time, as you deem best. (Applause.)

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

The Board of Trustees has attended to its duties as conscientiously as ever, and has tried to render efficient service to the cause as well as to the N. S. A. The meetings of the Board have been generally attended by all of the members, not less than seven being present at any one meeting. Six of the members have not missed a single quarterly meeting, and the others were kept away solely by illness. Your present President has missed only one quarterly meeting during the three years he has served this Association. Illness then was his excuse. I have no criticism to make upon my associates on the Board, nor upon their general work, but I feel that a more active policy for the coming year would be wise, in contradistinction to the inertia in certain directions during the past year. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT'S WORK.

I approach this topic with no little anxiety in my own mind as to what should be said in reference to it. I have tried to do my duty conscientiously, and have not met with the results I anticipated at first. I have already spoken of my labors in the office during the ten weeks following our last Convention. If it meets with your approval, I am satisfied. Since January 10 I have been constantly in the field, and my work upon the platform must speak for itself. I have averaged more than four lectures per week since that date, and have attended to a vast correspondence, written one hundred newspaper articles, and have submitted to a large number of interviews with reporters for the leading dailies of the land. I have had to employ a stenographer on many occasions, and not infrequently my letters have numbered one hundred per week. I am not overstating the number when I say that I have written and dictated more than twelve hundred of them during the year. I have taken in, during my thirty-three thousand miles (applause) of travel, $1,846.55 (loud applause and cheers); my expenses during the nine months I was abroad as your missionary were $1,080.81, leaving a surplus of $765.74, which I have turned over to the N S A. To this sum must be added my own personal donation to the N. S. A. of fifty dollars, which makes the total amount raised by me $815.74. (Applause.) This sum is not so large as I wish it was, but it represents as much labor as one individual can possibly do in so short a space of time. I have not infrequently spoken every night in the week and twice on Sundays for weeks in succession, but I have also had to travel many thousand miles to meet those engagements. I will not speak

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of the physical privations that have been mine during this period; it would take too much of your time, and would seem like a plea of martyrdom and a cry for sympathy were I to indulge in this description. Suffice it to say that this work of mine has not been wholly among the roses without thorns, nor have I missed the pain that results from the piercing of the flesh by these cruel thongs. I have fared far better than many of my predecessors did in the early days of Spiritualism, hence I ought not to complain.

Wherever I have gone I have generally been most warmly welcomed, hospitably entertained, and considerately treated by all classes of people. The secular press in all of the larger cities and towns where I have spoken, has given me from half a column to four and a half columns in review of my lectures, and of the interviews to which I submitted. (Applause.) The accounts of my meetings were telegraphed by the Associated Press to all quarters, and Spiritualism thereby given a fair showing before the world. It gives me pleasure to report that not one unkind or discourteous word or reference to me has been made by any one of the secular papers reporting my lectures. I have had to answer some of the most scientific and difficult questions propounded to me by the editors of several journals, yet they have, without exception, been most considerate and courteous in their manner toward me. One interview lasted four hours, ending at two o'clock in the morning. At its conclusion I asked the very able and scholarly editor why he cared for the material I had furnished him. "My readers wish to know something about Spiritualism, and want their information first hand. You are the representative of an organized body, and we always respect organization. If you did not have your National organization, I would not feel called upon to notice you, any more than I would a traveling showman." This statement, coming as it did from the editor of one of the great dailies of the land, is the strongest argument in favor of our National organization that I have ever heard. (Loud applause.)

But I must not weary you by entering too minutely into the details of my work. Excellent and almost flattering reports of the same were published in all of our Spiritualist papers, and by not less that thirty of the secular papers of the country. I ask my friends to consult these reports for that information which they desire further than I have given herein. There is one signal fact worthy of notice here. Our orthodox brethren, and our friends the Jews have shown me every consideration throughout my travels. The Methodists and Jews have even opened their churches and synagogues to

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me, free of all charges (applause), and permitted me to speak upon the religion of Spiritualism to the large audiences that filled them to overflowing. The Unitarians and Universalists have been the only denominations to refuse me the use of their pulpits for my missionary lectures on Spiritualism. Verily, the more liberal some people become the more intolerant are they of their neighbors' views and rights. (Applause.)

So much travel and such constant work in the way of public speaking affected my health not a little in several instances. I have been quite ill on three different occasions, but rallied my forces as soon as possible, with the aid of true and tried friends, and went at my work again. During my stay in Denver I attempted more than I ought to have done, ten addresses in a single day, and paid the penalty in full. I was confined to my bed one full week at the pleasant home of Dr. G. C. B. Ewell. I was fortunate to fall into such good hands. Dr. Ewell and his noble wife, as well as other members of his household, did everything in their power for me. Dr. W. F. Bogart was called in and took full charge of the case. I am under obligations to all of the parties named and to Mrs. Loe F. Prior as well for skillful nursing and kindly care. Verily, I did fall into the hands of my friends. The good people of Denver, Mrs. Bedell, John Slater, Prof. Singer, Mr. and Mrs. Kates and many others tried to make the days of my captivity pass as pleasantly as possible. To each and all of these kind friends, especially to Dr. Ewell and Dr. Bogart, I return my sincerest thanks for their great kindness and unbounded generosity to me. I am under similar obligations to Dr. O. G. W. Adams for services rendered me at Clinton and Dubuque, Iowa, and to Dr. W. M. Forster and Mrs. M. F. Drynan, in San Francisco, in which places I also had need of such medical aid as they were able to give me. On such occasions words fail to express the real sentiments in the soul of the one who has received these many kindnesses at the hands of his friends. (Applause.) Gratitude may be felt, even if it is not expressed in words.

REVIEW OF THE FIELD.

In glancing over the field, the true Spiritualist cannot fail to be pleased at the outlook. Everywhere he finds the interest in Spiritualism increasing and a tendency on the part of the public to treat the subject with impartiality. (Applause.) The call for missionary work has largely increased, thereby proving that Spiritualism is the topic of vital interest to-day. The eagerness with which information is sought upon the subject by clergymen, scholars, scientists and laity shows the ne-

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cessity of the N. S. A. equipping itself so that it will be able to meet all such demands. The call for literature should be supplied at cost, or nominal profit, and every possible exertion made to bring all classes of Spiritualists into closer relations with this body. Last year it was voted to open correspondence with the American Congress of Liberal Religions, with a view to a union with the same, if no sectarian bias was thereby encountered. I am not acquainted with the result of Secretary Woodbury's letters of inquiry, but feel that all humanitarian, liberal religious bodies should have a common bond of fellowship, hence I have no doubt but that a great good would accrue from a union with that body.

I feel also that this Convention should send a fraternal delegate to the Annual Convention of the National Free Thought Association, which is to assemble in Chicago, November 13 next, and whose able President, Samuel P. Putnam (applause), is with us to-day as a fraternal delegate from that body to this Convention of ours. There cannot be too much freedom of thought in religion, and true co-operation in the defense of the right can never be a menace to progress. "With malice toward none, with charity for all," let us do our work, and aid, as far as possible, other reformers in their endeavors to be of service to the world. (Applause.) In this connection there is another reform movement in which I believe we as Spiritualists should take an interest. It is a convention soon to be held in this city known as "The Mothers' Convention." (Applause.) To this convention I recommend that we send greetings and a fraternal delegate, showing the interest we as Spiritualists feel in such an important movement as this is. (Applause.)

The Spiritualist papers, *The Scandinavian Spiritualist*, *The Medium*, *The Dawning Light*, *Philosophical Journal*, *Progressive Thinker*, *Light of Truth* and *Banner of Light*, have one and all rendered our National Association invaluable aid during the past year. They have been its firm friends and ardent supporters, and have done much to rally the Spiritualists of the land to its support. (Applause.) Our thanks are certainly due to the able editors of these several journals for their cordial support, and for the free use of their columns to present the claims of our Association to the world. Our thanks should also be extended to the secular press that has done us such signal service during the past year. (Loud applause.)

We have not accomplished all we had hoped for last year, but we have done what we could. A new year is before us, fraught with high hopes and joyous anticipations. With an active policy looking out for the welfare of all, with the overcoming of

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the inertia that has crept into our ranks in certain directions, the N. S. A. can and will do a grander work in the ensuing next twelve months than has ever been done before. If we all rally to our standard of truth, and sustain our officials in their efforts, Spiritualism will soon rise triumphant over every foe, and become in fact what the angels designed it to be—the only true religion ever possessed by man. (Applause and cheers.)

I thank you, fellow delegates, for your kind attention today. (Loud and long continued applause.)

Respectfully submitted,

HARRISON D. BARRETT,
President N. S. A.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: The President's report, ladies and gentlemen, will be referred to the Committee on the President's Report, of which Mr. H. W. Richardson is chairman.

President Barrett in the Chair.

THE CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for the patience you have given to the reading of that very lengthy paper. Permit me to say it cost me six days of hard labor to prepare it. I have told the truth, so help me heaven, as I understand it (loud applause), and I will abide by the consequences of that telling, whatever your judgment of the same may be. I thank you. The report of the Secretary is now in order and will be received.

Mr. Charles R. Schirm, of Baltimore, was elected to read Secretary Woodbury's report, as follows:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: The report of our President, covering as it has the whole United States, is an interesting recitation of facts gathered from his extensive journeys over the country. Your Secretary's report must be of a different nature, as he, for the greater part of the time during the past year, has been confined to one room, seated at one desk. The absence of the President almost all of the year has placed upon his shoulders the responsibility of nearly all of the business of the office.

Many vexing questions have been brought to me for instant consideration and advice, and I have always attempted, in considering these questions, to represent no faction or clique but the interests of all the people; as this Association is National in its character—*of the people*—it must be conducted in the interest of the masses, instead of individuals or factions. *Upon this cornerstone rests the success of our institution.*

CHARTERED SOCIETIES.

At last we can truthfully say *organization* is a success. During the past two years our membership has more than doubled,

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and to-day we have 150 chartered societies and several applications awaiting the consideration of the Board of Trustees.

During these two years opposition to organization has constantly decreased, and many persons who two years ago were strongly opposed to it now realize that good results do come from successful co-operation. Several chartered societies have ceased to exist and two or three more are in a bad condition; but the general outlook is very encouraging, and with a long pull and a strong pull together we can again double our membership in the next year. We need immediately a missionary-at-large, who shall not only visit chartered societies, but establish new ones.

I again, as in my last report, recommend that some arrangement be consummated that shall place in the field a person who shall devote all his or her time to this work. Knowing that you will elect Harrison D. Barrett again President, without a dissenting vote (loud applause and cheers), I appeal to you to issue minute directions in regard to his work. It is important that the N. S. A. progress, but it is also important that our Lincoln shall not be allowed to kill himself that it may thrive. (Long continued applause.)

MISSIONARY WORK.

The demand for missionary work, in the South especially, is steadily increasing and this Convention must heed the call. The societies at New Orleans, La.; Atlanta, Ga.; Jacksonville and Tampa, Fla., need, more than words can tell, our fraternal co-operation and assistance. These societies are as lights set upon a hill and, if we do our duty, will not be allowed to be extinguished. A trip to the South early in the year convinced me that in no section of the country was there such a field for workers as through the South. I have been requested time after time for laborers to go into this great field which is indeed ripe unto the harvest. Texas also should again receive our attention; in very many localities vigorous societies could be organized at once if we had the laborers who would go to this State.

Many calls for missionaries have been received from Virginia and North and South Carolina, and through the efforts of the Southern Cassadaga Camp at Lake Helen, Fla., a great interest has been created in that State. I organized in December last a society at Atlanta, and in that city a great work can be accomplished at a small expense.

In several of the Western States a splendid field for missionary work is only waiting for the inspired and devoted worker to reap a glorious harvest. No State, however, needs

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our attention more than New York; an active missionary in that State, backed by a progressive State Association, could in a short time bring back to life many societies that have been allowed to go to sleep, and in this connection allow me to allude to one of the best factors of our missionary work.

MASS MEETINGS.

I regret exceedingly that so few of these most important gatherings have been held this year, and why all our Board could not realize the importance of these meetings and insist on more of them I do not understand.

In States where lively State Associations are (and they should be in every State) these mass meetings can be successfully conducted by such associations with perhaps the co-operation of some persons connected with the N. S. A.; but in States where there are no such associations the N. S. A. must hold mass conventions to arouse the people. Fearing no literal hell fire our people get sleepy and need to be thoroughly awakened occasionally. The mass meetings held this year have proved that with proper management such gatherings cannot only be made a success spiritually but financially as well. (Applause.)

The magnificent success of the rally in New York City held under the management of our Vice President, Mrs. Richmond, not only proved her ability as an executive officer but also added to the many laurels she has won for herself and this Association as its most accomplished Vice President. Any woman who would dare face the responsibility she did in that New York mass meeting, any woman who can so successfully carry out in all its minute details such an undertaking, is truly worthy the respect and admiration of all her co-laborers. (Loud applause.)

The mass meeting at Denver, through the aid of Dr. G. C. B. Ewell, Mrs. Prior, Mr. Kates, Mrs. Kates and many others, not omitting our worthy President, was a success in the face of considerable opposition. San Francisco was the place, however, where our endeavors this year culminated in a great spiritual revival.

We ought this year to have one mass meeting every month, several of which should be held in the South. This I most earnestly recommend.

Missionaries in several States have done effective service. Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Sprague have always been our most successful organizers. About one-quarter of the chartered societies affiliated with the N. S. A. have been chartered through the persistent endeavors of this worthy couple. Rev.

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J. M. Allen and Rev. Theresa Allen during the past year have in the far West conducted a campaign of education in regard to organization with splendid results. Theodore Price, Lucy Barnicoat, G. H. Brooks, W. J. Colville, Virginia Barrett, Allen Brown, W. H. Bach, Mrs. Wetherford, Carl Wicklund (among the Scandinavians in the Northwest), Mrs. L. A. MaBee in Kansas and Mrs. May Drynan in California, have all proved themselves efficient workers. Mrs. Loe F. Prior, one of our recently appointed missionaries, has lately been in Canada and has gained for us additional membership there, and John Eggleston, of the United States, is always engaged in an active canvass for the N. S. A. Mr. Chas. Stanglen and Mr. Reade, of Baltimore, have recently conducted an effective campaign in Virginia. (Applause.) Mr. J. J. Morse, of England, having been located in this country this year, has proved himself our true friend and able co-worker. (Applause.)

STATE AGENTS.

We wish some of the State agents had been able to accomplish more, but in some localities it has been impossible to more than keep struggling societies alive. Effective service has been done by Rowland E. Webster, Atlanta, Ga.; Dr. G. C. B. Ewell, Denver, Colo.; James Freeman, Bloomington, Ill.; Carrie McCall Black, Canton, Ill.; Dr. O. G. W. Adams, Dubuque, Iowa; W. H. Myers, Hoaglin, Ohio; Rev. G. C. Love, Portland, Ore.; M. E. Cadwallader, Philadelphia, Pa.; Ida P. A. Whitlock, Providence, R. I.; Chas. Newnam, San Antonio, Texas; Capt. J. C. Watkins, Dallas, Texas; Dr. Smith, Brandon, Vt.; Clara Field Conant, U. S. A.; Horace Berry, Portland, Me.; Fred Fickey and Chas. Stanglen, Baltimore, Md.; J. B. Hatch, Jr., Massachusetts; A. E. Sheets, Grand Ledge, Mich.; Dr. Aspinwall, Minnesota; Dr. P. S. George, Nebraska; Edgar Emerson, Manchester, N. H.; John Eggleston and Frank Walker, New York, and Mrs. Whitney, California. Wide-awake State agents we must have in every State. Upon selecting the right persons for these positions depends much of our success. (Applause.)

LIBRARY.

I am pleased to report that our library has grown steadily during the year. We now have nearly five hundred of the standard works of the most noted Spiritualist and Liberal authors. We are indebted to a very large number for contributions of books. R. B. Hall, San Francisco; Colby and Rich, Boston; G. Y. Nickerson, Fall River; Albert Morton,

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California; Arthur Dent, Coshocton, O.; L. Ormsby, Michigan; Helen O. Richmond, Cleveland; Virginia Barrett, Indianapolis; Annie Lord Chamberlain, Boston; Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, Bridgeport, Conn.; J. T. Dodge, Madison, Wis.; M. O. Weller, Copenhagen, N. Y., have each made very valuable and large donations. Dr. M. E. and Mrs. Rosa Conger, Chicago, contributed a valuable library of 45 books. (Applause.)

This library has become an important factor of our organization and it has been visited by many well-known people who are seeking information in regard to Spiritualism. Senators, Representatives, clergymen and literary people of all denominations have been among these visitors, and we have thus accomplished a work of education that cannot be overestimated.

LITERATURE.

We have circulated this year 5,000 copies of the tract, "What is Spiritualism?" by H. D. Barrett, Thos. Gales Forster and Hudson Tuttle; 5,000 copies of "Presentation of Spiritualism," arranged by the Guides of Mrs. C. L. V. Richmond, for the World's Parliament of Religions; 3,000 copies of "Organization," by Dr. Hidden; 3,000 copies of "The Development of Spiritualism and its Demands upon its Recipients," by J. F. Baxter; 15,000 copies National Messenger; several hundred copies of the Report of President Barrett of the work accomplished by the N. S. A., 1895, and a very large number of the various Spiritualist journals kindly forwarded us by their respective publishers.

"What is Spiritualism" and Mrs. Richmond's paper have been in constant demand, and I recommend that thousands more of these two tracts, also one by Dr. Hidden on "Organization," be published for free distribution this year.

The work in this department has been very successful; the demand for this literature increases every day and we must meet it. (Applause.)

The question is often asked, "Why distribute so much literature?" To educate the masses in regard to Spiritualism. Thousands of people think when a person alludes to Spiritualism, it is simply getting your fortune told by a Veiled Lady, or Seventh Daughter, consequently many otherwise sensible people have no desire to investigate it. Sometimes people lose a valuable article and then all at once they repair to the wonderful secular paper advertising medium to have said article located. To educate the masses in regard to Spiritualism as a science, a religion, is a great undertaking. I receive

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many letters of this kind: "I recently went on a journey; a little dog followed us from our home; he was lost. If you will locate the dog and return him to us we will believe in Spiritualism." (Laughter.) Again I have been visited several times by gentlemen who were having trouble with their sweethearts who wanted my advice in regard to writing them; by laundresses who desired me to locate stolen linen, etc. (Laughter.) These statements, brief as they must be, illustrate why we must distribute our literature widely each year, thus slowly but surely educating the masses in regard to those things we *know* and therefore *fearlessly teach*. Intelligent, educated men and women are often, by the perusal of a well-written article, won as friends and investigators of Spiritualism. (Applause.)

POST OFFICE MISSIONS.

Literature is successfully circulated by our Unitarian friends through what is known as the Post Office Mission. It would be well for societies to look into the methods of this kind of mission work. In localities where there are not enough Spiritualists to support a meeting, a reading club can thus be instituted, and from such clubs good results come.

SPIRITUAL PRESS.

The Banner of Light, The Progressive Thinker, The Light of Truth, The Philosophical Journal, The Medium, The Dawning Light, World's Advanced Thought, The Scandinavian Spiritualist and several German papers, have done all they could to aid us. The united aid of the Spiritual press has been sincerely appreciated by your President, Secretary and Board of Trustees. In return for this kindness and in the interest of true Spiritualism we implore the Spiritualists of the country to as liberally patronize them all as possible. (Applause.)

A boy being once questioned as to the religious views of his father, replied: "My father is a Methodist, but he doesn't work at it." (Laughter.) Alas, there are too many of this kind of Spiritualists. To intelligently work "at it" a person must be well read, up to the times. Patronize our Spiritual papers, and after you have carefully read a few you will not only get other subscribers, but get the *organization fever*, which is not fatal to anybody, but is a sure cure for laziness. (Applause.)

ORDINATION.

A question you have to consider is:

How can ordination best be regulated so as to prevent persons not qualified by education or development of spiritual gifts from receiving endorsement of this kind?

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Allow me to say that there is a very large number of ordination certificates in America that are not worth the paper upon which they are written or printed. Your officers have protested and do now protest against wholesale ordination. Persons should be fitted to be teachers and preachers of Spiritualism, and be men and women of excellent moral status, before such endorsement as ordination is conferred upon them. Is it well or not that the N. S. A. issue papers of this kind? We ought to have in every State a State Association to attend to such matters. Some societies have certainly abused this kind of endorsement. It will be well for this question to be thoroughly discussed, for it, like other vexing questions, must be settled right. (Applause.)

Early in the year your President and Secretary issued a statement in regard to mediums versus fortune-tellers. This statement we deemed wise because we realized they (the mediums) in many places were placing themselves in a dangerous position by persisting in advertising in secular papers, in the same department of said papers with those who claimed to be wonderful mediums, wonderful clairvoyants, seventh daughter of the seventh daughter, spiritual mothers, sellers of love powders and charms, persons who advertise to bring about speedy marriage, but who aid the divorce lawyer most in his business. That you may understand the reason why we issued this document, I desire to call your attention to two advertisements of these Kings of Clairvoyance, etc.

"BLACK ART UNDERGROUND DOCTOR AND BUSINESS MEDIUM,

Who defies Satan to interfere with my wonderful powers. Unites and reunites, procures speedy marriages, returns the husband or wife from far distance, makes the unhappy family happy, controls lawsuits by influencing the court, gives change of luck for anything that is wished for in life, breaks evil control in one hour, dresses houses of business such as sporting houses, boarding houses, hotels or any place of business and guarantees a successful rush of business, makes the one that owes you pay, causes speedy pensions, gives changes of luck for Louisiana lottery, and gives lucky numbers, dresses lucky hands for gambling, dresses ground for digging money, guarantees to remove your troubles and stand you on the foundation of a brighter life and that your golden hours shall again return. This is done by one of the most wonderful and greatest *Black Art Underground Business Mediums* ever heard or read of. Cures rheumatism, asthma, dyspepsia and hundreds of other things that I dare not mention. I am

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the only man ever heard or read of that has the power to bring the loved one from across the briny ocean."

No. 2. "The greatest exponent of psychometric science in America; she tells the name, age, occupation, etc., of her caller; also the name, age, occupation, disposition, nationality and financial standing of your future husband or wife and date of marriage; she tells the outcome of any case of love, marriage, divorce, speculation, lawsuit or business venture; in short, your past, present or future life to her is an open book; she tells you every hope and wish of your life as plainly and easily as if she has always known you, and how to accomplish your desires in either case; if your friend or lover is false, she can tell you why, when and where, and how to bring them back and keep them; advice on speculations, business, love, marriage, divorce, lawsuits, domestic troubles and all affairs of life by a higher than human power; the Egyptian charm given free on security for 90 days, for lovers' troubles, family disturbances and financial success; hours 9 A. M. to 9 P. M.; fee $1.00."

If this is Spiritualism, are you and I Spiritualists?

The publishing of this document caused a sensation among this class of impostors, who are organized, and thus they become a menace to our cause. One "Spiritual Mother" (?) in Washington answered us in this way: "So the National Association wants to drive us out of the business, does it? Well, let them try. Their Association was organized to furnish fat salaries for the officers of it and make a corner in the market for medium work. They came to me several times and urged me to join them but I do not see why I should pay them $25.00 dues just to say that I belong to the Association." This person never was approached by any member of the N. S. A. nor requested to join us. (Applause.)

A National Association representing one hundred and fifty local societies in this Convention, ought never to adjourn until it settles the question of "How shall we rid Spiritualism of these vampires who steal the livery of heaven to serve the devil in?" With this class of people masquerading as spirit-mediums can we ever hope to advance? The number of these fakirs right here in Washington exceeds often the number of genuine mediums.

This Convention must speak on this question in a voice that shall be heard in the remotest hamlet in Maine, and likewise in Canada, Texas, and California.

The Philadelphia arrests, an outrage of the rights of American people, should teach us a lesson that we should never forget. The time has come now to stamp out fakirs and frauds,

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affinity promoters and the destroyers of the American home, whether inside or outside of our ranks. The N. S. A. for a single moment must never trail its banner in the dust by recognizing lawlessness as liberty, or depravity as progression. (Applause.) The advance guard of the Spiritual Army —and the great American public—demand that you shall now in this Convention answer this question: "How can we protect Spiritualism, Spiritualists, honest mediums and the public from the army of fortune-tellers and charm-sellers and impostors who use Spiritualism as a cloak under which they ply a nefarious business?"

And as Ella Wheeler Wilcox says, "No question is ever settled until it's settled right," I beseech you in the name of all that Spiritualism has done and can do for the world, clear away the barnacles from our good old ship before they drag her under water. (Applause.)

You have in your keeping the key of all successful progressive religions. Will you arise in your might and meet the demands of the times, or will you acknowledge that you are mentally unable to solve this problem? A resolve that fortune-telling and charm-selling, reuniting lovers, etc., is not indorsed by Spiritualism is not enough to answer the demand of the hour. I repeat, this question must be answered now, and it ought to be answered right.

We insist that a spirit-medium is a person, an instrument through whom disembodied intelligences can manifest themselves to mortals and give positive proof of their identity. These mediums we should shield and protect on all occasions, if they deserve protection, if they try to live true lives and never add to the spiritual manifestations by trickery or deception.

A crowd of fakirs have begged and prayed and offered money for endorsement at our office, all with the same result: "We want individual membership." Of course they do; people who will resort to all kinds of tricks to even get an envelope with N. S. A. printed on it, of course want individual membership, and then receiving the endorsement of some one who could be bought, or fooled, they would secure what they wish. Spiritualists of America, now is your opportunity! Now is the chance for you to distinguish yourselves.

There are thousands of dollars ready to back up this Association the moment it shall show itself worthy by doing this work. We as Spiritualists must do it, or the detectives and policemen will do it for us. The kind of persons to whom I allude can be found in every great city. I know a party who recently visited twelve of them and never received one sin-

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gle indication that any one of this army of twelve, all in one city, could give a spiritual communication or was even a psychometric reader. If Spiritualism is placed in the right light before the world we shall not need to protect mediums. The average public, knowing nothing of Spiritualism, accepts the fakir as its exponent, and some of our people who live absolutely correct lives are placed under detective and police surveillance in certain sections of the country as they go about on their errands of mercy, of love and consolation. Remember, the fakir and the apostle of disorganization present the same arguments against this organization.

Our methods of procedure with those whom we detect imposing on the public, who are poor in purse, ought to be of the same nature as is illustrated by this true story of Henry Newton, our beloved arisen brother:

A man came to the city of New York and advertised as a spirit photographer. Mr. Newton invited this man to his house and engaged a series of sittings with him. Sixteen times and no results; at the seventeenth sitting phenomena were produced. Mr. Newton said, "My dear brother, if you will give this business up I will assist you to honest employment. You must not go on fooling the public in this way. If you develop in future years enough to present honest phenomena at every sitting you can go before the public." This man is in New York to-day, an honest and respected citizen. Of Mr. Newton we can truly say:

> "Such was our friend, formed on the good old plan,
> A true and brave and downright honest man!
> His daily prayer, far better understood
> In acts than words, was simply doing good.
> So calm, so constant, was his rectitude,
> That by his loss alone we know his worth,
> And feel how true a man has walked with us on earth."
>
> —WHITTIER.

(Applause.)

SPIRITUALISTS' DIRECTORY.

Early this year I opened a Spiritualists' Directory and have now recorded on its pages the names of 2,000 Spiritualists. This directory has already been of great service to us, especially in our legislative and other departments, and will be of great service to the future officers of the N. S. A.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The great expense of publishing our annual report and the insignificant returns from the sale of the same, though advertised extensively, is a matter that claims your earnest attention. The report this year for printing alone, not including the

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labor put into its preparation for publication, was about $400; when all returns shall have been collected the total sale of last year's report will not reach $175. The American Unitarian Association, which last year received $53,570 in donations and $270,031.60 altogether, prints the annual report in a pamphlet of twenty-nine pages. It has cost much money, which some of your officers were actually suffering for, to print these reports to stow away where the moths and rust corrupt them. I honestly believe in retrenchment in regard to these reports, and ask you to consider this question well.

FOREIGN REPORTS.

A very large number of foreign reports have been received. One written by J. J. Morse, of England, is a most important one. This one must not be overlooked and ought to be presented to the Convention.

SECULAR PRESS.

We are indebted to the Washington *Post*, *Times* and *Star* for announcements of this Convention and other meetings. And we trust that the reports of the Convention shall prove that the reporters present are educated and well posted men and women, who will give the public a fair, impartial account of our proceedings.

OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD OTHER DENOMINATIONS.

I trust this Association will be kindly in its spirit toward all people of other denominations.

The N. S. A. is the only patriotic non-sectarian National Association located in Washington; this is a bold statement, but nevertheless true. All other patriotic American institutions here are under the partial or entire control of the priest, Protestant or Catholic. Let our platform be broad, our watchword toleration. Knowing no church can be a great success that ignores the proofs of Immortality of the Soul, we can afford to labor and wait, always ready to extend the hand of fellowship and brotherly love to any who, loving humanity, will unite with us for humanity's true salvation. (Applause.)

Editor Newman, in the last issue of the *Philosophical Journal*, says:

"Nineteen Spiritualist meetings were advertised in a daily paper for one of the Sundays of last month in San Francisco. As there were not, in all probability, more than enough for two or three good audiences in all the nineteen, we are led to inquire *why* the strength and energies of the Spiritualists should be so preposterously squandered in these little knots,

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when by united energies and co-operation they could have been so much more effectual and productive? It is well said that 'union is strength.' We add: Division is weakness, and discord is ruinous! We call for a 'halt.' Let wiser counsels prevail. Union, strength and harmony are very desirable."

Your officers, as far as possible, have labored unceasingly to concentrate our power by uniting in one "harmonious whole" the many societies that exist in such large numbers in our cities. Every word Bro. Newman says in this article is true—shall we not try to remedy it? (Applause.)

I have been requested to give my views in regard to the causes which have culminated in the destruction of many societies in this country during my twenty years' connection with you as a people, which I am pleased to do.

1st and greatest reason of all: The existence in the Society of some one who, right or wrong, allows no business to be transacted except as he or she shall direct.

2d. Fraudulent mediums, fakirs, employed without endorsement or acquaintance.

3d. Tricky business methods that will not stand investigation and are not endorsed by the society.

4th. Meetings held in miserable, God-forsaken, angel-forsaken, and man-forsaken halls, located in questionable neighborhoods and altogether unspiritual surroundings.

5th. Conducting a spiritual meeting on the show plan, viz: the talent that attracts the largest crowd must be employed because it pays, no matter if it be good, bad or indifferent.

6th. Changing speakers every month, and in some localities every Sunday.

And, finally, one of the strongest reasons why societies are often not a success is this fact, which I notice all over the country—lack of sociability.

What makes so many churches a success? Not the intellectual attainments of the pastor, not because there are many wealthy persons in the church, but because the pastor is a sharp business man; every one is given something to do, consequently every one is interested in what is going on all the time. Our people in many places do not even have ushers at their meeting. A stranger is met at every church door with "Good Morning, Sister," or "Good Morning, Brother," as the case may be. Strangers drift in and out of our meetings and no one notices them; they feel the iceberg chill and often seek more hospitable places to attend meetings on Sunday. People like to be noticed; to notice them means money and good fellowship. Cannot we learn something, even now, in regard to this subject? To keep everybody enthusiastic in a

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society, a business meeting of the society should be held once each month, and as many people given something to do as possible. (Applause.)

Less time should be given to turning people down and more to encouraging them to pick themselves up and go forward. Too many of our old workers and too many of our young workers have already been turned down in order to please some ambitious person in a society.

CHARITABLE WORK.

We hear too much about the Home Over There and too little about our common brotherhood. Remember the words of the famous poet:

I am no priest of crooks nor creeds,
For human wants and human needs
Are more to me than prophets' deeds,
And human tears and human cares
Affect me more than human prayers.

Take up your arms, come out with me,
Let Heav'n alone; humanity
Needs more and Heaven less from thee.
With pity for mankind look 'round;
Help them to rise—and Heaven is found.

We congratulate the Veteran Spiritualists Union on the grand success of its efforts and ask all to rally to support this worthy organization. Spiritualists of America, do not let your aged and infirm suffer. Cast your bread upon the waters, and after many days it shall surely return to you, good measure running over. (Applause.)

I have received invitations from the Executive Committee of Wisconsin State Centennial Committee, Milwaukee, Wis.; Detroit, Mich., Convention League, composed of Representatives of the City Government, Chamber of Commerce, Manufacturers' Club, Board of Trade, Merchants' and Manufacturers' Exchange, Newspapers, Railroad and Steamboat Transportation Companies, and the Managers and Proprietors of Hotels; also from His Excellency P. Turney, Governor of the State of Tennessee; from his honor the Mayor of Nashville, Tenn., Wm. McCarty; also president of the city council, A. S. Williams, and A. J. Harris of the Nashville Board of Trade. From E. C. Lewis, Director General Tennessee Centennial, and the *Nashville Banner*, *Nashville American*, *Nashville Sun*, and representatives of the *Nashville Daily Press;* also invitation from the Hygeia Hotel, Old Point Comfort, Va., to hold a convention or mass meeting in their respective sections of the country. Straws tell which way the winds blow. (Loud applause.)

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Organized Progressive Spiritualism is respected and its representatives welcomed anywhere that members of any church or other society are welcomed. Heed well this indication of the fading away of prejudice against us as a people, and betray not the confidence of the public who thus is coming to your support.

Organization has also almost silenced the pulpit scandal dispensers and denouncers of Spiritualism. Even Talmage says now he thinks the saints, some of them, may yet return. Strange, many a black sheep has turned out white "Over There," and even Presbyterian clergymen, who learn to be polite and use respectful language in good society, are allowed to return to earth once more—not only that, they are allowed to associate with Putnam, Paine, Voltaire and other great souls gone before into the Land of the Soul.

LEGISLATIVE WORK.

The National Association has accomplished a great work in regard to checking iniquitous legislation in Congress during the past year. The campaign was aggressive from start to finish, and resulted in a complete victory for the principles we represent. No proposed legislation we opposed was in any degree successful. I ascertained early in the last session of Congress that an attempt was to be made to secure the enactment of a Sunday Blue Law for the District of Columbia. Congress was soon deluged with petitions for the passage of this law; residents of every State, village and hamlet all at once seemed to get the idea that a Sunday law must be enacted for the District of Columbia, and cities where barrooms were open and baseball allowed on Sunday, sent in monster petitions to regulate the riotous Washington Sabbath. Sunday rest was demanded for this city, so quiet and orderly, so completely orthodox already that persons from the North or West will have a "chill" creep over them if obliged to stop here over the first day of the week.

Why this national effort to pass a Sunday law for Washington, D. C.? In the interests of the working classes? Not a bit of it, but to secure an endorsement of evangelical religion by Congress. Of all kinds of Jesuits in the body or out, those most to be feared are the Protestant Jesuits, represented by the National Reform Association and Reform Bureau, who, when Congress is in session, bob up serenely with a new scheme every day. The members of the Free Thought Federation and American Secular Union immediately sent that sterling patriot, Hon. Samuel Putnam (loud applause), to Washington to assist in defending the Constitutional rights of the people.

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Knowing that in union there is always strength, I invited Bro. Putnam to make his home with me that we might concentrate our forces for the battle before us. In due time our genial brother arrived, we nailed our colors to the masthead and proclaimed our position. We first, with the assistance and co-operation of the Washington Secular League and individual Spiritualists of Washington, instituted union meetings to discuss the subjects under consideration on each Sunday afternoon. For six weeks this most remarkable series of meetings was held, and the result was the creation of a strong *public sentiment in our favor*. Unitarians, Secularists, Jews, Spiritualists, Seventh Day Adventists participated in these public demonstrations.

When the hearing on the Morse Sunday Bill was held, our opponents confessed themselves whipped by not coming forward and attending the hearing appointed for them to defend their own bill, consequently Bro. Morse's Sunday Bill went into the Congressional waste-basket. (Applause.) Meanwhile that antiquated ghost, "God in the Constitution," was once more brought forth to the light of day. Quietly, surreptitiously, like a thief in the night, this remnant of the Covenanters was introduced for enactment.

When we unearthed this ancient relic of defeated Orthodoxy and found that we had only twenty-eight days to meet its champions, war was declared at once by our gallant General Putnam, Brother Moon, of the International Liberty League Adventists, and your humble servant. For twenty-eight days we conducted a campaign that surprised our friend, "the enemy," at every hand. In twenty-eight days the Spiritualists of this country responded to my call to the number of fifteen thousand remonstrances. (Applause.) The Free Thinkers, Jews, Seventh Day Baptists and Adventists and Unitarians increased this number to a very large figure. The day of the hearing arrived and Gen. Putnam, Dr. Croffut, Mr. Abraham, Mr. Moon, Rev. Jenkins Lloyd Jones, Rev. Bates, Plainfield, N. J., and myself defended the grand old Constitution and appealed to the Judiciary Committee to protect it from becoming a National Orthodox Creed. The result was that not one single member of that Committee would vote to change a letter or a word of the Constitution of the days of Washington, Franklin and Paine. (Applause.)

Another bill will come before Congress, as soon as the politicians succeed in saving the country, to recognize God in the Constitution. All bills up to the present time have been worded God and Jesus Christ; the new one only intro-

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duces the Supreme Ruler of the Universe. This new bill is more dangerous than the old ones because many people will endorse it without thinking of its true purpose. This Association has a mighty work to do in the future in opposing this kind of legislation. Thousands of dollars have already been raised to assist "God in the Constitution" and "Sunday Law" campaigns. We must meet and oppose them every time they desire to secure legislation. More than this, we must put them on the defensive and demand the Museums and Libraries in this city shall be open on Sunday. There are thousands of persons, employed by the Government, who have lived here years yet never have visited these places. Why? They are only open when they are at work. It is a disgrace that strangers who are obliged to stay in this city over Sunday cannot spend any of the time visiting those places where they would be educated and instructed. Away with Sunday laws that stand in the way of education and progression. Away with any law that in any way, however small, is a union of Church and State. A vigorous campaign is already on to close every post-office in the United States on Sunday and stop every mail train. Within three months several post-offices have been closed. (Applause.)

This Association must conduct an aggressive campaign again this year along all these lines, and I beg of those who will succeed your present officers in office to not forget the secret of our success this year—fraternal co-operation; the uniting of all the people of whatever name who believe in Liberty, Equal Rights and the Grand Old Constitution. Personally, I desire to return my sincere thanks to all who combined with us to win so grand and complete a victory. We must stand by our liberal friends on the platform of the "Nine Demands of Liberalism," and shoulder to shoulder march forward to still more successful achievements.

We all, I know, extend a hearty welcome to Bro. Samuel Putnam to this Convention. May the American Free Thought Federation and Secular Union, and National Spiritualists Association always continue their present kindly and fraternal relations. Our Congressional work this year was very inexpensive. Our Advent friends distributed so much literature of so good a quality in Congress that it was not necessary to expend money for literature. Our entire expense was not more than fifty dollars. (Loud applause.)

REINCORPORATING THE N. S. A. AND RECHARTERING SOCIETIES.

The work of the office has been nearly double that of the preceding year—not only did we have Congressional work on

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our hands, but after our reincorporation each local society had to be rechartered. Delegates who were in attendance at the last Convention did not seem to understand why rechartering was necessary. At one time I despaired of ever succeeding in the undertaking. We have by persistent endeavor secured newly signed and sealed applications from most of these societies. These have been carefully preserved in a scrap-book and now if any one doubts our legal organization we have not only our original credentials, but signed and sealed applications for our charters. I have reorganized and brought to life the society in Lexington, Ky., and if the N. S. A. is in the next year what it now claims to be it will aid this society to live. The policy of the N. S. A. has not been lively enough to suit me the past year entirely. While I will give my last dollar and last drop of blood in defense of honest mediums, the National Association management should be progressive enough to be able to not only protect mediums but to do several other things also. (Applause.)

We have a large number of able, devoted Spiritualists in the country—many of whom will co-operate to assist the N. S. A. if they are politely approached. The only great danger to our Association, as has been stated by our enemies, is not allowing people to assist us by working in their own way. No one person possesses all knowledge; no permanent success can be secured unless liberty of action shall be allowed for the truth's sake. We need workers in our ranks who expect no reward—who demand none but the satisfaction of knowing they have served the race with a desire to leave the world better than they found it.

MEDIUMS' DEFENSE FUND.

This fund has slowly increased until now we have $515.14 on hand. We placed $300 of this at one time in Philadelphia as a safety fund, but it was not needed and so was returned to our treasury. (Applause.)

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL TEMPLE FUND.

The Convention is called upon to consider the question of arranging for the establishment of a Spiritual Temple Fund. There can be no reason advanced by any sane person against starting or allowing others to start this fund.

There are now several who desire to leave money by will for a National Memorial, to be a temple and a school combined, here in Washington.

We are pleased to note that our friend and co-laborer, Moses Hull, has been instrumental in starting a summer school

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in the West. The N. S. A. should lead in all such movements, and there will never be a better time than now to begin. Soon after coming to Washington the spirit friends requested that we organize a Ladies' Aid here. The friends were invited to headquarters and a Ladies' Aid organized. This association has now grown to a flourishing society with a membership of about one hundred. A three days' bazaar was held last winter and over five hundred dollars raised toward this Temple Fund. If the N. S. A. will not now consider this question and co-operate with them and other friends, the Ladies' Aid will proceed alone. They are money getters; they mean business. They would prefer to work for the N. S. A. Temple; if they cannot, then they will erect a Ladies' Aid Temple, and if they make up their minds to do it, they will succeed.

FOX HOME AT HYDESVILLE, N. Y.

I understand that the house in which the first raps were heard and interpreted, that ushered in the glad religion of Spiritualism, can be purchased at a reasonable figure. This place ought to be owned by the N. S. A. and preserved by it.

LYCEUMS.

I have endeavored to do all in my power to encourage the advancement of the lyceum. I regret sincerely that we are so very far behind our brethren in England in this regard. I hope this Convention will consider this department of our work. We hear the prayer often, "God give us men," but the genuine article is as rare everywhere as it is at the fashionable summer resorts.

Spiritualists of America, how can you longer so grossly neglect the great chance you have to educate the rising generation so that they shall become intellectual giants, not followers of blind theology, but leaders among scientists and thinkers? Catholics and Protestants alike are careful to instill into the minds of the young their religious views; you should teach the truths of Spiritualism, the very essence of all religions. (Applause.)

One by one our veteran leaders are passing to the life beyond. Who are to fill their places? Able speakers are few, able platform mediums are few, and we are obliged to call on Robert Ingersoll to help us save some of our camp meetings (financially).

We must arouse ourselves if we desire to be known as the worthy successors of our arisen co-workers. The Children's Progressive Lyceum must be sustained; it is the source from which come the life and future strength of our movement. (Applause.)

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MOTHERS' CONVENTION.

I notice with great pleasure that some of the eminent women of our land are planning to hold a Mothers' Convention in this city this winter. I trust the N. S. A. will appoint delegates to attend it. When the people of the world realize that a child has a right to be born right, salvation by and through blood will not be necessary.

I also notice with pleasure that a club of young people has been organized in New York, who have taken an oath not to marry if they find themselves or the party to whom they are paying attention afflicted with an hereditary disease.

Mothers' Conventions, Fathers' Conventions, and young people's clubs, mean less occupants in the insane asylums, poorhouses and jails. They mean a new heaven and a new earth, here and now. It is your duty to speed the day when more attention shall be given to the producing of a perfect child than a fine bred "trotter," a Jersey cow, or a brood of chickens. (Applause.)

Finally, Spiritualism in 1896 has made a splendid record. The immense sale of Florence Marryatt's books, and also those of Marie Corelli, indicate what the public is demanding. Our friends, the Theosophists and Psychic Researchers, will enter into the promised land you ought to occupy if too much time is to be given up to quibbling and wrangling.

ASSISTANCE AT OFFICE.

I am opposed to the appointment of an Assistant Secretary, as I believe it wiser to employ help during the winter months, if necessary. In July, August and September we do not need an assistant. Indeed, I think my successor should be allowed one week for absolute rest in August. (Applause.)

DELEGATE TO CONVENTION OF NATIONAL FREE THOUGHT FEDERATION.

The annual meeting of this association occurs next month in Chicago. This Convention should appoint a delegate or delegates to represent us there.

FINANCES.

We have been very successful, from a financial point of view. Dr. O. G. W. Adams, our gallant Financial Agent, has won fresh laurels this year. Give him a hearty welcome in

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this Convention, and have your pocketbooks ready to open when he calls for funds. Our sterling friend, Frank Walker, will also report to you of his successful labors. We have a balance in the treasury of $1,093.67. I consider this a remarkable showing, considering the severe financial pressure that has existed. (Applause.)

REPEAL OF MEDICAL LAWS AND THOSE ENACTED WHICH HAMPER AND ENDANGER OUR MEDIUMS.

I have endeavored to co-operate with all who were working to repeal laws and city ordinances that were enacted to retard the progress of Spiritualism and limit the liberties of the people. While there are a few people who like to be arrested in order to become martyrs, we believe our people as a whole are law-abiding people and sincere lovers of civil and religious liberty for all. Let us endeavor to repeal all Medical and Medium regulating laws faithfully and consistently and success will be sure to come.

FILES OF SPIRITUAL PAPERS.

We have collected from all over the country sixteen volumes of Spiritual papers; these have been bound and now grace the shelves of our Library.

SCHOOL OR INSTITUTE FOR MEDIUMS AND THOSE WHO ARE DEVELOPING AS MEDIUMS.

I have had brought to my notice many persons who were absolutely suffering for instruction and advice. Many obsessed and partially obsessed mediums have appealed to me for counsel and advice, and I have devoted all the time I could to assist them. May all true Spiritualists aid the angels to speed the day when somewhere we shall have a school or institute where such cases can be taken, surrounded by harmonious associations and educated scientific Spiritualists and given the aid they need.

CONCLUSION.

To my many friends North, South, East and West, who have been so loyal and true, I return my thanks, especially to my old associates and co-laborers in Massachusetts. I have endeavored to see to it that the N. S. A., organized by the people, for the people, in the interests of all the people, was, as far as I was concerned, conducted as a people's asso-

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ciation. I shall regret sincerely if I have failed in thus interpreting the wish of the people. To the many friends in Washington, my wife and I return our thanks for your sincere endorsement and friendship. My second term of office closes with this Convention, and I part with all the members of the Board with only kind wishes for and toward them all. (Applause.) Respectfully submitted,

FRANCIS B. WOODBURY,
Secretary.

THE CHAIRMAN: This report will be referred to the Committee on Secretary's Report.

MR. WALKER: All delegates who have not received their tickets will please come forward and receive them.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Convention is now adjourned.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 21, 1896, 10 A. M.

President Barrett in the Chair.

THE CHAIRMAN: The first order of business is the reception of the report of the Treasurer. Treasurer Mayer will now read his report.

TREASURER MAYER: I won't occupy your time more than about five minutes.

(The necessity of producing the Treasurer's report in full required the same to be printed separately and attached. See opposite page.)

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the report of your Treasurer; it will be referred to the Committee on Auditing Accounts.

MR. EDSON: I rise to a question of special privilege.

THE CHAIRMAN: Please state your question of privilege.

MR. EDSON: As Chairman of the Executive Committee, since the officers of the Board of Trustees have made an extensive report, I ask that the remaining members may be granted their desire to make a short report.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair rules that the request of the gentleman is a question of privilege, hence the report will now be received. Mr. Edson is now in order and has the floor.

MR. EDSON: Mr. President, and fellow delegates of the Convention, I thank you for your kindness extended in this special courtesy.

(Reads.) To the Officers and Delegates of the N. S. A. in Convention assembled:

A majority of the members of the Executive Committee wish to present this report for your consideration.

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DISBURSEMENTS.

1895. 1, 1895.	ORDERS.	Jan. 1, 1896. Mch. 31, 1896.	ORDERS.	Apr. 1, 1896. June 30, 1896.	ORDERS.
0 00	37 54-63	$ 150 00	72 75-83	$ 150 00	89 94-102-108
4 00	40-42	286 76	80	200 00	106
0 00	38-57-64	225 00	73-76-84	225 00	90 95-103 105
8 00	45-60	80 00	78	7 00	93
5 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
2 75	39-41.46 62	639 79	.....	.....	96-107
1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
3 50	.....	.....	72	12 00	.....
3 07	43-48-49-51 55-61-67-69	173 57	77-81-82-85 88	92 95	92-100-101 111-112-113
8 25	.....	.....	.....	.....	91
7 50	44-59	19 50	.....	.....	98
8 75	66	7 80	79	75	97
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	109
6 34	47-50-52-56-58 65 68 70 71	91 47	86 87	11 39	99-104 110 114-115
8 16	.....	$1,673 89	.....	$699 09	.....

September 30, 1896..... $6,207 96
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1896. 1896.	July 1, 189 Sept. 30, 189
1895	.....
36	$895.89
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ACCOUNTS.	ORDERS.	Oct. Dec
Rent	1-6-23	$ 1
Salary President	3-27	4
Salary Secretary	7-25	1
Clerical	5-17-18-26-28-35	1
Legal	20 21	
Printing	2-24	
Advertising	9-10	
Furniture and Fixtures	8	
Office Supply and Expenses	19-29-30-36	
Convention Expenses	14-15-22	
Fuel	13	
Gas	12-32	
Water	.....	.....
Miscellaneous	11-16-31 33-34	
Total Disbursements	.....	$1,

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Balance o

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RECEIPTS.

RECEIVED FROM	Oct. 1, 1895. Dec. 31, 1895.	Jan. 1, 1896. Mar. 31, 1896.	April 1, 1896. June 30, 1896.	July 1, 1896 Sept. 30, 1896
	Balance on	hand October 1, 1895		
F. B. Woodbury	$2,452.14	$737.99	$433.36	$895.89
Humphrey	.....	30.00	.....	.....
Note	.....	.....	.....	50.00
T. J. Mayer, Rent Drawback	.....	.....	.....	130.00
Rent	60.00	.....	60.00	120.00
Totals	$2.512.14	$767.99	$493.36	$1,195.89
	Receipts to	September	30, 1896	

MEDIUMS' SPECIAL FUND.

Balance on hand April 1, 1896.....
Received from F. B. Woodbury, June 12, 1896.....
August 31, 1896.....
September 30, 1896.....

Total.....
Disbursements.....

On hand September 30, 1896.....

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We were elected at the last Annual Convention as Trustees of the N. S. A. to serve for the ensuing year. It seems hardly necessary to state that the undersigned have, since the organization of the Association, endeavored to serve it faithfully, and we deem it important that we report at this time.

At the first regular meeting of the Board of the N. S. A. after the Convention, we were appointed, in conjunction with the President and Secretary, an Executive Committee.

The Committee members were selected because of their being able to meet upon short notice. In the absence of Mr. Barrett, Mr. Milan C. Edson was chosen chairman. Being deeply impressed with the importance of the work laid out by Mr. Barrett for the coming year, it was proposed that Mr. Edson make out a schedule of travel which would take the President into warmer climes for the winter months. In this move we were actuated by the deepest interest for the wellfare of the Association and Mr. Barrett, whose health was such as seemed to warrant us in taking all possible precautions for his benefit. (Applause.)

With this end in view, at one of the Committee meetings, a well defined plan of action and line of travel was laid before the President for his consideration. The entire plan met with his approval, he at the same time thanking Mr. Edson for the same.

There has been but one drawback to the entire success of the original plan. President Barrett, in his enthusiasm for the N. S. A., has allowed himself to attempt more than he was physically able to perform, while our desire was that he should save himself in every way possible. However, the great enthusiasm he has everywhere aroused for organization, the crowds of people who have listened to his eloquent addresses, and from whom he received charters and contributions, has won for him great commendation from the N. S. A., as well as the secular press, all along the line of his work, all of which has demonstrated the wisdom of our plan. He has brought the East and West together, and united the Spiritualists of the Atlantic and the Pacific Coasts. He has done more: he has convinced us that more speakers and less literature is the pressing need for the coming year's work of the N. S. A. (applause), and we therefore recommend that the incoming Board be financially armed and equipped, and fully authorized to put at least five more paid missionaries in the field, the ablest and best that can be found, to assist the President in pushing this great work in the general field, as well as with the Camps and State Associations. Nine-tenths of our chartered societies are financially and organically weak, and need our immediate attention and assistance. They need

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the enthusiasm of a regular revival, such as our missionaries can stir up by a month's work, and the watchword of President Barrett and his assistants should be, "Help the N. S. A." You can help it most by gaining local societies, and thus, as soon as possible, make it a power in your community. Since these local societies are the basic units of the N. S. A., the importance of building them up cannot be too strongly urged, as from a collection of weak units, however large, we cannot hope to mould a strong, healthy working mass; therefore the measure of their strength and success must necessarily be the measure of the strength, success and effectiveness of the N. S. A. (Applause.)

The aim and claim of the N. S. A., from its first conception, has been that it should be purely a business organization, taking care at all times not to interfere with its local societies in their support of any particular line of spiritual teaching, or of any kind or class of mediumship; to this we pledge ourselves in our Constitution and By-Laws. Now, the war cry of our opponents has been, and will be, that our intention is just the reverse; that we are shrewdly planning to make this organization the Pope of modern Spiritualism, and many other similar and equally absurd things. Therefore, as the most complete and effective answer to these false charges, we, in conclusion, urge upon the attention of the delegates of this Convention, and all future Conventions, to see to it that they choose a majority of the members of the Board of Trustees from the ranks of strictly business men and women, a majority large enough to at all times shape and dominate the business policy of the N. S. A. In this direction lies the only safe and sure course by which we can reach and retain the lasting confidence and support of the Spiritualists of the country at large.

Signed: { MILAN C. EDSON,
T. J. MAYER,
B. B. HILL.

MR. EDSON: I request that this report be referred to a special committee of two, and that the President shall appoint the same.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any objection to that method? Hearing none, the President will appoint Mr. T. J. Preston, of Missouri, and Mrs. Jennie B. Hagan Jackson, of Michigan, as said special committee.

THE CHAIRMAN: The next order of business is the reception of the Secretary's financial report.

Mr. Woodbury then presented his report on financial matters, as follows:

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RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand October 1, 1895	$1,238.58	
Donations and subscriptions	2,991.73	
Annual dues	409.35	
Rent from Secretary	240.00	
Registering Ordination Certificates	36.00	
Sale of books	26.45	
Reports, cash	92.50	
Charters	180.00	
Balance Convention 1895	121.50	
Reports, 1893	4.00	
Loan of books	.30	
President's services for six months	*291.44	
Wheeler Fund	75.00	
Collections	186.11	
Additional dues and donations	155.00	
Rent rebate, T. J. Mayer	130.00	
Humphery Fund	30.00	
		$6,207.96

EXPENDITURES.

Rent, headquarters	$650.00	
Balance salary, President Barrett, 1895	440.76	
Salary, President Barrett, 1896	1,200.00	
Salary, F. B. Woodbury, Secretary	900 00	
Legal advice	45 00	
Fuel	40.50	
Gas	18.92	
One-half water rent	7.09	
Printing	768.29	
Advertising	31.00	
Furniture and fixtures	25.50	
Office supplies and expenses	489 64	
Convention expenses	49.25	
Miscellaneous expenses	181.34	
Clerical "	267.00	
		$5,114.29
Balance in Treasury		$1,093.67

MEDIUMS' DEFENSE FUND.

Balance on hand April 1, 1896	$288.59	
Received, June	25.00	
Received, August	37.90	
Received, September	163 65	
		$515.14
Expenditures		00
Total		$515.14

*$17 cash received for Reports of 1894 by H. D. Barrett is included in $291.44.

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THE CHAIRMAN: The financial report of the Secretary will be referred to the Committee on Finance.

MR. BACH: It is being reported that the National Association is paying Brother Woodbury's rent, and I want to call the attention of the delegates to the fact that he has paid his own rent.

SECRETARY WOODBURY: I want the delegates to understand that this year I have heard it reported that I was living in Washington in fine style. I have paid the N. S. A. twenty dollars per month rent. Our arrangement is that the National Association should pay half and the Secretary the balance of the rent. I wish every delegate to understand that I have paid my half of the rent.

MR. EDSON: As Chairman of the Auditing Committee, I know that Brother Woodbury has paid his share of the rent.

MR. STEINBERG: He has also paid one-half the gas and half the coal bills.

THE CHAIRMAN: We will now receive the report of Mrs. M. E. Cadwallader, as first financial agent. Will Mrs. Cadwallader please come forward and make her report?

MRS. CADWALLADER: I am not ready to report and ask for further time.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Sergeant-at-Arms will ask Mr. Sprague to come to the platform and make his report as second financial agent.

MR. GOULD: As there is nothing before the Convention, I will say that the report of the Committee on the Secretary's Report is ready.

THE CHAIRMAN: That report is not yet in order. The report of the second special financial agent will now be received.

MR. SPRAGUE: Mr. President, I have only been a financial agent a very short time, as I was appointed in place of Sister Luther, but I have secured a promise of five hundred dollars to the Mediums' Home Fund. Mrs. L. L. D. Jacobs, of Leonidas, Mich., has placed in her will a clause that will give to such an institution five hundred dollars at her death. That is all I have done in this connection.

Report adopted.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Frank Walker, the third financial agent, will now make his report.

MR. WALKER: In justice to myself, and I intended to say this yesterday, that until Monday I did not know I was elected a special agent, through some mistake somewhere. I know this matter was talked about. I was present during the last Convention but I have no recollection whatever of any such motion being carried. I know that I was appointed at

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that time on a committee to raise funds during that Convention, but I have not understood that the intention of the Convention was that the members of that committee should be made special financial agents for the ensuing year. However, I have attempted to raise some funds, mostly at Lily Dale or Cassadaga Camp, but if I had been aware that I had been chosen as a special agent I could have done something worth while.

The total amount I have received since the adjournment of the last Convention is $641.70. Of this amount $42.70 is a collection received at Cassadaga immediately after a lecture by Prof. Barrett, and I do not think that I have anything to do with that, but he generously turned over that contribution to be placed upon my list. The total amount of cash paid in besides that is $187, making a total of $229 70 received. The other subscriptions will be paid, no doubt, sooner or later One is a conditional subscription of $300, which I have no doubt will be paid soon.

Report adopted.

MRS. CADWALLADER: I find that I am ready with my report.

Mr. President, Delegates, Friends and Spiritualists—I have more than a financial report to make as I am a missionary and State Agent for Pennsylvania. Not a place have I visited where there was no charter from the National Association, but what I have endeavored to procure one, unless there was some special reason for a charter not being desired, and in every instance I have had the interest of the National Association at heart and have done all I could in its behalf.

To the Officers and Delegates of the N. S. A.,

GREETING: In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the N. S. A., I hereby submit my annual report as Special Financial and State Agent and General Missionary of the Association.

At the Convention held in October, 1895, the writer was elected one of the special agents of the Association and, as will be remembered, the assembled delegates voted to endorse the work of the Mediums Defense Committee of Philadelphia and assist it financially as far as possible.

Upon my return to Philadelphia, after the Convention, it seemed highly proper to myself, as well as to the rest of the Defense Committee, to, if possible, carry on the local contest without drawing upon the treasury of the N. S. A. With this end in view, special appeals were made to the Spiritualists of Philadelphia, as well as to the Spiritualists throughout the country for assistance. I am glad to be able to report that through the well-directed efforts of the local committee

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the legal expenses, as well as aid given the mediums, were met without drawing a dollar from the N. S. A. (Applause.)

During the year the writer has visited New York City, Brooklyn, N. Y., Bridgeport, Norwich, Meriden, Hartford and New Haven, Conn., Providence, R. I., Springfield, Boston, Lowell, Worcester and Brockton, Mass., and at each place was enabled to increase the interest in the cause of the N. S. A. and the mediums of Philadelphia.

Owing to the fact that many of the places visited had already taken out charters from the N. S. A. not much could be accomplished in that direction, but in every instance the people were interested in hearing of its work, and many expressed the hope that it would be generally supported.

The members of the First Association of New York City and the Spiritual Conference Association received the representatives of the N. S. A. and the Mediums' Defense Committee cordially, and the Spiritual Conference Association agreed to charter with the N. S. A., which it did later.

In Meriden the members of the society seemed to question the advisability of taking out a charter because of the additional expense to them each year. A special meeting was called, at which the importance of sustaining the N. S. A. was shown, in order that we present an unbroken front to our opponents, to meet their attacks upon our mediums. The outcome was that not only did the society apply for a charter, but a promise was secured from one of the members to meet all deficiencies in the way of dues to the N. S. A.

In Hartford I found no regularly organized society, though a large number of people gathered at the home of Mrs. Dillingham Storrs in response to a call. Mrs. Storrs generally opens her home for parlor meetings every week, and is thoroughly in sympathy with the N. S. A., and will do all in her power to help form a new society, or reorganize the old one. It is possible that those who gather with her each week may take out a charter, as they have had a severe lesson in the recent Pond will case in that city.

In New Haven a similar state of affairs existed, many Spiritualists but no society. In answer to a call many responded. The parlors of the Tontine Hotel had been secured, and by special request the subject was "The N. S. A." At the close of the lecture, steps were taken toward the organization of a new society. The name was chosen and it was voted to take a charter from the N. S. A. Mr. E. R. Whiting and Mrs. Dr. Wright are doing all they can to organize a society there, as at the present time the Spiritualists are regular attendants at the Universalist Church.

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In Bridgeport the society holds regular meetings. At this place also I was successful in obtaining a charter.

While at the mass meeting in New York City an invitation was given to make an address upon the N. S. A. before the Woman's Progressive Union, of Brooklyn, N. Y., and explain the advantages to be derived from associating with the N. S. A. Among those present was a member of the First Society of New York City. The gentleman was a lawyer and questioned me closely concerning our Association. At the close a vote was taken to apply for a charter, which resulted favorably.

The society in Springfield, Mass., did not feel able to assume any extra financial burden, but promised to bring the matter up at the regular business meeting.

I feel it a duty to call attention to an improper use of the term "legally appointed missionary of the N. S. A." While filling an engagement in Lowell, the following advertisement came to my notice, which explains itself:

"THE BLIND CLAIRVOYANT,

and Magnetic Healer from Chicago, Prof. H. W. Sinclair, L. A. M. of the N. S. A., of Washington, D. C., after an absence of four years has returned and opened parlors at Hotel Vermont, 39 Chelmsford St. Sittings day and evening. In life readings he makes a specialty of giving dates, with predictions for coming events. He also gives names. He will give advice on love, health and marriage, and all other business of a confidential nature."

Every one should use his influence against such use of the N. S. A. There is little use trying to protect our mediums if something is not done to prevent such advertisements. The Secretary informs me that the person mentioned is not entitled to use the above endorsement, as no such papers were granted this year.

While prosecuting my work in the different States, I made every effort to obtain copies of the various State laws under which our mediums could be arrested. It seems proper to place on record all such laws, so that mediums who are traveling from State to State could be kept informed of the liabilities, if they exercised their mediumship. This was a difficult task, and in the fulfillment of it I was obliged to seek assistance from different lawyers in their respective States, with a view to obtain as complete a digest as possible. This compilation has been copyrighted by the writer, for the purpose of issuing it that copies may be obtained by the mediums.

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Those who are in the habit of thinking that the angel world will protect the mediums, are invited to examine carefully the statements made in this report and give a solution of the problem as to how the mediums can be protected, unless we succeed in wiping off the following obnoxious laws from our statute books, or amend them in such a way that they will not be construed against honest mediumship.

There is no use in protesting that our mediums are not fortune-tellers. The courts will not accept our statements. We have had a sad experience of this kind in Philadelphia, and know whereof we speak. We know that in defining the law, the court holds that mediums are classed as fortune-tellers and should be punished as such. In other words, Spiritualists have no rights which the law or those who construe the laws are bound to respect. The opinion of some of the leading lawyers in the country is to the effect that in all cases (until the laws are amended) our mediums can be convicted under the laws governing fortune-telling. Hence the importance of the following digest.

Under this classification, in Alabama a medium is obliged to pay a license fee of twenty-five dollars.

In Connecticut mediums are liable to be classed as brawlers, idle persons, etc., and may be committed to the workhouse and sentenced to hard labor for two months.

This sentence seems light in comparison to the penalty inflicted in one of the smallest States in the Union. Think of it, fellow-Spiritualists, any one who has dealings with spirits, fortune-telling, etc., shall be fined not exceeding one hundred dollars, shall stand one hour in the pillory and may be imprisoned one year. Does it seem credible, in the nineteenth century, if one believes in and has communications from those who have crossed to the other life, he may, at the option of the Delaware courts, be condemned to stand in the pillory exposed to the derision of the populace? *It is high time that the N. S. A. put forth strong efforts to repeal such statutes.* (Applause.)

In Florida all mediums who might be arrested under the fortune-telling law would be treated as if they had been arraigned for larceny; that is, if they had taken pay for their services, the court would hold that it had been money obtained fraudulently and should be punished as such.

Illinois also classes mediums, or, as they are termed by the court, fortune-tellers, as they are classed in Florida, and punishes them in the same manner.

Do not misunderstand me, or think I am not aware of the injustice in so classifying our mediums. It is true that except

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in the case of Delaware there is no special mention of dealing with spirits, yet in face of the fact that our mediums are arrested as fortune-tellers and are not permitted to prove that such is not the case, there is need for concerted action to have the courts discriminate between frauds who pose as mediums and our own genuine mediums.

Mediums in Iowa are liable to be arrested under the statutes as vagrants, and sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

In Maine, the House of Correction awaits the unfortunate medium who is accused of being a fortune-teller.

In Massachusetts and Montana, a medium who takes pay is liable to be convicted as a pretender of telling fortunes, and suffer the penalty of larceny.

In Mississippi a tax privilege can be imposed. In other words, if you pay a tax you can exercise as a privilege that which in other States is punished with the penalty of larceny.

In Michigan we find, under the statutes governing disorderly persons, the following classifications: "All men who leave their wives, all who pretend to tell fortunes, shall be deemed disorderly persons, and fined fifty dollars or sent to jail for sixty days." In this State when a well-known medium was arrested the judge is quoted as saying: "He would not stultify the intelligence of the court by accepting evidence concerning that which was known to be impossible." Therefore, the medium had to go to jail for two years.

In New Hampshire under the same classification, a medium is liable to be imprisoned for six months, and one who deals in palmistry can also be imprisoned for the same time.

The State of New York has a law on its statute books which classes as disorderly persons all who tell fortunes, and a medium is liable to be unjustly arrested under this law, and if convicted may be held in security for good behavior for one year. The second offense renders them liable to be committed for six months, in default of security.

In New Jersey no suit may be maintained for witchcraft, (so called), but if a complaint is lodged against a medium under the statute for the punishment of crimes, he or she, upon conviction, is liable to be sentenced to three months' imprisonment or fined fifty dollars.

The law of New Jersey denies the possibility of any one possessing occult powers, and punishes every one who claims to have such, as a pretender. In August, 1895, an attack was made upon the mediums of Camden, N. J., and they were arrested under this statute in common with the frauds and so-called fortune-tellers. Among the number was the widow of an honored pioneer in the cause of Spiritualism.

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In Ohio mediums are liable to a tax of three hundred dollars annually, under the statute governing astrologers, fortune-tellers, etc.

Pennsylvania classes all mediums as fortune-tellers and refuses to admit any evidence to prove that such is not the case. This law was thoroughly tested in the case of Theodore F. Price, who was convicted without being allowed to bring forward any witness who would endeavor to show that Mr. Price was a medium and entitled to the protection of his rights under the Constitution which guarantees religious liberty to all.

In the case of Mr. Price the judge said that the only question at issue was whether Mr. Price received money for that which he termed a sitting. Mr. Price was convicted, and but for the action of the Mediums' Defense Committee, who appealed the case, he would have been sentenced to pay a fine of any sum up to one hundred dollars, and to an imprisonment of two years or less, at the discretion of the court. When the case came up for the second time for trial, Mr. Price was unable to be present, and the case was held over owing to his illness. He is at any time liable to be called up for sentence.

As shown in the case of Mr. Price, there is no question but that a medium can be arrested under the fortune-telling law, if the law is construed in every State as it is in Pennsylvania. We have reason to suppose, however, that the next legislature will amend this law. To this end a petition, drawn by Hon. A. B. Richmond, and signed by a large number of the Spiritualists throughout the State, will be presented to that body.

A medium in South Carolina is liable to arrest for vagrancy and sentenced to pay one hundred dollars or suffer thirty days' imprisonment. The same is the case in Texas and Washington.

In the States not especially mentioned there is a general statute which gives power to the city authorities to license, regulate and prosecute all such persons. This apparent discretion is granted under the head of "Powers of Municipalities for Self-Government," and judging by the context these powers are of a very elastic nature in this respect.

I have only touched upon a few points of the digest above mentioned. In many different cities there are special local ordinances to cover the especial predilections of the city authorities. To obtain a digest that would cover all these would be almost an impossible task.

However, the State law upon this subject has been examined and in every case where one was found which might be con-

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strued against our mediums it has been copied, and it is to be hoped that the N. S. A. will take some definite action which will result in discrimination being exercised by the courts when dealing with the question of mediumship. Mediums are not fortune-tellers and should not be branded as such.

As State agent I can report progress. There has been some agitation in the direction of organizing a State Association, and some action has been taken toward obtaining the census of the Spiritualists of the State.

If the State Agents of the N. S. A. in each State would each do his or her share in this matter the N. S. A. would soon be in the possession of a complete census of the Spiritualists of the United States. Besides this, if the State Agents would make an effort to obtain copies of the laws in their respective States bearing upon the rights of Spiritualists to employ their own physicians, as well as copies of the laws bearing upon the rights of Spiritualists in general, also mediums, the N. S. A. would have made many steps forward looking toward the successful fulfillment of an organization among Spiritualists. We leave this suggestion for your consideration. (Applause.)

In submitting this report for your consideration, it is with the earnest desire to call the attention of every delegate and Spiritualist to the importance of some early action toward amending the laws, as before mentioned. One of the principal objects for which the N. S. A. was organized was the protection of genuine mediumship; therefore the mediums of the United States are looking to this body to take some action which will prevent their being arrested and sent to prison as if they had broken some law of the land. Each delegate should take some share of the responsibility to the extent of his or her ability to assist the officers of the N. S. A. to carry out this work.

In the future, as in the past, the officers and trustees of the N. S. A., as well as the mediums of the country, will always find in me a champion of the cause of mediumship and Spiritualism generally. So long as I am able, I pledge you my earnest support as a laborer in the field.

So long as mediums are persecuted—so long as unjust laws remain upon our statute books—so long as the N. S. A. requires the support of earnest, loyal workers who have the best interests of Spiritualism at heart, you may count upon my services.

Let us all unite in one grand effort for the success of the National Association, remembering that we are each in charge of a sacred trust to be fulfilled. (Applause.)

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As each year goes by and we look back upon the time when the N. S. A. was organized and remember the self-sacrifice of those who forgot all things else in their endeavors to make it a success, let us remember also that there is yet much to do before the ideal Association will be ours; but with courage and perseverance, and above all with the help of the immortal ones, we shall yet see Spiritualism honored all over our land, and know that the principal factor in producing this has been the National Association. (Applause.)

Those who have followed my work for the N. S. A. from the time of its organization in Chicago, cannot fail to realize that I have always labored to sustain it financially and to secure charters and money for its treasury. In every State, in every city where I have visited, you will find that I have defended the principal object for which it seemed to be organized—the protection of mediumship and the prevention of unjust legislation against our mediums, as well as the repeal of all laws against their interests. In the first years of the N. S. A. very few would take upon themselves the thankless task of endeavoring to sustain it. They predicted disaster to it on the ground that it was soon to become dogmatic in its censorship over mediums. Therefore it has been always my aim to explain that it was for the protection of the interests of Spiritualism, and that as long as I had any connection with it would endeavor to have it held strictly to a business basis.

When I first went as a missionary to Massachusetts, New England would not hear of the N. S. A. Again and again I labored. The attacks made on the N. S. A. had prejudiced them against it because of the slurs cast upon its officers. When Mr. Barrett was taken ill, in the spring of 1895, it was at the time of one of the bitterest attacks upon the N. S. A. and its President. By persistent effort upon the part of the writer, I am proud to say that when Mr. Barrett labored again in that section, according to his letters to me, from one of which I quote, he found, so he says, that my defense of his position had been instrumental in restoring confidence in the minds of those who were affected by the published reports.

This state of things is now changed. New England has turned to the N. S. A., and the only complaint I hear is that they object to having too much money collected in those States and sent to the N. S. A., when they prefer to use it for local work.

During three years I have been instrumental in obtaining many charters, and have succeeded in making many friends for the N. S. A. This I was glad to do. However, in view of the fact that I feel that too little has been done for the

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protection of mediums, and the fact that this work seems to be one of the most important of all, and from the fact that now, that those who came to the front and sustained the N. S. A. during the most critical period of its history are no longer needed nor their services appreciated, I, for the future, will bend my energies toward the defense of mediums alone. The N. S. A. is, through the efforts of those who supported it financially during the past three years and have borne a greater part of the financial burdens, in a position to do without them. With the confidence that my record in behalf of the N. S. A. may safely be placed before the Spiritualists of the country, I now feel that I must retire from active service of the N. S. A. to take up the special work of securing legislative measures for the protection of mediumship. Always for the defense of honest mediumship has been and still is my motto. To the President, for his public and private endorsement of my work for the N. S. A., I return my sincere thanks; also to the Trustees for having been privileged to help bring the N. S. A. to its present financial standing.

I have no cause to regret anything I have done in connection with the work of the N. S. A., and though I retire from active service, rest assured of my deep and continued interest in the defense of mediumship and the cause of Spiritualism generally.

Respectfully submitted,

M. E. CADWALLADER.

MRS. CADWALLADER: Friends, I was appointed a financial agent of this Association and in that capacity I have saved the treasury of the National Association at least three hundred dollars, because when Mr. Hill made a subscription of three hundred dollars for the National Association with a provision that a part of it was to be used for the defense of mediums in Philadelphia, I am glad to say that Mr. Hill sent it immediately to the general fund of the National Association because we had all the money we needed to carry on the work. Now, I have just one word further to say. I bring a matter before you for a society in Chicago, which asks this Convention to inform them how they can revoke some ordination papers they have issued. This society is on the South Side and has asked me to represent it by bringing this matter before the Convention. I was there in July. I was able to do some little work for an old Spiritualist, a woman, and to my surprise I was informed, not very long ago, that she was about to pass to the other life. She had very little longer to live in the form as she is now past her three-score

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and ten. She said to me that because I have worked so hard for the mediums she was to turn her entire property over to me. You can imagine I was astounded to hear of this gift from an entire stranger, but there is no present necessity for the money and now I want you to place it in my hands that it may be used for the mediums, but if the National Association shall think best that the gift be given directly to the National Association I want it fixed in such a way that it will be a trust fund, because I have no use for this money. It will not, probably, be very long before a change will be made. The papers have all been drawn up and there is no doubt that in the future the National Association will be benefited by the trust fund placed in my hands that will relieve it from all financial embarrassments. (Applause.) I could do no less than this. I do not require pay for my work, for I love it, and am glad to say that I am so situated that I do not need to receive remuneration, and so this money that has been left to me will always be used for Spiritualism and put in a trust fund, if I can induce them to put it in a trust, although at the present time they insist that I shall have absolute control of this for the National Association, but I hope it will be possible for me to present it to the National Association outright. The sum amounts to a great many thousands of dollars. I thank you for your attention. (Loud applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the report of your financial agent. Shall it be referred to the Committee on Finance? Hearing no objection, it is so ordered.

MRS. CADWALLADER: Should this report be referred to the Committee on Finance? I think these questions should go before the Committee on Resolutions.

THE CHAIRMAN: Would you prefer that it go to that committee?

MRS. CADWALLADER: I think so.

THE CHAIRMAN: Then the Committee on Resolutions will receive the report of Mrs. Cadwallader.

DR. EWELL: As far as a special report from me as State Agent might be concerned a report of our work in Denver has already been given. I have a special offering from a New York society of only the small sum of seven dollars, but as it comes from the First Society it proves something. In addition, however, I have been able to secure, as far as wills are concerned, promises to the extent of one thousand dollars for the National Association. Of course, time must determine whether it comes to us or not, but I know that at the present time that provision has been made for the money to be given to the general fund. I suppose that an announcement of a

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gift of value outside of money at this time would be out of place?

THE CHAIRMAN: Such an announcement at this time would be perfectly proper.

DR. EWELL: Then I have the pleasure of announcing to you that, through my guides, a valuable contribution from the estate of Henry J. Newton has been secured for the National Association, if it will be accepted. (Applause.) Mrs. Newton assured me on Saturday last that she would send to the National Association valuable literature upon Spiritualism. She has bound volumes of magazines, now defunct, in her possession, and many other valuable works that cannot be obtained elsewhere. In addition to that she has the original Constitution and By-Laws, with the signatures of the original members of the Theosophical Society, which she purposes placing in our possession if we are willing to accept it. It has been guarded zealously for years. The attempt has been made many times to steal it from her by the Theosophists. If you will accept them Mrs. Newton will send to you these books in the name of Henry J. Newton, in spirit life. (Applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN: We will now listen to the special report of Mrs. Richmond.

MRS. RICHMOND: Mr. Chairman, friends and delegates—It seems to me for some reason the especial weakness of human nature to applaud the most money, and therefore it is with a great deal of trepidation that I stand before you to make my report. Although the sinews of war (cash) are needed, I never knew, however, that a general in the army was measured by the amount of money he possessed. His ability to conduct the campaign is usually the requisite, and although we do require business management sometimes, there are qualities other than this required. And in the National Association it has been conceded that literature, mediumship, and the best methods of spreading the Gospel are also to be considered as well as the financial interests of the Association. (Applause.) Under your orders, the Board of Trustees at its meeting last January proceeded to arrange for several mass meetings to be held during the year, as far as practical. No special agents could be sent out for this, so it was deemed advisable to arrange for them where some of the board of active workers were engaged.

Your Vice President was engaged to speak for the First Society of Spiritualists in New York, in the month of February; therefore the Board instructed her to hold a mass meeting, and consented, at her request, to let her have her own

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way. Women are always more successful when they have their own way (laughter), because they work with a better will. Of course Mr. Richmond helped me, but twenty years' experience has shown him that it is politic that woman should have her own way. (Much laughter, in which Mr. Richmond heartily joined.) Nothing was done about that convention until two weeks before it was to occur. Then we began business. (When I say we, I mean Mr. Richmond and I.) I have found that large bodies have to be condensed into small committees to work the best, and so we were a committee of one to carry forward this work. New York was in a state of spiritual lethargy, comparatively speaking. Several societies and gatherings in New York were existing with indifferent success. The work of your Vice President in New York many years ago had been almost forgotten except by the oldest Spiritualists, and they said to me then if it were not that you are here, to undertake to hold a convention in New York would seem preposterous. However, the movement was proposed to the Board of Trustees of the First Society, who said I should have their sanction and their aid. They had no money to further the movement in New York, notwithstanding there were many of them desirous of not only being united one and all in furthering the project, but promised their aid as far as possible to induce their friends to join them. It was ascertained very soon that the financial part of the undertaking was a stupendous affair, with no money in hand, and the National Association unable to assume the responsibility. Word was sent that Mr. Woodbury had permission and was allowed to take a little vacation and come on to New York to assist us in this matter, so he came to the convention in time to aid us in the work. I mention these particulars in behalf of those who contemplate holding such conventions for the National Association during the coming year. It was evident we could not carry the financial burden without some aid, therefore your speaker thought of asking for pledges, and these pledges were given in cases of emergency, but there were bills to be met even before the convention assembled, and a few more pledges were given in small quantities of a considerable number, from a dollar to five and ten dollars, but at last there came a delightful letter from Cleveland, Ohio, from Mrs. Pettengill (applause), accompanied with one hundred dollars (applause) to assist in the convention work. You might know that that lifted a little of the vast burden from the heart of your speaker. Altogether, however, the pledges were less than one half of what it was evident the entire expense would be, and the actual receipts in money before the

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convention less than one third. However, with John Eggleston in New York, and by the way, he is not here and should be called to account, who took hold of the task all the time and helped by assisting in every way possible, especially in advertising and printing, etc., and so with such aid as we could gather from the Ladies' Aid Society, we formed ourselves into committees to arrange for the convention. The press, thanks to Mr. Richmond and Mr. Eggleston, published the first notice of the convention or call as a matter of news. For suitable advertisements, I will say that the press used the information concerning the convention as a matter of news in such a way that if we had paid for the amount of notices received it would have cost us three thousand dollars. But it was a matter of news, and we did not object to the cartoons. Why, they cartoon everybody, from the Pope down, from the President up, and so it makes no difference if we are cartooned too. (Laughter.) Mr. Richmond did the outside work, such as engaging the hall, although, of course, I had to go and look at it. (Laughter.) I wrote in two weeks between three and four hundred letters, sent out sixteen thousand circulars, corresponded with speakers and mediums and arranged the program. At the time the convention was to assemble the clerk of the Weather Bureau favored us with a snowstorm. Nothing daunted, however, we repaired to the secret chamber (the hall), and upon arriving there were very glad to find a good attendance of individuals, and as soon as the notices of the convention appeared in the press there were larger attendances. Many of our speakers, however, could not come, as they were on their lecturing tours and their engagements with other societies prevented their coming. Still, every evening the convention was attended by a large and distinguished gathering, and I must say that, considering that a great many of the speakers and mediums disappointed us, it was the best natured crowd I ever saw. They liked the program we gave them, and it is assured, that after a stupor of between thirty and forty years, New York is alive with Spiritualists, and I wish to call your attention to the fact that but for this mass convention on the Atlantic coast, its mass meetings in Denver and California, several millions of people in the United States would not have known of the existence of the National Association. (Applause.)

In New York alone we had the representatives of the Associated Press, who were in correspondence with two hundred journals in New York and throughout the land, and I will guarantee that not one-thousandth part of the readers of these journals ever heard of the Spiritualistic organization of the

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National Association before. We also had the representatives of the United Press Association at every session, representing fifty or sixty journals within the United States, hence the notices of the Convention reached, within twenty-four hours, nearly all the reading people of the United States. (Applause.) As a result, the Secretary of the New York Society wrote to me after it was over: "We do not know in what language to express our gratitude for what has taken place among us. It is a transformation;" and surely you can readily understand that it is so when you know that the bulk of the people of New York did not know before that there was a local society of Spiritualists among them. Our speakers and mediums did nobly and did not charge anything for their services. There was not one of them who accepted or expected anything whatever, but came and paid their own expenses, and all assisted in the work with a hearty good will, for all of these had at heart the interests of the whole; and Mr. Chairman, considering the financial responsibilities and the fact that there was not a human being called upon except those who gave voluntary subscriptions to aid us, I consider that our convention was a great triumph, and I also consider it was a financial success. We did not owe anybody a cent when we got through, and consider that it was even a greater victory. (Applause.)

Thefinancial report I will submit to the Finance Committee, but I will say the receipts in full were $413.40 collections, and the donations $304, making a total of $717.40. The expenses, as you can imagine, if you have ever hired a concert hall for two or three days, and to pay for posters—the expenses were $708.09, leaving a balance of $8.44, which I told Mr. Richmond I thought he was entitled to for wear and tear in climbing the stairs so many times. (Applause.)

This report is respectfully submitted, and if any of you think it is an easy matter to get up a mass convention, all I have to say is, I hope you will try it during the ensuing year, and I hope that although it entails so much you will try it, for I believe it is the best method of reaching the people through the papers of the United States. (Loud and continued applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN: The report is referred to the Committee on Finance. The next order of business is the reception of communications and letters. The first communication is from Mr. J. J. Morse, of London, Eng. The Chairman's voice is in such condition it will not permit of his reading this communication, and he takes the liberty of appointing W. H. Bach as reading clerk for the remainder of this Convention.

Mr. Bach read the communication of Mr. Morse, as follows:

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SPIRITUALISM IN GREAT BRITAIN.

HOTEL BELLA VISTA, SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.,
September 22, 1896.

HARRISON D. BARRETT, *President,*
American National Spiritualists Association,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER: Very much to my regret I could not reach Washington in time to attend the National Convention of the American National Spiritualists Association in October, 1895, on my journey *en route* from London to San Francisco, and it is again a matter of keen disappointment to me that circumstances will not again permit of my reaching Washington until after the Convention of 1896 has been held.

I should have greatly enjoyed being present, not only for the opportunity of meeting many old and valued friends once more, but, also, that I might have seen how the business of so great, important and representative a gathering of the Spiritualists of the United States was conducted. I could have then reported to your friends in Great Britain what transpired, and given them my impressions of the proceedings based upon actual observation.

Also, I regret my inability to be with you all the more because I discover, on examination of the published report of your gathering for 1895, supplied to me by the courtesy of your Secretary, that it contains no report from Great Britain, and my excuse for addressing this communication to you is, that I may be permitted to prevent a like omission this year. To which end allow me to make this letter into the nature of a communication to the impending Convention, and to ask that you be so good as to submit it to that body when in session, with the fraternal congratulations and respects of its contributor.

As human progress ignores territorial boundaries and ocean wastes, and as the Spiritualists of the two great divisions of the Anglo-Saxon race are largely of one common blood stock, as well as being closely united in purposes common to both in either country all that concerns the growth and consolidation of our Holy cause into one united whole, either under the "Starry Banner" of the United States or the "Union Jack" of Great Britain, is, and must always remain, of deepest interest to all Spiritualists, no matter on which side of the broad Atlantic their homes may be. If the United States is the pioneer of Modern Spiritualism, the United Kingdom has proved itself no unworthy copartner in spreading the Gospel she has received from this land, nor has she played any less important

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part in its upbuilding than you who first received it from the angels at Hydesville in 1848. I am proud of our share in this work, and am bold to say that the two foremost nations of the world to-day are the leaders in a cause which has for its object the Spiritual redemption of the world from ignorance, superstition and mental darkness wherever existing, and against which we wage an unceasing strife. I am confident that we shall succeed, and feel sure that, in this case, we may yet live to see, in the words of the poet, that—

"Peace hath her conquests
No less renowned than War."

If, then, I may thus be permitted to greet you, in Convention assembled, Brother and Sister Spiritualists of this great Republic, as one from across the seas, a British brother, co-worker and well-wisher; as one, who for twenty-seven years has borne his part in the good fight as best he could under the guidance of the angels, whose message he has been proud to bear up and down his own land and, on three several occasions now, across this broad Continent, I shall esteem that permission an honor to be proud of. I feel assured that you will accept the greetings I send you in the same spirit of fraternal affection that prompts me to send them, so, let me add to my own, the greetings of my brethren at home, and say, as I am sure I may, for them, that we in Britain join hands with you, rejoice at your success, admire your devotion, esteem your labors, and wish you a hearty God-speed in all your present and future undertakings for the welfare of our cause within its own ranks, and for the extension of its operations and influence on the community at large. May our fraternal bonds never be sundered. So much, then, by way of greeting, now for matters of more and general importance. (Applause.)

Having referred to the fact that your last year's report contained no statement of the condition and position of Spiritualism in Great Britain it may be acceptable to the Convention that I endeavor to supply that material for your report of the proceedings of the gathering of 1896. To that end,

"I will a round unvarnished tale deliver,"

trusting that it will prove alike useful and interesting as well as serving to show that we are steadily making progress along the lines that lead to success, and, we hope, to the ultimate triumph of our facts and principles.

THE PRESENT CONDITION OF THE CAUSE IN GREAT BRITAIN.

My first consideration shall be directed to offering you a bird's-eye view of the present condition of the cause in

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Great Britain. To afford you a clear idea of the matter, let me point out that thirty years ago the number of organized societies could have almost been counted on the fingers of one hand. Now we possess 191 societies in active working order. Of that number 64 are affiliated with our National Federation. At a rough computation it may be safely said that for rents, speakers' fees and traveling expenses, advertising, etc., not less than $1,500 are expended by these bodies every Sunday in the year. I do not think I at all over-estimate when I put our total working expenditure in these directions at $80,000 per year. An army of at least 200 speakers and mediums engage our platforms, and in nearly all cases our meetings partake of a quasi-religious nature. The meetings use a National Hymn Book, which contains over 700 selections. Most of the meetings are held twice each Sunday, and the aggregate attendances cannot be far short of 40,000 persons each Sunday. This estimate by no means represents the total number of Spiritualists in the United Kingdom, which may safely be placed at 150,000, and then be well within the limits. As in this country, so in my own; many of our people, from various reasons, still hide their light under the proverbial bushel.

The orbit of British Spiritualism, to use an astronomical simile, may be described as an ellipse, of which London and Manchester are the focii. As London is the Metropolis, I may be excused for dealing with it first.

The leading body in the capital city is the London Spiritualist Alliance, Limited, which is, socially, the premier organization of the country, and possesses by far the most complete library of Spiritual and cognate literature in the Kingdom and, I am inclined to think, in the world at this time. The Alliance does not hold Sunday services, nor does it enter actively into propaganda work. But during each winter it holds a series of Fortnightly Meetings, and during the season two or three special receptions, which are largely attended by our best people. Its President, Mr. E. Dawson Rogers, is a gentleman of culture, leisure and means, who is, in all respects, an honor to the important position he so worthily occupies. The Alliance has a lengthy roll of members, and it is financially strong and socially notable. Mr. B. D. Godfrey is the courteous and efficient secretary, which post he has filled with credit for a number of years.

The next prominent metropolitan body is the Marylebone Association of Spiritualists, which is the oldest existing organization in the metropolis. After innumerable struggles and vicissitudes it has now become our most active London so-

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ciety, having a membership exceeding 300, and supporting the best Sunday meeting in the city, for which it engages the very best and highest talent available. It holds occasional social meetings, and ever extends a cordial welcome to all worthy and well recommended workers from other lands. Its president, Mr. Thomas Everitt, is one of our oldest Spiritualists, and the husband of one of our most remarkable private mediums, a lady who has generously devoted her marvelous gifts to the service of the cause, literally "without money and without price," for over thirty years. The Vice President, Mr. W. T. Cooper, is a most amiable and courteous gentleman, who holds an important official position in connection with the Poor Law Administration. He is devoted heart and soul to our work, and his labors therefore are truly unselfish and indefatigable. The Honorary Secretary, Mr. Leigh Hunt, most worthily completes the trio of executive officers, and justly enjoys the confidence and esteem of his confreres in the society and on the directorate, alike. The Sunday services of this society are held in a handsome meeting place known as the Cavendish Rooms, the finest place of assembly regularly used by our people in London, and only equaled by that used by one other society, the Spiritualist Union of Birmingham.

Another important effort, the Spiritualists' International Corresponding Society, also has its home in the Metropolis. This society was formed by Mr. J. Allen, who has succeeded in establishing correspondents in nearly all parts of the world, among whom your present Vice President and honored coworker, Mrs. C. L. V. Richmond, is one.

A fourth establishment of note in London is what is known as "Morse's Library and Reading Rooms," the proprietor of which is the present writer. The active librarian is Miss Florence Morse, who has in her care some 600 volumes of our literature, with a regular supply of all our periodicals in the English language, for the use of the members. During the winter season regular public meetings are held every Friday evening, at which various noted mediums attend, and the writer gives various courses of lectures under control. Several social receptions are also held during the season, and welcomes are given to visiting workers from afar, as occasion may arise. Connected with this undertaking is Morse's Spiritualists' Hotel, the only establishment of its kind in the United Kingdom, if not in the world. It is under the management of Mrs. Morse, and is frequently patronized by visitors from this country. Indeed, as a social center, these undertakings have proved a marked success.

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While last, but by no means least, it must be noted that London is the home of that excellent periodical, *Light*, so admirably edited by Mr. E. D. Rogers, whose name has been previously mentioned. This journal is one that is a credit to our cause, and is thoroughly high class in every particular.

There are numerous other efforts in full and useful operation in the Metropolis, but considerations of time and space forbid a detailed enumeration of them. But enough has been said to show that London is a vigorous and healthy center of activity, and that it stands well to the front in our work.

The city of Manchester is the other focus of our spiritual orbit, and most worthily it fulfills the duties of its position. Within the Mancunium territory there are no less than fourteen active societies; the oldest being the Manchester Society of Spiritualists, one of the oldest, if not the oldest, existing society in the provinces, and, if I mistake not, in the United Kingdom, also. Within a radius of a dozen miles of this important city some twenty other societies exist, in the densely populated area named. Manchester has always been known as a center of progressive thought, from and before the great Chartist agitation of fifty years ago, right down to the present time. Indeed, it has passed into a proverb: that what Manchester thinks to-day England does to-morrow! Hence, it is quite in the natural order of things that this city should afford fertile soil for our great and progressive gospel.

It is in this city that the second of our papers has its home, second in age only, for in all other respects it is fully abreast of the times. Though some years younger than its metropolitan contemporary, it exceeds it in circulation, and exercises a great and constantly increasing influence upon the growth and importance of our cause, as its tenor is always in harmony with the needs of our work, within and without our ranks. It is ably edited by my old and valued friend and coworker, Mr. E. W. Wallis, who is a speaker of proved ability and power, and a man of most excellent repute. Since his occupancy of the editorial chair, which was previously filled by Mrs. Hardinge-Britten, he has succeeded in placing the paper on a sound financial basis, and in making it a thoroughly representative journal. This journal, the *Two Worlds*, is the property of a joint stock limited liability company, composed entirely of Spiritualists, and is managed by a board of directors, under the efficient presidency of Mr. S. S. Chiswell, an eminent worker of the neighboring city of Liverpool, where he occupies the responsible position of manager to a large business corporation. As a matter of fact,

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the paper, and our National Federation, very largely owe their existence to the initiative and enthusiasm of Mr. E. W. Wallis, so it can readily be surmised that he is highly esteemed and possesses the confidence of the cause at large; while Mrs. M. H. Wallis, his wife, a very able and cultured speaker and estimable lady, proves an admirable copartner with him in all he does for the cause they both have so much at heart.

There are numerous media practicing in the city, with satisfactory results to themselves and the cause. But last year the experience of Philadelphia was that of Manchester, in the matter of police prosecutions. The "fortune-telling" cry was the peg the authorities based their action upon.

Among the various towns where Spiritualism flourishes with ever increasing vigor may be mentioned Leicester, Nottingham, Belper, Liverpool, Huddersfield, Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, Keighley, and Newcastle-on-Tyne; Macclesfield, Oldham, Sowerby Bridge, Burnley, Accrington, Sunderland, North and South Shields, and Rochdale in England; Cardiff and Newport in Wales; Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen, in Scotland, as places that are most noticeable. The foregoing are all large centers of population, but in many smaller towns and villages the cause has a firm root and flourishes well. From this, which is, as premised, but a bird's-eye view, you can judge that the cause generally is doing well. It is a curious fact, upon which I make no comment, that we have not a single society in Ireland!

SOME SPECIAL FEATURES OF OUR WORK IN GREAT BRITAIN.

It may prove of interest and value if I now present you with an account of some of the special features of our work in the United Kingdom. By so doing you may be able to get an even clearer idea of the position we have reached, in the matters of effective work for the sustaining of the cause within its own ranks. As to my mind the question of organization is ever paramount in this connection, I will first deal with our National Federation. Various efforts to form a national body have been made, from 1864 downward. Nothing of particular value to the cause resulted until 1872, when, at Liverpool, was formed a body called the "British National Spiritualists Association." The promise of that attempt did not realize the expectations of its friends, so, after a few years of more or less useful life, the organization changed its name, character and original purposes, and entered upon a more modest phase of existence as the London "Central Association of Spiritualists." It was not until 1890 that the hope of

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national unity reappeared. In that year a "call" was issued for a general conference of British Spiritualists, to meet in Manchester. In response thereto a large and representative gathering assembled in the above-named city. A committee was appointed and instructed to act in forming a constitution, and in any other way that would assist in forming a national body, and to report at the next meeting, in the following year, at Bradford. This was done, the constitution was submitted and adopted, but it was not until the following year's conference, at Burnley, that the constitution assumed its present formal and accepted shape, and in which it now governs the federation, the full title of which is: The Spiritualists National Federation.

The objects of the federation are succinctly set forth in the introduction to the published constitution, which reads as follows:

"This organization consists of affiliated Spiritualists Societies and Associate Members. Its objects are to unite Spiritualists and strengthen the movement by annual movable conferences; by propaganda work in new districts; by co-operation with existing societies to spread the truth; by the distribution of literature; by public and semi-public meetings, and by such other methods as may be found necessary."

The per capita tax for societies is 2 cents per member, and the fee for Associates is 60 cents per year, as dues. The annual assembly is composed of Delegates and Associates, all of whom have one vote on every question. This year the Conference met at Liverpool, and was attended by 28 Associates and 55 Delegates, representing 3,500 people.

In 1895 the Conference appointed an Organizing Secretary, which position was most admirably filled by Mr. James Swindlehurst. During the nine months covered by his labors he held 183 public meetings, addressing, it is estimated, over 23,000 people. His work was very nearly self-supporting from the collections taken up. He also strengthened the Federation by obtaining 51 new Associates, forming four new societies, restoring several to the national roll, and he has traveled over 4,300 miles. When the limited area of Great Britain is considered, I venture to aver that the foregoing results will compare most favorably with the work done in this country.

Financially, too, our Federation is doing well. Its income for the past year was $365—a dollar a day—and there was a credit balance of $30 when the accounts were audited. Not a large income, it is true. But it maintains no office, does not yet pay its President, and gives its Secretary but a

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merely nominal honorarium, for its officials are not required to give their whole time to the duties of their offices.

Among the pressing questions discussed at the late Conference were a proposal to establish a Board of Examination for aspirants to the Speakerate, and the possibility of what is known to us as the "Legal Hundred" question, *i. e.*, the obtaining of an act of Parliament to incorporate the Federation as a legally constituted body, so that it can become the National Trustee of the entire movement, as regards property, donations, bequests, etc. The Conference appointed committees to consider and report on these matters next year. As our laws are, a Spiritualist society, as such, cannot hold property, nor can it be incorporated. It must declare itself as a religious body, with definite religious principles, before the law will recognize it. When we are incorporated it will then be impossible for our buildings or funds to be diverted from the purposes for which they have been obtained.

The Federation, in conjunction with "The Two Worlds" Publishing Company, has this year issued a National Spiritualist's Hymn Book for use at our meetings. This is a very fine collection of over 750 selections suitable for all kinds of gatherings. In addition it contains a very admirable short service, suitable for interments. The book is neatly and substantially bound in cloth, and sells at the remarkably low price of 25 cents, a better bound copy costing a trifle more. Mr. E. W. Wallis was again the moving spirit in securing this valuable addition to our literature.

SOME OF OUR WORKERS.

A word or two may now be in order as to the workers engaged in furthering the cause in Great Britain, truly servants of the angels and evangels of human progress. While, of course, their numbers are not as great as those of this land, yet, in zeal and earnest devotion I am sure they are unequaled by any personally known to you here. We may not have an Edgar Emerson, a John Slater, an E. K. Earle, a Maud Frietag, a Joseph D. Stiles, a Mrs. J. J. Whitney or an Ada Foye, but we have, nevertheless, many excellent platform mediums for tests, psychometry, clairvoyance, etc., whose gifts are well fitted to grace any platform. I may mention Mrs. M. H. Wallis, Mrs. E. Green, Mrs. J S. Stansfield, Mrs. V. A. Bliss, Miss A. Rowan Vincent, Miss McCreadie, Mr. J. J. Vango and Mr. James B. Tetlow as each being eminent in the above-named phases of mediumship, and who have afforded conviction to innumerable skeptics, and consolation to hosts of the bereaved. While as speakers of proven ability and

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long-tried service there are Mrs. E. H. Britten, Mr. and Mrs. Wallis, Mr. James Swindlehurst, Mr. W. E. Long, Mr. J. Veitch, Mr. H. Hunt, Mr. Wm. Johnson, Mr. Featherstone as among those whose names are, literally, "as familiar as household words" all over the country. The writer has also done his part during the past twenty-six years. It may also be mentioned here that Mr. W. J. Colville, Mr. J. Clegg Wright, Mr. Walter Howell and Mr. T. Grimshaw are each products of British Spiritualism, though now residents of this country. (Applause.)

THE CHILDREN'S LYCEUM.

The next of our special work is that of the Children's Progressive Lyceum work. Of the importance of this branch of our efforts there can be no two opinions, nor is there in Great Britain, which, as doubtless you are all aware, is the birthplace of the "Sunday-school" movement in connection with our brethren of the orthodox churches. Thirty years ago there was but one lyceum in Great Britain, meeting in the town of Nottingham. To maintain it was more than difficult. Spiritualists in those days were not awake to its importance, and money to support it was hard to get. It was only by the dogged perseverance of those early workers, and their undaunted enthusiasm, that the effort was kept alive. Now all that is changed. Lyceums dot the land, as do the stars the sky. Indifference has given place to interest, the work is enthusiastically supported, means are readily obtainable, and ultimate and great success is well in sight.

In a line with the course now pursued by the societies, the lyceum work has been consolidated, and has its "British Lyceum Union," the formation of which preceded that of the National Federation, holds its annual convention, and possesses its monthly official organ. These satisfactory results have largely been attained through the indefatigable zeal and unstinted devotion of Mr. Alfred Kitson, the secretary of the Union, who, though a man of humble circumstances, was undoubtedly selected by the angels for the important work he has accomplished. Once again we find the old truth re-emphasized, that all reforms spring from the people, are born in suffering, nurtured by tears and trials, and only grow strong on the unselfish devotion of their original evangels.

At the present time there are eighty-four lyceums in full operation in the United Kingdom. While, as a proof of the fact that they appreciate the benefits of organization, I rejoice to say that seventy-four of these bodies are in affiliation with the Union, and that the Union is in affiliation with the

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National Federation. The lyceum in San Francisco is a member of our lyceum union, and I hope that example will be emulated by other lyceums in the United States before very long. In conducting our lyceums there are over 800 officers engaged every Sunday, and there is an average of 5,000 members enrolled on the registers. It is no small tribute to the workers to say that in all cases their services are given without other reward than the consciousness of doing good can confer upon them. (Applause.)

The development of our Lyceum work has been most markedly assisted by the publication of four invaluable works, first in order being the "British Lyceum Manual," issued by Mr. H. A. Kersey, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, in the compilation of which he was assisted by Mrs. Emma Hardinge-Britten and Mr. Alfred Kitson. Though issued at the price of 25 cents, it is supplied to lyceums in quantities at a merely nominal rate. It is now in its fourth edition, of which 3,379 copies have been sold. The second work is "The Spiritual Songster," also issued by Mr. Kersey. This is a handsome book of words and music, and is sold for $1.00, but also at a lower price to Lyceums. Since its first appearance 955 copies have gone into circulation. The third work is "The Book of Words," which contains all the pieces in the "Songster." It is sold at six cents per copy, and is also published by the before-mentioned gentleman, and of which 3,385 copies have been sold. Mr. Kersey generously donates a moiety of the profits of these works to the Union's funds. The fourth work is the "Outlines of Spiritualism," written by Mr. Alfred Kitson, but now issued by the Union. The price of this book, handsomely bound in cloth, is thirty cents, and over 780 copies of the present edition have been sold. The Manual and Songster have entirely displaced all the earlier works in our Lyceum teaching, since they are better adapted to our needs. (Applause.)

As already mentioned, the lyceums possess their official organ, *The Lyceum Banner*, which periodical was founded under spirit impulsion, by the present writer, six years ago, and who, in conjunction with his daughter, Miss Florence Morse, as assistant editor, has been editor and publisher down to the present time. During my absence the paper is in the able care of Mr. Thomas Olman Todd, of Sunderland. It was made the official organ of the Lyceum Union in 1891. Since its establishment over 150,000 copies have been sold. It is the only journal devoted to lyceum work in the world, and, as is usual with most Spiritualist papers, it has been issued at the personal loss of its proprietor, though there is

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now evidence that the proverbial corner has been almost turned! All the labor involved has been entirely gratuitous.

One special feature of the paper is deserving of notice. Each month it contains a tabulated Lesson Plan, accompanied by a Synoptical Syllabus of all the lessons in the schedule. This feature has proved invaluable to the conductors and leaders, as it provides them with a lesson plan for every Sunday. This plan is almost generally in use.

Another feature of a special nature is a department known as "The Golden Group," conducted by "Aunt Editha," the object of which is to unite the children of Spiritualists in a society for the promotion of "Kindness, Temperance and Purity." There are upwards of 1,000 names now enrolled upon the "Big Book," as the register is called, each member receiving a pretty certificate. The young people of the United States are invited to join; some thirty recently did so in San Francisco. (Applause.)

The journal has a circulation in the United States and is taken in the last-named city, as well as at Boston and New Bedford, Mass. We are greatly indebted to Mr. Alonzo Danforth, of Boston, Mass., for a valuable series of "Golden Chain" recitations, which he has supplied us for many months, and which regularly appear in the paper. We also send a copy for file to the library of the National Association, at Washington, D. C. Many of our friends desire that we make this an international organ and there is no valid reason why such a result should not be achieved. (Applause.)

A SPIRITUALISTS' BENEFIT SOCIETY.

The last special feature pertaining to our cause in Great Britain that I will call your attention to is the "Order of Progressive Spiritualists Sick Benefit and Pension Fund," an association originated by Mrs. M. H. Wallis, and to which she is the Honorary Secretary. This effort has its headquarters in Manchester. For the past year it has disbursed over $200 in sick relief and pensions. It is the first and only society of the kind ever established for our people in Great Britain, and is in every way well deserving of support, and its promoter deserves every praise for her endeavors.

From what has been stated in the preceding pages it will be seen that, all in all, as a movement, Modern Spiritualism is in a healthy, vigorously active and growing condition, in its Island home across the Atlantic. While as to its organizations, its platforms, its press, its mediums and speakers we have every reason to congratulate ourselves upon the stability, service, efficiency and ability displayed in each and all

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of those departments. A state of affairs that, I venture to think, will excite your cordial congratulations. So, with this, I leave my review, or really bird's eye view, of Spiritualism in Great Britain in your hands, trusting it may receive a place in the proceedings of your Convention. (Applause.)

A FEW WORDS UPON SPIRITUALISM IN THE UNITED STATES.

In bringing this communication to a close, I may be permitted to offer a few words upon the present condition of Spiritualism in this country. I do so with all diffidence and due deference, as after eight years' absence, and my only very limited observations, which during the last twelve months have been mainly confined to the Pacific coast, I cannot pretend, if I so desired, which I do not, to make any exhaustive remarks upon a topic so vast. So, all I can offer are but the impressions of a visitor and a guest.

I heartily congratulate you upon the organization of the American Spiritualists into one National and representative body. Such a result must be a matter of sincere satisfaction to every well-wisher of our cause throughout the world. The greater opportunities that your organization offers for effective work is not the least benefit that will accrue to its existence; while it will impart to the cause a National strength and consistency whereby it will compel respect to us from the community at large, thus assuring you civil and legal recognition and removing the reproach that we have been but a scattered and disunited people. (Applause.)

So far as I can judge your Constitution, it is wise in conception, admirable in form, broad in scope and prudently avoids the rock of individual membership, yet it assures a truly National representation at your annual Assembly. The institution of State Associations, under charter from the National, links local, State and National efforts in a complete chain of mutual sympathy and interest, a condition of affairs that cannot fail to be of lasting advantage to the entire movement. I have ever been the advocate of organization, and am rejoiced that I have lived to see the two foremost divisions of the Spiritual movement adopting such steps and reaping the natural benefits therefrom. The timely words of wisdom that have emanated from the National upon the question of "ordaining" mediums and speakers and its urgent plea that only such as are "worthy and well qualified," should be the recipients of such honors, whereby they become our acknowledged representatives before the world, are worthy of all praise and command my unqualified assent. (Applause.)

In reference to the newest State Association, here, of Cali-

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fornia, I am confident it will prove an incalculable blessing to Spiritualism on the Pacific Coast. I would like to add a word of praise for Mrs. Julia Schlesinger, the late *pro tem.* State Secretary, who did so much to insure the financial success of the Convention in May and September. (Loud applause.)

THE AMERICAN SPIRITUAL PRESS.

At this point let me say a word concerning the American Spiritual press. I am bold to say that in versatility, general robustness of thought and greatness of circulation, it heads the movement in all countries. In the *Banner of Light* in Boston, the *Light of Truth* in Cincinnati, the *Progressive Thinker*, of Chicago, and the *Philosophical Journal*, now of San Diego, there can be found food for all varieties of mental and spiritual appetites. They deserve an ever-increasing measure of support from their various classes of friends, for they all deal with live and important issues pertaining to our cause and the forms of thought peculiar thereto. A free press is the safeguard of liberty for any land or cause. (Applause.)

PROTECTION.

I note in the Report of your last year's Convention that considerable space is devoted to the question of protection of mediums. No doubt, as an outcome of the enthusiasm with which the matter was discussed the National Association has, during the year now over, devoted practical efforts and expended some of its funds in the matter of defending mediums against the various prosecutions instituted against them in Philadelphia and elsewhere. But as an impartial observer it occurs to me that there is a little danger here. Let us by all means protect all honest mediums by every means in our power, and wherever necessary instruct them how to continue their needful work in such a manner that they may avoid the meshes of the law by refraining from all announcements that can be strained against them. But there is another side that we cannot afford to ignore: Our duty toward the "fakes," "frauds" and charlatans who trade upon the reality of our facts. Such, and all unworthy mediums, who at times "steal the livery of Heaven to serve the Devil in" constitute a standing menace to every honest medium in the ranks. At the first scent of danger to their precious persons they raise their cry for help with an audacity which is more amazing than discreet. We may—I hope not—some day stand in need of a fund to protect Spiritualists against the depredations of all pretenders. If "fortune-telling," the vending of "charms," the finding

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of "affinities" and such like rubbish are to be continually advertised without rebuke as Spiritualism, by the "seventh daughter of a seventh daughter," and such like hangers-on to the cause, a plentiful crop of police prosecutions may quite reasonably be expected, and it would be a crime to expend National funds to protect such people from the consequences of their folly and rapacity. For the toleration of such things will inevitably bring disgrace on our work and odium upon every reputable medium worker. I am a "free trader," but in this case I am a stanch advocate for protection! (Cheers and applause.)

JESUIT SPIRITS.

One other thing has struck me somewhat with surprise. It is that fear of Catholic "Jesuit" spirits that I hear so much about in this country. We are not so afflicted in Great Britain, nor do we have any widespread distrust of our Catholic fellow-citizens in the flesh. Surely my American brethren are not forgetful of the fact that they are the descendants of the Patriots of '76. Surely, too, the ascended heroes of the Revolution, Washington, Lafayette, Paine, and all the other gallant souls of that trying time, to say nothing of that great man, Abraham Lincoln, (applause) are as watchful now as ever of the destinies of their glorious land as when in the flesh. And they will still do their part to protect this land and our cause, of which they must well know the importance, from all attacks, political or religious, that may be directed at it from their side of life. While on this side, as all patriotic Americans believe they can "whip the world," may I suggest that they include the other world as well as a set-off against the fear in question? Evil influences, the fear of Catholic machinations, mortal and spiritual, with "obsession," and similar affairs, have really been "done to death," and it is time more sober counsels prevailed. For, are they not largely idle fancies? Surely, my vigorous American brethren are not to be alarmed by the idle dread that their heaven-sent gospel is to be destroyed by the fancy that unseen Catholic spirits are plotting against it. If we believe, or say we know, that the spirit life is an education for all entering it, why exclude the professors of one form of the world's great religions from the advantages we claim come to all who enter the next life? By strengthening our cause within itself, by educating our workers, writers and adherents in all that makes Spiritualism and Spiritualists broad-minded, personally pure and strong, we can so protect our cause that the fabled hordes of hell could not prevail against us or it. (Loud

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applause.) More work in these directions, it seems to me, would leave less time and little inclination to combat what I cannot help thinking is largely an exaggerated fear resting on no very solid foundation of fact or reason. I make no apology for the foregoing remarks, because I think none is necessary. (Loud applause and cheers.)

FINALLY.

I rejoice that such a body as the American National Spiritualists Association has been formed, and that it presents every indication of stability and permanence. I am glad to know that Mrs. C. L. V. Richmond has been so actively associated with it, and that the services of so able a man as Harrison D. Barrett have been available as President in conjunction with Francis B. Woodbury as Secretary, for undoubtedly they have given their faithful and unwearied services to their duties. It is, no doubt, a matter of pride to the Spiritualists of the United States to know that they have been able to pay these officers what our Socialist friends would call "a living wage." No doubt, as funds increase, your executive officials will receive a salary commensurate with the responsibilities and duties of their important offices, so that the liberal sentiments we profess may find expression in the practical side of daily life. (Applause.)

The selection of Washington, D. C., for the headquarters of the National Association, and the establishment thereat of a National Spiritualists Library were especially felicitous and useful decisions. I most fervently hope that the Association and its work may have a lasting existence, and that wise officers may ever be found to faithfully administer its affairs in the interests of and for the good of the entire movement on this broad continent. Of this I have no doubts, if I judge the future of your acts by your past.

So, now, in closing, let me again assure you, officers, delegates, and friends alike, that I submit this communication to you in all fraternal affection, and that its main purpose has been to give you some trustworthy information as to the progress and position of the cause in Great Britain. The few comments I have ventured to append upon affairs in this country are merely presented as the incidental opinions of an onlooker who has neither the desire nor intention to be presumptuous in his expressions of opinion, though frankly recording his thoughts upon the topics he has ventured to discuss. (Applause.)

The writer, as one of the Executive Officers of the English Spiritualist National Federation, tenders you the hearty greet-

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ings of that body. Though not officially empowered to do so, he is confident his confreres will unanimously endorse his action.

Heartily wishing you God-speed and angel guidance in your present and future labors for our noble cause, let me assure you of my high esteem for you as a body, and my deep interest in all your doings now and in the future. (Long continued applause and cheers.)

Respectfully submitted,

J. J. MORSE.

MRS. RICHMOND: In moving the acceptance of the communication of Mr. Morse I venture one remark. Much of the prosperity, interest and progress of Spiritualism has taken place since my last visit in England. I will say that the English people are eminently profound, eminently sincere, and although slow in taking hold of a movement, when once they enter it there is never the slightest hesitancy. (Applause.) Every one of the towns mentioned by Mr. Morse has been visited by your speaker, and a hearty reception was accorded her, some fifteen or twenty years ago. I move, Mr. Chairman, that a special committee of five be appointed by the Chair to make suitable acknowledgment of this communication, and that the committee be instructed to report to this Convention its reply to Mr. Morse.

MR. MCINTYRE: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: The motion is carried. The Chair will appoint Mrs. Cora L. V. Richmond, of Illinois; Dr. Geo. A. Fuller, of Massachusetts; Mrs. Ida P. A. Whitlock, of Rhode Island; Mr. J. V. McIntyre, of Washington, D. C., and Mr. W. J. Colville, of California, as said special committee.

MR. BACH: It seems to me that something more than the formal thanks of this Convention is due to Mr. Morse. I move that this Convention extend a rising vote of thanks to Mr. Morse, and that our Secretary be instructed to transmit an engrossed resolution to that effect to him.

The motion was seconded by a score of delegates and carried by a unanimous rising vote.

THE CHAIRMAN: We will now listen to the reading of a communication from Ernest S. Green, of San Diego, Cal.

Greeting to the N. S. A. in Annual Convention assembled in the city of Washington for 1896:

Though unable to be with you in person I am with you in spirit, and as an amanuensis for the spirit world, I write these lines.

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Every week the spiritual powers are gathering in greater force toward the pivot, which is centered in the National Association in the city of Washington. And it is well that they should, for "In union there is strength," and with our forces all united we could send first-class missionaries to every town and hamlet in the United States with the glad tidings of immortal life, free to all; we could build temples in every city; we could erect a great psychic school where our ministers could be so educated as to dazzle and confound the wisdom of the so-called wise of our times; and last, but not least, every society could have its salaried minister, who would not be compelled to depend upon contributions and ten-cent admissions at the door. (Applause.)

Those who have led the National Association through its darkest hours will still continue to lead it on from victory to victory until its light shall illuminate the last darkened spot of earth.

The present Convention will be of vast importance; but order will come out of chaos, light out of darkness. Let the dynamo of the Convention run. The light that it will generate will illuminate many dark places and many of the words spoken will reverberate around the world, soothing sorrowing souls in many lands.

Down in the darkness, all dreary and lone,
  Are wand'ring the creed-bound and sorrowing souls;
But out from our nation's great capital pours
  A wave of bright light like a billow that rolls.

And though dark are the walls superstition has reared;
  Like the X-ray it pierces their gloom thro' and thro';
And their atoms shall tremble and scattered shall be,
  And the old shall give way to the light of the new.

Lo! the angels of light sweep abroad o'er the earth,
  And before them the creed-walls like stubble shall fall,
And the once darkened souls from their thralldom shall flee,
  And the light of the Infinite shine upon all.

And after the deluge of light o'er the world,
  On the fragments of idols and ruins of towers
Arise fairest temples and beautiful homes,
  With a rainbow of brightness and fragrance of flowers.

ERNEST S. GREEN,
San Diego, Cal.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Clerk will now read communications from J. Madison Allen and Mrs. M. T. Allen, of Springfield, Mo.

The Fourth Annual Convention of the N. S. A.

GREETING: As a delegate representing the State Association of Missouri, it becomes my privilege and duty, being

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unable to be present with you in person, to present in writing for your consideration a few such thoughts as may seem to be best calculated to reflect the sentiments and wishes of my special constituency and to promote the welfare of the National Association and the general movement.

It has seemed to me, for many years, essential to the complete success of Spiritualism as a world-wide movement, embracing every phase and form of universal human existence, that the Spiritualistic work of the present century now drawing to a close should be characterized by a more perfect system of associated effort than has thus far been established. We need a system of organization at once general and special in its range and scope of activities—telescopic, so to speak, in its comprehensiveness and complete adaptation to all possible contingencies in the mass, and microscopic as well in its subtle analysis and keen discrimination of mental aptitudes, powers and requirements of the individual; one that will give due scope and opportunity to the individual energies and idiosyncrasies, manifesting alone or in conjunction with those of other individuals, and at the same time diffuse throughout the mass an individual compositeness, or composite unity; making of the whole body an organic oneness, and concentrating upon each individual atom of the aggregation the same quality of purpose; a system by which it will be possible both to preserve individual liberty and secure collective agreement and harmonious co-operation.

In each and every State of the American Union there should be a State Spiritualist Association, incorporated under the State law and chartered with the N. S. A. Then, with the mutual co-operation of all local societies (or, if you please, "churches,") in each State under their own State Association, and of all State Associations under the National, we shall have a correct and systematic gradation of mutual interests and activities, from the Nation to the individual, and *vice versa*. The whole will be in practical unity with all the parts; each acting freely within its own particular sphere and sovereign in all matters specially appertaining thereunto, yet all proceeding under one common system. The individual will be directly connected with his or her local society, and indirectly with the State Association, and through the State with the National; the local, as a body, will be directly connected on the one hand with its individual members, and on the other with its State Association, and indirectly through the State with the National; the State will be directly connected with the National on the one hand and with its local on the other, and indirectly through the locals with

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each and every individual member thereof; the National will be directly connected with the State Associations on the one hand, and with the International on the other (when the latter shall have become an accomplished fact), and indirectly through the States, with their respective locals and individuals; each sphere or link in the chain having immediate practical relations with the sphere or link only that is next below or above. (Let us remember just here, parenthetically, that the strength of any chain is measurable by that of its weakest link!)

The individual, in this system, by virtue of his or her local membership, is *de jure* and *de facto* a member also of the State Association of which that local forms a part, of the National of which that State forms a part, and of the International (prospectively) of which that National forms a part.

Delegates from the Locals to State Assemblies, from the States to the National Convention, or from the Nationals to the International or World Congress, by acting in accord with the general or special instructions received from the "home body" of which they are agents or servants, will and must reflect in their proceedings the views and wishes of their constituencies; and thus the individual person, the individual local, the individual State, the individual National becomes an active force of the Great Whole, up to the extent of his, her or its rightful relation thereunto. The Whole is in sympathetic touch with all its parts and the parts are in due co-operative relation to the whole and with each other.

Thus shall the Spiritual Movement in America, and in the United States of the World, become an actual *vital organism*, and as such co-operative throughout, unconquerable and irresistible.

Permit me to offer another thought. In order that the spirit work—or, more properly, the Celestial or Spiritual Congress, from whence Modern Spiritualism has emanated and by which it is being guided toward universal recognition and establishment on earth, in order, that is, that the higher intelligences behind the spiritual movement, seconded by receptive minds in the mortal, may be enabled to accomplish their beneficent purpose of ushering in the era of Liberty, Justice, Equality and Fraternity—of Peace on Earth, Good Will; in other words—*agitation, education, organization, co operation*, on spiritual lines upon the mortal plane, have been and are necessary.

Intelligent intercommunion and interaction between the mundane and supermundane spheres can only proceed through enlightened mediumship, the cornerstone of the spiritual temple. In order, therefore, that the work in hand

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(laid out by the Celestial originators of the Spiritual Movement) shall proceed as rapidly and efficiently as possible, it is evident that steps must be taken by the Spiritualists of America in their organized capacity to establish a school or schools for the unfoldment of the medial powers of specially sensitive persons, and for their intellectual, moral, social and physical training as well. These schools, by supplying the requisite conditions of purity, spirituality, harmony and opportunity, will become focal centers for the inflow of celestial currents or thought-waves, that will find lodgment and welcome in the soul-life of those engaged in the school work; and when the recipients of the illuminating influence shall go forth as teachers and demonstrators of the new religion, philosophy, science and art, they will have been filled with a divine afflatus, interiorly consecrated to the service of humanity, and clothed in the shining garments of purity, truth, honor, and an exalted manhood and womanhood that will attract all people unto it and command the respect and admiration of mankind.

These schools should be homes also, co-operative and mainly or wholly self-sustaining; where the humane and equitable principles of a true Civilization may be exemplified, as an *object lesson* to the contending hosts of our present political and social Cannibalism. Let practical steps be taken at once, by this Convention, looking toward a National University, to be located either at the political or geographical center of the Nation. Let books be opened for subscriptions to an educational endowment fund, let appeals be made for donations, large or small, and let the year 1898, the semi-centennial of the advent of Modern Spiritualism, be crowned with a perpetual halo of celestial glory as the opening year of the *People's Spiritual University of America.*

JAMES MADISON ALLEN,
Secretary of the Missouri State Association and State Organizer.

REPORT OF REV. M. THERESA ALLEN, MISSIONARY OF THE NATIONAL SPIRITUALISTS ASSOCIATION.

To the President and Secretary of the N. S. A.:

I take pleasure in presenting the following report:

In pursuance of the duties devolving upon me as a National Missionary since March 1—the date of my commission—I have been busily occupied in the States of Kansas, Missouri, Texas and Arkansas under engagements as State organizer for Kansas and Missouri, and in the ordinary work of a Spiritualist itinerant. Wherever I have been it has been my special

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pleasure to call the attention of the Spiritualists and the general public to the existence of the National Association—to its purposes, methods, scope and mission—to the importance and necessity of such an organization, for the focalization of the Spiritual energies of our Nation and the more efficient prosecution of the grand objects of the general Spiritual movement.

While I have not been able to accomplish as much as I had wished in the form of newly chartered societies, public collections, etc., yet enough has been accomplished to give me some satisfaction, and to encourage me for further efforts in the hereafter, should the commission be renewed, as opportunity may permit.

With most earnest wishes for the entire success of the National Association in all its departments, I remain

Fraternally,

M. THERESA ALLEN.

THE CHAIRMAN: A communication is at hand stating that Hon. E. W. Bond lies very ill at his home in Willoughby, Ohio. He sends greetings through his son, saying that but for his illness he would have been with us at this Convention. It would be a fitting testimonial to our esteemed brother on the part of this Convention that a resolution of sympathy be sent to him under seal.

The Chair is in receipt of two other communications, which will not be read as they are both personal. One of them is from Mrs. Helen Haddox, of Louisville, Ky., with an enclosure of twenty dollars. The other is from the Progressive Spiritualists Association, of California, containing ten dollars for the National Association.

All further communications will be referred to a special Committee on Communications, consisting of Mr. Fred Freeman, Mr. E. W. Sprague and Mrs. Carrie L. Hatch.

The next business is the introduction of business and assignment of orders. All delegates here upon the floor that have any special business to present are requested to present it at this time, in order that it may be referred to the proper committees for action.

MR. BACH: Mr. President, I claim to be the most highly honored representative upon the floor of this Convention, as I am the delegate from the only Children's Lyceum represented on the floor, to the best of my knowledge.

THE CHAIRMAN: There is one more, Mrs. Graham, of Baltimore.

MR. BACH: I am just told that there is one more; a good lady presents the other one, Mrs. Graham, of Baltimore,

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hence shares the honor with me. We have gathered here to do honor to a movement that we all love. We have gathered here to-day to work for the future generations. We have gathered here to send our greetings to the world and to prove that Spiritualists can work together, and are working for the best interests of humanity in every way. If we have not come here for those purposes then we have not come here in the interest of the highest and best in life. We must take up the question of the Children's Lyceum as one of the most important subjects before us at the present time. For years our orthodox brethren have realized it was the children who made the men and women of the future for them. For some reason or other our Spiritualists have not seemed to realize the fact that the workers of the olden days are passing away; that the workers who used to stand in the breach and were in the front ranks are now getting old and feeble. Who will take the places of those old sainted workers, when they leave the Spiritualistic ranks? In the time I have spent upon the public platform I have seen much of the United States, and I must say that of all of the movements in Spiritualism, the Children's Lyceum is the most of all neglected. The most important question to consider at this Convention, in my estimation, is the matter of what shall we do with the children of Liberalists and Spiritualists. What are we going to do? Are we going to formulate some plan at this Convention whereby we can proceed with the lyceum work? Are we going to formulate some plan whereby the children can be educated? Are we going to formulate some plan whereby the children, officers, State societies and Spiritualists generally will be urged to take an interest in our beloved religion of Spiritualism, or are we going to let them go on as they have gone on in the past? Shall we permit them to desert the doctrine that their fathers and mothers have so honestly believed in? We must stand for principle in this Convention, for I feel an important duty devolves upon us in this direction. I have talked with prominent Spiritualists all over the United States. I have said to them, "I do not understand how you can send your children to the orthodox Sunday schools." I have been met with this one reply, which could be stereotyped on paper and kept in general stock, to be handed out when the question is asked: "We have no place to put our children; we do not want them to run on the streets and so we send them to the orthodox Sunday schools because they get good teachings there." Yes, they do; they are taught that their fathers and mothers are bound straight to perdition; taught that their parents are not quite right

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mentally; that there is something wrong with them generally; taught that their fathers and mothers do not walk in the right path. There are many, very many, I regret to say, whose children do not go to Spiritualist meetings at all, and who could not be induced to attend one. I filled an engagement once when it became necessary for the president of the society, who was the father of two girls, to use his authority as a parent to force those children to assist us in an entertainment. We must take up this subject of the education of our children. If our children are taken when they are little to the lyceum, and we see to it that the principles of Spiritualism are taught to them, they will not then think that their parents' belief is unnatural to their reason. They won't think the religious ideas of their parents are so terrible that they don't care to accept them. We have studied the laws of nature in connection with Spiritualism, and we know that the brain of the child is impressed very strongly with the thoughts that are given to it in its early days. There is a quotation made many times, and it is generally made wrong, that the Catholic Church says, "Give me a child until it is twelve years old and I do not care what you do with it afterwards." Friends, the true age is seven years. My people were all Catholics until they came to the knowledge of Spiritualism, about seventeen years ago. (Applause.) Now let me say that we must take the little children to the lyceum and tell them about Spiritualism. Friends, I represent here on this floor the Boston Spiritual Lyceum (applause) and I am sorry to say that in the great city of Boston there are but two lyceums. I am sorry to say that in many of the largest cities of the United States there are no lyceums at all. I am sorry to say that while our good brother Morse so proudly announces that they have a National Federation in the interest of children in the little island of Great Britain, that they have eighty-four lyceums there, I do not know of but twelve lyceums in the United States to-day. I am told there are thirty, yet I only know of but twelve. Now friends, let us do something for the lyceum, and I think we should make the subjects of Lyceums and Music special orders of business to be considered during this Convention.

MR. HILL: Mr. President, fellow delegates and friends—I come before you at this time as the Chairman of the Committee of the Mediums' Defense Fund of Philadelphia, about which most of you have heard something, and it is deemed proper by the committee that I should make a brief report before this Convention to-day.

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REPORT OF THE MEDIUMS' DEFENSE COMMITTEE OF PHILADELPHIA.

To the Officers and Delegates of the N. S. A.:

At the last Annual Convention the delegates to the N. S. A. were presented with a petition asking for the endorsement of the N. S. A., as well as financial aid, for the mediums of Philadelphia.

When the matter was presented to the last Convention the objection was raised that the Association was not in a financial condition to take upon itself the burden of defending these mediums. However, it was voted to endorse the work of the Mediums' Defense Committee and assist it financially at the discretion of the Board of Trustees. Because of this act many of the delegates subscribed money, with the understanding that it was to be used for the defense, if necessary. At a subsequent meeting of the Executive Committee of the N. S. A. it was voted to allow the writer to place at the disposal of the Defense Committee the sum of three hundred dollars (to be used in case of emergency), which the writer had subscribed to the N. S. A. at the Convention.

However, as all the money needed for expenses up to date was collected through the efforts of the societies in Philadelphia, in conjunction with the special fund collected by the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Mrs. M. E. Cadwallader, it gives me pleasure to state that the above amount was not called for by the Committee, but was turned into the treasury of the N. S. A., thus enabling the officers of that Association to hold the above sum intact for other uses of the N. S. A. (Applause.)

As Chairman of the Defense Committee, it becomes my duty to report what has been accomplished, and the state of affairs at present, so that the delegates assembled may understand the situation.

A week after the Convention one of the mediums under indictment was summoned to appear for trial. That was the signal for active operations. Gen. John Q. Lane, who for many years has been connected with our courts, was employed as counsel. He was highly recommended by Hon. Thos. M. Locke, President of the Spiritual Conference Association, who has known him for thirty years.

When the day came for trial we appeared in court to defend the medium. The case was postponed by order of the District Attorney.

Mrs. Ludlam, Mrs. Bunz, Mrs. Faust and others were called from time to time, only to have their cases postponed over and over again by the District Attorney.

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Finally the case of Mr. T. F. Price was called, and to our surprise the District Attorney did not postpone it. In spite of all attempts on the part of counsel, it was impossible to introduce any evidence whatever to show that as a medium he had a right to give sittings and take pay for them. The court ruled that Spiritualism was not on trial; that the only question at issue was, the literal rendering of the law governing fortune-tellers, and as the witness for the prosecution testified that he had paid for a sitting, the court held that Mr. Price had violated the law. Prominent citizens were present to testify as to the mediumship of Mr. Price and also to the fact that in their opinion Spiritualism was a religion, and they felt it to be unconstitutional to arrest mediums for exercising their gift. The court refused to hear such evidence. The consequence was that Mr. Price was convicted under the fortune-telling law, and would have been sentenced had it not been for the Defense Committee. The counsel was instructed to appeal the case. The date of rehearing was fixed for the month of December. While some may be disposed to criticise the action of the Committee, let me here emphasize the fact that had it not been for the influence and support of the Defense Committee Mr. Price would to-day be in Moyamensing prison suffering the full penalty of the law, which would mean an imprisonment of two years, at the discretion of the court.

When the time came to hear the argument for appeal, the counsel and members of the committee were present, but Mr. Price sent a physician's certificate, stating that he was unable to be present. Thus through no fault of the committee the hearing had to be postponed.

Later, Mr. Price was given permission to fill his engagements, on condition that he would return immediately, upon formal notice from the Court. From that time on the committee, through its attorney, has endeavored to secure a hearing, but was unable to do so, in consequence of more pressing matters which the District Attorney had on hand. This led many to believe that the cases were quashed. Such is not the case. It is the intention of the committee to push these cases to a final issue. The power of the District Attorney is almost absolute in our State, and all who are familiar with the slow processes of the law know that you must wait its motion. These cases will not be quashed by any action of the committee. Mediumship is being defended, and these cases must be settled upon the basis of justice and constitutional rights, if such a thing is possible.

We have every reason to fear that in the near future another

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attack will be made upon the mediums; if so, we are prepared to fight to the bitter end.

We are sorry to say that there have been cases of extreme destitution among the mediums of our city. These we have relieved, and tided them over the hard places, by taking up special collections for their benefit.

Our work was done systematically. We had meetings at which reports were given of the progress made, the state of the finances, amount collected and expended. This account was audited and pronounced correct in every detail. The committee then issued the following statement and sent it to every contributor:

STATEMENT FROM AUDITING COMMITTEE.

"In examining the report of the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Mrs. M. E. Cadwallader, we find that a carefully itemized record of all subscriptions received from individuals, as well as a statement of all donations received from societies, has been submitted to us, and that all funds have been turned over to the Treasurer of the Committee. Her account has been carefully audited and found correct.

We also find that Mrs. Cadwallader has delivered one hundred and fourteen addresses, written four hundred and thirty letters, besides fifty-eight newspaper articles in the interest of the Defense Fund, without drawing on the fund for expenses of any kind.

The Committee heartily tenders its thanks to all contributors to the Mediums' Defense Fund. A detailed statement of all receipts and expenditures will be published in due time.

Signed,

FRANCIS J. KEFFER,
President First Association Spiritualists of Philadelphia.

THOMAS M. LOCKE,
President Philadelphia Spiritualist Society.

Auditing Committee.

B. B. HILL, Chairman.
F. H. MORRILL, Secretary and Treasurer,
221 Chestnut Street.

Amount of Contribution Received....."

No one unfamiliar with the amount of labor entailed in proceedings of this kind, can accurately judge of the self-sacrificing work of the members of the Committee. It is but just to say to the delegates of this Convention, that each of the committee considered that it was his or her duty to attend to this matter as if it was paramount to all other duties.

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The decision of the court at the trial of Mr. Price, that no evidence would be allowed bearing upon Spiritualism, and that all mediums would be tried as common fortune-tellers, showed us plainly that we must take some decided course, if we would permanently benefit our mediums.

It has been decided that the proper course to pursue was to make an effort to have the law amended. The Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Cadwallader, corresponded with Hon. A. B. Richmond, asking him to prepare a suitable petition. Mr. Richmond not only did so, but also gave us valuable aid in other directions. Judge Richmond says that in his opinion the passage of the bill as he has prepared it, will enable all mediums to obtain a fair trial, even if unjustly accused. We have been promised influential support in the legislature of the State, and we hope to be successful. When the bill is presented we shall secure the proper counsel to represent us at Harrisburg, as well as be present in force. The following is Judge Richmond's bill:

"*To the Honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in Legislature Assembled:*

The petition of the undersigned citizens of the State of Pennsylvania, respectfully represents that the Act of Assembly, entitled, "Fortune-telling," passed the 8th of April, 1861, as construed by some of the courts of this Commonwealth, is calculated to do, and has done, great wrong and injury to innocent and law-abiding citizens thereof; your honorable body is therefore respectfully asked to enact the following amendment to said Act of 1861:

AN ACT TO AMEND AND EXPLAIN THE ACT OF ASSEMBLY OF APRIL 8, 1861, AS FOLLOWS:

Be it enacted by the Senate and Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that the said Act of April 8, 1861, shall not apply to Spiritual mediums holding seances, either public or private, provided that said mediums do not pretend to tell fortunes, or predict future events except such as are made manifest by natural phenomena, which may be proven in court in defense of any person arrested and tried under said Act, as any other phenomena are proven by the testimony of learned and expert witnesses in psychical phenomena."

This petition has aroused the people and has been signed by Spiritualists and Liberals throughout the State. We bespeak for it your earnest support.

In many States it has been the custom to arrest mediums, put them under bonds, and do nothing more. We do not in-

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tend to submit to this plan of action. The District Attorney has been notified that we wish to push these cases and he announces his determination to have them first on the next list for trial, which will be in November.

In closing this necessarily brief report, the Committee desires to extend its thanks to the officers and delegates of the N. S. A. for their cordial support. I am glad we were able to carry on the work without calling on the N. S. A. for financial support. At the same time we realize that the power and influence of the N. S. A. has inspired us to greater efforts, if that were possible. Because of this silent force we feel it our duty to stand by the N. S. A., that it may long live to fulfill its purposes. Through the N. S. A. we hope to see our mediums throughout the land accorded their rights as citizens of this Republic. (Signed) B. B. HILL,
Chairman of Mediums' Defense Committee of Philadelphia.

MR. HILL (continuing): Now, I have a few remarks to make. The business operations of this committee at Philadelphia have been questioned. The honesty of its financial agent has been questioned. I stand before you as a man. My word has never been doubted as a business man. Wherever I am known my word is as good as my bond. I can vouch for the committee, and I now state that nothing has been carried on in this movement but what has been honest and square, and I have documents to prove what I say here to-day. I have thought it best to say these few words, because I know there has been a report going around over the country as to the management of this committee, and I thought it was simply due you to understand this matter from the right standpoint. (Applause.)

Adjourned to 2.30 P. M.

AFTERNOON MEETING.

OCTOBER 21, 1896, 2.30 P. M.

President Barrett in the Chair.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair will appoint a committee to consider the report of Mr. Hill, consisting of Mr. M. C. Edson, of Washington, D. C.; J. B. Hatch, Sr., of Massachusetts, and Mrs. A. G. Atcheson, of Buffalo, N. Y.

MR. WALKER: The Committee on Credentials is ready to make a further report.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Committee on Credentials is always in order.

Mr. Walker then reported the names of additional members who were entitled to the privileges of the floor, and the report was adopted.

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THE CHAIRMAN: We will now listen to the reading of the report of the Committee on the President's Report, which will be read by the Reading Clerk.

The Reading Clerk then read the report in full, signed by the entire committee: H. W. Richardson, Chairman; E. W. Sprague, F. C. Stinehart, Ida P. A. Whitlock and S. N. Aspinwall.

THE CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, this report will be considered seriatim. The Reading Clerk will read the first item.

READING CLERK: We recommend that 5,000 copies of the Constitution and By-Laws, as amended and adopted at this Convention, be printed for free distribution among the Spiritualists of the United States and Canada.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation of your committee. What is your pleasure?

MR. MAYER: I think 5,000 copies would be too many. We may change the Constitution and By-Laws again next year, and it will be expensive to have so many printed—it will be useless. Experience has taught us that 1,000 or 1,500 will be ample to be divided among our societies and Spiritualists that belong to the National Association or who desire to become members of the National Association. I move to amend by substituting 2,000 for 5,000.

DR. EWELL: I second the motion.

The amendment was adopted as was the section as amended.

READING CLERK: 2d. We approve the recommendation of the President and urge upon each delegate to pledge himself to take several copies of the Annual Report for 1896, said pledges to be accompanied by the cash therefor, or its equivalent, and that the number of volumes printed be left to the discretion of the Board after such pledges are in. Adopted.

READING CLERK: 3d. We approve of the recommendation of the President that the Secretary be instructed to send to each Spiritual Society now in existence copies of the compiled history of the N. S. A.

This section was amended on motion of Mr. Mayer, by adding after the letters "N. S. A." the words "as far as printed," and then adopted.

READING CLERK: 4th. We recommend the appropriation suggested, in the sum of $200.00, for securing files of Spiritual papers, to include the proper binding of same.

MR. RICHARDSON: I move its adoption.

COLONEL FREEMAN: I second the motion.

Section fourth was amended by the substitution of the fol-

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lowing: "Money shall be appropriated for the purpose of securing files of the Spiritual papers and proper binding of the same, provided the appropriation does not exceed $150.00 in amount."

The recommendation was then adopted.

DR. LYON: I wish to state to the Convention and the Society, that I have two books at home; the first is printed matter on "Spiritualism Extant," the other one, I think, is called "Spiritual Freedom, or Spiritual Philosophy." I have had them on hand a long time. They are good books, calf binding, and the Association is welcome to them if it will take them.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Association will receive the books. The Reading Clerk will proceed.

READING CLERK: 5th. We heartily approve of the placing of missionaries in the field where the cause of Spiritualism can best be served, and in such numbers as the Board of Trustees shall deem advisable, and as is consistent with the funds available for such purpose. Adopted.

READING CLERK: 6th. Inasmuch as the special days for N. S. A. at the various camps during the past season were so successful, we do hereby approve of the President's recommendation, that the Secretary be given positive instructions to secure dates at each camp, and that on each of such occasions the National Association shall be represented by either a State Agent or General Missionary, or some person appointed by the Trustees of the N. S. A. for that purpose. Adopted.

READING CLERK: 7th. We heartily endorse the sentiments of our President in regard to mediums, so-called, and recommend the establishment of an information bureau at the National Headquarters. Adopted.

READING CLERK: 8th. We urge by all means the establishing of home circles as the best means of demonstrating the truth of spirit return, not only to our children but to investigators as well.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair would suggest here that that part of the recommendation of the Committee should ordinarily be referred to the Committee on Resolutions, and unless there are any recommendations to the contrary it will be referred to the Committee on Resolutions with instructions to act. Hearing none, it is so ordered. The clerk will proceed.

READING CLERK: 9th. We endorse what our President says in regard to taking a deeper interest in our mediums and mediumship, by seeing to it that they receive just compensa-

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tion for their services, and earnestly recommend long engagements wherever it is possible. Adopted.

READING CLERK: 10th. We believe it especially important that a National Organizer be appointed and equipped in accordance with the recommendation of our President, and hope that President Barrett can act in that capacity.

This section was amended by striking out the words "And we hope that President Barrett can act in that capacity," and then adopted as amended, after considerable discussion.

READING CLERK: 11th. We submit to the Convention the question of Ordination without recommendation, preferring to leave this important matter to the wisdom of this body.

The question of ordination was vigorously discussed by Messrs. Bach, Ewell, Fowler, Mrs. Richmond and Mrs. Cadwallader. Upon motion of L. V. Moulton, seconded by J. B. Hatch, Jr., the question of ordination was referred to a special committee of three with instructions to report to this Convention as soon as possible. The Chairman appointed Hon. L. V. Moulton, J. B. Hatch, Jr., and Moses Hull as said committee.

READING CLERK: 12th. The question of suitable and appropriate music, as suggested by the President, meets with our hearty approval, and we hope that in the near future suitable provisions will be made. Adopted.

READING CLERK: 13th. We recommend that Mrs. Walcott's case in reference to a clergyman's permit over the B. & O. R. R. be submitted to the Board of Trustees and left to its discretion. Adopted.

READING CLERK: 14th. We heartily approve of the forming of State Associations wherever possible, and recommend that the Board of Trustees be instructed to take the necessary steps to the establishment of such Associations. Adopted.

READING CLERK: 15th. Believing that a National Spiritualists' Temple is a necessity, we heartily endorse the recommendation of the President that a committee be created by this Convention, with power to solicit and secure a special fund and carry forward the work of construction.

DR. FOWLER: I object to the recommendation. We as a body are not ready to consider the building of a temple just yet, and I suggest we refer that matter to the next Convention.

MR. SCHIRM: I do not think that we should heed the time. I find there are persons in this city who are willing to make their wills and leave something to a special fund created for the purpose of building a National Spiritualists' Temple, and we know that already about $500 have been collected by the

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Ladies' Aid of the First Society of Washington. Everything needs a start, and since these funds are collected and are ready to be turned in to us, we had better take them and we can let the interest grow on them during the years we are collecting the balance of the funds. (Applause.) I believe that the time has come now, that we must take a decided step in this regard and push it further. We should collect what we can now, for if we don't get it now perhaps the persons will use it for some other purpose.

MR. MOULTON: Mr. Chairman, while I heartily agree with Mr. Schirm, it seems to me there is ample provision in the Constitution for this now. Any special fund has always been secure in the hands of the Board, and this is provided for in our Constitution, and people willing to donate their money, either for the Mediums' Fund, for the Temple Fund, or for any other fund, it would be religiously appropriated for that purpose, therefore no special committee is required. I think the President is empowered to act.

MRS. PRIOR: I believe we are wasting valuable time. After the reading of the report of the Committee on Amendments, you will find this matter is taken up, and we will have to go over the same ground we are going over now; therefore I move that we pass this by until we hear the report of the Committee upon Amendments.

MRS. WILLIAMS: I second the motion.

Carried.

READING CLERK: 16th. Believing that the N. S. A. should take the lead in establishing schools of Spiritual Philosophy, we submit to this Convention, for its careful consideration, the President's recommendation in regard thereto.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: 17th. Lyceum work is important, and the recommendation for an organizer to establish lyceums throughout the country we submit to the Convention, bespeaking its most careful consideration of this subject. We would suggest that the organization of societies and lyceums be carried on by the same person, where practicable.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: 18th. The subject of finances we pass without recommendation, leaving it to the Finance Committee.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: 19th. We think the suggestion of the President that two mass meetings a month during the next six months be held in various cities an excellent one, and we would recommend that the incoming Board be instructed to

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carry out the recommendation in so far as they find it consistent to do so.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: 20th. The suggestion of the President in reference to the Seybert Commission Fund we submit to the Convention without recommendation.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: 21st. We endorse the recommendation of the President relative to the appointment of State Agents, and believe it wise to foster and encourage this branch of work.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: 22d. The question of the use of proxies we believe to be a very delicate and important one, and we bespeak its most careful consideration by this Convention. We hope through the organization of State Associations this question may be solved in the near future.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: 23d. We recommend that the traveling expenses of the Trustees in getting to and from the place of Board meeting be paid from the funds of the Association.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: 24th. We recommend that measures be taken to raise a special fund to defray the expenses of the Semi-Centennial of Modern Spiritualism proposed to be held at Rochester, N. Y., in March, 1898, but would advise that in no case is money to be taken from the general fund of the N. S. A. for that purpose.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Vice President will please take the chair.

MR. BARRETT: Ladies and gentlemen—This Rochester celebration is the greatest event in the history of Modern Spiritualism. We are passing upon a very important question in which we are all interested. Some one must be appointed to lead in this matter, and instructions given him now. It will not do to pass this recommendation without doing something practical to enable your Board of Trustees to take hold of the matter to carry it forward to that success that shall be worthy of the name of Spiritualism. I ask you to see to it that the Board of Trustees is designated to take the lead. We do not want to spend the funds of the National Association. I know of gentlemen in California willing to aid in this work, and many wealthy Spiritualists in other sections have indicated to me that they would contribute liberally to this fund if it was started now. We must do something at the present time. The National Association should control this great celebration if one is held.

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DR. EWELL: I move that the Board of Trustees be empowered to make all such arrangements as may be necessary.

Motion seconded and carried.

President Barrett in the chair.

MR. MOULTON: There is ample provision for the appointment of special agents for special things in the Constitution and By-Laws. All that is necessary for this body to do is to say go ahead, appoint special agents and the rest is done.

THE CHAIRMAN: The recommendation is adopted.

READING CLERK: 25th. We feel that the labors of the Secretary are such as to merit a salary of $1,200, as recommended by the President, and hope some action may be taken in that direction.

Referred to Committee on Finance.

READING CLERK: 26th. We pass without recommendation the suggestion of the President in reference to sending a delegate to the London International Congress. We do so in view of the fact that the Convention of 1897 would have opportunity and time to act thereon.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: 27th. The suggestion that we send delegates to the Free Thought Convention we think a good one, and we believe it wise to comply therewith.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: 28th. Feeling that the Mothers' Convention to be held in Washington in November is in harmony with the work of the N. S. A., we deem it wise to send delegates and greetings to that Convention.

Adopted by a rising vote.

READING CLERK: 29th. We leave to the Committee on Resolutions the drafting of proper resolutions of thanks to be extended to the Spiritual and secular press for kindness and courtesies tendered this Association.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: 30th. We fully appreciate the labors of our President, and believe he has very fully covered in his report the field of work and marked a line of procedure for the future, conducive to the best good and growth of the N. S. A. and for the general cause of Spiritualism.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question now is upon the adoption of this report as a whole, as amended. It is unanimously adopted.

MR. GOULD: Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen—An apology may be necessary and proper in this connection. You remember that the President said yesterday that the committees on the various reports had to work all night.

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The Committee on Secretary's Report, of which I was Chairman, did work hard and long, and one of our members, Mrs. Hatch, the Secretary of it, took the President at his word and sat up nearly all night making the report that she is prepared to read. It is not extensive and is to the point. The motion I wish to make is to submit it to the Convention for consideration now.

THE CHAIRMAN: The report will be now received, and will be considered seriatim. The clerk will read.

READING CLERK: The Committee to whom the Report of the Secretary of the N. S. A. was referred, beg leave to report as follows:

The time being too limited to go carefully through so exhaustive a report, we deem it unwise to attempt to criticise so ably and carefully considered a document, and will recommend the following:

1st. We recommend the continuance of the missionary work, and that suitable persons be appointed to carry on the work so successfully begun; that said missionaries be appointed by the President, with the territory mapped out for each one.

Referred to Committee on Finance.

READING CLERK: 2d. We recommend the N. S. A. pay especial attention to the Southern States in the line of missionary work.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: 3d. We recommend that the Spiritualists in the State of New York be aroused by the sending of such literature as may be best adapted for that purpose, but that no unnecessary expense be used for this State, inasmuch as it has many efficient workers there with brains and money.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: 4th. We would recommend that the missionary work done by the N. S. A. be applied where spiritual starvation is found.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: 5th. We recommend that the N. S. A. appropriate as liberally as possible for suitable literature as prepared by the Board of Trustees.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: 6th. We recommend that societies look into the Post Office Missions under the management of Unitarians, and see if they can be adapted to the needs of Spiritualism.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: 7th. We recommend the N. S. A. show

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its appreciation to the Spiritual press of the whole country for the grand work they have done for the N. S. A. by extending to them its hearty co-operation.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: 8th. We recommend the subject of ordination by the N. S. A. be left decidedly alone, and be left entirely to the State and local societies, as it does not come under N. S. A. jurisdiction, in our opinion.

Referred to the Special Committee on Ordination.

READING CLERK: 9th. We recommend that all societies be instructed to be cautious whom they employ to instruct the people in the philosophy of Spiritualism, and in the presentation of the phenomena.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: 10th. We recommend the work of the Spiritual Directory be continued by the Secretary.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: 11th. We recommend the printing of annual reports be left to the discretion of the Board of Trustees.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: 12th. We recommend that the foreign reports be printed in connection with the annual report, provided the Board of Trustees think it advisable.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: 13th. We recommend that the N. S. A. heartily co-operate with the Veteran Spiritualists Union in all its efforts to assist humanity.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: 14th. We recommend the N. S. A. conduct an aggressive campaign against all legislation inimical to the rights of the people, and furthermore with this object in view we recommend fraternal co-operation with all liberty-loving people in our land.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: 15th. We recommend the National Temple Fund be left in the hands of the Trustees.

Referred to the Committee on Amendments.

READING CLERK: 16th. We recommend the endorsement of the work started in the West by Moses Hull, and also the continuation of this work by the N. S. A. as soon as finances will allow.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: 17th. We recommend the purchase of the Fox Home be left for future consideration.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: 18th. We recommend the Missionaries

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appointed by the N. S. A. be instructed to start schools or lyceums wherever possible, and to impress upon the minds of the Spiritualists this important work.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: 19th. We recommend the appointing of suitable delegates to the "Mothers' Convention" by the Trustees.

THE CHAIRMAN: This recommendation is already adopted.

READING CLERK: 20th. We commend all the Secretary has said in regard to medical laws. We recommend the N. S. A. to urge all magnetic physicians to band together for their own protection.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: 21st. We would recommend that the subject of finances be left to the Finance Committee.

Referred.

READING CLERK: 22d. We recommend that the N. S. A. co-operate with the Veterans' Spiritual Union in regard to a mediums' home, and give it financial aid.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: 23d. We recommend that the salary of the Secretary and additional clerk hire be left to the Board of Trustees.

THE CHAIRMAN: This has already been referred to the Committee on Finance.

READING CLERK: The report is respectfully submitted, and

Signed: E. W. GOULD, Chairman,
MRS. A. M. GLADING,
MRS. J. D. STORRS,
L. C. HUTCHINSON,
CARRIE L. HATCH,
} Committee.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question now is upon the adoption of the report as a whole, as amended. The report as a whole, as amended, is adopted. The next order of business is the reception of the report of the Committee on Treasurer's Report, and Auditing. Mr. Mullen will bring it to the Reading Clerk.

READING CLERK: Your committee has carefully examined the report of our worthy Treasurer, and find his accounts in perfect order, showing the excellent ability of our Treasurer. We recommend that his report be accepted.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed: J. MULLEN, California,
F. E. FREEMAN, Illinois,
CARRIE P. PRATT, Mass.
} Committee.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the report of your committee. The report is unanimously adopted. The next order

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of business is the report of the Committee on Delegates' Reports.

MRS. CADWALLADER: The report is not quite ready.

THE CHAIRMAN: The report of the Committee on Resolutions is now in order.

MR. SCHIRM reads:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS.

We, the delegates of the National Convention of Spiritualists of the United States of America and Canada, declare the truth of the conscious existence of the spirit of man, after its separation from the body, and its ability, under proper conditions, to communicate intelligently with spirits still incarnate.

We declare that the love and guidance of our dear ones who have passed to the summerland is the sweetest boon to human kind, and that the instructions of the highly developed spirits lead us to exalted planes of intellectual illumination and moral purity.

We declare that the teachings of the brightest spirit intelligences are incompatible with bigotry and tyranny, but are in consonance with the widest possible liberty of the mind; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we pledge our unfaltering allegiance to the White Flag of Spiritualism, and to the Stars and Stripes of our beloved country.

Resolved, That we oppose by ballot, pen and tongue, every effort made to abridge our rights as citizens, and that we keep a vigilant eye for the detection of any insidious schemes, having for their purpose the recognition by the State of any form of religion.

Resolved, That we deem mediumship one of the highest gifts attainable by man, and that, therefore, it should not be prostituted for base purposes; that every medium owes it to self and humanity to live a pure and upright life in order that blessings may crown his labors; that we deem it our duty to Spiritualism and to genuine mediumship to expose and publish all fraudulent mediums and fakirs.

Resolved, That we extend to all deserving mediums (who are members of our organization) protection in their home life and defense in the courts, from unjust prosecution, and that we uphold and sustain them by sympathy and just compensation in their public and private work.

Resolved, That we earnestly pray each worker in our ranks to eliminate, as far as possible, the ego from all discourses upon the platform.

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Resolved, That it is the purpose of the N. S. A. to carry Spiritualism beyond the test plane, and to bring before the masses the higher spiritual truths as taught by advanced spirits, and to that end we request all Spiritualists to assist us by seeking only the higher phases, and by keeping the test work where it properly belongs: to prove spirit return to unbelievers.

Resolved, That we learn with pleasure of various efforts made to establish Spiritualistic schools for the training and education of mediums, and that we especially commend the Spiritualist Workers' Training School of Moses Hull, which opens at Mantua, Ohio, on the 1st day of June, 1897, and that we also endorse the suggestions of Paul S. Gillette for a School of Correspondence as being a step in the right direction.

Resolved, That we recommend the passing of a By-Law instructing the Secretary to make quarterly reports of the condition of the N. S. A. embodying finance, the growth of Spiritualism, its special work and the attitude of opposing thinkers, and that he forward copies of this report to the leading Spiritualistic papers of this country with a request that they be published.

Resolved, That we commend the report of Mrs. M. E. Cadwallader, and that we give our especial endorsement to her labors in behalf of persecuted mediums, and for her wise enterprise in compiling the criminal laws of the various States, affecting mediumship; and that we extend to her our thanks for her labors generally in behalf of the N. S. A., and that we regret her determination to withdraw from active work in its behalf, hoping she may reconsider her resolve. (Applause.)

Resolved, That we tender to Mr. H. C. Burch, the manager of the Ebbitt House, our cordial thanks for the use of the parlors of that hotel for our reception on Monday evening last; that we also tender our thanks to the officers of the various camp meetings for the courtesy extended the N. S. A. through its President; also to those who contributed books and other reading matter to the library of the N. S. A.; to those kind friends who rendered medical aid and home comforts to our President during his illness in the past year; to the secular press of the country for its fairness in reporting the lectures of our President, during his missionary trip, and especially to the press of this city for its full and true reports of the proceedings of this Convention; to the Spiritualistic press for the use of its columns for all matters pertaining to the welfare of the N. S. A.; to Dr. O. G. W.

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Adams for his unselfish labors which resulted in the raising of a fund of $500 donated to our treasury; to the officers of the N. S. A., and especially to President Barrett and Secretary Woodbury, for their devotion to the cause we cherish; and to all persons, of whatever shade of opinion, who have been generous enough to deal with us in the spirit of brotherhood and co-operate with us in the cause of humanity.

Signed: CHARLES R. SCHIRM, Maryland,
MOSES HULL, Utah,
MRS. E. R. WILLIAMS, Oregon,
MRS. A. E. SHEETS, Michigan,
I. P. WALTON, Pennsylvania.
} Committee.

The report was unanimously adopted as read.

MR. MAYER: May I ask if any resolution has been passed that the officers and delegates be paid their traveling expenses by this Association?

THE CHAIRMAN: The traveling expenses of the non-resident Trustees, not the delegates, have been ordered paid.

MR. MOULTON: I request the indulgence of the Convention just a moment. I have just been notified by Mrs. Cabell that she will, at any time, go with an officer of this Association and make a codicil to her will to donate $2,000 to the Temple Fund, and will give $500 additional on presentation of proof that the land is purchased, etc. (Applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN: The request of our sister, Mrs. Cabell, will be complied with as early as possible. Is there any objection to receiving some resolutions from Mr. Bach at the present hour? They will be received.

MR. BACH: Just before the noon session I took the liberty to bring before the Convention the question of the lyceum. I wish, in the name of Mr. and Mrs. Hatch, to present two resolutions, one on the subject of the lyceum and the other one on the subject of music, for your consideration.

WHEREAS, Lyceums are an important factor in the progress and education of Spiritualism, and that much depends upon the system and mode of teaching, as well as upon uniformity in the various societies; therefore be it

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the Chairman to consider and report to this Convention the most practical system of teaching and conducting lyceum work.

Resolved, That as music is one of the most important features in Spiritual education and worship, that the said committee be also requested to include in their report what, in their opinion, is the most practical method to secure this great addition to all Spiritual exercises, in its most effectual form,

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that the report may be published in the proceedings of the Convention.

Adopted.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair will appoint on that committee W. H. Bach, Mrs. C. L. Hatch and W. H. Hawks. We will now listen to the report of the Committee on Delegates' Reports.

MRS. CADWALLADER: I cannot get my committee together, and I ask to have until to-morrow morning to make this report.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair sees no other way and, therefore, the report will be passed. It will be considered the first thing to-morrow morning.

Adjourned.

THURSDAY MORNING.

OCTOBER 22, 1896, 10 A. M.

The Convention was called to order at 10 A. M., President Barrett in the Chair.

THE CHAIRMAN: The report of the Committee on Delegates' Reports is now in order. We will now listen to the report of the Committee on Delegates' Reports.

MRS. CADWALLADER: Mr. President and Delegates—Your Committee regrets that it is unable to present a proper report of the condition of the societies connected with the National Association, for the reason that a number of the societies represented by delegates to the Convention have not sent in reports. Because of the failure of their duty in this respect the report cannot do justice to the standing of the N. S. A., the constitution of which provides that a report be sent in each year.

Out of one hundred and fifty chartered societies but forty have reported. Of this number reports are from three State Associations, the rest being from local societies.

The State Associations reporting are Connecticut, Michigan and Nebraska.

The total number of societies reporting represent forty societies located in nineteen States, as follows: California, 2; Connecticut, 6; Colorado, 3; Iowa, 1; Indiana, 2; Illinois, 1; Kansas, 1; Kentucky, 1; Maryland, 2; Massachusetts, 2; Michigan, 2; Nebraska, 1; New Jersey, 1; New York, 1; Ohio, 1; Pennsylvania, 3; Utah, 1. The Dominion of Canada is also represented by one society.

These societies represent an aggregate membership of 1,440, and report receipts of $10,380.51; expenses, $9,663.82; bal-

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ance on hand, $1,271.69, reported. Pay rentals of $2,895.30. The meeting places have a seating capacity of 5,280. During the year they have held 1,446 meetings and have had attendance of 1,623 per Sunday. No reasonable estimate is given of the amount of property held in their name.

Some of the societies failed to pay their per capita dues, and some report that they are on the eve of disbanding.

We recommend that the incoming Board be instructed to take active measures to see that next year a different state of affairs shall exist.

Your Committee recommends that in all cases where the chartered societies fail to comply with all the requirements of the Constitution and By-Laws in the matter of annual dues, reports, etc., they be debarred from representation on the floor of the Annual Convention.

The reason we emphasize this recommendation is that the N. S. A. is not fairly represented as to its strength. The N. S. A. has reported the number of charters to be 150. It is manifestly unjust to the Association that we are compelled to submit a report from only forty of them.

The reports submitted were so incomplete, in many cases the societies not taking the trouble to fill out the blanks, that we feel that something must be done to cause a change in this direction. We hope the Convention will express itself upon this matter.

We recommend the enforcement of the annual dues, and in all cases where they are not paid no representation should be permitted.

We recommend that the incoming Board be instructed to publish a complete report of the condition of the societies chartered by it, and take measures to revoke all charters held by societies which are not in active operation. Unless this is done there is no way of arriving at a proper understanding of the strength of the N. S. A.

Your Committee reports against proxy representation, and instead would recommend that each society which cannot be represented by delegate be requested to send recommendations to be acted upon by the Convention. The reason for this recommendation is that we feel that in order to secure the proper interest in the N. S. A. throughout the country it is absolutely necessary to have some one who is in the Board of Trustees, or at least an active member of the society, present at the Annual Convention of the N. S. A.

We recommend that in order to secure this representation several societies in the State unite for the purpose of securing a representative at the Convention. If this plan is adopted

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more effective work can be accomplished for the N. S. A. and we would suggest that one of the State Agents be selected in cases where only one can be sent.

Unless this action be taken, your Committee, judging from the little interest taken to file proper reports, feels that unless we fully realize the necessity of taking decided action, great detriment to the N. S. A. will result because, through temporary enthusiasm created by special representatives of the N. S. A., many of these charters are obtained, and unless the need of earnest and continuous labor in behalf of the N. S. A. is impressed upon the active members of each society chartered it will be impossible to sustain the work of the Association.

This might be obviated if at least one representative would come from each State to the N. S. A. Convention who would pledge himself to work faithfully for the interests of the N. S. A. during the year.

Respectfully submitted,

M. E. CADWALLADER, Chairman,
G. C. BECKWITH EWELL, M. D.,
ANNA M. JAQUESS,
HEBRON LIBBEY,
} Committee.

Pittsburg society sent in its report after this list had been made up.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the report of your Committee (and it is a most important one), and the chair rules that it be considered seriatim. The reading clerk will read.

MRS. CADWALLADER: Mr. Chairman, let me state to the Convention that I have compiled a list of statistics regarding the membership in each society, as given in the reports, the amount of money, etc., and any one who wishes to ask any questions on the matter I am prepared to answer.

THE CHAIRMAN: The first part of the report will be considered adopted without debate, as there are no objections to it.

READING CLERK: Your Committee recommends that in all cases where the chartered societies fail to comply with all the requirements of the Constitution and By-Laws in the matter of annual dues, reports, etc., they be debarred from representation on the floor of the Annual Convention.

MR. GOULD: Before putting that motion I want to ask if the By-Laws do not provide positively in regard to representation from societies that have not paid their dues?

THE CHAIRMAN: The By-Laws provide that societies be debarred from representation on the part of their membership, but not on their charter in such cases.

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MRS. CADWALLADER: That is expressly what we desired to convey. If I could come here year after year and represent my charter without being obliged to pay a cent to the National Association, that certainly is a wrong state of affairs. The Convention should not pass these things without expressing its ideas.

THE CHAIRMAN: The reading clerk will read the provision in the Constitution and By-Laws, Article 10, Section 1, of the By-Laws.

READING CLERK: Article 10, Grievances, Section 1. In the event that any society becomes two years in arrears on its dues, it shall, at the expiration of thirty days from the last default, become the duty of the Secretary to cite the defaulting society before the Board of Trustees to show cause why its charter shall not be revoked.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Sergeant-at-Arms will distribute copies of the Constitution and By-Laws among the members.

MRS. CADWALLADER: It says in the Constitution that failure to pay dues shall debar societies from representation on behalf of the charter.

MR. BACH: That matter is settled, because it says that they shall have representation on behalf of its charter, but when dues are defaulted for two years the Board of Trustees can revoke the charter, which, of course, will do away with that representation.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation of your Committee. The motion prevails and the recommendation is adopted.

MR. BACH: I move a reconsideration.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved and seconded to reconsider that resolution. Are there any remarks?

MR. BACH: It seems to me a very peculiar thing for this Convention to adopt a resolution which is contrary to the Constitution by which we are governed.

MR. MOULTON: It seems to me, Mr. President and delegates, a little arbitrary for us to undertake to pass this resolution, when, by the power of law, it will be simply wind, unless it is backed by an amendment to the Constitution. It seems to me, therefore, a little arbitrary to undertake to pass a rule of this kind that will absolutely cut off a charter from representation by this Convention because of failure to pay dues prior to this Convention. No process of law has been entered into for a hearing. No question of any kind; no excuses, no inquiry of any sort—an arbitrary, rigid, iron-clad rule that rests upon the single fact of non-payment of dues. It is arbitrary, unjust, unfair, and ought not to prevail. There is

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ample provision made for cancelling charter for cause after a hearing. I do not believe in trying, condemning and executing on the mere presence of a single fact. It seems to me we should have an inquiry instituted before literally decapitating and ruling out an organization under our jurisdiction. It is believed to have acquired some rights when it took the charter from us; this is a contract relation, and it seems to me that we should not be too arbitrary or too hasty in this matter, unless we desire to eliminate from our ranks the larger number of our chartered societies. It seems to me that the provisions in the Constitution and By-Laws are very ample and sufficient. If there is anything to be recommended in this regard it would be how long this matter should run. I would not object to cutting down that time to one year, and making it one year in arrears, but I should not want to deprive anybody of any rights arbitrarily because of the fact that there is an account against them.

MRS. CADWALLADER: Mr. President, it seems to me that if we should be so lenient on charters or membership, let them have representation on this floor without paying their dues, how long will it be before any one will pay his dues? If we let one in we must the rest, and I think it is nothing more than justice to this National Association that we enforce this in some way, either by amending the Constitution, or passing resolutions compelling every chartered society to pay its dues before the annual Convention. If this is not done they should not have representation on the floor of the Convention.

DR. EWELL: I am on the Committee this year and was last. It is the same vexed question before us we had then. The reason we recommend this is that in one instance a State Association writes us that as they did not care for representation this year therefore had no money for us. Now, if a State Association, representing a number of subordinate charters, does not care to send a representative, is it not well for us to demand our rights? The National Association must have funds on which to live. Those funds must come through the subordinate societies, otherwise we can get nothing. In order to get them some rule must be stringently enforced to give us our rights as well as to do justice to all societies. Let us understand it clearly, act justly and wisely.

MRS. CADWALLADER: Mr. Chairman, I wish to say this, that a good deal of the interest in the National Association is lost because so much of the work is done by the committees, and the delegates never get to see about it. Concerning this resolution, perhaps it is arbitrary, but we are organized for the purpose of bringing into active co-operation all of the soci-

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eties of the United States. I have a letter here from which I quote: "It is not worth while to give us a new charter; we are broken up," etc., "there are only four or five members left, and I think in a short time that our society will be out of existence."

In another case I have a letter from a city in Missouri, with the statement that the only society is composed of seven members, and the average attendance at the Sunday meetings is nine. It is a local society, and the only report that came from that State. Now, I say when we come upon the floor of this house and have that society represented here, we are doing an injustice to the State of Massachusetts, which sends in, as per capita dues, at least fifty dollars, and the State of Pennsylvania that sent in per capita dues of seventy-five dollars from one society and sixty dollars from another. Then we are not represented properly if these other societies are allowed charter representation.

MR. EDSON: I agree with Brother Moulton that it would be unjust to be hasty in the revocation of any charter, but I think it would be perfectly just to give them an object lesson, and enforce it. I think it is well now to have this matter thoroughly discussed and understood. It would be the best thing that could happen to the societies and the National Association to adopt this recommendation.

MR. MULLEN: Is it not a fact that when the missionaries of the National Association go around to these different cities and States, when they get a society interested in the National Association, they make a statement that, if you take a charter from the National Association you will be eligible to a delegate on the floor of that Convention? In such a case, we have no right to cut off that society from representation upon this floor. There are times when societies have just been formed, when it will be two or three years before the society can raise enough to take an interest in this Convention. We must not be too arbitrary in this affair. We must agree with Brother Moulton's suggestion that it is best to meet these emergencies. Give these societies one year only before ruling out their representation would be wise perhaps.

MR. SPRAGUE: Of all the societies I have organized I have notified each one it would have no representation here unless it paid its dues before the first of September. Am I right in so doing?

SECRETARY WOODBURY: The By-Laws state the first of October, but it should be the first of September.

MRS. JACKSON: I want to say that I know Mr. Sprague's statement is correct. A short time ago, in the State of Michi-

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gan, this very question came up before one of the societies and he made the above statement. I feel that this is a very important feature and should be carried out.

MRS. RICHMOND: Is it true that there is any representation in this Convention, merely on the face of the charter, where dues have not been paid?

MRS. CADWALLADER: Etna, Me., is represented and has not sent in dues.

SECRETARY WOODBURY: They have sent in their annual collection, but I cannot say the amount.

MR. BARRETT: I think it was $9.70. Camp meetings have no dues.

MR. HULL: I was there when they decided to send it.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the motion to reconsider. The motion to reconsider is adopted.

MR. BACH: I move that the recommendation be referred to the incoming Board of Trustees with instructions to act.

MRS. RAND: I second the motion.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: 2d. We recommend the enforcement of annual dues, and in all cases where they are not paid no representation should be permitted.

This recommendation was referred to the Board of Trustees.

READING CLERK: 3d. We recommend that the incoming Board be instructed to publish a complete report of the condition of the societies chartered by it, and take measures to revoke all charters held by societies which are not in active operation. Unless this is done there is no way of arriving at a proper understanding of the strength of the N. S. A.

DR. EWELL: I move this recommendation be referred to the incoming Board of Trustees.

MR. SCHIRM: I second the motion.

SECRETARY WOODBURY: I want to state that sometimes it is not well to be in a hurry about revoking charters. (Applause.) I remember something over a year and a half ago there was a medium arrested in a certain city for conducting a Spiritualist meeting in opposition to the Christian sentiments of the community. The arrest of this medium completely destroyed a strong society.

THE CHAIRMAN, interrupting: Of one hundred and ten members.

SECRETARY WOODBURY: Just think of it. Out of this one hundred and ten members, only one man was loyal to the National Association. That man paid his twenty-five cents and promised me he would not give up the charter. I wrote him to stay by the charter and hold in his parlor weekly re-

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ceptions, or little social meetings, and see if he could not again build up the society. He went to work upon that plan and they have, within a week, applied for a new charter and he says they will go on now with their meetings and employ lecturers this winter. (Applause.) I think they will have, in a very short time, a strong society again.

MR. SPRAGUE: I believe as our brother has so clearly stated, in keeping our societies just so long as they have paid their dues.

MR. EDSON: I believe that the delegates misunderstand the idea referring this to the incoming Board. I believe that they will consider very carefully the recommendations of the Convention. They would be the best people to deal with questions of this sort, and I believe it is perfectly safe for this Convention to pass this motion and refer it to the incoming Board. Therefore I want to vote for it.

The motion to refer the recommendation to the Board was put and carried.

READING CLERK: 4th. Your committee reports against proxy representation and instead would recommend that each society which cannot be represented by delegate be requested to send recommendations to be acted upon by the Convention. The reason for this recommendation is that we feel that in order to secure the proper interest in the N. S. A. throughout the country, it is absolutely necessary to have some one who is in the Board of Trustees, or at least an active member of the society, present at the annual conventions of the N. S. A.

Laid on the table.

READING CLERK: 5th. We recommend that in order to secure due representation several societies in the State unite for the purpose of securing a representative at the Convention. If this plan is adopted more effective work can be accomplished for the N. S. A., and we would suggest that one of the State agents be selected in cases where only one can be sent.

Unless this action be taken, your committee, judging from the little interest taken to file proper reports, feels that unless we fully realize the necessity of taking decided action, great detriment to the N. S. A. will result because, through enthusiasm created by special representatives of the N. S. A., many of these charters are obtained and unless the need of earnest and continuous labor in behalf of the N. S. A. is impressed upon the active members of each society chartered, it will be impossible to sustain the work of the Association.

This might be obviated if at least one representative

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would come from each state to the N. S. A. convention who would pledge himself to work faithfully for the interests of the N. S. A. during the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed: M. E. CADWALLADER, *Chairman*,
G. C. BECKWITH EWELL, M. D.,
ANNA JAQUESS,
HEBRON LIBBY,
} Committee.

Pittsburg society sent in its report after this list had been made up.

Adopted.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is now upon the adoption of the report as a whole, as amended. It is adopted.

MR. BACH: I move to reconsider the vote whereby we adopted the report as a whole.

MR. WALKER: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question of reconsideration is now before you. A vote by roll-call will now be taken. The stenographer will call the roll.

The roll-call resulted as follows:

AYES—Misses Hatch, Walker; Mesdames Brown, Conant, Dingman, Evans, Gill, Hatch, Carrie L.; Jackson, McIntyre, Pettengill, Pierce, Pratt, Prior, Rand, Richmond, Stinehart, Waite, Walcott, Whitlock, Whitney, Wood; Messrs. Bach, Colville, Conant, Fuller, Greyburn, Hatch, J. B. Jr.; Hutchinson, Hutchison, Ibach, McIntyre, Moulton, Mullen, Rand, Richardson, Richmond, Schirm, Shook, Stanglen, Steinberg, Storey, Walker, Warren, Woodbury. Total, 45.

NOES—Miss Galloway; Mesdames Aspinwall, Atcheson, Cadwallader, Chamberlain, Glading, Hill, Jacquess, Kurth, Myron, Sprague; Messrs. Aspinwall, Edson, Ewell, Freeman, F. E.; Freeman, Col. J. A.; Gould, Hill, Hull, Lees, Libbey, Mayer, Preston, Sprague, Walton, Welch, Whiting. Total, 27.

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING—Misses Gaule, Young; Mesdames Albee, Graham, Hatch, M. S., Leidy, Sheets, Storrs, Thrall, Williams, Young; Messrs. Adams, Bacon, Barrett, Day, Fowler, Hale, Hatch, J. B. Sr.; Hawks, Lyon, Smith, Storrs, Sullivan, Wheeler, Whitelaw, Whitney. Total, 27.

THE CHAIRMAN: The motion to reconsider is adopted.

MR. SCHIRM: I move that the last part of the fifth recommendation from the word "Convention" be tabled.

MR. WALKER: I second the motion.

Carried.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is now upon the adoption of this report as further amended. It is adopted. We will now consider the report of the Committee on Amendments.

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MR. EDSON: May I suggest that the Chair direct the distribution of printed copies of the amendments among the delegates?

THE CHAIRMAN: The Sergeant-at-Arms will see that copies of the proposed amendments are placed in the hands of the delegates.

READING CLERK: Mr. Chairman and Delegates at the Fourth Annual Convention—Your Committee on Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws respectfully submit the result of our united and harmonious deliberations, and while many questions of vital importance have come before us, we are united in our recommendations to this Convention, and nothing but harmony, unity and love for the cause of Spiritualism pervaded all our meetings.

The following is a copy of all amendments with our recommendations:

Amendment to Article 4 of the Constitution of the N. S. A., entitled "Officers and Trustees," which reads as follows:

"The officers of this Association shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be Trustees, and with five others shall constitute a Board of nine Trustees, who shall be elected by ballot at a regular annual convention by the delegates assembled for terms of three years each, except at the annual Convention to be held October 20, 21 and 22, 1896, when they shall be elected as follows: the President, Vice President and one Trustee for the term of one year; the Treasurer and two Trustees for the term of two years; and the Secretary and two Trustees for the term of three years; and at each annual Convention thereafter there shall be elected three officers and Trustees in the order as above named for terms of three years each, except where a vacancy has occurred, when the office shall be filled by the election of a successor for the balance of the unexpired term."

After earnest consideration of the above amendment, your committee respectfully submits the following recommendation, to wit:

That the amendment be rejected and there be no change in the present Constitution upon this question.

MR. WALKER: I move the adoption of the recommendation of the committee.

DR. EWELL: I second the motion.

The recommendation to reject the amendment was adopted.

READING CLERK: Amendment to Art. 4 of the Constitution of the N. S. A., entitled "Officers and Trustees."

"The officers of this Association shall be a President, Vice

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President, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall also, with five other persons, constitute a board of nine Trustees.

"Officers and Trustees shall be elected by ballot at the regular Annual Convention by the delegates assembled, for the term of three years each; except that at the Annual Convention to be held October 20, 21 and 22, 1896, they shall be elected as follows, viz: (1) The President, Vice President and one Trustee for the term of one year; (2) the Treasurer and two Trustees for the term of two years; (3) and the Secretary and two Trustees for the term of three years; but at each Annual Convention thereafter there shall be elected one set of three officers and Trustees in the order and division as above named for the terms of three years each. When, however, a vacancy has occurred, such vacancy shall be filled by the election of a successor for the remainder of the unexpired term."

We would recommend this amendment be rejected by this Convention.

The recommendation to reject the amendment was adopted.

READING CLERK: Amend Article VI, page 8, by adding after the word "thereof" in the ninth line the following: "Provided, however, that no society shall be represented by delegate which has not contributed at least one collection each year to the N. S. A."

We as your committee feel that it would be unwise for this Convention to compel an unwilling society to contribute in this manner toward the support of this Association, therefore respectfully recommend its rejection.

MR. RICHARDSON: I move the recommendation to reject be adopted.

MR. HATCH, SR.: I second the motion.

Carried.

READING CLERK: Amendment to Article 7, Section 1, second paragraph, as follows:

In the fourth line of the second paragraph of Section 1, strike out the words "Twenty-five cents" and insert the words "Two dollars and fifty cents." Amend Section 2 of the same article by adding after the word "Charter," in the eighth line, the following: "Provided one collection each year be taken up for the benefit of the N. S. A."

We as your committee deem it unwise to increase the burden of taxation upon the subordinate societies at this time, therefore recommend its rejection.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the recommendation of the committee to reject the amendment. Are there any remarks?

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MRS. CADWALLADER: The reason I have for asking that the delegates consider this, is this: The National Association, in my opinion, was organized for the purpose of forming the societies of the United States into one working body. In order to reach that point we must endeavor to work for the interest of the National. Now in one of the State Associations there is a lay-membership, and consequently we get splendid returns in the way of finances from that Association. It is the purpose of all interested in the National Association to endeavor to have every one of the many societies in the different States connected with the National Association. Officially, the National Association must be a convention of delegates from the State and local Associations.

Now, if on the plan of the very best working State Association there is, which this year has sent in a report that it had fifty-six delegates at its convention, representing twenty-nine societies in the State (there were twenty-seven last year, an increase of two, making it twenty-nine), then the dues from that State Association to the National amount to the sum of fourteen dollars. Now fourteen dollars contributed from the State Association's treasury for the support of the National must certainly look very much inferior in the eyes of the treasurer of the National Association to a report that comes from another State where they have less of little local societies and where they send in twenty-five dollars as per capita dues from the local societies. Now, remember we must provide for the time when the representation will all be from State Associations. It is not to put a tax on the one that is formed now, but to prepare in the future for some substantial relief for the National Association. We must run the National Association on business principles, and we are instructed by our societies to see how the chartered societies support the National Association. This is why I ask you to consider it before referring it to the Board of Trustees, that some reform may be suggested. We want to bring these things to your attention.

MR. EDSON: I only want the delegates to decide this matter understandingly. This affects Associations of the States that have entire jurisdiction. It does not affect State Associations having a charter on individual membership, and they should all understand it thoroughly. State Associations that have charters for entire jurisdiction pay per capita dues only upon the delegates present at their annual State conventions. State Associations composed of lay members pay dues upon all members upon the book, yielding sometimes seventy-five dollars from a State. If we adopt the former the

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National Association loses four-fifths of its entire revenue from those States, and if we ask them instead of paying twenty-five cents per delegate to pay two dollars and fifty cents per delegate, even then we won't get as much revenue from the State as we did before, but we will get enough to enable the National Association to get along, therefore I shall vote for the rejection of the recommendation of the committee.

MRS. RICHMOND: There are places in the world where local societies actually refuse to join the National Association. They say: "Oh, we have a State Association, and there is nothing in the National Association for us; we are thoroughly incorporated and the State Association can send delegates to the National." Now if this were put in operation it would militate against such State Associations, and against such missionary work as they are doing.

MRS. WAITE: The committee considered this question carefully from all standpoints, and we came to the conclusion that the adoption of this amendment would be very inexpedient at this time.

SECRETARY WOODBURY: I want to call your attention, briefly, to this point. The State Association to which reference has been made has quite a large number of local societies connected with it, and every one of these local societies is supposed to send us a collection. So many of them have done so that that State Association has paid nearly as much as Massachusetts has this year.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the rejection of this amendment.

The motion to reject was carried.

READING CLERK: Amend Article VII, Section D, of the By-Laws of the N. S. A., entitled Special Funds, by substituting the following:

"A fund known as the National Spiritualists Temple Fund, for the purpose of buying a lot and erecting a temple thereon, whose purport and influence shall be distinctly National, combining an auditorium, a seance room, a library, living apartments for the Secretary and for such mediums as may be there located under the auspices of the N. S. A., and also such educational departments as the Board of Trustees may, in their wisdom, adopt. The said fund shall be in charge of a committee of three persons appointed by the President, all of whom must be Spiritualists and members of the N. S. A. It shall be the duty of said committee to receive and disburse the moneys of the said fund and to attend to all the business and details for the construction of the said Temple; but they

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shall be subject to all restrictions that the Board of Trustees may, from time to time, impose; and they shall render quarterly statements of all moneys received and disbursed and of all business transacted to the Secretary of the N. S. A., and such statements for each current year shall be read at the annual convention next following."

Article VII, Section D, of By-Laws:

"Provided, however, that this committee may, by and with the advice and consent of the majority of the Board of Trustees, purchase at any time, when they shall have funds in hand to enable them to do so, a lot suitable for the erection of the National Spiritualists Temple in the city of Washington, D. C.

"And it is further provided that the erection of said Temple shall not be begun until there shall be in the treasury a fund sufficient to pay the entire contract price of the erection of the said building.

"Nor shall the plans be determined upon, nor the building commenced, unless with the consent of a majority of the Trustees."

Your committee, realizing the importance of the National Spiritualists Temple, presents the above amendment to this Convention without recommendation.

MRS. RICHMOND: I am most heartily in sympathy with those interested in the National Temple Fund. I believe that such a fund will accumulate until we shall have sufficient capital to build a temple in the city of Washington, but, in offering amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws, one ought to be familiar with what already exists in the Constitution. I would call your attention to Sections 3 and 4, Article VI, of the Constitution, and Article VII of the By-Laws. I think the said Articles are broad enough. At the same time, you will find, in Section 3, Article VI, of the Constitution, the following: "All moneys received shall be payable to the Secretary of the National Association, and shall constitute the general fund, and shall be used to meet the general expenses of the Association, and the same shall not be appropriated to any of the special funds by less than a two-thirds vote of the Trustees."

SECTION 4. "All donations, contributions and bequests to any special fund shall be held and used only for the special purpose of such fund."

Now it seems to me that a Temple Fund placed in the hands of the Board of Trustees would be held sacred to that trust, or, if you wished to appoint a special committee, it should be left optional with them. I do not wish, however,

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to limit the powers of this Convention to do as it pleases, but I would not hamper the Board by requesting that a committee be appointed to do what is already provided for the Trustees to do.

MR. STANGLEN: I move that this be referred to the incoming Board of Trustees.

MR. BACH: I second the motion.

Carried unanimously.

READING CLERK: Amendment to Section 8, Article 1, of the By-Laws, by adding after the word "Transacted," the following:

"A Committee on Nominations shall be appointed, composed of one delegate from each State, Territory, province, or District of Columbia represented, to be chosen by the members of each State, Territory, province or District of Columbia delegation who are present."

Article reads as amended:

"The election of officers of the Association shall take place after all other business of the Convention has been transacted. A Committee on Nominations shall be appointed, composed of one delegate from each State, Territory, province, and District of Columbia represented, to be chosen by the members of each State, Territory, province or District of Columbia delegation, who are present, provided, no officer of the N. S. A. be eligible to serve upon this committee."

Your committee recommends the adoption of the above amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the adoption of the amendment.

MRS. RICHMOND: It does seem to me, in offering amendments, people ought to be a little familiar with parliamentary usage. The Convention has a perfect right to insist that that which is proposed should be the method of procedure or that the election shall take place from the floor; this recommendation seems to me like usurpation.

MR. MOULTON: I rise simply to make a statement that perhaps will clear the minds of some in regard to this matter. It is true that this Convention, in the absence of any rule or By-Law governing itself, can move to refer nominations of candidates to a committee to be appointed by the Chair; it can move that the committee be appointed in accordance with its By-Laws; it can move to proceed by nominations by informal ballot. Now, the effect of the By-Law will be simply this: It will determine for us, and future conventions, how we shall proceed unless we overrule that determination by a two-thirds vote. We can, under this by-law, move to sus-

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pend, but it would take a two-thirds vote. Now, if we adopt this rule it will be necessary for future conventions to have a two-thirds vote to change the rule. It places the election more fairly in the hands of the Convention. It relieves the Chair unquestionably of responsibility; it throws the matter into the hands of the Convention, which could move, by a two-thirds vote, to redirect the Chair to appoint. It also removes the possibility of the Chairman using any undue influence to serve solely his own ends. Each particular State or province sends one member to that committee, and that member acts for the delegation.

MR. BACH: I move the rejection of the recommendation.

MRS. RICHMOND: I second the motion.

MR. BACH: I wish to say just one word. As it is at present this Convention can select its officers by nominating in any way it chooses. The President can appoint the committee or we can elect one.

MR. EDSON: I would like to ask for information. If this recommendation be adopted and the Chair at this Convention, or the next, in connection with that By-Law, appoints a committee recommended by each delegation present, and that committee reported unanimously upon certain candidates, would not the Convention have a perfect right to reject the report of the Nominating Committee, just as it now has the right to reject the report of any other committee?

THE CHAIRMAN: Most assuredly it has that right.

MR. STANGLEN: After considering the vast importance of the amendment I wish to make this statement. Last year it was remarked that our presiding officer had too much power in selecting those who should act upon the Nominating Committee. There is another fact that is evident that this National Body should be represented with freedom. There should be no East, no West, no North, no South, and if you can show me anything in that amendment that is not just to all, or that is not free from all network, and will not stand whatever searchlight that may be thrown upon it, then I am willing to vote against it. It is just and equitable to every representative upon this floor and gives every State in the Union a right to say who its representative shall be. If delegations instruct their representative, then those who are elected to act upon this committee need have no secrecy, but can speak out openly for those whom they and we desire. I urge for the sake of our beloved Chairman, for the sake of the future President of this Association, and for the welfare of Spiritualist organizations that this amendment be carried,

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that there can be no more such remarks made against our President.

MR. EDSON: I rise to support our brother and to say that this would relieve our President in his arduous duties, and I most heartily favor it.

MR. WALKER: I am heartily in favor of the report of the committee.

MR. BACON: Of all the methods we can adopt for selecting the committee, the recommendation of the committee is superior to any other that has been mentioned, and I hope the motion made by the Reading Clerk will not pass, and I trust that the recommendation of the committee will stand intact. I could convey a lecture upon this point, but I think I have no one to convert, as we see the absolute necessity of it; but time is precious and I move the adoption of the committee's recommendation.

MRS. RICHMOND: I withdraw my second if the principal will withdraw his motion also.

MR. BACH: I will withdraw the motion if I may be given an opportunity to explain.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentleman may explain.

MR. BACH: I am in favor of this method for the benefit of our Chairman, for the benefit of the Convention, and for the benefit of the Spiritualists at large, but I dislike the idea of binding future Conventions to our ideas.

The recommendation of the committee was adopted, also the amendment as read.

READING CLERK: Amendment to Section 1, Art. 8, of the By-Laws by adding after the word "Convention" the following: "But no society shall be represented by delegates unless chartered at least three months prior to the assembling of said Convention."

Article 8, Section 1, as amended: "The Delegates to the annual Convention of this Association shall be elected by their respective societies at least four weeks prior to the assembling of said Convention, but no society shall be represented by delegates unless chartered at least three months prior to the assembling of said Convention."

We would respectfully recommend the rejection of said amendment.

Signed: JOHN HUTCHISON,
MAGGIE WAITE,
LOE F. PRIOR,
E. R. WHITING,
CHAS. W. STANGLEN, } Committee.

The recommendation to reject was adopted.

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THE CHAIRMAN: The question now reverts upon the acceptance of the report as a whole as amended.

The report as a whole, as amended, was adopted.

THE CHAIRMAN: The report of the Committee on Finance, Ways and Means, is now in order and will be considered seriatim.

REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE.

READING CLERK: Your committee after duly considering the important question of raising funds for carrying on the duties and business of this Association for the coming year, would recommend:

First. We find it expedient and necessary from the great and pressing demand from both sides of life that at least four able and competent lecturers be employed as missionaries and sent immediately into the field, with such instructions as the Executive Board of the N. S. A. may deem necessary and advisable for the best interest and success of the N. S. A., believing and trusting that such a course would largely increase the finances of the Association and thereby its general usefulness.

MR. MULLEN: Does not Section 2, Article 9 of the By-Laws cover those grounds, that State missionaries may be appointed by the President? Article 9, page 25, Section 2, which states that "Missionaries may be appointed by the President, whose duties shall be to organize new societies, to solicit societies to charter, to solicit contributions to the general funds, and otherwise promote the general interests of the Association," etc.

MR. RICHARDSON: Is it not the fact that in adopting the report of the Committee on President's Report a resolution was passed covering this very point?

THE CHAIRMAN: That matter has already been disposed of. The Clerk will proceed.

READING CLERK: We would recommend the appointment of an agent to attend to the raising of a special fund to defray expenses of the proposed Semi-Centennial Convention at Rochester, N. Y., in March, 1898, subject to the direction of the Executive Board of the N. S. A.

MR. RICHARDSON: Is that not also covered in the report of the Committee on President's Report?

THE CHAIRMAN: It was referred to the Committee on Finance without action.

The recommendation was adopted.

READING CLERK: That these several missionaries or lecturers shall be expected to give their whole time and interest to the work of the N. S. A., and shall be so engaged and em-

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ployed, and for such services shall be paid the sum of fifty dollars ($50) per month, payable monthly, and traveling expenses while so employed, and that all sums of money received by the said several missionaries from collections, donations and all other sources be receipted for by these said missionaries and be accounted to the said Executive Board of the N. S. A., and by them to the Treasurer of the N. S. A. That a monthly statement and report of all said receipts be made and duly rendered to the Executive Board not later than the 15th of each month, together with remittance of all moneys received for the said preceding month while so employed.

Referred to the incoming Board of Trustees with power to act.

READING CLERK: We, the members of the Finance Committee, respectfully recommend to this Convention that it adopt and print a membership certificate to be issued to all persons who desire to become contributing members to this Association upon the payment of $1, said funds to be turned into the treasury of the N. S. A.

THE CHAIRMAN: This has already been adopted and is part of the By-Laws of the N. S. A. now.

DR. ASPINWALL: Has it ever been enforced? If that fact was known thousands of dollars would be contributed to this National Association. I believe many people think if they get something from the National Association that they can frame and hang upon their walls, they would not only give us money, but would increase their interest in the Association.

DR. ADAMS: Some delegates said yesterday: "We will turn in two hundred dollars if you will provide for contributing membership." Every one would be willing to pay his dollar in order to be a member of the Association, and then this revenue would be coming in all the time, without any collecting or begging for our funds. This is an important question, how we are going to raise finances? I know I can turn in fifty dollars if contributing membership certificates are issued, and every delegate can do the same. I do not think we will have any trouble in turning in two thousand dollars from that source alone.

MR. HATCH, JR.: Do I understand this is an active membership?

THE CHAIRMAN: It is a contributing membership.

MRS. PETTENGILL: Why could they not be members and pay a dollar a year? That would not cripple them.

THE CHAIRMAN: Our Constitution prohibits individual membership. The Board can now actively push the contribut-

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ing membership under instructions from this Convention. The Clerk will proceed.

READING CLERK: That the first Sunday preceding the 20th day of November be set apart and observed as National Day, and collections be taken up and donations solicited by every society throughout the land annually, that being the anniversary of the first meeting held in the interest of Spiritualism.

MRS. RICHMOND: Some of our people are in the habit of paying their subscription to the National Association in March, and I do not see why, if they only need to do it once a year, that they should be compelled to observe this day in November. Of course, while we can recommend it I do not think we ought to oblige them to do it. On the 30th of March our society sent in a large collection.

MR. HATCH, JR. How would that do with a State Association? We hold no meetings on Sundays.

THE CHAIRMAN: It would only apply to local societies. It would not apply to State Associations or camp meetings.

MR. BACH: I would like to suggest that on anniversary days it is customary with societies all over the United States to hold special services. Look at the meeting that was held in Boston on the 31st of last March. That meeting attracted the attention of all denominations.

DR. EWELL: With many societies Anniversary Day is a holy day, on which they raise money to clear the expenses of the year. I know this was so in Boston. I had not understood it was to be compulsory. We can take collections and donations at any time, although I do believe that on the whole it is better to take a direct contribution soon after we go home, for we are more enthused then, or ought to be. But I believe that if it is left to the discretion of each society we shall receive larger and more general collections than if we attempt to force them in any way.

MRS. CADWALLADER: I think it is a necessity that every society should observe some day. You know when a National Day is suggested it creates enthusiasm, therefore it would be well for us to have one. Every society should be made to feel that another day could be selected if desired. But many would like to have a special day. If there are any private reasons societies would rather appoint a special day they can do so; this Association has always said it would not interfere with the management of any society.

MR. GREYBURN: Mrs. Cadwallader has just voiced my ideas. An anniversary day is practically a revival, and in my part of

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the country it is warm weather about that time, hence would be a good time to influence people's pocketbooks. We did not mean it to be compulsory; it is simply a recommendation.

DR. FOWLER: Mr. Chairman, I don't see any objection to our National body making a suggestion, if it is not made compulsory. State governments and National governments appoint certain days for the people to observe, and it creates great enthusiasm when done collectively. I thoroughly believe in the adoption of this resolution.

DR. ADAMS: We don't wish to make it compulsory. We simply want to make it a National Day. We want to make it a day of celebration. We find that it is a special desire of the spirit people to observe the same day, when our influences can meet. I think heaven hath declared that there shall be a day when the two worlds and their influences be intermingled. It is a day for Spiritualistic activity. Thousands of dollars will come to our treasury by the observance of such a day.

MR. SPRAGUE: I am in favor of a National Day, but I do not think it is best to make it compulsory.

The motion was put and adopted.

READING CLERK: We recommend the payment of $1,000 per annum to the Secretary for his services.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: Your committee has examined the accounts of the New York mass meeting, presented by our Vice President, Mrs. Cora L. V. Richmond, and find the same correct in every particular. We recommend that her report be adopted with the hearty thanks of this Convention.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: Your committee approves of the recommendation of the President that one or more active mass meetings per month be held during the six months next ensuing, and we further recommend that a series of grove mass meetings, to the number of two or three per month, be held during the summer season, under the supervision and direction of the Board.

Adopted.

READING CLERK: We would further recommend that all delegates to this Convention procure copies of all papers published in Washington pertaining to the work of the N. S. A. and forward them to their respective editors and newspaper

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men representing their own localities as well as other cities, requesting them to give extracts of the same.

Adopted.

Signed: DR. O. G. W. ADAMS, JOHN GREYBURN, BESSIE ASPINWALL, ELIZABETH F. KURTH, DR. EDWARD E. CONANT, } Committee.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question now is upon the adoption of the report as a whole, as amended. It is adopted. The next business in order will be the reception of the reports of special committees. Of the first committee, T. J. Preston is chairman.

READING CLERK: To the President and Delegates of the N. S. A. here assembled:

Your special committee to whom was referred the majority report of the Executive Committee, beg leave to report as follows:

We recommend that the first portion in regard to the work of President Barrett and the recommendation for further missionary work in the field be heartily endorsed and sustained.

We fully approve of the wisdom of the committee in placing President Barrett in the Southern climate during the severe winter weather, and believe with the committee that his mental zeal far outstrips his physical strength, and further coincide that the N. S. A. should be a strictly business Association, and heartily endorse the suggestion of thorough business men and women as Trustees; but recognize that some persons of real sterling worth and ability are not wealthy. We would therefore recommend that the words "strictly business men and women" be changed to "able and practical Spiritualists."

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Signed: T. J. PRESTON, JENNIE HAGAN JACKSON, } Committee.

The report of the committee was adopted.

THE CHAIRMAN: We will now receive the report of special committee No. 2, Mrs. Richmond, Chairman.

MRS. RICHMOND: As Chairman of the Committee and Vice President of the Association, I shirked my duty, called the committee together and we unanimously elected W. J.

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Colville a subcommittee to reply to this letter. I would ask Mr. Colville to come forward and read this report.

MR. COLVILLE reads:

MASONIC TEMPLE, NINTH AND F STS. N. W.,
WASHINGTON, D C., October 21, 1896.

J. J. Morse, Esq., Hotel Bella Vista, San Francisco, Cal.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER: It affords us the greatest pleasure to inform you that your most encouraging report of the present status of the great Spiritual movement in Great Britain was received with acclamation by the entire body of delegates and visitors assembled this day in Masonic Temple, during the morning session of the second day's proceedings of the Fourth Annual Convention of the N. S. A. It is with feelings of heartfelt gratitude that we learn of the great progress which has recently been made in England, not only as concerns the platform and literary phases of Spiritual propaganda, but particularly with reference to the flourishing condition of the Children's Progressive Lyceum, the cause of which has been so substantially aided through the regular publication of the *Lyceum Banner*, of which you are the beloved and honored editor. We also take extreme pleasure in responding to the truly fraternal spirit which you have manifested toward the work of the N. S. A., and the cause of Spiritualism in general in the United States of America. Taking note of the admirable work introduced in your report under the heading of "Spiritualists Benefit Society," we would respectfully remind our English brethren that the good work in which they are engaged in providing a benefit fund for those who have been active workers, to sustain them in the event of disability, and to provide them with pensions in the event of superannuation or other equally pressing cause, has its counterpart in the enterprises of the "Veteran Spiritualists Union of America."

The number of active lyceums now operating successfully in England compares more than favorably with the immediate standing of the lyceum movement in the United States; and as we should be always ready to take a good example presented by our friends elsewhere and embody it in our own conduct, we express to you the fervent hope that the great results accruing from active lyceum work on English soil will fire with renewed zeal and energy the many societies in this country which are still sadly in need of an effective Sunday School for children and young people, where the sublime truths of the Spiritual philosophy may be inculcated with the assistance, not only of competent teachers, but of such excellent manuals as you employ. We note with genuine gladness the ever increasing sentiment of fraternity, which is now so

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happily uniting the two hemispheres on earth and ushering in the era of universal brotherhood and sisterhood, in which all nations of the earth will blend in Spiritual union and sincere co-operation for the general weal.

The excellent English newspapers *Light* and *The Two Worlds* are by no means strangers to American readers, and, as from the columns of our own papers, we have learned with great delight of your success on these shores, especially in California during the past year, it has given us equal pleasure to read in the journals of your native country of the cordial reception given during the past few months to Mrs. Helen Temple Brigham, of New York, a lady who for many years has occupied, with distinguished credit to herself and the cause she so ably represents, an influential place on the Spiritualist platform of the United States. We note with great pleasure that the honorable name of Mrs. Emma Hardinge-Britten appears in your report. She is not forgotten by her host of American friends, many of whom are encouraging the hope that she may again visit these shores, where an enthusiastic welcome always awaits her. We are not forgetful of the good services rendered here by Mr. E. W. Wallis, whose editorial policy in connection with *The Two Worlds* calls forth much appreciation in this country as well as across the sea. We pray you, honored sir and brother, on your return to England to convey in person to Mr. Dawson Rogers, the able editor of *Light*, to the officers and members of the British National Federation of Spiritualists, the London Spiritualists Alliance, the Marylebone Association and all the other organizations mentioned in your report, our fraternal greeting, assuring them of our vital interest in their work. It gives us further pleasure to note that England and America are standing together on the question of affording legal as well as moral protection to all honest mediums, and for discountenancing all dishonest attempts to counterfeit genuine phenomena.

Your remarks on Jesuit spirits, obsession, and other moot points affecting the safety of the Spiritual movement in general, and mediums in particular, called forth the fervid applause of the large gathering of our delegates and others present during the reading of your report, our sentiment being that pure lives and noble aspirations coupled with an earnest study of the law of spirit intercommunication, affords the best and indeed the only sure protection against any and all abnormal or aberrant manifestations of psychic force. We have but to add that your report has been unanimously and gratefully accepted by the National Spiritualists Associa-

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tion of America and we trust next October to have the pleasure of greeting you personally in our midst.

Heartily wishing you God-speed and angel guidance wherever your path may lead you, we have the honor to remain your sincere friends and well-wishers. (Applause.)

Signed: MRS. CORA L. V. RICHMOND, MRS IDA P. A. WHITLOCK, GEORGE A. FULLER, J. V. MCINTYRE, W. J. COLVILLE, } Committee.

The report was adopted, and the Secretary was instructed to send engrossed copies of the same to Mr. J. J. Morse.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Clerk will read a letter which explains itself.

READING CLERK:

"BUFFALO, N. Y., October 20, 1896.

"DEAR BROTHER WOODBURY: Words fail to express my disappointment at not being able to attend your present Convention, but it is simply a physical impossibility for me to do so. I thought up to last evening that I could be there the last two days sure, but am doomed to be disappointed. Knowing my love for the cause as well as you do, it is unnecessary for me to crave your kind consideration in the matter, etc. Please remember me kindly to all friends, not forgetting good Brother Barrett, and if my dear old friend John Greyburn, from Pittsburg, is with you, please be *good* to him, for he is certainly a *true Spiritualist*—as you know, a very scarce commodity.

"I wish you would mail to me to my home, 117 East 77th Street, New York, copies of the Washington papers containing accounts of the Convention's proceedings.

"Fraternally, etc., your friend,

"*Signed:* JOHN EGGLESTON."

The letter was accepted with the regrets of delegates that Mr. Eggleston was unable to be present.

THE CHAIRMAN: Special Committee No. 3, Mr. Edson, Chairman, is now in order.

READING CLERK: Report of Special Committee on Report of Mediums' Defense Committee, of Philadelphia.

To the Officers and Delegates of the N. S. A., in Convention assembled:

Your Special Committee on the report of the chairman of the Mediums' Defense Committee of Philadelphia, after a thorough examination of this report, commend the excellent

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work of the Defense Committee and recommend that this Convention express the entire confidence and approval of the chairman, Mr. B. B. Hill, and the members of his committee, the manner in which the defense was conducted, the collection of funds by Mrs. M. E. Cadwallader, chairman of its Finance Committee, and the disposition and accounting of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed: MILAN C. EDSON, J. B. HATCH, SR., MRS. A. ATCHESON, } Committee.

Report unanimously adopted.

Mr. Hill's report was also unanimously adopted with the thanks of the Convention.

MR. MOULTON: I beg leave to present, under the head of Communications from Abroad, a brief communication from Mrs. Moulton: "I suppose by the time this gets to you the Convention will be in full operation. Give my kindest regards to all present." (Applause.)

MRS. JACKSON: May I say I have received word this morning from Hon. A. B. Richmond, in which he wishes me to give his hearty congratulations to all? (Applause.)

MR. J. B. HATCH, JR.: I have just received a telegram from Mr. J. H. Lewis, President of the Boston Spiritual Temple, Boston, Mass., in which he sends greeting to the N. S. A. Convention. (Applause.)

MR. BACH: As chairman of Special Committee No. 4, I have here a report of your Committee on Children's Lyceum, also a report on Music.

CHILDREN'S LYCEUMS.

Your Committee on the Children's Lyceum presents the following report:

1st. Parents should be shown the necessity of educating their children in the principles of Spiritualism.

2d. Special attention should be paid to selecting subjects for the different groups in accordance with their ages and development. Experience has proven that object lessons are most successful, being both entertaining and instructive and are specially recommended.

3d. We recommend that the work of the lyceum be confined more to the children and have less prosy talk by older people, which by continual repetition makes the meeting tiresome to the children.

4th. The lack of suitable music has been detrimental to the lyceum. We recommend that the musicians in our

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ranks be requested to co-operate in an effort to produce a small book of original music suitable for the members of the lyceum, that more attention be paid to the musical education of the children and a greater number of songs be sung at the meetings of the lyceum.

5th. We recommend that the officers and teachers hold monthly meetings to formulate plans for suitable lessons to be given to the children, and a system of correspondence be instituted between the officers of lyceums located at different points. By this plan the experience of one will be given to the others and the results cannot fail to be beneficial.

6th. We recommend the formation of adult classes, which have proven very successful, and which act as a training school for future teachers.

7th. We recommend that each organized society holding Sunday meetings, also camp-meeting associations, institute a lyceum in connection with their other work, and when making engagements with speakers and mediums request that they devote a portion of their time to the lyceum. In conclusion, we would recommend that particular attention be paid to the selection of teachers and officers of the lyceum, in order that the children may be properly instructed and entertained.

8th. That recitations, songs and lessons should be selected with reference to their moral and spiritual teachings, in order that the members may be elevated morally and spiritually and be fitted for positions on the spiritual rostrum and for the higher walks of life.

Our workers are rapidly passing away. The past few years have marked the close of earth's existence with many. The observer cannot fail to be impressed with the fact that at every Spiritualist meeting the people, sometimes reaching ninety per cent of the attendance, have gray hair. These people owe something to the rising generation. By no means can this debt be paid so fully as by establishing children's lyceums, and fitting this rising generation to take the places which they will soon vacate.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Signed: W. H. BACH, CARRIE L. HATCH, WM. H. HAWKES, } Committee.

Adopted.

MR. BACH: The Committee on Music is ready to report.

THE CHAIRMAN: The report of the Committee on Music is now in order.

READING CLERK:

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MUSIC.

Your Committee on Music would report as follows:

1st. We recommend the adoption of music suitable for Spiritualist meetings, and condemn the use of orthodox songs generally adopted. While the plan of arranging new words to old tunes is recognized as a benefit, it falls far short of what is actually required.

2d. We recommend that the Spiritualists of the United States be invited to co-operate in an effort to secure the publication of a suitable hymn-book to contain both words and music.

3d. We recommend that more attention be paid to the musical programme by officers of societies, and especially recommend congregational singing as conducive to harmony and general success.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Signed: W. H. BACH, CARRIE L. HATCH, WM. H. HAWKES, } Committee.

The report was adopted.

THE CHAIRMAN: We will now receive the report of the Committee on Correspondence, F. E. Freeman, Chairman.

READING CLERK:

Your humble committee respectfully recommends that the report of Rev. M. Theresa Allen, as to work accomplished, be published and placed on file.

In reference to the correspondence contributed by M. M. Cass, of Watkins, N. Y., will say that after careful consideration we recommend it to be returned to Mr. Cass, as there is nothing in it pertaining to the interest of the N. S. A.

We also recommend that the very able article from the pen of our co-worker, James Madison Allen, of Missouri, be referred to the incoming Board of Trustees for careful consideration, as a great deal of it refers to questions which are of vital importance to this Association.

We also recommend that a copy of this communication from Mr. Allen be sent to the Spiritual papers for publication, also published in the Proceedings of this Convention, and the original placed on file at the N. S. A.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed: F. E. FREEMAN, Chairman, CARRIE L. HATCH, E. W. SPRAGUE, } Committee.

The report was adopted.

MRS. CADWALLADER: May I ask for just one moment to

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give a report of the Young People's Union? The one special point I wish to bring up now is this: Mr. J. W. Lane, of Boston, Mass., has agreed to write four original Rally Songs that shall be sent to all the Spiritual Unions in the United States, to be recommended to the attention of the young Spiritualists generally. It is agreed this year to supply Cassadaga Young People's Chorus Union with at least three rally songs, and I think it would be proper to send a vote of thanks to him for his offer of music. I move that this Convention send a vote of thanks to Mr. Lane for his offer to arrange for four rally songs to be used in connection with the work of the young Spiritualists of America.

The motion was seconded and carried.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chairman of the Finance Committee has the floor.

DR. ADAMS: There is a duty devolving upon me at this time in connection with the printed volumes of the old and the new annual reports of this Association. Now I am going to take five dollars' worth, half of the old and half of the new reports. We want enough money to pay for the forthcoming report. How many are going to help me out with this?

In response to Dr. Adams' appeals the delegates agreed, in the aggregate, to take one hundred and fifteen dollars' worth of the annual reports to dispose of.

MR. PRESTON: I move that when we meet this afternoon we meet with the understanding that this Convention shall continue in session until all business is transacted.

The motion was seconded and carried.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 22, 1896, 2.00 P. M.

President Barrett in the Chair.

Singing by the audience.

THE CHAIRMAN: The delegates from the several States, Territories, districts and provinces will assemble immediately and elect their respective members of the Committee on Nomination of Officers. The several delegations will rise as the clerk calls the roll and retire to elect their representative.

The following representatives were chosen: Frank Walker, New York; C. W. Stanglen, Maryland; Dr. G. C. B. Ewell, Colorado; Mary Hatch, Connecticut; William Richmond, Illinois; M. I. Welch, Louisiana; F. C. Stinehart, Iowa; Viola A. B. Rand, Maine; J. B. Hatch, Jr., Massachusetts; John Hutchison, Michigan; Dr. S. N. Aspinwall, Minnesota; L. C. Hutchinson, Ohio; M. Wheeler-Brown, Missouri; Jennie Hagan Jackson, Oregon; Ida P. A. Whitlock, Rhode Island;

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Moses Hull, Utah; M. E. Cadwallader, Pennsylvania; Charles Sullivan, Kentucky; Clara Field-Conant, Kansas; E. J. Story, Indiana; Loe F. Prior, Canada; Maggie Waite, California; Anna Jaquess, District of Columbia.

THE CHAIRMAN: The report of the Special Committee on Ordination is now in order, Mr. Moulton, Chairman.

READING CLERK:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ORDINATION.

To the National Spiritualist Association in Convention assembled: Your Committee, to whom was referred the matter of ordination, would respectfully recommend: That the National Association issue no ordination, but, leaving that matter to the chartered associations under its jurisdiction, endeavor to exercise a salutary supervision over the same, to the end that only worthy and proper persons be so ordained, and such ordinations be promptly revoked for good cause. And to that end your Committee would recommend the adoption of the following By-Laws:

ARTICLE XI.

Ordination.

SECTION 1. State Associations having exclusive jurisdiction, shall have exclusive jurisdiction of all ordinations of ministers, lecturers or teachers of the good news and philosophy of Spiritualism, within such State.

SEC. 2. Where no exclusive State jurisdiction exists, local Associations may issue such ordinations, until State jurisdiction is established, and no longer.

SEC. 3. All such ordinations shall be issued under such rules and regulations as the Board of Trustees of the National Association shall prescribe.

SEC. 4. Any abuse of such privilege, or violation of the laws of the Association, or of such rules, shall subject the Association so offending to complaint for grievance and discipline, as provided by Article X of the By-Laws.

SEC. 5. All ordinations shall be promptly filed in duplicate at the Headquarters of the National Association. And it shall be the duty of the secretary of the ordaining society to forward the same for such purpose.

SEC. 6. All ministers so ordained shall report in writing to the ordaining association and also to the National Association at least once each year, in respect to their doings under and by virtue of such ordination.

SEC. 7. The ordaining association shall be required to exercise due caution in the matter of ordination, and to cancel

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the same for cause, to the end that no unworthy or unqualified persons not actually engaged in the work of publicly lecturing or teaching the good news of Spiritualism or its philosophy, shall have or retain such ordination, or use the same for speculative or illegitimate purposes.

SEC. 8. All ordinations shall embody contract relations between the person ordained and the ordaining society, and shall be under the civil law of agency. No ecclesiastical law or ceremonial shall be invoked in this matter.

ARTICLE XII.

Appellate Jurisdiction.

SECTION 1. The Board of Trustees of the National Association shall have appellate jurisdiction in all matters arising out of ordination, or under the Constitution, By-Laws and the rules of said Association. Appeals may be taken to the same from the decisions of the officers or boards of all subordinate associations.

SEC. 2. Said Board shall prescribe all necessary rules under which such appeals may be taken.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Signed: LUTHER V. MOULTON, MOSES HULL, J. B. HATCH, JR., } Committee.

MR. GOULD: May I ask a question? What effect will this have upon those of us who already have ordination papers?

MR. MOULTON: It will simply require the local societies to file a duplicate of it before the National Association, and in the event that they fail to conform to such rules, then we can require the local society to cancel that ordination, for otherwise, to arbitrarily revoke the ordination would be a high-handed proceeding, but when some cause arises we can then cancel such ordination.

MR. BACH: In the title or ruling of the letter of ordination it states that certain things must be done by the ministers who are ordained in accordance with the customs of their societies, thus making the ordination of Spiritualist ministers conform with the laws of the States.

MR. MOULTON: That is precisely the object of State jurisdiction, for we would have to be generally familiar with the corporation statutes of every State in the Union, and there is no other way out of the question, for there cannot be a local practical authority granted to any person excepting by ordination in some society incorporated within the State. That

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is the principal reason why this matter should be delegated to State organizations.

THE CHAIRMAN: The report is adopted.

MR. MOULTON: I will inquire if the action of this Convention gives legal force and effect to the By-Laws? Would it not be best that the report of the Committee on Ordination be accepted as By-Laws?

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the By-Laws recommended by your Special Committee on Ordination. What is your pleasure?

The By-Laws were adopted unanimously.

MR. WELCH: If I am in order, I would like to move that this Convention add at least one more day to the time of its session next year. Its business is increasing and in the next twelve months will double in magnitude, hence cannot be transacted in three days time; therefore, I move that the next Convention meet for four days.

The motion was seconded, and after earnest discussion was referred to the incoming Board of Trustees with directions to act.

DR. ASPINWALL: I am instructed by the Spiritualists of our State and vicinity to urge the holding of this Convention in different parts of this country, instead of in the city of Washington. It will reach a great many more Spiritualists in that way and it will be better for the N. S. A., and, in my opinion, a financial benefit as well. The official headquarters could be held here, yet the annual Conventions held in different localities, as the Democratic and Republican Conventions are held in different cities. Let Chicago, Boston, New York, Indianapolis, Minneapolis and other cities bid for the Convention.

DR. EWELL: Does not our Constitution provide that our annual Conventions be held here? If so, this proposition is out of order.

THE CHAIRMAN: Our Constitution and our charter both specify that our annual Conventions shall be held in Washington, D. C. Both can be amended at any future Convention, hence Dr. Aspinwall's suggestion will be laid upon the table as a proposed amendment to our Constitution, to be considered at our next annual Convention.

The Vice President in the Chair.

MR. BACH: Mrs. President and Spiritualists of the United States and Canada—I think that a most important part of the business of this Convention has been passed over in a very hurried manner. It is true that we have been given an opportunity to place the Lyceum question before the Convention, in the form of some resolutions, but that does not satisfy us

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who came here to discuss it understandingly. There are those on this floor who are deeply interested in it, and throughout the country prominent Spiritualists see the importance of this movement. It has been brought up at the camp meetings as a matter of vital importance to Spiritualism. The church realizes that the children of to-day will be the men and women of to-morrow. We should recognize that same fact. The church recognizes the importance of the Sunday School, where the children can be educated in its own doctrines, realizing full well that the children will be the church members of the future. We must take the same stand. The children of Spiritualists stand in the same relation to our religion that other children do to orthodoxy. Therefore, it is the duty, in my humble opinion, of every man and woman, whether parents of children or not, to do everything they can to educate the children in the principles of Spiritualism. (Applause.)

I say, unless the National Association takes some part, and makes some attempt to do something to establish lyceums, a large number of us will be compelled to devote ourselves to the lyceum alone and lose much of our interest in the National Spiritualists Association. (Applause.) This condition of affairs is deplorable. We don't want to disconnect these two great movements. They should be brought together, and to do that there must be some action taken by this Convention. Therefore, I have brought this subject before you. It should be discussed from all standpoints.

I am going to give you one or two little experiences I have found in my travels over the country. The reason the lyceum is not more successful, in my opinion, is because it is not so arranged as to meet the demands of the children. They don't care for long talks of ten or fifteen minutes each. They are interested in the little simple things. Let me tell you of an experience I had in Stanton, Nebraska. I took before the lyceum there some little crystals I obtained in Denver. I explained how they originated, the length of time it took to form those little dots and ridges which were on them, and explained other points of interest. When the lyceum was over the children came up to me and said, "Oh, Mr. Bach, what are you going to bring us next Sunday?" We should use object lessons. We must go down to nature for a text book. We must use language the children can understand, and then we won't have any empty benches in our lyceums. To do this, earnest men and women must take an interest in this work. We must not say anything derogatory of those who have worked for lyceums. But we must forget

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self. With these words I put the lyceum question before you, and I hope I shall be followed by our good friends, Dr. Adams, Dr. Fuller, Carrie Hatch and many others who are interested in the subject, that the good work may be carried on.

DR. ADAMS: This is something that reaches my soul more than any other subject. I wish that it also might reach into the souls of all Spiritualists deeper than anything else. A few years ago, when I went to Dubuque, Spiritualism was ninety-nine per cent below par. They told me "You must not mention Spiritualism here." But I did. I engaged Edgar Emerson and on that very day I went forth to find the children. When I asked them to come to the lyceum, many of them said "What is that?" It seemed to be a new idea to them; they could understand the term Sunday School better than anything else. Two little children said they would come to the lyceum if they had any clothes. The day before our meeting was Thanksgiving, and the Methodists, Baptists, Episcopalians and even the Catholics said to poor children, "You can come to our services and have a divine dinner." Then I sought all God's poor, and fed 312 little children and 165 families. Then I took the two little children and clothed them. The next Sunday we had twelve; I clothed them; the next Sunday we had twenty, and to-day, I want to say, we have two hundred and sixty children and they are all clothed. (Loud applause.) We must have these lyceums, where we can teach the little children. We are responsible for their proper education, and every one of us must do his part. That is what we are here for. We want the children to become better men and women than we are. Now I know I can find five hundred little children that I can get to come to your lyceum if you will clothe them. Fellow delegates, go home, gather up the little ragamuffins, and take them into your lyceums. Ministers have said to me: "Dr. Adams, you are doing God's work." "No," I said, "I am doing a work for humanity by teaching the works of nature." I remember one Sunday when all seats in the hall were filled with little golden-headed children. After our lyceum was over I said, "Now, I will give you a subject for next Sunday. I want you to ask your fathers and mothers which is the smallest tree in the world." The next Sunday they were all there, and cried out, "It is the midget tree." I asked them to tell me all about it, where it grew and what kind of leaves it had, etc. For the next Sunday the subject was the largest tree in the world. The next Sunday we discussed the milk tree or cocoanut tree, and told them how the monkeys obtained the

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cocoanuts they lived on. We find the children hungry for knowledge on all subjects. We teach them not only about the fruit trees, but also teach them that we can and do have communication between the two worlds, and then when we ask them where heaven is they tell us "It is within us all." We teach them also of nature and of nature worship. We teach them of nature's works from the highest to the lowest. They tell their friends of the school, and often their fathers and mothers come with them.

I remember one Sunday I saw thirteen little children playing in the mud. I bade them "Good morning," and told them I loved little children. I asked them where they lived. They said "Just over there." Then I went to their homes and asked their parents if the children could not come to the lyceum. The parents said they didn't care whether they went or not. They were two brothers with their families and they lived in the same house. These two men and their wives went on a drunk every Saturday night and Sunday. One of them said to me, "How can the children go to Sunday School when they have no clothes?" I took the boys to the store and clothed them, and when they went home their parents said, "Get out of this house. You don't belong here." They did not know their own children, for they had not been accustomed to see them in good clothes. Soon the men and women attended our Sunday School, and now they are sober, honest people. (Applause.) The Spiritualists must stand by their religion; gather in the little children, and if their parents cannot afford to clothe them you must; then take them into the Lyceum and teach them all to have noble aspirations, to love to do good, and that it is right to do right.

I don't wonder at Spiritualism being where it is. We have no devil to scare people with, and no hell to shake them over. We don't have to buy a ticket to get into heaven. People have to pay a hundred dollars a year to keep in the church, and it would not take one-tenth of that money to keep us in the lyceum.

I am ashamed of Spiritualists that they don't go to work and teach their children something noble, and to have grander aspirations of the soul.

Now, I want every delegate in this Convention to go home and do something for the children. Organize a lyceum, invite your neighbors in, and the first thing you know you will all become interested in it; and next October, when you come here, there will be 150 Spiritualist Sunday Schools in the United States. (Applause.)

MR. BACH: Madam President, we have with us, in the Mas-

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sachusetts delegation, the grandfather of the children's lyceum, Mr. J. B. Hatch, Sr., and we want to hear from him.

MR. J. B. HATCH, SR.: Madam Chairman and friends—It is not my purpose to occupy much of your time, but the question now before the Convention has been my life work, and I am so much interested in it that I cannot but add a few words. Three or four weeks ago it was my pleasure to attend a session of the Berkeley Lyceum, that we have in Boston. Our method of teaching the children is this. We place a question before them on the Sunday previous to be talked about, or the answer given, on the following Sunday. Among the different speakers that occupied the time, one lady sitting upon the platform asked the children, "Did any of you children ever notice that signboard as you came to the bridge? It has different approaches to it, and a number that lead to the city proper." Many of the little ones raised their hands, and she inquired of them their answer. They all had different answers, but still each was for the same purpose; that answer was, "Keep to the right." I took it home to myself, and I wish to impress it upon the minds of everybody, especially the Spiritualists, "Keep to the right," and teach your children to "keep to the right," and then there will be no necessity of having these signboards.

I wish to say a word of our brother, my good friend, Mr. Thomas Lees, of Cleveland, Ohio. He has been an old worker in the field. He and I together have labored in lyceum work for many years. Twenty-five years of my life have been devoted to the lyceum work, and when I came into this hall and heard that there was a special movement on the part of the Spiritualists in this direction, I felt it to be the noblest and grandest work that the Spiritualists could do. (Applause.)

The National Spiritualists Association ought to report, that, at its Fourth Annual Convention, which assembled in Washington, October 20, 1896, all the delegates were awake to the importance of the Children's Progressive Lyceum. It is, in my opinion, the paramount work of the Spiritualists. The National Spiritualists Association has talked lyceum for four years, but until it does more than it has in the past it will fail in its mission, by the neglect of our children.

Spiritual education is the greatest oversight of our public speakers and mediums. This blunder has and will be a stumbling block. Save time and organize. (Applause.) That covers the whole ground. For four years the Spiritualists of the country have held conventions, but very little has been done for the lyceum movement. Year after year the subject of the lyceum work has been brought upon this platform, but

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nothing practical done. We have had time enough to investigate it, and I regret to hear that no important step has yet been taken. I believe that for our safety, we as an organization ought to be willing to have a Sunday school. I believe, as Brother Bach has told you, in having object lessons. Well do I remember, years and years ago, when E. V. Wilson visited Boston, I invited him to our lyceum to speak to the children. He came into the hall with a little leaf in his hand. He came on the rostrum and said: "I have a little object lesson I wish to give you children." He took that small leaf that he had picked from the ground in coming across the park and described it so beautifully that it left its impress upon my mind. Since then I have always felt that object lessons was the best work we could have. Ever since I have been in the lyceum work, I have taken for my object lesson the Stars and Stripes. (Applause.) It was my mission to serve in the army during the rebellion, and from that time to this I have honored those old colors, the red and white and blue, and every Sunday, wherever I am, wherever I have an opportunity to speak to the children, I bring to them that flag, that flag which every one loves. Every Grand Army man within the sound of my voice appreciates the honor paid to the flag which they see hung around in every corner of this hall.

This morning I know I neglected my duty, but I could not help visiting the old camping ground at Arlington Heights. I sat among the holy ones who died in defense of the grand old flag. I feel that we must instill into the minds of the young this fact: that they are left to protect that flag, and to defend our great republic. (Applause.)

Now, friends, I know there are others here who wish to talk, and I will close by calling upon one of my old lyceum pupils, Francis B. Woodbury. (Loud applause.) Those who were boys and girls when I commenced my lyceum work are men and women now, and are scattered all over the country, East, West, North and South. We want to make better men and women of the future generations, therefore the Spiritualists must see to it to-day that we teach what will benefit the children. We must not let them grow up in the old theological ideas; let them have the teachings of our own religion. Impress upon their minds the good Spiritualism has done their fathers and mothers, and it will not be long before they will emulate their examples. I am the proudest man in Washington to-day, for I have on this floor three generations of Spiritualists, all Spiritualists and good workers in the cause. (Applause.)

Now, after thanking you for the cordial reception the Bos-

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ton delegation has received from the time they entered Washington up to this hour, I bid you a very good day. (Loud applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair recognizes the lyceum scholar that Brother Hatch referred to, our Brother Secretary, Francis B. Woodbury.

SEC. WOODBURY: Ladies and gentlemen, I esteem it a distinguished honor to follow Brother Hatch in my word for the Children's Progressive Lyceum. It is true that both my wife and I were children in Brother Hatch's lyceum, and if we have achieved any success here in Washington, if we have achieved any success for the National Association, it is because we received in our early days such earnest, such true and such patriotic instruction as that lyceum gave us, hence it has blossomed into good work. (Applause.)

Madam President, ladies and gentlemen, there is one branch of the lyceum work that is very much overlooked. Since I came to Washington I have had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with Dr. Godding, of the Insane Asylum, located in Anacostia. I wish every superintendent of every asylum was such a very progressive and liberal man as he who has charge of that institution. He has studied insanity in every form and says that physiology and hygiene should be taught at home as well as in school. I want to ask every father and mother to teach their children physiology and hygiene in the lyceum as well as at home. Then there will not be so many occupants of these institutions. (Applause.)

I thank you kindly for listening to me. I am not physically in a condition to talk this afternoon, but all hail to such workers as Brother Hatch for the work they have done in the past, and may you of the present generation learn from the effects of its work what a noble institution the Children's Progressive Lyceum really is. (Applause.)

CAPTAIN GOULD: Madam President and friends—I do not propose to discuss the merits of the lyceum. I want simply to say this same subject was before the Convention last year, as Brother Hatch has said. It was discussed for an hour and some effort was made to introduce it to the Convention. We had discussed its various merits and features, and a motion was made, I recollect (which was not even seconded), by the committee to which this subject was referred, that the Board of Trustees should embrace in it the subject of music, especially vocal music. This subject was passed by as the unanimous voice of the Convention at that time. From that time to this I do not believe there has ever been a word said or printed in regard to the lyceum, until its introduction here

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to-day. Now all I want to say is that if this subject has come up to take the same position it did last year, it will probably be passed over in silence and we shall have no benefit from it.

THE CHAIRMAN: I would say to Brother Gould that the morning session of the Convention passed upon the subject of music, both in reference to lyceums and societies.

MR. EDSON: This subject of all the questions in regard to the work of this Convention, in regard to the interests of the N. S. A. and in regard to Spiritualism generally, I consider the most important of all. (Applause.) I wish to emphasize what Brother Hatch has observed; we must see to it that this work is carried home and not surrender it at any time. The children must be educated and we must do everything we possibly can to aid them. The question of interesting the children in our lyceum is a puzzling one. The teacher must be of the very best, and the greatest tribute I can pay to Brother Hatch is his twenty-five years' service as a teacher of children. (Applause.)

I favor object lessons. To me the object lesson is wonderful. I remember in the lyceum work in Washington, fifteen or twenty years ago, Brother Brainard, a scientific man, greatly interested all the children. He had colored blocks, chemicals and many minerals. The children became intensely interested in them and became acquainted with all the elements that were metallic and non-metallic. I believe they could have taken up the regular work of chemistry, so great was their interest. It is wonderful what can be done with children if you take up object lessons in the lyceum. I recommend pushing this work without stopping until we have a complete lyceum organization in this country. (Applause.)

MR. SPRAGUE: Madam President and friends—I am deeply interested in this movement, and I regret to see that there are so many of our large cities that have no lyceum. Out in Indianapolis I have been trying to convince a number of the members that a lyceum is an absolute necessity. They have a society in a very good condition, but the ladies say that they have tried and tried to have a lyceum but cannot do anything. In other cities we have tried to get the lyceums started. Mrs. Sprague has organized societies and, I believe, has a number of them under way.

I want to relate a little circumstance. An old sample copy of the *Light of Truth* was sent to a man who kept a country store in a place called a city, containing a few inhabitants. This gentleman read the copy of the *Light of Truth*, and handed it to his neighbors. It fortunately contained instructions about

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forming a circle. They began to have sittings, the neighbors came in, and soon some of them began to develop mediumship. In a short time they wired for me to come over there to deliver three lectures. I went there and found only an enthusiastic few. I asked where the people were, and was told they would be on hand in due time. When the hour for the meeting came, the people came from every hill and valley. They had a little church fixed up so that it would comfortably hold two hundred people, and in the evening there were sixty people turned away. There were nine mediums there in process of development. Later Brother Hull was called there, then we were recalled to give three or four lectures. Mrs. Sprague accompanied me, and we organized a society and chartered it with the National Association. Mrs. Sprague organized a lyceum with forty members. It is now in fine working order and is really a splendid association. Not a person in that neighborhood even knew of Spiritualism until the *Light of Truth* dropped in there, but it is the liveliest little society, I believe, that belongs to the National Association. But I must not take your time, only to say that this lyceum work is the foundation of the building of the grand temple of Spiritualism. It means our future success if sustained. Let me speak of one more that I came across in my travels. An old lady friend of mine determined to have a lyceum. There were but two children in her home, yet she started a lyceum with only the two children. She invited in her neighbors, and now has a good working lyceum of sixty members.

I would advise every one to go to his home and devote some portion of his time to lyceum work. If you cannot start a big lyceum with fifty or sixty members and hire a hall, start one in your home and sustain it until you gather in those who are outside, then go to a hall. I thank you for your attention.

MR. WHITING: Mrs. President—I would not willingly take a moment of your time, because there are others who can interest you better than I can. But I am here in my own interest. You don't know, perhaps, how much good it does one to have the confidence to come up before such an audience as this and speak a little of his experience. Nothing in the world so interests me—nothing that I have ever had anything to do with, interests me so much as the lyceum, and perhaps some of you delegates can tell where the mistake has been made. I, too, have been engaged in the work of the lyceum. I must say I tried to carry on a lyceum in our city and made a failure of it. What is the trouble? Is it because of my own lack of ability, Mrs. President? It seems to me we want people to work in the lyceum who are adapted to it. I can't in-

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terest—I can't interest children; no, no. I recollect some years ago, a gentleman said to me, "You make one of the greatest mistakes that you can make concerning children." My own children never speak of papa, it is always mamma. Tell us, Mrs. Chairman, what could I expect? I have taken hold of the lyceum work, and I have willingly given what force I could to assist it. Brother Hatch speaks of the three generations he has here. Oh, it would be the happiest moment of my life if I could only see *one* of *my* children on this floor. My children—I have children at home, grown to manhood, and I have always tried to teach them Spiritualism. I have always advocated and stood up for the right as I knew it. I have always stood up for the principles of this philosophy, and have studied it as thoroughly as possible, yet could not impress upon my children the fact that Spiritualism was true. They respect their father's religion and honor him for the work he has tried to do. I think Brother Hatch was fortunate, or unfortunate, to serve in the army. I, too, have fought under the old flag, and I am a member of the greatest Grand Army post that is in this country. When I went home from this Convention last year, I took occasion to say in my post, "I have attended a Convention where 'Old Glory,' the old Stars and Stripes were flying all around me. (Applause.) I want to say to you all how much you are entitled to our sympathy." One thing more. I have appealed to my post to give force to that which I believe. A little while ago one member tried to disparage the phenomena of Spiritualism in open meeting. I said to my post, "I am ashamed of you. When I came to join the post you promised me that my religion should not be ridiculed or interfered with." Then I urged my brethren of this post to stand by me and then I would stand by them all. Can you tell me why I have made such great mistakes in my life? Is it because I am not adapted to the work? Oh, my heart and soul are in this thing. I wish I could do well, for when I go home from here, full of enthusiasm, I meet my people at home, and we want to succeed in drawing our organization closer together and do what we can for the cause.

MR. BACH: I want to call upon Dr. Fuller. (Applause.)

DR. FULLER: Madam President, delegates and friends—I have refrained from talking on the floor of this Convention because I had thought a great many individuals had speeches that would spoil unless they were uttered. (Laughter.) On that account I have kept as quiet as possible, but when the lyceum work came up I was touched from the crown of my head to the soles of my feet, and I can't keep still any

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longer. I believe that it is the most important work of the hour, that nothing transcends it in the cause of Spiritualism. I most fully believe that I can answer in part the questions which have been propounded by our good Brother Whiting. I have had considerable experience with lyceums in my own State. I will go back to the earliest Children's Progressive Lyceum I have ever attended. It was located in my native town in Massachusetts, and I can tell you why that lyceum died. I think a monument ought to be erected over its remains, and on that monument, engraved in letters of gold, these words: "*Talked to death.*" (Applause.) The children don't like long speeches upon science, upon metaphysics, upon transmigration, upon re-incarnation, upon the lost Atlantis and one hundred and one other topics which I have heard discussed in many lyceums. The children are just beginning to think along the line of our Spiritual philosophy, and we must always bear in mind the fact that they are children, and it is necessary for us to speak in the simplest and plainest language possible to them to bring our ideas within their comprehension, and in that way we shall attract their attention. (Applause.) I will illustrate by one or two examples which have come under my observation. One of the finest Sunday schools in the interest of our Spiritualist children is conducted by the Church of the Soul, located in Chicago. (Applause.) I have had the privilege of attending some of the sessions of that Sunday school, and object lessons are presented there every Sunday, and instructions in vocal music are also given. Questions are up for discussion, all questions being given to the lyceum the Sunday before, and it is expected that every child will have an answer to that question. I can assure you it was interesting and instructive to sit and listen to the answers that were given by the children to the questions that had been presented to them.

I think we can bring this lyceum work down where it will become practical and where it will result in building up our lyceum throughout the country. In order to do it we must simplify it and make it interesting to the children. (Applause.)

One Sunday I was asked to talk before our lyceum in Worcester, where I live. I told them I would talk to the children if they would allow me to choose my own topic for discussion, and give me not more than ten minutes at the most. I went to my cabinet and selected some varieties of land shells that I had gathered on Lookout Mountain and talked to the children upon the theme of nature's lives and nature's laws.

When my ten minutes had elapsed the children begged me to continue talking to them, and I talked on for nearly an

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hour, illustrating with those different shells. If we will only bring forward subjects of that kind and character we can hold the attention of the children. But when we drag in old theology, the Old Testament stories—subjects far beyond their comprehension, and beyond our comprehension as well—what can we expect but to find that the children are beginning to be sleepy, just the same as the older people do when we are talking upon subjects that we don't know anything about? The children don't know anything about it and don't care anything about it.

With regard to the lyceum work, I am glad that this Convention has taken up this subject, and that it has been so thoroughly discussed here. I am in sympathy with the remarks that have been made by the different delegates upon this floor. I want to suggest this: We must do something besides talk; we must do something practical for our lyceum. We should put these thoughts of ours into practice. We should carry some of this enthusiasm into our homes, and into places where we are called upon to labor in the interest of Spiritualism.

I have had quite an experience in Spiritualism. For twenty-five years I have been on the Spiritualist platform, and I have been astonished and amused sometimes at the interest and enthusiasm which has developed in some of our old conventions and camp meetings. I remember of once lecturing at one of our largest camp meetings, and at the close of the meeting a man came up to me and said, "How deeply interesting you have been in your remarks!" The president of the camp meeting said to me, "What a large audience you must have in your city, from the influence of a man who occupies such a prominent position as he does." I said to the president, "This is the first time, and I have lived in that city seven years, that I ever knew that that man was interested in Spiritualism." You see we have our camp meeting Spiritualists, our Convention Spiritualists, and our camp meeting advocates of Spiritual Lyceums, and our Convention advocates of the Children's Progressive Lyceum. Now I want the home advocates of the Children's Progressive Lyceum. (Loud applause.) If we go out from this Convention determined to work, when this session shall have been brought to a close, we can establish lyceums all over this country. The field is ripe for the harvest, and ready for the work of the laborers; but they, I believe, are few indeed. The day we go forth from this hall let us pledge ourselves, one and all, to do something in the interest of this lyceum movement. I, for one, pledge myself to work with renewed

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interest wheresoever I may be called upon to labor in the interest of Spiritualism. (Applause.) I hope we will all be united in this work, and the result will be the establishing of lyceums that shall redound to the glory of Spiritualism. (Loud applause.)

MR. SMITH: My friends, I will only occupy your time for two or three minutes. I have been president of the local society in Rockland, Maine, and of Verona Park Camp Meeting. My wife has taught school in Hartford for many years. Three years ago she came to Rockland, Maine, where we now live. She joined the W. C. T. U. in Rockland, and has lately been elected as Superintendent of the Scientific Temperance Institute of all the schools in the State of Maine, supervises every teachers' convention, and acts occasionally as lecturer to the teachers. It is a fact that sixty-nine per cent of the grammar school children of our State are addicted to cigarette smoking. You will find three girls to one of the boys graduating from our schools. Only a few of the ministers are awakened to the harm that cigarette smoking is doing.

The point I wish to impress upon this Convention is this: All those who have charge of the instruction of children in these various lyceums, and in schools everywhere, should dwell upon the terrible results of cigarette smoking.

MR. BARRETT: Madam President—I have a thought to add in reference to this lyceum question, for I believe that we should make it National in character. I find less than thirty of them in the United States of America, where there used to be several hundred; at least, so I am informed. Now let us look into this question and try to find the cause of this decrease. Many of us speakers are in part to blame for this result. (Applause.) We say we are interested in the lyceums, yet avoid the meetings of the lyceum. (Applause.) I often felt too tired to go, and thought I was not in condition for this kind of work. I think our speakers ought to go to the lyceum and take a deeper interest in it. (Applause.) The speakers must set an example, then the older people will be interested, and will soon interest the children. We must each of us exert ourselves to take a deeper interest and do something to overcome the causes that have destroyed our lyceums.

I can point out several Spiritualists to-day who are educating their children in theological schools or in orthodox universities, for places in the pulpits of those denominations. My friends, let us practice what we preach. If Spiritualism is good enough for us, it is good enough for our children. (Applause.)

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There are many things to be considered in connection with lyceum instruction. We must have music, and we want the best of music, that will be attractive and educational to the children. Let us go there with the thought that our religion is a glorious one, to teach the children its sublime truths, in language they can comprehend. The knowledge given by Spiritualism will bless the world with its light when once grasped by men. Let us commence with the children, and we shall have a better and nobler humanity because of Spiritualism and its effects upon the plastic minds of the young. (Applause.)

MRS. RICHMOND: Mr. President—I did not intend to say anything on this subject, but Brother Fuller has kindly referred to the Sunday School connected with the society of which I have been pastor for twenty years. I desire to say that the Sunday School receives just as much attention as the regular services. The details of the lesson are brought before me for consideration. The Superintendent of the Sunday School was a boy in the Children's Progressive Lyceum, and the Superintendent of Music was also a Progressive Lyceum scholar. They have never had any other kind of instruction than that which came from the lessons of the lyceum. However, we find it impracticable for them in the short time of the sessions to have extensive physical exercises, but we do have music and object lessons. We do a little talking to the older people as well as to the children. If this work was taken up by each speaker wherever he or she is located, new strength would be given to those who conduct the lyceum. I am well aware that many of our speakers are too weary, for whenever a speaker is a month or two in a place he or she cannot be expected to take an interest in the lyceum. The children like to be visited and addressed by the different speakers. Whenever I have been in Washington or elsewhere, I have endeavored to take an interest in the lyceum, and I do hope, as Mr. Barrett has said, that our speakers will consider this a part of their work to encourage local societies and strengthen the hands of those who instruct our little ones. If, in the next generation, there is no one to instruct the masses in the Spiritual truth, who will take the place of Brother Hatch? Who will take the places of all those who have so assiduously labored to place the subject of Spiritualism where it universally belongs, in the home? If children are allowed to believe that Spiritualism is something they cannot understand; if they are assiduously kept out of the home circle and home conversation, what other refuge have they than Unitarian, Universalist or Orthodox Sunday Schools? Mothers and

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fathers, let your Spiritualism be pure and holy, and let the constant illumination of your talk be the presence of your loved ones, to make known to the children that there is communion between the two worlds and make it possible for them to recognize these unseen ones as visitors in their daily lives. (Applause.)

DR. LYONS: Mr. President—I cannot say much, but there is a great fault in getting teachers for lyceums. They don't take interest enough in their business to teach the child what he ought to know. If a person takes the place of a teacher, he should not forget nature, and employ different methods in teaching children.

Now, I have been carrying on the meetings for forty years, and many of those I tried to get as teachers would not pay any attention to it, but go to another Sunday school and teach there and then come to our Spiritualist meeting to get what they could from us. I have called them vampires, and that is the reason at the present time there are not so many circles for teaching children what they can comprehend.

MRS. RICHMOND: In view of the fact that we are waiting for the Nominating Committee's report, I suggest we call upon Mr. W. J. Colville.

MR. COLVILLE: Ladies and gentlemen, in response to the very kind invitation of our Vice President, I wish to say that it has also been my privilege, as it has been that of Dr. Geo. Fuller, to work at one time in connection with the Sunday school which is held in great favor by the society of which Mrs. Cora L. V. Richmond is the beloved pastor.

When I was in Chicago, during the World's Fair, I went regularly every Sunday, for more than two months, to the sessions of the Sunday school, held at the close of the morning service, and I found that every child and young person present connected with the lyceum had some beautiful thought to express. While I know that those of you who are familiar with lyceum work in general do not need any further instruction as to how to carry on your exercises, methods, etc., I would like to suggest the following as one of the most universally interesting and successful methods of instructing children. Now, I have traveled all over the country from Maine to California, from Canada to Florida, and I have worked extensively in England, and wherever I have been I have found it less difficult to interest children, providing the people were so adapted. Whatever exercises you may have first, always bring up a subject for consideration, and ask the children to talk about it. (Applause.) Then, when every child has expressed his or her ideas, the person who is

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conducting the exercises may sum up what the children have uttered. I have found that on a seemingly difficult theme the children have expressed themselves so profoundly that I thought they were worthy of distinguished sages. Therefore let us get the children together and have their own conference meeting; let them give their own Spiritual experiences. I have found children six and seven years of age who are quite learned, and have had Spiritual experiences that were of the most intensely interesting and instructive character. Even upon ethical subjects, love, liberty, justice, patriotism, the children will express their own ideas in their own way, and when it is their meeting and they talk in their own service, they do the speaking, you will find every one of them interested. It is edifying to themselves and to all of the older people who attend. Therefore, get the children together and say to them, "Now we are to have a meeting of our own; let us all be children among children, all working together to enjoy the exchange of ideas." First, last and always resolve to gather all the best theories and purest thoughts that have been expressed, and see whether we cannot all, every Sunday at least, make some contribution to the world's positive knowledge in the output of experience, of which humanity is ever in demand. (Loud applause.)

W. H. Bach in the Chair.

THE CHAIRMAN: Friends, the subject of the children's lyceum is still open if there is any one who wishes to talk upon this subject. We would be especially pleased to hear from the lady who represents the Baltimore lyceum, Mrs. Graham.

MRS. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of this Convention—I do not know that I can make much of a speech, but I can tell you a little something of the work of our lyceum in Baltimore. I am sorry to say we do not have a large lyceum. Spiritualists as a rule send their children to orthodox Sunday schools, but I cannot understand why they should do so. I think it is very essential that our children should be educated as Spiritualists. They should not be sent to orthodox Sunday schools where they will be taught the old doctrine of salvation by grace, and other things that we know are detrimental to their happiness and intelligence when grown to manhood and womanhood. I was reared a Methodist, and in some of its branches, Methodism to-day is Spiritualism in every particular. The same things are not taught in the Methodist Sunday schools as there were when I went there. I remember some of the hideous things that they taught us, and that we could hardly sleep for fear of what would happen to us if we passed away during the night. I

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am very glad to say the children do not have to listen to those things now, but I would urge upon all Spiritualists to send their children to the Children's Progressive Lyceum. I remember we had a first-class lyceum in Baltimore some years ago, with Mrs. Walcott, who is present, as its conductor. I used to think as I listened to the songs of the children, and to their recitations, and saw how much they enjoyed their marches, that the gates of Heaven had been opened unto me. I want my own as well as other children to join in our exercises. I urge all Spiritualists to send their children to the Progressive Lyceum. Be true to your convictions, to what you know is right, and have their little minds taught what is best for them to know, that God is a God of love and other beautiful things. This is my first time in a Spiritual convention. I have enjoyed the meetings here and I hope to be able to meet you all again. (Applause.)

President Barrett in the Chair.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Convention will please be in order. Dr. Adams has the floor.

Dr. Adams appealed to the delegates and visitors for financial aid for the National Spiritualists Association, and succeeded in obtaining, in the shape of pledges and cash, a total amount of $3,074.87.

MR. HATCH, JR.: Mr. Chairman, I move that the President's salary be made $1,500 instead of $1,200, for the coming year.

MR. WALKER: I second the motion.

Carried unanimously.

THE CHAIRMAN: We will now listen to the report of the Committee on Nomination of Officers.

MR. WALKER: Your Committee on Nominations honored me with the important position of its chairman, hence it is my duty to report to you the following names that we have placed in nomination before this Convention as officers and trustees for the ensuing year. This report is the unanimous voice of your committee, and we sincerely trust that this Convention will unanimously ratify your committee's action:

For President, HARRISON D. BARRETT, of New York.
For Vice President, MRS. CORA L. V. RICHMOND, of Illinois.
For Secretary, FRANCIS B. WOODBURY, of Washington, D. C.
For Treasurer, GEO. S. CLENDANIEL, of Washington, D. C.
For Trustees, HON. L. V. MOULTON, of Michigan;
Dr. GEO. A. FULLER, of Massachusetts;
MRS. A. L. PETTINGILL, of Ohio;
FREDERICK FICKEY, JR., of Maryland;
HENRY STEINBERG, of Washington, D. C. (Loud applause.)

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This report is signed by every member of the committee, as follows:

Frank Walker, New York; C. W. Stanglen, Maryland; Dr. G. C. B. Ewell, Colorado; Mary Hatch, Connecticut; Wm. Richmond, Illinois; M. I. Welch, Louisiana; F. C. Stinehart, Iowa; Viola A. B. Rand, Maine; J. B. Hatch, Jr., Massachusetts; John Hutchison, Michigan; Dr. S. N. Aspinwall, Minnesota; L. C. Hutchinson, Ohio; M. Wheeler Brown, Missouri; Jennie Hagan Jackson, Oregon; Ida P. A. Whitlock, Rhode Island; Moses Hull, Utah; M. E. Cadwallader, Pennsylvania; Chas. Sullivan, Kentucky; Clara Field Conant, Kansas; E. J. Story, Indiana; Loe F. Prior, Canada; Maggie Waite, California; Anna M. Jaquess, District of Columbia.

MR. WALKER: I move that the Assistant Secretary be empowered to cast the ballot for the officers nominated.

MR. F. C. FREEMAN: I second the motion.

Carried unanimously.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Assistant Secretary has cast the ballot of the Convention, and the officers named by your committee are hereby declared unanimously elected.

Mrs. M. E. Cadwallader, under a question of personal privilege, made an extended report of her work as Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Mediums' Defense Fund of Philadelphia, exhibited receipts, vouchers, and all accounts connected with the work of the Defence Committee in Philadelphia, showing them to be in perfect order, and all funds properly accounted for. Her report was unanimously adopted, with the thanks of the Convention, amidst great applause.

MR. MAYER: Mr. Chairman—I believe the time has come to erect a National Spiritualist Temple in this city. It is the right time now to begin work. Therefore, I will be one of ten to give ten thousand dollars each for the purpose of building a temple. (Loud applause and cheers.)

MR. MAYER (continuing): Mr. Hill says he will be another one of the ten. (Loud applause and cheers.)

MR. EDSON: Three cheers for Brother Hill and Brother Mayer.

The cheers were given with a will, whereupon Mr. Mayer again addressed the Chair.

Mr. Chairman, we pledge these sums conditionally upon the raising by the N. S. A. of eighty thousand dollars more by January 1, 1898. (Loud applause and renewed cheering.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Friends, we have arrived at the closing hour of this Convention. Those of you who have subscribed

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to the funds of this Association are invited to come forward and pay your subscriptions, or give notes for the same.

MR. HATCH, JR.: I move that a vote of thanks be extended to our President for the hard and earnest work he has done.

COLONEL FREEMAN: I second the motion.

Carried unanimously by a rising vote.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair expresses his personal thanks to each and every delegate upon this floor, to all of our friends in Washington, to the Board of Trustees of this Association, and to the Spiritualists of the United States for their kindly aid and sympathy. This has been a most harmonious Convention. I feel that in closing we should give three cheers for our National Association. (Which were given with a will.) I thank you for your personal consideration for myself. Let us go home and work for the welfare of this Association.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is now my pleasure to declare the Fourth Annual Convention adjourned *sine die*.

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FOREIGN REPORTS.

To the Officers and Members of the Fourth Annual Convention of the N. S. A.:

I have the honor to submit the following reports from our brethren in foreign lands for your consideration:

SWITZERLAND.

GENEVA, July 9, 1896.

MR. F. B. WOODBURY, *Secretary of National Spiritualists Association, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue S. E., Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER IN BELIEF: On June 21, 1895, I sent you some information on our Spiritualistic work, and now beg leave to make you acquainted with the subject up to the present day. I hope you received, at the beginning of the year, the report of the Society of Psychical Research for 1895, in which is found the report of our activity. As the said report only mentions the lectures given last winter and which have provoked lively discussions, I believe a few details about them may be of interest to you.

As I was saying in my last letter, our President, M. D. Metzgar, had projected to lecture in the Aula University on Spiritualism in the Bible. Thanks to the kindness of M. Richard, our Counselor of State, who is in charge of Department of Public Instruction, the hall of the University has been given to him free of charge. This hall is very large, having a seating capacity of from 1,500 to 1,800. Numerous lectures are given here on different subjects by prominent people. These lectures, which are free to all, are very popular. It was there that our friend, Leon Denis, attracted a large audience three years ago, when he lectured on Spiritualism in regard to Science and Reason.

In his lectures of the 22d and 29th of November, 1895, M. Metzgar explained to us the difference between the interpretation of the Bible, as is admitted to-day, and its interpretation half a century ago. The name, Word of God, is no longer generally admitted in an absolute sense, and the unexplained things which were for such a long time regarded as miraculous, are now more and more considered as belonging to the natural order of things. Science teaches us how some

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facts, which were in ancient times regarded as emanating directly from divine power, are simply the results of laws formerly ignored.

The lecturer began to speak of mesmerism, admitting that every man possessed—as also other bodies—an "Aura" capable of modifying, for the good or for the bad, any human organism with which it comes in contact. He attributed to that power a great number of phenomena mentioned in the Bible. He went so far as to attribute to that cause the resurrections, including even the resurrection of Lazarus. He accounted for erroneous ideas, which were so common in those ancient times, and which have generally for a base an ignorant faith, as exaggerations of such a phenomenon. M. Metzgar reproaches the Christians for having neglected this force which deserves so much to be utilized, as the curative power it possesses can lead to the demonstration of the existence of the soul.

In his second lecture he treats of psychical and spiritualistic phenomena. After having spoken of the mediumistic faculties which are found in some individuals and which disclose themselves under some conditions artificially provided, though still little known, the orator explains that some men of the Old and New Testament possessed these faculties, and the communications they had with the spirits are identical with those obtained by actual mediums. The early Christian communities were living in a kind of marvelous atmosphere, and were in communication with the deceased. As Moses and Elijah appeared to Christ, so Christ appeared to the disciples also.

They had no regular preachers who addressed their meetings, but any one who was inspired by the spirit repeated only the words suggested to him. The doctrines and practices of the Spiritualists have much more resemblance to the early Christians than they have with the actual Christians of most of the denominations. In reality the Spiritualists are reviving the true Christian traditions. They alone profess a true human religion, in refusing to believe in heaven or in hell as unique ends that may be reached at the terminal of our terrestrial life. Spiritualism teaches that the struggles against sin are fought after death, in new periods of work and progress. Such was the theme developed by our dear President, which was applauded by a majority of the listeners.

About the same epoch a professor of theology of the Free School, who belongs to the Orthodox party, also came before the public and spoke to a large audience on the question of

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Mesmerism and Spiritualism. Without denying the reality of the facts M. Berthoud makes a distinction between the "Christian supernatural" and the "supernatural" without epithet. The former influence residing, according to his opinion, not in the miracle itself, but in the results which our spiritual life may derive from it. He explains the actual phenomena, either by the reflections of the medium's thoughts, or by his assistants, or by the psychical power, the existence of which he admits. As to the facts that he cannot classify in these theories, or in the supposition of fraud, or hallucinations, he kept prudently silent. It is the habitual system of our adversaries. But we have still to charge them with a tendency of bringing into their arguments criticism and calumny. Speaking of Crookes and his psychical experiments, he began to say that there was not a man so learned and so loyal as Crookes, and then his tactics take a tendency to demonstrate that the celebrated chemist has been the victim of fraud. Florence Cook and Katie King are supposed to be one and the same person. So a young woman has been successful in deceiving an illustrious savant for three years! We are here in the presence, the lecturer affirms, of the most colossal mystification of the century; mystification prompted by Spiritualists themselves to revive Spiritualism which was falling into desuetude. As he could not place any confidence in Crookes himself, who, however, deserves it entirely, it is useless to examine the facts of the same nature which took place in the presence of other mediums. Such are the arguments of the learned professor. Is it not painful to see that they have been accepted as satisfactory by a public—at least by a portion of it—which is called intellectual?

After Crookes, he addresses himself to Home. Home's mediumship is not questioned. He agrees that Home is the greatest medium of the century, but basing his opinion on the affirmations of an author, whose name is not given, but who has written under the *nom de plume* of Dr. Philip Davis, that abominable book called "*La fin de Monde des Esprit*" (The Spirit's End), he pretends that in his last days, Home had avowed that he had never believed in the spirits, as instruments of the wonderful manifestations which have taken place in his presence. It is generally known that the so-called Dr. Philip Davis was the late Louis Jacolliot, celebrated by his anti-Christian books, The Bible in India, Christ and Christian, etc., etc.

Such is the miserable system by which a man, charged to find the truth, has dared to build his opinions upon, when he was only to speak against the Spiritualistic idea.

In his indignation M. Metzgar decided to reply to him.

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Unfortunately we could not again secure the Aula Hall—irritating polemics being prohibited there. We had to content ourselves with the "Casino," a hall somewhat smaller and less favorably situated. The subject was, however, interesting enough to draw a large audience. In the course of his lecture our President stigmatized vigorously his opponent, and proved how unchristian were his ways of discussing the subject and how feeble were his arguments. M. Berthoud, unwilling to remain under the impressions of such a reply, asked permission of the audience to say a few words in his defense, which was granted. But instead of replying to the criticisms which were addressed to him, viz., omission of all the facts leading to evidence, the intervention of the spirits, omission of all the most conclusive details of the experiments of Crookes, calumnious affirmations in regard to Home and many others, accusations that all the mediums were in bad faith, etc., he began to indulge in dissertations entirely out of place, and when he was called to the question he left the place with a number of his adherents, announcing that he would reply. The reply has not yet come.

But all this created a sensation, and the papers began to publish articles on the subject, each from its own point of view. As far as we are concerned, we have been very much pleased. The silence which has been kept for so long a time on our dear cause is at last broken, and we are not sorry that attention is at last attracted to it. Even if it becomes sensational, the trouble does not come from the Spiritualistic camp. We have been pleased to see the students of theology attending our lectures in large numbers, and if all the students of M. Berthoud have remained faithful to him—a fact that I am not sure of—there are many others of the followers of the National Church (whose tendencies are generally broader than those of the Free Church) who have warmly praised M. Metzgar for the courageous initiative, and have begun to investigate deeply this interesting subject.

As an interesting fact I must still relate about a thesis presented by a young ecclesiastical student, M. Ponson, who did not hesitate to hold the belief of successive existences, and to fully adopt the Spiritualistic theories. This thesis was mildly opposed by two professors. It was easy to see that they were afraid of engaging themselves upon dangerous ground, so they concluded to accept M. Ponson as one of them, after a short discussion which was anything but serious. He will be, I hope, an important recruit.

You see, my dear sir, although not very brilliant, the position of our beautiful cause is progressing, since they began

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to notice our existence. Such was not the case a few years ago. Our society numbers now seventy members, and we could have many more but for the reason that we will only admit persons who are entirely in sympathy with us, and who know already something about the subject.

I hope you will be interested in reading the above facts, although I regret that I have not more "transcendent" ones to relate.

Some time ago I received a letter from the *Banner of Light* asking me to contribute to it. I replied that I was already in correspondence with your society and that I could not undertake any other work, but if they would ask you, you would probably have no objection to authorize them to publish what would be found interesting in my short letters. I do not know whether the editor of the *Banner* will follow my advice or not. If you find it convenient to give him satisfaction, I have no objections whatever you may decide to do.

I remain, dear sir and brother in belief, yours, etc.,

L. GARDY,
19 Rue de Malagnon, Geneva.

GERMANY.

THE SPIRITUAL MOVEMENT IN 1896.

BY MAX RAHN.

The year just ending has given forth signs of the teachings and truths of Spiritualism. It is ever spreading and finding recognition and devotees among all classes. A large Berlin paper that has nothing in common with Spiritualism, recently estimated the Spiritualists, now living, at fifteen millions. This is an immense number. To our certain knowledge the uncounted numbers, still lacking full truth, such as have not the courage, others that their position in life hinders them from publicly expressing their full convictions, would double our ranks. Certainly it is true that Spiritualism has by far the greatest number of adherents in the transatlantic countries among the romance loving people. In Germany the number is growing constantly.

During the year of 1896 Spiritual societies have been springing up in larger and smaller cities and towns throughout the country, where such a thing was never known before. Berlin has added to the already existing societies, the "Sphinx," "Psyche," and a third "Eos," and all these are constantly increasing their membershp. The association "Sphinx" has

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its monthly paper, *Die Übersinnliche Welt* (The Invisible World), therefore acts as a leader and has doubled its membership of 1895, and it is of some importance to note that the increase has come out of the circle of the most cultured and learned people of the German capital. How could it well be otherwise, since in recent times even the so-called wiseheads of science, that have heretofore advocated Materialism, but after condescending to investigate the philosophy and test the phenomena, have become adherents of Spiritualism; an incident that repeats itself in every case without exception, and must repeat itself where an individual enters sincerely into the study of Occultism? There is no doubt that Materialism is constantly losing its foundation and soon will not be justly counted as the mighty enemy of our great and noble cause. And yet we see the word on every hand, all about us, "Enemy." Alas, incomprehensible, the finger points to where we should expect and demand co-operation and sympathy; I mean, thereby, the teachers and leaders of Christianity and other established religious associations, as nowhere do we find so many points of agreement as between Religion and Spiritualism. The belief in an Almighty God, the continuity of life beyond the grave, and numerous other axioms belong just as well to Spiritualism as to the Orthodox religions. Has not the Bible, the Old, as well as the New Testament, been held up to us unmistakably as the greatest spiritual book? The appearance of the angels and disembodied mortals, the wonders that Jesus and his disciples, and even the prophets of the Israelites performed, the resurrection, and Jesus entering the kingdom of heaven, the ability of the apostles to speak in different tongues at the Whitsuntide (Pentecost) feast—what is this but spiritual manifestation, that Modern Spiritualism demonstrates and proves by facts?

Here is not the place to follow up the highly important object for the further development of the Spiritual movement, but it deserves with pity to be brought to notice that of the two large Christian church organizations it is particularly the Protestant that rejects co-operation with us, although their founder, *i. e.*, Luther, the spiritual teacher they so closely adhere to, taught these truths we advocate. In the Catholic Church, however, we find oftener a little recognition. Did not a prominent Jesuit in the past year personally declare, in an address on Spiritualism, that he agreed with us as follows: "Those who believe in the wonders that occurred in Trier and Lourdes cannot possibly doubt the wonderful manifestations given through modern Spiritualism"? It is, therefore, pure blindness for Christianity to resent in a co-operative

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body a warfare against Materialism, when among others, a strict orthodox, to be sure, a Protestant Berlin paper of prominence recently, at the conclusion of an otherwise well-meant discussion on new occult literature, says: "A common brotherhood of Christianity with constant warfare against Materialism hinders itself, and yet Christianity more than needs this co-operation of true brotherhood."

The eloquent advocate of Spiritualism in Germany, Karl du Prel, a few weeks ago said, and truly so, in an article on "Occultism and Anarchism": "Of what use are all exertions of the church [against Materialism] that will not see that only through facts demonstrated can dogmas be saved," and equally justifiable were the further remarks in the same article.

Give humanity the convictions that every single existence is of metaphysical importance, that the stress is not laid upon the class or kind but the individual, that the purpose of life is to fulfill itself in every moment and not lying off in a somewhat imaginary future ideal, that somewhere and at some time shall be reached. That it depends less upon improving the outer appearances and circumstances than to improve oneself. At any rate, give to the world that conviction which Occultism teaches and proves. Then such ideas will by and by materialize in a cultured form, out of which our social evils will gradually disappear.

Now, besides, let it be mentioned that still a great deal, if not to such an extent as in the past, the authorities of our movement are hampered by opposition like at Saxony, where last year a Spiritual society, to be sure not entirely without cause, disbanded; and in Oldenburg, where the renowned Hypnotist Hansen was forbidden to hold forth and give exhibitions of his experimental lectures.

It deserves, however, to be known that in Prussia a milder regulation took place recently. It is to be lamented greatly that the greater injuries inflicted upon our cause are within our own midst. I speak not of the Theosophical school, that is nursed in certain circles where one does not remember the beginning of Spiritualism, or rather does not wish to remember, but rather haughtily looks down upon it. Truly their ideas lead to nothing but a vapor-like phantasm. Well we know, and to our sorrow, that we often countenance advantage-taking persons with misplaced mediumistic inclinations that have not sufficient occult force and, therefore, and without seeming hesitation, resort to the most unheard-of fraud to support their public shows or performances. One looks with disgust upon such conduct, and should promptly and posi-

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tively reject all attempts at excuses and vindications. That such proceedings are condemned in the severest form by the opponents of Spiritualism is not to be wondered at, and certainly we cannot blame them. But this is not the greatest harm done. It is far more serious to think of the uncertainty and skepticism thereby created within our own ranks.

In conclusion we must make one other mention as we look back over the closing year. It is with great pleasure and satisfaction we can report great progress in German Spiritual literature. While during former years the publisher of Spiritual books often complained of poor sales, recently a livelier interest and demand for literature on Scientific Occultism is noticeable. Different fundamental works, among others a book of the highest possible value, Aksakof's "Animismus und Spiritismus" (that should not be missing in any good Spiritual library), had to appear in a later edition. Both books that appeared in the year 1893, written by Du Prel, "Das Rathsel des Menschen" ("The Problem of Humanity") and the other, "Der Spiritismus" (Spiritualism), deserves the credit of being foremost in elevating and promoting the growth of Spiritualism in Germany. In the past year the demand was so great that new edition upon edition had to be carefully divided and distributed among our people where no doubt its blessed influence was felt. From the extensive volumes of Kiesewetter's "Der Okkultismus des Alterthums" ("The Ancient Occultism") appeared in the third edition. Translations of foreign literature have reached our book market, also the books of that well deserving investigator (alas, too soon for the welfare of Spiritualism deceased) Prof. Brofferio. Also the German Spiritual papers continually find larger and wider circulation. Our *Uebersinnliche Welt* ("Invisible World"), of which we have positive knowledge, has an immense circulation, such as we hardly ventured to hope for, and the number of subscribers grows from month to month.

RUSSIA.

TIFLIS, September 7, 1896.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER: In compliance with your request, I shall communicate to you for the coming Convention about the progress of Spiritualism in Tiflis.

First of all I shall describe in general the organization of our society (circle) wherefor I shall quote a small passage of my article published in the Spiritualistic journal, *Rebus*, in 1895:

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"The object of the Spiritualistic society at Tiflis is (*a*) an all-sided study of mediumship (the term mediumship is here used in the sense given to it by M. Batlerof in his articles on "Mediumismus," and by A. Aksakof in his article, "Animismus and Spiritismus,") and of other closely allied subjects (animal magnetism, hypnotism, etc.); (*b*) the development of the mediumistic faculty manifested in the members of the society and in the visitors of the meetings of the society; and (*c*) to assist those desirous of becoming familiar with mediumship, or allied subjects, in their endeavors.

"For attaining all this it has been resolved: (*a*) to hold meetings of two types; (*b*) to arrange, as far as possible, mediumistic seances; and (*c*) to admit outsiders who take an earnest interest in the proceedings of the society to these meetings.

"The meetings of the first type have an earnest character, are distinguished by a more or less strict order which is necessary for a successful study of a subject, and pursue chiefly scientific and intellectual objects; while the meetings of the second type are distinguished by a considerably less strictness in the external order, by an almost complete freedom, and pursue chiefly ethical objects."

Our society is at present tolerably large, and the number of persons desirous to join us increases more and more, together with the growing interest at Tiflis in Spiritualism. As to mediumship proper, our society places its hopes in the future.

In fact, the powerful medium of our society, my brother (the reports of the mediumistic seances which took place with his participation you may read in Nos. 46, 47, 48 and 50 of the journal *Rebus*, 1895), had to discontinue the seances on account of having been appointed, after receiving the commission of an officer, to the Tenth Turkestan Battalion located in the city of Tashkend in Turkestan, where he has been during the last three years. There is great hope that in two or three years he will be transferred to Tiflis, and then we will, of course, continue to develop his mediumistic faculty.

On arranging seances with various persons with a view of discovering a new medium, we found about two months ago a powerful medium in the person of I. D. Ivanchenko, who was a clerk in the Tiflis branch of the Imperial Bank and who two days ago left for the town Lodz, having been transferred to the branch of the Imperial Bank of that place. Desirous of retaining him in Tiflis, we proposed to him to find a position in Tiflis, and we asked the advice of the guiding spirit who manifested himself in the seances, and the following quite unexpected communication was received: "Iasha [the

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name of the medium] ! After three years and eight months you will be here. The right was given me to manifest much through you. It is early now; you are not ripe yet." (The medium is young and not settled yet spiritually.)

This day we shall send the reports of the seances which took place with his participation to the journal *Rebus*, where you may learn what took place.

Here is an illustration: A chair came from one side to the medium and got with the arc of the back of the chair on the left arm, whose wrist was in a chain under the control of a neighbor. Then one of the skeptics taking hold with one hand the wrist of the left hand of the medium, under the arc of the chair, and with the other of the leg of the chair, demanded that under such conditions the chair be carried away, which was instantaneously accomplished.

Sincerely yours,

K. LOMIZE.

Address, Kaspar Christoforovich Lomize, Intendant's Office, Tiflis.

This closes our foreign reports. All of which are respectfully submitted.

The thanks of this Association are due Mrs. E. D. Steinberg for the translation of the German report, and Judge S. Newton Pettis for procuring translations of the French and Russian reports.

FRANCIS B. WOODBURY,
Secretary N. S. A.

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Fourth Annual Convention

OF THE

National Spiritualists Association of the U. S. A. and Canada,

WASHINGTON, D. C., OCTOBER 20, 21 AND 22, 1896.

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(INCORPORATED NOV. 1, 1893.)

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FRANCIS B. WOODBURY, *Secretary.*

GEO. S. CLENDANIEL, *Treasurer.*

HON. LUTHER V. MOULTON,
DR. GEORGE A. FULLER,
MRS. A. L. PETTENGILL,
FREDERICK FICKEY,
HENRY STEINBERG.

Annual Convention, 3d Tuesday in October of each year, Washington, D. C.

The Official Headquarters of the National Spiritualists Association are open at all times, and Spiritualists from any part of this or foreign countries visiting Washington are invited to call and register.

Officers of all Spiritualist Societies are solicited to send their names and addresses to the National Secretary, and for blanks to fill out respecting desired information, in order that a perfect and complete list of Societies and Officers may be compiled for general information.

Lecturers and Mediums are invited to send us their names, addresses, and phases of development for record, and if connected with any local societies.

Charters will be issued by the National Spiritualists Association to all Societies desiring membership. Copies of the Constitution and By-Laws will be sent on request to any address.

Spiritual Literature of any character is respectfully solicited for our National Library.

Information of importance to Spiritualists is desired from any friend of the cause, and any within the knowledge of the officers of the National Spiritualists Association will be cheerfully accorded to inquirers on application to the National Secretary.

Copies of the reports of the Conventions of '93, '94, '95 and '96 can be obtained, price 25 cents each, upon application to the Secretary.

Blank applications for charters, copies of recommended constitutions for local societies will be sent free to any address.

Copies of the history of the N. S. A. will be sent free to any address, upon receipt of five cents in stamps.

In order to secure prompt attention ALL communications must be addressed to

NATIONAL SPIRITUALISTS ASSOCIATION,

Francis B. Woodbury, Secretary,

600 Penna. Avenue S. E., Washington, D. C.

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Fifth Annual Convention

OF THE

1848 1897

National Spiritualists Association

Held at
WASHINGTON, D. C.,

October 19, 20 and 21, 1897.

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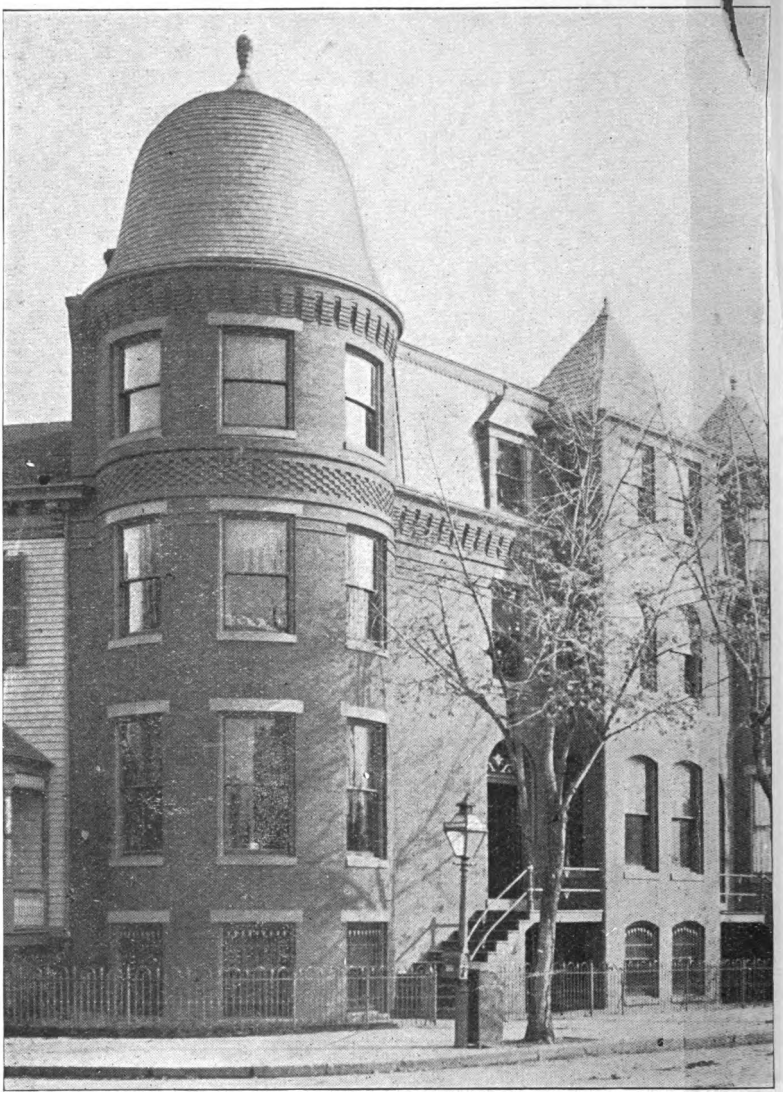

HEADQUARTERS NATIONAL SPIRITUALISTS ASSOCIATION,

600 Pennsylvania Avenue S. E.,

Washington, D. C.

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

OF THE

NATIONAL SPIRITUALISTS ASSOCIATION

OF THE

United States of America and Dominion of Canada

HELD AT

WASHINGTON, D. C.,

OCTOBER 19, 20, 21, 1897,

WITH

AN ALPHABETICAL LIST OF THE DELEGATES IN ATTENDANCE.

I. C. I. EVANS, STENOGRAPHER.

ISSUED BY
THE NATIONAL SPIRITUALISTS ASSOCIATION,
600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE S. E.,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Fifth Annual Convention

OF THE

National Spiritualists Association

OF THE

United States of America and Dominion of Canada.

The Fifth Annual Convention of the National Spiritualists Association of the United States of America and Dominion of Canada convened at Masonic Temple, corner of 9th and F Streets N. W., Washington, D. C., on the 19th day of October, 1897, S. E. 50, whereupon the following proceedings were had, to wit:

The President, HARRISON D. BARRETT, of Lily Dale, N. Y., at the hour of 10 A. M., called the Convention to order, and appointed the following officers:

Sergeant-at-Arms, Geo. W. Shook, Mich.; Musical Director, Miss Bertha Julihn, Washington, D. C.; Reading Clerk, John Eggleston, New York; Assistant Secretary, William Richmond, Chicago, Ill.; Stenographer, I. C. I. Evans, Minn.; Doorkeeper, Henry Steinberg, Washington, D. C.

The audience then joined in singing the hymn "America," after which the following invocation was offered by Mrs. Cora L. V. Richmond:

Spirit of life and light, divine and perfect source of all being, unto thee thy children turn in this, the fulfillment of duty. May they be uplifted and strengthened; may they unite with one accord in bearing forward this noble work; may their minds be filled with understanding; may their spirits be pervaded with fraternity, and may the light of the surpassing truth which is theirs cause them to sink all of self

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in the supreme and perfect service of truth; may the hour and the day be propitious for good until the surpassing light of that divine strength that is born of noble aspirations and mutual worth shall be theirs, and may the truth more and more possess them until the bonds of fraternity shall unite all societies of the world interested in this work of inspiration from the skies. To this end may every heart be attuned, every spirit uplifted, every life dedicated. May the ministering spirits from above touch our hearts with the truth and give us great thoughts from that higher life. Amen.

Singing by the audience.

The Vice President in the Chair.

PRESIDENT BARRETT: Madam President, ladies and gentlemen of the Convention: It falls to my lot at this hour to formally open the Fifth Annual Convention of the National Spiritualists Association of the United States of America and the Dominion of Canada. It is not fitting that I should explain in detail the duties of the present hour in view of the fact that we have three days of hard, untiring labor before us, full of interest to each and every one present.

From the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the Gulf to the Great Lakes, we have gathered here to engage in reform work in which all society is interested. It is not for me to trespass upon your valuable time to outline that work, because it will be revealed to you in the reports of your officers, who will give you the substance of that upon which we must act during our three days of labor in this Convention. I will tell you, however, that there are signs of great promise in the skies and that there are indications that there will be a glorious harvest from the work of the past half century.

I promise you that, as far as your Chairman is concerned, you will have no time to either eat or sleep. (Laughter.) My friends, our work must be done, and as we are limited by some mischance to a Convention of three days instead of a full week, into these three days we must crowd the work of a week.

I need not outline the course that shall be pursued during this Convention. I simply bid each one a hearty welcome in the name of the National Association, for it is your Association, its officers are your servants and its work your work. We are here to work in harmony, and in so doing we shall make the National Association an institution of value, one that shall stand through all ages to come (applause), the redeeming factor of mankind. To that work you are heartily welcome.

I now declare this National Convention formally opened for the transaction of business. (Loud applause.)

Singing by the Convention.

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President Barrett resumed the Chair.

We will now listen to the formal address of welcome from our honored Vice President, Mrs. Cora L. V. Richmond.

MRS. RICHMOND: Mr. President and fellow delegates of the fifth annual convention of the National Spiritualists Association—Not only as an officer of the National Spiritualists Association, but as the resident pastor of the First Spiritualists Association of Washington, it is my extreme pleasure to welcome you again to this Convention. In the same hall where we have previously met, surrounded by the same conditions, with many familiar and many new faces, we enter upon this work with hearts full of encouragement and expectations. Encouragement, for the work already accomplished gives us that encouragement; expectations, because the promise for the future is great.

Your presence here this morning, the first session of the Convention, your beaming faces, and the fact that you have come full of fervor and earnestness for the work set before you, many of you perhaps new to the tasks and labors of conventions, proves that our work will be profitable, and that these days will not have been spent in vain.

The beautiful Capital City always has allurements for visitors, and we are glad that many who are not delegates have availed themselves of this opportunity; they are equally welcome, for, without a constituency, delegates would scarcely be inspired to bear forward their work. But it is not only to welcome you to this city with its storied memories, with its great and wonderfully inspiring record; it is not only to welcome you to the Convention itself, but it is to welcome you to that deeper fraternity, which we feel perfectly sure these days of deliberation and of the performance of duty will cause to be instilled among us.

Not only do we need to come into closer touch with one another, into more intimate relations concerning spiritual truth, but we need to know more of the work in different portions of the country, and for that purpose nothing can serve better than the meeting in this Convention. It is not only that the Spiritualists of Washington look to your presence annually as to the presence of a bright flock of birds that bring them messages from different portions of the country concerning the progress of this great truth, and they are uplifted and strengthened for their continued work by your work and your presence in their midst; but it annually inspires you to go home with added zeal for the performance of labor in your own locality, and it bids you to know that everywhere there are hearts throbbing in earnest sympathy,

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lives filled with constant endeavor, that the ministrations received from the higher realms are gaining, increasing and instilling themselves into the activities of daily life.

You will hear during this Convention of the work that has been accomplished in the last year under many great difficulties, but, above all, you will be called upon, not only to give testimony of your own work in this direction, but of the work of those in your locality and in the countries where you have labored. A large number of representative Spiritualists we are sure must be here, and in welcoming you, fellow workers and visitors, it seems as though it is like a benediction from the skies with the day propitious, and the hour full of brightening promise. The theme of Spiritualism may not have an opportunity to be discussed much in the business sessions, as it will be in all the evening sessions. But we feel sure you will enjoy meeting one another and the symposium of intellectual and spiritual food that is to be offered to you.

We trust, dear friends, that you will feel nothing lacking in this great reunion; that you will in no way find that there is lack of preparation, or lack of means to go forward with this work which rests in your hands.

Our President has outlined, in a few brief words, that you are to be taxed to the uttermost in your work. But working for the cause one loves is not labor; it is the highest and holiest privilege. One does not so much need rest of body and mind as harmony, which will avoid friction, and that which will strengthen one another by mutual bonds of sympathy.

Let us see if we cannot bear forward this Convention intelligently, courteously and lovingly, without jar, without any spirit of selfish feeling or discord; let us understand that we are but instruments of those societies which we represent, that the constituents behind us look for this work to be fulfilled to its uttermost. Not only are the eyes of the people of different localities in this country fixed upon this Convention to-day; not only is it an important factor in the great thought of the world, but it is true that abroad the eyes are fixed upon us of many who are longing for organization, and for the hour when they can help bear forward the work of spiritual truth.

At the present time there are a number of kindred societies holding Conventions, and it would be a great pleasure for some of us if we could be in two or three places at the same time. At Nashville, Mr. President and fellow delegates, there is a convention assembled which, I feel sure, you would all like to join. I mean the Liberal Congress of Religions. Last year

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your Secretary and Vice President represented the National Spiritualists Association in that convention in Indianapolis. This year they followed us in Nashville, holding their convention there in the same place that we held our mass convention last month. The fraternal feeling of this Convention should be sent to that gathering. We ought to extend to all who are working in kindred directions the right hand of fellowship. We have united on the one hand with the secularists to prevent the aggressive theological encroachment upon the religious rights of all; on the other hand we have fraternized with the liberal churches, or the liberal congress of churches, to show that Spiritualism clasps hands with all who are seeking to help humanity and strengthen the spirit of fraternity among the different bodies not bound by sect or creed. We think there is no limit to the best work that the Association can do when we can, on the one side, extend to the true spirit of liberal religion our utmost sympathy, and on the other side, we can extend to those who wish to preserve intact our national liberties the hand of fellowship and co-operation. The one work before us of making clear the signs and tokens of immortality that are in the world in this Convention, we have but to illustrate that that knowledge has made us peace loving and law abiding in the highest sense of the word, and full of the spirit of liberty, fraternity and progress.

Dear friends, it is with the hallowed feeling of a benediction from the skies that we once again welcome you unto this council chamber; welcome you, not only unto communion with each other, not only unto the fraternal fellowship that is born of this actual work, but unto the ministration and communion of those higher powers that keep watch and ward over the welfare of the nations, over the welfare of the people. When the Rev. Dr. Barrows opened the Parliament of Religions in Chicago, he said he had no doubt that the arisen patriots of the nation, and arisen statesmen, and the arisen workers in religion were bending above them. If he, not a professional Spiritualist, could recognize the presence of those ministering powers, those minds, whose lives went out in the service of their country and humanity, how much more should we, who are having constant communion with these arisen ones, recognize and feel their presence, receive the inspiration from their thought and be uplifted to the highest and noblest standard by the consciousness that they are near. May it not be true that the beloved and honored Lincoln, who many times received messages through the different instruments of the spirit world while in this life, bends above

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these councils and watches over us, seeing that we love mankind and strive to assist humanity in its progress. May it not be that all the arisen workers who have gone out in our own ranks assemble, as we assemble, with the light of their added knowledge, and touch with quickening fires the altars of minds and hearts to added inspiration? We not only believe this, but, fellow delegates, we know it to be true. It is this knowledge that brightens every endeavor, that makes the pathway of duty more clear, that strengthens the hand which otherwise might falter through overwork and the burdens of time; it is this which brings you into this hall in full harmony of purpose with that higher and nobler life.

Dear friends, beloved delegates, you are then welcome. From above the spheres of life send this welcome which goes to your hearts and to your lives. May the voice of inspiration and the work of truth be one, in brain, in mind, in spirit, until the work of this Convention is accomplished and we are borne forward into the full tide of the coming year.

The Assembly joined in another selection of music.

THE CHAIRMAN: Friends, the Chair takes great pleasure at this time in introducing to you a gentleman who will respond to this eloquent address of welcome, the distinguished President of the State Association of Spiritualists in the Pine Tree State, Rev. A. J. Weaver, of Maine.

MR. WEAVER: Mr. Chairman, friends, and members of this Convention—From the North to the South, from the East to the West, all the way from Maine to Texas, we have come together to-day. We have turned our faces to this our Mecca, that we may help to advance the cause to which our hearts are consecrated, to which our lives are dedicated and for which we will strive to put forth the best efforts that we possess. As is well known by all who have assembled here, Spiritualism rests upon a solid foundation, demonstrated by the laws of science, and standing upon this we intend to build an edifice which shall command the respect, the admiration and the love of the civilized world; but we cannot do so at once. It took Christianity two hundred years to command the respect of the civilized men and women of the East, and it may take us a whole century from this time on to make ourselves as prominent as Christianity was after it had been in existence three hundred years. No foundation is of more importance than the immortality of the soul—the great fact that there is no end to the life that we have commenced here, but that stretching on from the earth there are worlds rising above worlds in endless circles in which we are to figure as individual identities, continuing forever the life we have

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commenced here. We demonstrate this great fact which no other religion in the world has ever done or can do. How do we know of this great world that stretches on beyond us? We know it because the people who inhabit that world, those who once lived here, have come back and proven to us by their actual presence the fact of a continued life in that world. We know that immortality or a future world is one of the cornerstones of Christianity. How do Christians know there is a future world except through the fact that Jesus after he had left his body came back in a materialized form, and identified himself to his disciples and others? Jesus of Nazareth came back,and in the same way to-day our friends come back and demonstrate to us a future life. Resting upon this foundation in science, we come here to-day to help commence and rear an edifice devoted to a broad, humanitarian religion. (Applause.) Spiritualism is not resting entirely upon science; it rests upon demonstrated fact for a foundation, but as believers, as knowers of this great truth we must feel it to be a religion that the world will love and respect. (Applause.) We should look upon all the religions of the world, and becoming eclectic, take that which is good from every one of them. We look to Buddha, that great, noble and inspired man, and we draw from him the great doctrine of Karma, the doctrine of consequences, of cause and effect; that there is nothing in this world or in all the worlds beyond us except what is based upon natural laws; that there is not and cannot be any such thing as the supernatural, and that the Infinite in self is natural. This was the cornerstone of Buddhism and we gladly adopt it as our own; also, that other doctrine embodied in the Golden Rule. (Applause.) So we, as Spiritualists, in the outset should take that fundamental principle of a truer and holier life and rest our lives upon it, and it will become to us what the Golden Rule is to the Christian, a pure, holy, sacred principle. When we cease to make the Golden Rule one of the essential things in this great religious edifice, I feel that Spiritualism will go down just as any religion will go down that is not based upon this. (Applause.) It is not going to make us Buddhists because we accept this doctrine. Neither does it make us Christians because we accept some of the things that the Christians accept. They took these principles, and so can we take them to make a part of this religion of ours. Religion is one of the strongest and deepest instincts of human nature, and if we do not undertake to build upon some basis of religion our efforts will result in failure. We want a religion that takes hold of the hearts of humanity and

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makes us feel that the human soul is worth more than all the physical universe around us. Where is there any religion in the world that can reach the sympathies, that can touch the hearts, that can draw out the emotions of human nature like the assurance that the departed can come down to us and take us by the hand, breathe into us holy inspiration and assure us that the homes they have on high are homes where we will be welcome forevermore? No other religion can do this, no other pretends to do it, therefore we have that which no other religion on earth has, and because of this central principle we believe there is a place for us in this world, a place no other religion can fill, that we have a work to do that no Christian, no Buddhist, no Brahmin, no Mohammedan can do; that work is to prove that we are linked to the immortal world, and that we are to live forever. (Loud applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN: The next order of business is the appointment of Standing Committees. The Chair will only appoint the Committee on Credentials and the Committee on Rules until the names of the delegates are reported to the Convention.

The Committee on Credentials will consist of Mr. Frank Walker, of New York, Chairman; J. B. Hatch, Jr., of Massachusetts, and Mr. C. A. Treat, of Missouri.

The Committee on Rules will consist of Hon. Thos. M. Locke, of Pennsylvania, Chairman; Wm. Brodie, of Louisiana, and Dr. J. S. Sherman, of Ohio.

THE CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, five-minute talks will be in order.

Messrs. E. W. Sprague, J. S. Mansergh, Dr. J. M. Peebles, Moses Hull, Dr. Alex. Kent, and W. C. Bowman, Mesdames M. E. Root, M. E. Cadwallader, Mrs. H. L. P. Russegue and Adeline M. Glading took part in this conference.

The Convention adjourned to meet at two o'clock.

AFTERNOON MEETING.

OCTOBER 19, 2.00 P. M.

President Barrett in the Chair.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Convention will be in order. We will open our exercises with a selection of music.

Singing by the Convention.

THE CHAIRMAN: The first order of business is the reception of the report of the Committee on Credentials. The Chairman, Mr. Walker, of New York, is ready to report.

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At this point Mr. Walker submitted a partial list of the delegates who were entitled to seats in the Convention. The completed list appears at the end of this report.

THE CHAIRMAN: There have been omitted from this report, Pittsburg, Pa., the States of Tennessee and Rhode Island, the Women's Progressive Union of Philadelphia and the Lyceum of Washington. The committee will continue in session, and all those whose names have not been reported will appear before that committee and see to it that their names are placed upon the list.

The report was adopted as read.

THE CHAIRMAN: The report of the Committee on Rules will now be received. Hon. Thos. M. Locke, Chairman.

MR. LOCKE: Mr. Chairman and delegates—Your Committee on Rules begs leave to submit the following report:

1. That as far as practicable the order of business will be in accordance with the printed program in the hands of the Convention.

2. This Convention shall be governed by the parliamentary rules found in Roberts' Rules of Order, save where the same are contrary to the Constitution and By-Laws of this Association.

3. No delegate shall speak longer than ten minutes, and no delegate shall speak a second time on any subject until all have spoken who desire to do so.

4. Speakers must confine their remarks to the subject matter before the Convention.

5. Unless otherwise provided for in the Convention, all questions shall be decided by a majority vote.

6. Appeals from the decision of the Chair must be sustained by at least ten delegates.

7. The previous question shall not be ordered unless the same is demanded by at least five delegates.

8. The sessions of this Convention shall be as follows: 10.00 A. M. to 1.00 P. M., 2.00 to 6.00 P. M. and 7.30 to 10.30 P. M.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Signed. { THOMAS M. LOCKE,
DR. J. S. SHERMAN,
WM. BRODIE,
Committee.

The report was adopted as read.

THE CHAIRMAN: The next order of business is the reception of the report of the President. Shall the President's report

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be now received? Hearing no objection, it is so ordered. The Vice President will please take the Chair.

President Barrett then read his Annual Report, as follows:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

Ladies and gentlemen of the Convention—The Constitution of the National Spiritualists Association requires that the President shall submit at every annual convention a report of the progress, business and general work of the Association during the year. As your President for the year ending October 21, 1897, S. E. 50, I take great pleasure in presenting to you my annual report, the fourth that I have had the honor of making as Chief Executive of the N. S. A.

GLANCE IN RETROSPECT.

It is fitting at the very outset that we glance in retrospect over the year now past and gone forever to note the kaleidoscopic changes that rapidly present themselves to our view. Some who were with us last year as active workers on this floor have graduated into a higher school of life, and are mingling with us to-day only in spirit. One of these was a representative of our National Association, and a gallant leader in Spiritualism in the great northwest, Dr. S. N. Aspinwall. He has gone home, and his vacant place in our mortal ranks to-day pleads eloquently in behalf of the vanished hand and the sound of a voice that is stilled. So it is with all others who have gone from us; we miss their physical presences, but realize the great gain that is theirs through their entrance into a higher life.

Other changes come into view as we turn the pages of the history of the past year. The nation has passed through one of the most important and exciting political contests ever recorded in the history of the world. Business of all kinds has been in a paralyzed condition, and a general feeling of discontent and discouragement has been everywhere apparent. Strikes, evictions and lockouts have been of frequent occurrence. In the larger cities and towns of this nation, suffering from hunger, cold and privations of all kinds has been prevalent. But little money has been in actual circulation, and no citizen has been in a position to give as his heart might prompt him to the poor and needy around him, because of his own personal necessities.

Despite all these untoward circumstances and conditions, despite the 10,500 murders, 7,500 suicides, 200 lynchings and 175 legal executions, and other gruesome and awful calamities, our great movement has made steady, and, I believe,

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permanent progress and growth. Reports from various quarters of the United States, and my personal observation in others, prove my claim to be true. People have asked more questions in regard to the status of Spiritualism, its purpose, and mission in the world, during the past twelve months than they did during the twenty-four months previous. There has been a gradual but perceptible turning of the minds of the people to a consideration of the import of our phenomena and their relation to the scientific, philosophical and religious questions of the hour. This is marked especially in our literary circles, in which the works of Lillian Whiting and Richard Hodgson have created a great furor and awakened an interest in Spiritualism. Perhaps the hard times have had something to do with this new interest in things spiritual. The people, finding the temporal things of this life so uncertain, have sought something of a different nature to interest and divert their minds.

SIGNS OF PROGRESS.

This awakening is apparent to all who will note the increased attendance at many Sunday services and camp-meetings. It is true that some camps report a decrease in attendance, but the financial stringency has simply been greater in those localities than in the others, thereby making it impossible for the people to leave their homes for even a brief vacation. People of all denominations have found Spiritualism an object of interest and study because of the light it throws upon the future condition of man. Some clergymen, like Rev. R. Heber Newton, have found it advisable to preach sermons upon the aid Spiritualism has given to the progress of religion. I have had several letters from Mr. Newton upon the subject, and, in a recent publication, he has placed the results of his researches in our fields of thought before the world. Other clergymen of various denominations have also given Spiritualism considerable attention, seeking only for the good it might do them and their followers. Prof. Oliver Lodge has warned the scientists of the globe that they can no longer afford to sneer at psychic phenomena, and told them plainly that they must be broad enough to stand by the leadership of truth, no matter where it might take them. Prof. Lodge is a typical representative of a class of scientists who dare to think for themselves. They wish the world to enjoy every new truth that can be positively demonstrated.

Among our own people there has been an awakening that is very hopeful and inspiring. This is proved by the fact of the organization of a goodly number of new local societies, the

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re-organization of others, and the formation of several State Associations and children's Lyceums. The membership of the National Association has increased thirty-one per cent, and the earnest desire of our people with whom I have personally associated or corresponded, to join some organization of Spiritualists has filled me with new hope for the future of our movement. Friends, the cause of organization of Spiritualists has never been so strong as it is to-day. Our people now see that an organization does not mean a narrow creed, nor a dogmatic statement of belief. They see that it does mean co-operation for mutual aid and protection, on business principles. It has now become a medium through which they can obtain valuable as well as instructive information upon matters of the greatest importance to them. They see that our co-operative bodies are associated for the good of the people, hence serve their interests, rather than retard them. They also perceive that organization is the surest and safest means of defending their religion from foes of all kinds, especially from those of our own household, and those who seek to legislate for the people. Having discovered the value of this servant, they are rallying gladly around its standard, and, I trust, will soon be led to support it generously.

OTHER ENCOURAGING SIGNS.

Another sign that Spiritualism is growing in popular favor is the activity of our opponents, who are now organizing to crush Spiritualism and mediumship. Had our efforts at organization been less successful, they would not have been so greatly excited and worried over the presence of Spiritualism in their midst, nor would they be engaged in the laudable work of organizing their State and National Anti-Spiritualistic Associations. They are afraid of an enlightened organization bearing the flag of Spiritualism, hence their anxiety to destroy it. They are now co-operating to meet us with every form of organization, local, State and national. This will serve, I hope, to still further inspire our people to enlist under one common banner in the defense of their religion, and cause them to work together as a unit in an endeavor to perfect and strengthen our own organizations.

The most encouraging sign of progress that I have found during the past year is the earnest effort of the most advanced Spiritualists to draw the line of demarkation between Spiritualism and Spiritism—between a genuine mediumship and its counterfeit representative. This demand for a truer, a higher Spiritualism on the part of the Spiritualists themselves has given Spiritualism a dignity it never has had before. It has

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led the secular press to respect our public gatherings and to report the proceedings fairly and impartially. It has caused our materialistic and Christian opponents to note that we have begun to respect ourselves and to hold up our heads as men and women whose deeds speak louder than their prayers or words. The statement to the public that "fraud must go" has given those who honestly desire to investigate Spiritualism the courage to try to find the residuum of fact that lies beneath the accumulation of rubbish the counterfeiters have piled upon our movement. From the foregoing facts it is readily seen that the past year has been one of great advantage to Spiritualism. It has gained ground in spite of fearful odds, and is in better condition to-day, morally, socially and spiritually, than ever before. Financially this is not true, but before the close of this Convention I believe the financial question will be settled and in the right way.

YEAR OF ACTIVE WORK.

The National Association has had a year of active work. The executive officers have had their hands full to keep up with the demands made upon them. The correspondence of both President and Secretary has been enormous, while the literary and office work has been quite extensive. The last annual convention placed an extra amount of labor upon the Board of Trustees. The proceedings of the Convention were ordered edited and published under the supervision of the President, who was also directed to bring the history of the National Association down to date, and publish the same in pamphlet form. In connection with these, the reissue of certain tracts was also ordered in large numbers for free distribution. I edited and revised the Convention proceedings, and brought the N. S. A. history down to the time of the Convention of 1896. They were both published early in January of this year, and placed on sale. The Convention proceedings made a very readable and instructive work of 206 pages, while the history made a tasty pamphlet of 40 pages. It is surprising to note and sad to relate the fact that these works have had little or no sales. I pushed the report of the Convention wherever I went, but less than twenty dollars came to me for books. I had no success whatever in selling the history. Despite these discouraging features, I am so deeply impressed with the great importance of giving to the world the work of our annual Conventions in readable form, also with the idea of keeping a correct history of Spiritualism, that I can most earnestly recommend your honorable body to direct the publication of the proceedings of the present Con-

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vention in the same general style of former years. I also recommend that the N. S. A. history be brought down to November 1, plates made of the same, and held for several years until the present stock of histories is exhausted. Each year's history should be thus written, and held in plated form for future use.

I am firmly convinced that an active interest in the N. S. A. literature on the part of the delegates would result in the sale of 1,000 reports every year, together with five times that number of histories. Each delegate to this Convention can find a sale for twenty copies each in the vicinity of his or her home if the trial is only made. Convention enthusiasm does not sell these books, but home enthusiasm will. Our Conventions are educational in the highest degree, hence it is very essential that our people should have a copy of the proceedings of every Convention held. The cost of each volume is but a trifle, 25 cents each, a sum which every Spiritualist above ten years of age can afford. Yet I am constrained to urge the publication of these annual reports even at a financial loss, so important do I consider the preservation of the records of our Conventions to be. Therefore, I again recommend that our policy of former years be continued.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees held at the close of the last Convention, I was granted a month's vacation in order that I might enjoy a much-needed rest, and prepare myself for my winter's work. But a vacation without work was impossible. I was called to various places and tried to meet the wishes of the people. I had no rest during this period, for I spoke twenty-one times in thirty days and turned fifty dollars in money into the N. S. A. treasury as the result of my work. I received nothing for expenses during this vacation period, the fifty dollars being the entire receipts from the twenty-one addresses mentioned.

I visited societies in New York, Canada, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Maine during that vacation, at a cost of a trifle over $95 to myself.

Upon my return to headquarters, I found sufficient work on hand to keep Secretary Woodbury and a stenographer, as well as myself, very busy for many weeks. Correspondence of importance had to be attended to; letters were sent regularly to the Spiritual papers, and occasionally to a secular paper, all bearing upon the progress and aims of the N. S. A. Feeling the necessity of keeping the treasury well supplied with funds, our stenographer and myself sent out 110 handwritten letters to personal friends of your President, soliciting a holiday offering to Spiritualism through a donation to

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the N. S. A. Replies to these appeals brought in over $200 in money, besides awakening a personal interest in the work of the N. S. A. The results justified the expenditure of time and labor required in the writing of those letters. During December I spoke on sundry occasions from the Washington platform, and made one trip to Norwich, Conn., for one Sunday's work. This returned $10 to the national body in the form of a special collection.

The last annual convention directed the Board of Trustees to complete the files of the several Spiritualist journals, and have the same properly bound. This was done in part. A few of the missing numbers of the *Light of Truth*, *The Progressive Thinker* and *Banner of Light* for the past few years were obtained, but the files were not completely filled. The interest taken in the completion of these files should be general. Our Spiritualist papers contain the only authentic history of our movement, therefore it is very important that the N. S. A. should have a file of every paper ever published in America in the interests of Spiritualism. There are files of the early Spiritualist journals that can be obtained, if proper effort is made by the officers of this Association. The complete files of the *Spiritual Telegraph*, and its predecessors, contemporaries and immediate successors would be invaluable to us now. If we wish the future historian to write the story of the progress of Spiritualism aright, we must make it possible for him to do so. I again recommend that positive instructions be given to the incoming Board to complete the files of all of our journals of the past and present time, for the good of the cause. The sum of $150 was appropriated for this work last year. I am not aware that one dollar of it has as yet been used; if not, I urge that this amount be made available for the same purpose this year. By continuous and judicious advertising, these files can be completed during the coming twelve months.

During the greater portion of the month of January I was at work at headquarters in Washington, as outlined above. The January meeting of the Board of Trustees directed me to take the field as a missionary. On the 29th of the month I began my labors in Hartford, Conn. For the next sixty days I was constantly at work. I traveled rapidly from point to point, visiting Massachusetts, New York, Michigan, Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio, Tennessee, Louisiana and Georgia; I spoke seventy-six times in fifty-three days, and traveled more than 6,000 miles. Financially, this work resulted in a total failure. After expending all of my energy, time and strength, I found a deficit of $177.11 on my hands. Of this sum the

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N. S. A. has made up $75. I did not spare myself in the least on this trip. I tried by every means known to me to create an interest in the N. S. A. I threw my soul into the work, and visited the richest and best sections of this nation, but it availed nothing financially. The hard times had much to do with this result. If people had nothing to give, nothing could reasonably be expected from them. Wherever I went, I was well treated both by the Spiritualists and the outside world. I have no complaint to make nor reflections to cast upon any one for the financial failure of my work. I did my best and that best failed to avail anything. I could not receive what the people failed to give, nor ask them to deny themselves the comforts of life to assist the N. S. A.

MASS-MEETINGS.

It was voted at the last annual convention to hold one or two grand mass-meetings each month, for the next six or eight months. The first of this series was held in Baltimore, January 7, under the immediate supervision of Trustee Fickey. The Vice President, Secretary, Trustees Moulton and Fuller, and your President took part in this meeting. Treasurer Clendaniel and Trustee Fickey were also in attendance. This mass-meeting was a grand success and netted a small sum to the treasury of the National Association. The chief victory, however, was the standing it gave to Spiritualism in Baltimore. The press gave a fair and impartial report of the proceedings of the meeting. It also published liberal extracts from the addresses given, thereby placing the best thought of Spiritualism before the people.

The next grand mass convention was held in Boston, Mass., on February 2. Three sessions were held during the day, attended by large and very enthusiastic audiences. The best talent in New England, including Trustee Fuller, State Agents Hatch and Mrs. C. F. Loring, Mr. Moses Hull, and your President, took part in the exercises. The Boston secular press gave an excellent report of this meeting, and commented favorably upon its expression of thought. The N. S. A. gained much by the advertising it received in this way. Nearly $50 net were returned to the N. S. A. treasury. This meeting was planned by State Agent J. B Hatch, Jr., and was most successfully carried out.

The next grand mass-meeting was held in Brooklyn, N. Y., February 3 and 4. It, too, was very successful in every respect. Hon. A. H. Dailey and Mrs. Elizabeth F. Kurth labored earnestly to make this meeting a signal triumph in Brooklyn. Large audiences were in attendance on both days,

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and enthusiasm ran high. Secretary Woodbury, of the N.S.A., State Agents Mrs. E. F. Kurth and Frank Walker, Mrs. Tillie U. Reynolds, E. W. Sprague, N. S. A. missionaries, your President and other talent of equal rank and merit, worked loyally together to make the Brooklyn meeting a grand success. Nearly or quite $800 in pledges, donations and collections were secured at this meeting. This sum was turned over to Mr. Frank Walker, State Agent of the N. S. A. for the State of New York, for the purpose of organizing a State Association of Spiritualists. This meeting was productive of much good in Brooklyn, as well as in the city of New York. The secular press gave extended reports of the meetings, and brought Spiritualism into prominence through an attempt to caricature some of the most eminent workers on the floor. A suit for libel was promptly threatened by Judge Dailey, but the outcome of the same is at present unknown to me. This was one of two instances in which Spiritualist speakers and mediums were abused by the press. Two of the most distinguished alienists of the New York bar, Judge Bell and Judge Albert Bach, spoke at this meeting and were warmly welcomed by the Spiritualists in attendance. Excellent work was done at this convention by all of the N. S. A. officials present, and Mrs. H. L. Russyne, J. W. Kenyon, Miss Lizzie Harlow, Mrs May S. Pepper and all of the local speakers and mediums of Brooklyn.

I next attended the grand mass convention of the Michigan State Association of Spiritualists at Lansing, February 5, 6 and 7. This meeting was under the auspices of the Michigan State Association, but the N. S. A. had three representatives there in the persons of its President, Vice President and First Trustee, Hon. L. V. Moulton. This three days' convention was very largely attended and left a marked impression for good upon the city of Lansing.

On the 9th of February an all-day's mass-meeting was held in Owosso, Mich. This society has been a stanch supporter of the N. S. A. ever since its organization and opened its hall gladly to this mass-meeting. Large audiences were in attendance at every session, and the sum of $20 was realized from the collections taken. Miss Laura Matlock, Mrs. Eva P. Hopkins, D. D. Strickland, E. H. Cherry and Mrs. E. M. Farnsworth worked with a will for the success of this meeting. I gave three set addresses on this occasion.

February 10 found me in Union City, Mich., where a very large audience greeted me in the evening. February 11 and 12 I labored in South Bend, Ind., where I organized a society with nearly forty members. It is now a member of the

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N. S. A. February 13 and 14 found me in Fort Wayne, Ind. These meetings were in the nature of a revival, and large audiences were in attendance at every session. I was ably assisted by Brother George F. Perkins and Dr. H. V. Sweringen at this point. February 15, 16 and 17 I lectured in Bluffton and Muncie, Ind. From this latter point I went to Minneapolis, Minn., to attend another grand mass-meeting under N. S. A. auspices. Our arisen brother, Dr. S. N. Aspinwall, presided during the three days of February 19, 20 and 21, and endeavored to interest the people in his usual kindly way. I gave nine addresses during these three days. Every one of the nine sessions was largely attended and hundreds were turned away from the evening meetings unable to find standing room. Hon. J O. Barrett, Hon. A. C. Dunn, Mrs. Emily Lepper, Mrs. Elise Braun and Mrs. Bessie Aspinwall assisted in this work. The financial returns were large, but they were made over to the Northwestern Association of Spiritualists. My expenses were borne in full by that Association, hence the N. S. A. lost nothing from this meeting. It cost me no little energy and strength, but no more. The Northwestern Association was in need of funds and felt that the N. S. A. should reciprocate for favors received. The Minneapolis papers gave excellent reports of the meetings, and placed Spiritualism as a religion in its true position before the people.

I returned to Indiana, and in six days put in fifteen lectures, but the financial returns did not meet actual expenses. I tried the experiment in one place of taking an excellent test medium with me to assist in the work. We had large audiences but the receipts from the three sessions were only $8 05, whereas the expenses amounted to $19.55. This experiment was not immediately repeated. February 28 I labored in Nashville, Tenn., where the attendance was large. The object of this visit was to make arrangements with the authorities of the Tennessee Centennial Exposition to hold a grand mass convention upon the Centennial grounds in the autumn. As this conference was the result of an invitation from the Centennial Commissioners, a date was quickly secured, and preliminary arrangements made for a four days' meeting in September. Of this meeting I will speak later.

From this point I went to New Orleans, La., where a three days' mass convention had been planned. This meeting was a success from the first. Our New Orleans auxiliary gave the N S. A. the use of its hall and did everything in the power of its members to make the convention beneficial to the cause. Prof. Silas W. Edmunds, Mrs. Loe F. Prior, Mrs.

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Dr. Hilligoss, Dr. J. N. and Mrs. Ella G. Magoon lent their assistance to the good work. The attendance increased from day to day, and on Sunday, March 7, the largest hall in the city had to be secured for our exercises. Rev. Joseph Vital, pastor of the Italian Methodist Church, and Col. David Zable, State President of the A. P. A., took part in our Sunday meeting. Crowds were in attendance and all of our speakers and mediums were at their best. The secular press gave extended reports of all sessions and sent reporters for special interviews with me as soon as I reached the city. These reports and interviews would give the average Spiritualist the impression that he was reading one of his own journals.

I next went to Atlanta, Ga., where a two days' mass convention had been planned for March 13 and 14. This meeting was a signal success in the matter of attendance, but the financial returns were small. Rowland E. Webster, Mrs. Loe F. Prior, Mrs. E. R. Williams and Mr. A. C. Bryan put forth great efforts to have this meeting redound to the good of Spiritualism, and their labors were not in vain. The Unitarian minister took part in the exercises, and gave the visitors and resident Spiritualists the right hand of fellowship. The press of the city gave excellent reports of the meetings, and commented favorably upon the personnel of the convention. The city of Atlanta was certainly religiously awakened by this convention, whose influence will be more and more apparent as time passes on.

The next two mass meetings were held in Columbus and Canton, Ohio, for the purpose of awakening an interest in the organization of a State Association. Hon. L. V. Moulton, Willard J. Hull and Miss Maggie Gaule assisted in the work at these places. The meetings were planned by Charles W. Taylor, State Organizer for the N. S. A. for Ohio, and were very successful. At Canton it was stated that more than 1,200 people were turned from the hall for the want of standing-room. These meetings were honestly reported by the press, and the cause of organization given a great impetus through them. They were the forerunners of the great State Convention in May.

Another mass convention had been planned for March 19, 20 and 21 in Buffalo, N. Y. This meeting was in charge of State Agent Frank Walker, and was one of the most important of the entire series. Vice President Mrs. Cora L. V. Richmond, Hon. L. V. Moulton, Lyman C. Howe, Mrs. A. E. Sheets, J. H. Altemus, E. W. Sprague, John Eggleston, George W. and Zaida B. Kates, and your President, were in attendance. The audiences filled the Spiritualist church to overflowing, and

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went away delighted with what they saw and heard. The press was not at all fair in its reports. Caricatures and unkind remarks were freely indulged in, and ridicule resorted to in order to cast aspersions upon the Spiritualists. But our workers were equal to the occasion, and arose superior to every attack. The dignity and high moral tone of the speakers left an impression upon the people of Buffalo that can never be eradicated. This convention was a great financial success. Under the inspiration of State Agent Walker and others the sum of $400 was pledged for or paid into the treasury of the N. S. A. and $450 for the benefit of the local society in Buffalo. These pledges are all good, and may safely be considered collateral security to-day.

The next mass-meeting was held in Providence, R. I., April 21, under the management of State Agent Mrs. Ida P. A. Whitlock. Three sessions were held during the day, and were participated in by many talented speakers from different sections of New England. The N. S. A. was represented by Dr. George A. Fuller, Mrs. Whitlock and myself. Great credit is due the local workers in Rhode Island for the aid rendered on this occasion. A goodly sum was realized for the N. S. A. treasury after all expenses had been paid. Col. B. F. Prouty, Mrs. May S. Pepper and Mrs. Sarah Humes must not be forgotten for their share in this work. This meeting raised the question of a State Association, and the good friends in Rhode Island did not rest until a strong Association had been organized.

The last mass-meeting was held in Nashville, Tenn., September 23 to 26, inclusive. I was unable to be present, but the N. S. A. was well represented there. Our honored Vice President, Mrs. Richmond; our Secretary, Mr. Woodbury, and Trustee Hon. L. V. Moulton were the direct representatives of our National body, while Mrs. Loe F. Prior and Col. C. H. Stockell, as Missionary and State Agent of the N. S. A., were our local representatives. It is impossible to give a full account of this meeting. No doubt the officials named will give a full report of its proceedings. The Associated and United Press Associations both gave extended as well as flattering notices of the meeting. The financial returns resulted in $50 cash to our treasury. Too much praise cannot be given to the officials who planned and executed the work of this convention.

This completes the list of mass-meetings held during the past year. The results are more than encouraging, and prove to me that such meetings are a necessity. That they can be made a generous source of revenue is proved by the returns

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from the Brooklyn, Buffalo and Boston meetings. If the right persons attend them as N. S. A. representatives, there is no reason why each meeting should not net the N. S. A. several hundred dollars each. But there is something more than money to be considered; it is the influence that such splendid gatherings exert over the communities where they are held that concerns this body most. It is true that we need money, but we need the attention of the people to a far greater degree. I, therefore, recommend that two grand mass-meetings be held each month by the N. S. A. from December 1 until June 1 next, in the large cities of the land. I further urge that a good financier be especially designated to attend these meetings in the interest of the N. S. A. to solicit funds for its treasury and exercise a general supervision over the same.

GROVE-MEETINGS.

It was voted by the last convention to instruct the Trustees to institute a series of N. S. A. grove mass-meetings, to be held during the summer months. This was not deemed practicable, and your Trustees took no action whatever in the matter. I believe that such meetings would be a good thing for this Association. There are places where the people would flock by thousands on such occasions, if an opportunity were offered them. I, therefore, recommend that the Secretary be instructed to arrange for ten grove-meetings during the months of May, June, July, August and September of next year, in such places as may be chosen by the Board.

STATE ASSOCIATIONS.

Last year I urged the formation of strong State Associations of Spiritualists in every State in the Union. The Convention adopted my recommendation, and it has been my earnest endeavor to carry it into effect.

New York was the first to respond, about the middle of April. It swung into line with a strong corps of officers, and has already demonstrated its usefulness to the Spiritualists of that State. Texas was the next State to respond, and has done good service in the six months of organic effort. Ohio followed closely in her wake, and flung out the glorious banner of organization with every promise of success. Maine fell into line September 18, and was followed by Rhode Island on the 6th of October.

The organization of these five States was accomplished through the earnest devotion and sacrifice made by special representatives in the cause of organized effort commissioned

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by the National Association for this work. Frank Walker, in the State of New York, was assisted by Dr. E. F. Butterfield, H. W. Richardson, Mrs. Matteson and others. The organization in Texas owes its existence to the efforts of Missionary Allen F. Brown and State Agent Charles W. Newnam. They had an able corps of local workers in the various portions of the State. Ohio was organized through the efforts of State Agent Charles W. Taylor, who sacrificed several weeks of valuable time and about one thousand dollars out of his own pocket to do the work. For a young man, twenty-five years of age, this certainly proves his devotion to the cause of Spiritualism. The State of Maine fell into line largely through the efforts of Mrs. Viola A. B. Rand, Special Organizer for the N. S. A. She was aided in her work by Mrs. M. J. Wentworth, Mrs. Cynthia H. Clark, A. W. Stewart, G. P. Herrick, A. C. Smith and others. The good work in Rhode Island is due to the efforts of Mrs. Ida P. A. Whitlock, State Agent of the N. S. A., Mr. Edward Bamford, S. K. Doe, Mrs. M. S. Pepper, Mrs. Sarah Humes and Col. B. F. Prouty.

This makes a total of five State Associations organized under the auspices of the N. S. A. during the past year. I attended four of these State Conventions in person, and presided over their deliberations to the best of my ability. I believe this work of organizing State Associations should be continued, for legislation should be looked after by State Associations. Ultimately State organizations should be the basic units of the N. S. A. I recommend that this work of organizing State Associations be pushed vigorously by our Trustees during the coming year.

CAMP-MEETING WORK.

Pursuant to instructions from the last Annual Convention, special days were sought at every Spiritualist camp in the United States. Our request was at once granted, and N. S. A. days were given a special place on the respective programs. I was booked for twelve or more camps myself, and was to commence my work about the middle of June. Unfortunately my health failed me about the middle of May, and for almost four months I was in a serious physical and mental condition. I was forced to cancel all my camp dates save four, viz: Queen City Park, Vt., Harwich, Onset and Lake Pleasant, Mass. Each of the four did well by the N. S. A. My work at Queen City Park interested the people despite the fact that my visit covered the opening week. The rain fell in torrents, but fair-sized audiences greeted me, and my visit netted the N. S. A. nearly or quite twenty-five dollars in

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money for the Babe will and general fund. Dr. E. A. Smith, Mrs. J. E Thompson, Lucius Colburn and Dr. S. N. Gould did all in their power to make my stay a pleasant one.

Harwich, Mass., was my next camp. Here I was booked for one lecture only, but I gave two brief addresses in addition, and feel that a new interest was created in the N. S. A. through my work. My visit was made most enjoyable through the kindness of Mr. M. S. Ayer and wife, and Rev. S. L. Beal, the genial president. The financial returns were not large, but sufficient to cover all expenses. I have paved the way for greater returns from the work that can be done there next year.

I next visited Onset, where I was booked for four addresses. Despite the inclement weather, large audiences greeted me at every lecture. N. S. A. day was very stormy, yet over two hundred people braved the elements to take part in the exercises of the day. I was ably assisted by Dr. George A. Fuller, Francis B. Woodbury, Frank Walker, W. F. Peck, Ida P. A. Whitlock, Mrs. Rachel Walcott and Dr. T. A. Bland. With their aid I collected $285 in cash, and received pledges to the amount of over $200 to be paid within a few weeks or months. One lady, Mrs. T. H. Bussey, of Wardner, Idaho, gave a lot at Queen City Park, valued at probably one hundred dollars. This testifies to Onset's loyalty to the N. S. A., and her devotion to the cause of organization.

Lake Pleasant camp was my last point. Here I did but little work. Able addresses were made by Francis B. Woodbury, Hon. A. H. Dailey, Mrs. J. D. Storrs, Edgar W. Emerson, Mrs. Hattie C. Mason, Prof. Wm. M. Lockwood, Mrs. Tillie U. Reynolds, Dr. Dean Clarke, J. B. Hatch, Jr., and Mrs. May S. Pepper. Under a stirring appeal for funds, about forty dollars were collected for the N. S. A. Good work was done for the cause of organization, and the N. S. A. materially strengthened by the special exercises of this day.

No doubt returns in equal ratio will be made by those who represented the N. S. A. at other camps. Secretary Woodbury filled my dates at Lookout Mountain, Tenn., and Niantic, Conn. Mrs. Richmond went to the Peoria, Ill., camp, and in connection with Mrs. Loe F. Prior, represented the N. S. A. most ably at the Northwestern Camp. Prof. Wm. M. Lockwood took my place at Haslett Park, while at the other camps the State agents and missionaries of the N. S. A. did what they could for it, or it went unrepresented.

It is evident to my mind that these special days at the several camps are sources of great strength to the National body.

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The work done at Onset is an illustration of this fact, and points clearly to what can be done at all camps, provided the claims of the N. S. A. are properly presented to the people. It is impossible for the President or any one missionary to visit all of the camps. No one person can possibly reach more than fifteen of them in one season. This will require an extraordinary amount of labor, such as the average speaker or medium is unwilling to put forth. If able missionaries and special financial agents should be selected, the camp work divided among them, and two sent out together, I feel that a net sum of several thousand dollars could be collected during the camp season. Too much stress cannot be laid upon this matter, and I earnestly recommend that the Board of Trustees be instructed to take action. No less than eight persons should be specially commissioned for this very important work.

MISSIONARY WORK.

Of my own missionary labors I have already spoken at length. My work has not been so extensive as in former years, because of circumstances to which your attention will be called later. What I said last year on this point recurs to me now with double emphasis. It is impossible for one missionary to do all the work required for the rapidly growing body of Spiritualists in this country. I feel that the United States and Canada should be divided into sections, and District Missionaries commissioned to visit all societies within said territory, and to organize new societies wherever practicable. This is the policy of other denominations, and their great success is ample proof of its utility. It might be well to have a national organizer in the field, as the special representative of the N. S. A., but his work should be supervisory, and not in the nature of a solicitor of funds, as my own has been during the past four years. I recommend that the Trustees be instructed to divide the territory as above stated, and the President directed to nominate suitable missionaries to take charge of the work.

LOCAL SOCIETIES.

I have nothing new to offer upon this important question. Some new societies have been organized, while a few that were in existence last year have gone down. The same causes obtain to-day that militated against us last year. Phenomena of a questionable character to the exclusion of the genuine, are called for, and their constant presentation weakens the cause everywhere. Local prejudice, jealousy and inharmony

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yet prevail in far too many instances, and it behooves this honorable body to take some action looking to the removal of these evils. One method by which it can be best compassed is the settlement of speakers for a term of months or years. It is one of the most needed reforms in Spiritualism to-day.

ORDINATION.

This subject has been less troublesome than in former years. Only a few cases of the ordaining fever have appeared, and many of those upon whom the rite was conferred have been worthy and well qualified for their work. The general uprising against the criminal practices of former years has had a most beneficial effect. It is still a source of danger to Spiritualism, and will continue to be so until it is suppressed forever. I recommend that this Association shall enter its protest against any and all forms of ordination for any priest or clergyman, and that steps be at once taken to secure the passage of laws forbidding any clergyman to travel upon half rates on the railroads, or to perform a marriage service, or to exercise any special prerogative by virtue of his ministerial office. This is the only logical position that can be taken by Spiritualists, and I feel that it will be the entering wedge that shall prove the efficient weapon by which we can secure the total separation of Church and State.

NATIONAL TEMPLE.

Some recommendations were made concerning this important matter at the last Annual Convention. Two gentlemen, Brothers T. J. Mayer and B. B. Hill, offered to give ten thousand dollars each to a temple fund, provided eighty thousand dollars were raised for the same purpose on or before January 1, 1898. This matter was attended to by your Trustees as per the vote of the Convention, by the appointment of a Temple Committee, of which Bro. J. V. McIntyre, of Washington, D. C., was chairman. With the work of this committee I am not familiar, as I have been out of the city almost constantly since January 29, of this year. I feel that a National Temple is absolutely necessary, and I recommend that it be given careful consideration by the Convention. I wrote several philanthropic persons in regard to the project, but secured no pledges, owing to the hard times from which our nation has been suffering for more than five years. All expressed sympathy with the work, and some of them intimated that they might be induced to do something later.

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SCHOOLS.

A little progress has been made in this direction during the year. The Spiritualist Training School for speakers, mediums and writers has been incorporated under the laws of Ohio, and is now in active operation. The school at Belvidere, N. J., is also in session, and is doing good work. The N. S. A. should give both of these institutions its moral support, and assume the leadership in all educational movements at the earliest possible moment. I recommend that strong resolutions expressing our hearty and unqualified approval of the schools now in existence, be adopted by this Convention.

LYCEUMS.

I can say nothing further than was expressed in my last annual report upon this most vital question. Several new lyceums have been organized, and a more general interest is apparent everywhere in this subject. After three years of agitation, our people are now awakened to the necessity of having well equipped lyceums as adjuncts to every Spiritualist society in America. I am pleased to report progress and feel assured that much can be expected of this branch of our work in the future. There is yet far too little interest in our lyceums manifested by the majority of our Spiritualists. This Convention can quicken them into new life, if proper measures be taken by it. I have recommended each year the appointment of a National Lyceum Superintendent, and can only repeat the same at this point. If some devoted worker could be given this important post, we should find one hundred or more lyceums in this country next year, whereas we now have about half of that number. I recommend that this subject be referred to a special committee to devise plans for the improvement of lyceum work, and that the same be considered at length at this Convention.

THE FRAUD QUESTION.

I spoke to you at length last year upon the topic of mediums and mediumship. It is one of the gravest problems before us to-day. True mediums are in greater danger at this hour than they have ever been in the history of our cause. The opponents of Spiritualism are now organizing to crush them, while the frauds and counterfeiters in our own ranks are seeking to destroy them through the plying of their nefarious trade. True mediumship is the chief cornerstone of the great spiritual temple, and it must be defended loyally by every Spiritualist. In order to do this, the line of demarkation

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must be drawn between genuine and spurious phenomena. As Spiritualists we certainly owe it to the world to place only the genuine spiritual coin in circulation, and we can make conditions whereby only such can appear if we will.

The over-credulous ones in our ranks need education, and radical treatment for their disease. Strangulated mental hernia ensued soon after the breach was made in their craniums to admit spiritual light. They ceased to think then and there, and have swallowed the wildest stories of the marvelous without even one grain of salt to season the messes of pottage they choose to call food. It is well to reflect seriously upon this question, that no hasty action may be taken in the matter. It is urged by some that it is not wise to undeceive the deluded ones, who are swallowing the husks of deception and fraud under the impression that they are partaking of wholesome food. If it is right to do wrong, then this argument will hold good, otherwise not. I believe some action can be taken by this body of delegates that will prove the salvation of this class of people. A campaign of education can be begun, and brief tracts setting forth the dangers of bogus mediumship, and the methods by which such can be obviated, should be freely circulated. Our lecturers and mediums should have the facts placed before them in their true light, for when they are forewarned, they are forearmed against every form of evil.

I need not repeat the story of last year in detail. I only wish to say that the places referred to, where the paraphernalia of the materializing seance is manufactured to order, still exist, that the vendor of mediumship at so much per head is "developing" candidates to prey upon the unsuspecting and suffering among our fellow men, that blue test books are in constant use among the counterfeit mediums and frauds; against all of which I here and now enter my emphatic and everlasting protest. I need not particularize at this time, for the story is too well known to you all to be repeated by me. There is work to be done to cleanse the Augean stables, and the call is now for all true Spiritualists to rally as one man to the work of reform. *Let us make fraud and criminality odious, so odious that they will be driven from our ranks forever.* Our genuine mediums are in need of our loyal support, our deepest sympathy and our sincerest affection. The counterfeiters are the deadliest enemies with which our mediums are forced to contend. There should be some rule established by which the line of demarkation between the two classes can be drawn. I urge this matter upon the Convention; I repeat we must do something for honest mediumship. Better

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conditions for its development should be established, and this honorable body of delegates should suggest the methods by which that result can be obtained. The names of the counterfeiters, fakirs and frauds should be published to the world. Of course the question as to who shall decide between the spurious and the genuine is a delicate one. No man can claim omniscience in this matter; nor has any one the right to dictate to another what he shall say or do. The N. S. A. recognizes no pope, no dictator, no ecclesiastical synod as absolute authority. But it does stand for right and truth, hence should place people on their guard when wrongs and outrages have been perpetrated in the sacred name of mediumship.

I can but recommend the continuance of the black list, and urge that a copy of the same be sent to every Spiritualist society in the United States and Canada. I would even go so far as to recommend its publication in the Spiritualist papers from time to time, as well as the issuance of notices in the form of circulars, to be posted in the hall of every society in the land. I also recommend that a series of photographs of each of these criminals be kept on hand at headquarters, and sent to all seeking information in regard to the guilty pretenders. The investigating public is looking to this Association for protection from the villainy of the unscrupulous, counterfeit mediums who are preying upon the soul agonies of their fellowmen. Let us speak with no uncertain sound upon this question. It should be discussed at length, and resolutions that mean something adopted and put into practice by this honorable body.

THE NATIONAL ANTI-SPIRITUALISTIC ASSOCIATION.

At this point the new Anti-Spiritualistic Association naturally comes into view. Brother Moses Hull attended the recent national convention at Anderson, Ind., where this association was organized, and reported its proceedings at length in the columns of the Spiritualist press. Of course, every person present to-day has read his report, therefore I need not do more than to call your attention to it officially in the briefest manner possible. This Anti-Spiritualistic body has been organized for the express purpose of crushing mediumship and through it Spiritualism itself. It had the avowed support of 2,000 clergymen, 2,600 secular and 200 religious newspapers to assist it at the outset. It has a zealous, bigoted and unscrupulous class of clergymen and Christians behind it. Paradoxical as it may appear, I believe we as Spiritualists have given cause for the organization of

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this society. It is an actual product of our own wanton neglect to do a needed reform work ourselves. We have not discriminated between the true and false in mediumship. By tacitly sanctioning everything that has appeared under the name of mediumship, we opened wide the door to the Spiritualistic household, and the fraud and the pretender came in unrebuked. Our people, ever hungry for a word from beyond the veil, grasped eagerly at the seeming phenomena and made the pretenders welcome. They were honest, but in seeking spiritual substance they found the shadow only and have hugged the delusion closely to their hearts for many years. They bid high for the counterfeit and have paid for it in tears and suffering beyond the power of words to tell.

Out of this condition, and because of it, has grown the Anti-Spiritualistic Association. The enemies of Spiritualism, always ready and willing to strike a blow, have discovered some of the works of the counterfeiters. It has given them their longed-for opportunity. They have hastened to embrace it, and the result is before us. Noting our criminal indifference to the existence of fraud and the ease with which we have explained it away, they have hit upon the plan of classing frauds, fakirs, charlatans and mediums together, and under the specious plea of *pro bono publico*, are seeking to destroy all mediums without regard to their moral, spiritual or intellectual standing. This is the result of our own folly in clinging to the fetich of individualism instead of rallying to the cause of co-operative effort many years ago. Our love of the marvelous has been stimulated until the wonder-bumps upon our heads can only be reduced by a vigorous rubbing with the oil of common sense. This remedy can be easily manufactured through a more thorough organization of our forces upon legitimate business lines.

This Anti-Spiritualistic organization raises an issue never before presented in a Spiritualist convention. I am almost glad that it has sprung into existence. It will force us to do a work that we have been too lazy or too cowardly to do heretofore. It should unify our ranks and induce us to become more harmonious in our associations together. It should cause us to do a legitimate house-cleaning on our own hook and thereby make it impossible for our opponents to attack us indiscriminately. I earnestly recommend this question be discussed at length by this Convention, and trust that the united wisdom of the delegates present will be such as to give us a sure and speedy solution of it. Our opponents mean business. They have wealth and influence at their command.

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If we continue to apologize for fraud and crime, if we fail to defend honest mediums, our cause is in danger, and true mediumship imperiled. Let us act promptly, but let us temper all our actions with wisdom. I further recommend the re-establishment of the home circle and urge that this Convention take steps to that end. I also recommend that we take a deeper interest in our honest mediums, and trust that this Convention will, in its wisdom, devise ways by which they can be placed above want and removed from the temptation to defraud through a permanent income.

SPEAKERS AND MEDIUMS.

I make a special paragraph under this heading, because of the importance of maintaining a high standard of excellence for all of our platform workers. The present itinerant system is inimical to the progress and social influence of Spiritualism. The vital energy of our workers is expended upon the railroads while the finances of our local societies are depleted by the enforced payment of the enormous expenses of travel. This waste is reprehensible, because it can be easily remedied, if right measures are adopted. There is work enough for every speaker and medium now before the public, if he is but given a chance to do it. The present system of changing speakers every Sunday, if not twice in one day, is the cause of the present weak state of many of our local societies. Of course the employment of questionable talent is also a crying evil, but the latter will disappear when the former condition is remedied.

The remedy consists in long engagements for our workers everywhere. No one can do his best work or exert any lasting influence upon any society through one address. He must know the people he ministers unto and can only know them as they are by dwelling among them and mingling with them every day. Spiritualism loses more than half of its influence through the itinerant system. Our speakers can have no voice in school matters under the present condition, hence in far too many instances, sectarian songs and text books are in daily use against the expressed provisions of the Constitution of the United States. It is the same with all local reform work. We lose our entire influence through the non-settlement of our speakers and mediums. I recommend that this Convention urge it upon our people to employ their platform talent for long engagements and instruct the incoming Board of Trustees to do all in its power to accomplish this desired result.

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THE JUBILEE.

Pursuant to the instructions of the last Convention, the officers of the N. S. A. set to work to see if a jubilee celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the advent of Modern Spiritualism was really wanted by the Spiritualists of this nation. The responses were such as to warrant the appointment of a general manager, outside of our Board of Trustees, to take sole charge of this great work. After due consideration, I nominated Mr. Frank Walker, of Hamburg, N. Y., for this important post. He was unanimously confirmed, and instructions were given him to raise all necessary funds for this gigantic undertaking without drawing on the treasury of the N. S. A. At the close of our first quarter, he reported pledges to the amount of several thousand dollars from the citizens of Rochester, N. Y., where it was deemed best to hold the celebration. As Rochester is so closely connected with the early history of our movement, no one will question the fitness of the selection nor wonder that it was the unanimous choice of our Board. I cannot speak of the work of the jubilee in detail. Mr. Walker has been eminently successful in raising funds for the great celebration and has established special departments under the management of the most competent workers in our ranks. Representative Spiritualists from abroad will be present and take part in the convention. Other eminent scholars and statesmen from foreign lands will send papers to be read to the assembled thousands at Rochester. I recommend that the jubilee be thoroughly discussed by this Convention and that each delegate be appointed a committee of one to work up a local interest in it upon his return home. It is a great enterprise, and General Manager Walker is entitled to the hearty support of every Spiritualist on the globe in his endeavors to make it a grand success.

HALF RATES.

The last convention directed the Board of Trustees to take action against the B. & O. Railroad for refusing clergy rates to Mrs. Rachel Walcott, pastor of the First Spiritualist Church of Baltimore, Md. I went to the proper authorities in regard to the matter and found that we had a clear case against the B. & O. Railroad for unjust discrimination against Mrs. Walcott, on the ground of being a Spiritualist. I was called away from Washington soon after learning the above facts, and have been unable to attend to the matter any further. I recommend that the question be again referred to the Board of Trustees with directions to act promptly in regard to the same.

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SEYBERT WILL.

The matter of the Seybert will was considered by the Board according to directions, but no action was taken, as it involved the expenditure of a large sum of money upon an uncertainty. That the provisions of the will have been violated there is no question; but there is apparently no redress for the Spiritualists, because of the lack of funds with which to defend themselves.

THE BABE WILL.

Early in January of the present year, Mrs. Mary A. Babe, of Washington, D. C., entered spirit-life. When her will was read it was found that she had bequeathed five-sixths of her estate of about $12,000 to the N. S. A. This fact caused great rejoicing on the part of Spiritualists of the United States, who saw in this noble act of Mrs. Babe a precedent that would induce others to follow her example. Early in April, distant relatives of Mrs. Babe brought suit to set aside the will on the grounds of undue influence and unsoundness of mind, alleging as a reason for this claim the fact of her being a Spiritualist. The trustee of her estate, Mr. Theodore J. Mayer, secured a stay of proceedings in the trial of the case until the Trustees of the N. S. A. could be given an opportunity to act in the matter. It was found that it would take nearly or quite $1,500 to defend the will successfully. I sought the advice of the Trustees of the N. S. A. and began to appeal to the Spiritualists of the nation for contributions to a special fund for the defense of the will. Since April I have caused weekly appeals to appear in the Spiritualist papers for contributions to this fund. Up to date nearly or quite $500 have been reported. It has been disheartening to note the lukewarmness of the Spiritualists of the country in regard to this matter. The setting aside of this will of Mrs. Babe establishes a dangerous precedent for the Spiritualists of this nation. It should be defended even if we knew we should lose the case, because of the principles involved. Our rights as a people are in jeopardy, and we can protect them by defending this will vigorously. If $700 can be raised by this Convention to-day, a gentleman stands ready to give $300, which will make the total amount $1,500, the sum actually needed to defend the will. Therefore I recommend immediate action upon this matter by this Convention.

THE VETERAN SPIRITUALISTS UNION.

The Veteran Spiritualists Union has accomplished a good work during the past year. It has purchased a home for aged

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and indigent Spiritualists, mediums and speakers, at Waverly, Mass. This purchase involved the expenditure of a large sum of money, but it has placed property to the value of at least $15,000 in the hands of the Union. It is under a heavy mortgage, and cannot be used by our people until the indebtedness is paid. I recommend that all philanthropical work be encouraged by this body, and that the right hand of fellowship be extended to the Veteran Spiritualists Union in the good work it has undertaken at Waverly.

STATE AGENTS AND MISSIONARIES.

The work of the State agents and missionaries has been especially valuable during the past year. Especial mention should be made of the work of Col. C. H. Stockell, Dr. S. N. Aspinwall, Frank Walker, W. H. Myers, J. B. Hatch, Jr., Charles W. Newnam, Walter P. Williams, H. W. Richardson, Rowland E. Webster, M. I. Welch, Dr. O. G. W. Adams, Mrs. Ida P. A. Whitlock, Mrs. J. D. Storrs, and of missionaries Moses Hull, Wm. M. Lockwood, Allen F. Brown, Mrs. Virginie Barrett, Mrs. Loe F. Prior, Mrs. E. R. Williams, Mrs. Tillie U. Reynolds and others. These two departments of the N. S. A. work can be made a source of strength to the National body, if properly organized. I recommend that the incoming Board of Trustees be instructed to confirm no one as State agent or missionary who is not willing to do something for the N. S. A. Many of our former appointees have sought N. S. A. credentials in one or both capacities, solely for gain to themselves. It should be a reciprocal relationship, and the two corps should be appointed with that understanding. I recommend that every missionary appointed be instructed that he or she must promise to do some work for the National body once every three months, and render the returns of the same to the Secretary of the N. S. A. in the form of collections or donations. This rule should also apply to the State agents.

FINANCE.

The financial question is the most important problem that confronts this body. While other denominations can raise thousands and hundreds of thousands of dollars with which to carry on their work, we as Spiritualists find it difficult to raise a few hundred dollars for our work. It is said by many that the majority of our people are poor in purse. This is true of some few, but the majority can be safely said to be in comfortable circumstances. Some worship at the shrine of questionable phenomena and refuse to contribute even one

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dime to the platform speaker or test medium. One illustration of this fact is in point here. A man once said: "I have gotten beyond the scientific, philosophical and religious ideas of Spiritualism; I am now on the highest plane in the movement, that of materialization. It is all there is in it, and I am satisfied with it. I sometimes see one hundred forms at a single seance." *Perhaps* he does; at any rate his money does not go to Spiritualism, but to one or two mediums.

None of our people are so poor as to be unable to give one dollar per year to Spiritualism. The majority of them will do it, if they are approached in the right way. Every Spiritualist can be induced to give up some little luxury or pleasure for the good of the cause, if his duty be properly shown to him. If one-tenth of the devotion to Spiritualism were given to it by Spiritualists that the Catholics give to their religion, every city and town of any size would soon have a strong Spiritualist society, snugly at home in a Temple of its own. A few dimes or a dollar each from every Spiritualist would do this work. Small amounts could be collected in this way in every community by a devoted Spiritualist if he would only try. The Catholics try and succeed; we do not try, yet blame the Catholics because they succeed, and even accuse them of standing in the way of our success.

Several methods of solving the financial problem have occurred to me. The mass-meetings can be made a great source of revenue, if properly managed, as this year's experience has proved. I recommend that good financiers be sent to every mass-meeting, whose sole duty it shall be to solicit funds in the way of collections and donations. The State agents and missionaries, if properly selected, can be of great assistance in this respect, hence too much care cannot be devoted to their appointment. The method that appeals to me most strongly is that of appointing a number of special financial agents, under bonds if need be, to visit from house to house with families of Spiritualists, soliciting contributions to the N. S. A. From some communities, where no local society exists, hundreds of dollars can be collected for the National body. People can be induced to give their mites in this way, whereas otherwise they would never think of giving one penny to the N. S. A.

These special agents should be supplied with receipt books from the N. S. A., and should be paid a commission on their collections. If receipt books were supplied them, the stubs would show the amount received, and the receipt itself would be a guarantee to the donor that his confidence was not misplaced. I have seen this method tried by other denomi-

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nations, and always with success. We have thet alent to do this work, and the majority of our people can spare a few dimes and dollars as well as other people. I strongly recommend this plan to the Convention. I believe in it thoroughly, and if the right agents or solicitors are appointed, in less than two years' time the N. S. A. will have secured endowments of thousands, whose funded investments will return an ample income to meet all expenses. I also believe that the National Temple will be the immediate outcome of this policy if it is adopted.

From the foregoing plans, from per capita dues, collections, donations, special camp-meeting dates, etc., a revenue sufficiently large to equip a large number of missionaries to be sent into new territory to organize societies, establish lyceums, and carry on an active propagandism throughout the land would be forthcoming. If each delegate here to-day would take an interest in this plan of making collections at home, there is no doubt but what every person present would send an average sum of twenty-five dollars each to the N. S. A. treasury. If the Spiritualists would but realize that one dollar each from one hundred thousand people means an immense income, and the salvation of the cause, I do not believe they would hesitate to give the pittance for the good of the cause so dear to them as Spiritualism. I hope this plan will be adopted. It will obviate the almost frantic appeals that we are forced to make at each Annual Convention to the delegates for funds, and give our entire movement a greater dignity and standing everywhere. I myself collected and turned in over $1,200 during the past year.

REFORM WORK.

It is often said that Spiritualists have never done anything to further the great reform issues of the day; that very few of them are engaged in temperance work, in social reforms, or in procuring needful political reforms. Outwardly this may be true, yet the teachings of Spiritualism are such as to make every true believer in it a natural reformer, a true temperance man, and a humanitarian in every sense of the term. I cannot but feel, however, that the sphere of usefulness for Spiritualism could be greatly enlarged by engaging actively in this line of work. I feel to recommend that greetings be sent to the Congress of Liberal Religions now in session in Nashville, Tenn., assuring it and the world of our active interest in a more liberal, more humane religion for the masses. I also recommend that resolutions advocating temperance in all things, social and political purity, the sanctity of the

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home, the necessity for stirpiculture, and expressing our utter abhorrence of any and all doctrines that favor promiscuity of conduct, in any department of life, as well as placing the seal of condemnation upon the widespread rumor that Spiritualists favor the worst form of free love known to man be adopted. In brief, I favor the adoption of resolutions pledging ourselves as a people to the support of the highest possible morality for all classes.

A SECULAR GOVERNMENT.

The insistent and persistent attempts to put an orthodox God into the Constitution of the United States induce me to call your attention to the necessity of action on our part as a people. I recommend that we declare to the world our firm belief in and support of a secular form of government for the United States, and that we favor the equal and uniform taxation of church property of all kinds. I feel that we should also urge the removal of doctrinal instruction from our public schools and that Government or State appropriations for the support of sectarian schools be prohibited by law. In view of the present widespread distress, the taxation of $3,000,000,000 church property would be a great relief to a suffering people. In this work I urge that we co-operate with the Secularists, Freethinkers, Seventh Day Adventists and others who are battling for freedom in religion in and for America.

A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

I have been urged by many of the leading Spiritualists in America to ask you to consider the question of the adoption of a formal declaration of principles by this Convention. Such an action is a most important one, and its consequences will be far-reaching. In order to secure a proper standing in court, or before the legislatures of the several States, a formal statement of principles is probably necessary. It can be done without uttering one word that could be construed to be in the nature of a creed. For myself, I have always been opposed to creeds, and have as yet found no reason to change my mind. If, however, the adoption of a declaration of principles will be an advantage to our cause, I should not hesitate to approve of such a course. The Unitarians have finally been led to the adoption of a very liberal statement of belief. It might be well for us as a representative body to do the same thing. Legally such action would be advantageous, but as to the effect upon Spiritualism, I know not. I ask you to give this question your thoughtful

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attention, and recommend that resolutions in regard to it be spread upon the records of this meeting.

THE HISTORY OF SPIRITUALISM.

In view of the fact that some of the early workers in Spiritualism are yet with us in the body, I feel constrained to ask you to consider the question of having an accurate history of Modern Spiritualism prepared under the auspices of the National Association. It will not be many years now before the old workers will be on the other side of life. They are with us now enjoying a green old age, and can give us first hand the true story of those early eventful years. That story is too precious to be lost, and we ought to do something to give it in its entirety to the world. Mrs. Emma Hardinge Britten's work is an excellent one in many respects. It is not quite general enough as a whole, nor does it give the history of the past thirty years. It is important that a fair and impartial history of the movement from first to last should be prepared under the supervision of this National body. I believe some one of the old workers can be found to do this work for a moderate sum. Even if the work is not published at present, its existence in manuscript will preserve to us the true record of the greatest of all religious movements the world has ever known. A work of this kind should be comprehensive, covering three or four large octavo volumes. It will take time, some money and no little labor. I am anxious to have the work done, and will contribute my part toward defraying the expenses incumbent upon it. It is the more important now in view of the fact that this is the semi-centennial of Spiritualism, and I urge it upon your considerate attention. I recommend that the Trustees be instructed to take this question up at their first meeting, and proceed to engage some competent person to undertake this most important work. I believe that such an one exists in the person of our esteemed co-worker, the devoted servant of Spiritualism for two-and-forty years, Lyman C. Howe. If we give him the post, we know the work will be well and faithfully done.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

The Trustees have worked earnestly and harmoniously together throughout the year. The fact that the traveling expenses of the non-resident Trustees have been paid by the Association, has been of material value to the efficiency of their work. They have attended the meetings regularly, and been enabled to devote more time and attention to Association work at home than in former years. It has strengthened

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the National body to a great extent, and I take great pleasure in recommending that the same policy be continued the coming year.

The Vice President, Mrs. Cora L. V. Richmond, has attended the N. S. A. mass-meetings in Baltimore, Washington, Lansing, Buffalo and Nashville; she has also attended the State Conventions in New York, Ohio and Texas, besides attending to the needs of the N. S. A. at some half-dozen camp-meetings, charging only expenses for her services. Our Secretary has not only attended to his official duties in Washington, but he has addressed the Baltimore and Brooklyn mass-meetings, three or four camp-meetings and a large number of local societies during the year.

Our Treasurer, George S. Clendaniel, has done faithful service for our cause in more ways than one. His influence has been quietly exerted in behalf of what he felt to be right and just.

Trustee L. V. Moulton has attended every meeting of the Board; has attended seven mass-meetings, and has, at great inconvenience to himself, done extra labor at a number of camp-meetings for this Association.

Trustee George A. Fuller has been present at every Board meeting save one; he has attended five mass-meetings, and given liberally of his time, labor and means to further N. S. A. work among the people.

Trustees Frederick Fickey, Mrs. A. L. Pettengill and Henry Steinberg have faithfully striven to render a good account of their stewardships.

PRESIDENT'S WORK.

It would please me to be able to omit this division of my report *in toto*. My record is one of which I am not ashamed, yet I would that the story could be told by others than myself. I have done my best, however, and submit the record of that work to you for your respectful consideration. I have attended all of the Board meetings with one exception. I was too ill to go to the July meeting of the Board, the condition of my head being such as to render it unsafe for me to travel any distance alone. During the four years I have been your President, I have missed but two meetings of the Board, and missed them solely because of ill-health. I have already alluded to my work from November 1 to January 29 in specific terms. My work from January 29 to March 22 was of the missionary order, and resulted in a great financial loss. I worked in the best territory in the United States for fifty-three days, and delivered seventy-six full lectures in that time. I tried hard, but could not keep up even ordinary expenses.

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During the entire year I have given 183 lectures, and have traveled no less than 25,000 miles in order to do that work. I have attended every mass-meeting that has been held in the interest of the N. S. A. with the solitary exception of the one at Nashville, Tenn., twelve in all. I have also attended and taken active part in seven State Conventions, officiating as chairman at four of them and had the satisfaction of seeing healthy State Associations organized in all four of those States. I have had splendid support in all my work, and the grand results are due to the combined efforts of our loyal workers in these several States. I have accounted for nearly $1,250 to our Secretary, and have given personal receipts for the greater portion of that amount. The expense incident to my missionary work, attendance upon conventions, etc., has been nearly $700. To this must be added what I paid out for hall rent, advertising, stenographer and extra talent at the several mass-meetings.

I have published or caused to be published something of interest to the N. S. A., in some one or all of the Spiritualist papers, nearly every week. My correspondence has been simply voluminous. An avalanche of letters has fallen upon me every week, a portion of which I turned over to Secretary Woodbury, but have attended to much of it myself. An examination of my files will convince you that I have not been idle. From the middle of May until quite recently I have had to contend with ill health. I was forced to give up lecturing from the middle of June until the latter part of July, and after a few trials then I found that my voice would not permit me to use it at all. I managed to fill my engagements at four camps, but have had to desist from public speaking to any extent since August 22.

Early in January of the present year, wholly without solicitation on my part, I was offered the position of editor-in-chief of the *Banner of Light*, in Boston, Mass. I took the matter under advisement for a few weeks, feeling strongly inclined to the idea that I could not accept it. I had made a number of engagements for the season in the name of the N. S. A., and felt that I must fill them. I also felt that I must carry out my contract in full with the N. S. A., tacitly entered into at our last Annual Convention. The management of the *Banner* generously offered to permit me to fill all N. S. A. dates, and to discharge every moral as well as official obligation to this body throughout the year. Still I was not able to decide until I had counseled with those whose souls I knew to be in the work. From many on both sides of life came the advice to undertake the *Banner* work. This I finally decided

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to do, and formally accepted the position about the middle of February.

In making this decision I was influenced by the highest motives and a strong sense of duty. I felt that my going to the *Banner* would relieve the treasury of the N. S. A. of the burden of my salary, which I considered a factor of great importance at that time. Our revenues were being rapidly depleted, and the income did not come into view as it had in former years. I redoubled my exertions in behalf of the N. S. A., but despite all my efforts, I could not raise money as I had in former years. I felt that a reduction of expenses was necessary, and believed that my plan would be a good one. I also felt that I could be of service to the N. S. A. in the editorial chair, and render substantial aid to organic effort throughout the Nation. I felt that I could discharge all official duties, outside of missionary work, just as well in Boston as in Washington. I found that such was the case when I took the chair of the late Luther Colby, on the 24th of March, 1897. I have attended to every official duty most faithfully since that date, and kept up my *Banner* work besides.

I now wish to state the conditions under which I have worked. I gave up my salary as President March 24, and have only charged per diem rates for all the time I have spent out of my Boston office in the interests of the N. S. A. For all of the work I have done in the office of the N. S. A. during the past seven months I have only charged the Association $15 for myself and $50 for a stenographer. This does not compensate me for the work I have done at night, the articles written and published in the interest of the N. S. A., nor for the over-exertion made to keep up with the work. I do not utter this statement as a complaint, but submit it as an explanation of what I must now mention. I have drawn no salary from the N. S. A. since January 17, 1897, nor have I been compensated for my loss of time at conventions, mass-meetings and camps in N. S. A. work. All of my expenses are yet unsettled, while my receipts are in hand ready for the N. S. A. treasury as soon as my accounts are audited.

I have given the N. S. A. credit for all of my Sunday earnings from March 24 to October 3, eleven in all. On these eleven Sundays I have received in round numbers $200 for my work, and I have only charged $5 per Sunday against the N. S. A., giving it $145 net, while in reality I was drawing no salary from it. I ask the privilege of submitting my yearly receipts and expenditures to the auditing

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committee, with the added privilege of making a personal statement to the committee. I do this in view of the fact that I have been charged with drawing a double salary—one from the N. S. A. and the other from the *Banner of Light*. I have done double work, but I have only had one salary since March 24, a salary smaller than it would have been had I been able to devote my whole time to editorial work.

Of the value of my work in behalf of the N. S. A. since I have been connected with it, I leave it for others to say. I have served you for four years to the best of my ability. I have made mistakes, but have sought eagerly to rectify them when discovered. The N. S. A. has had my best thought, my sincerest devotion. I have often set aside personal interests for the sake of the N. S. A., and during those four years I have traveled far and wide, an aggregate distance of 100,000 miles, and have spoken 650 times in its interests. I have only missed two Board meetings in that time, as before stated. I ask the closest scrutiny of my record as an official and request that my friends and enemies be given an opportunity to look over the work actually done.

During my four years' service, I have been forced to contend with ill health to some extent. I regret this deeply, as I could have done far better work otherwise. I was in a very critical state during the past season, but I wish to say now that it was not the work in my two-fold capacity that made me ill. I could have stood that work, had I not been exposed to mental and physical suffering that can never come to me again. It is due me, the N. S. A., and the *Banner of Light* that this statement be placed on record. If I have failed to do my duty by the Association, it has not been from any willful intent. I have tried to do right—tried to push the N. S. A. to the front, and ask only that reward that is given honest effort and sincere devotion to principle.

REVIEW OF THE FIELD.

The past year has been a fruitful one in spiritual progress. Investigation is rife, and as an organized body Spiritualists now have an opportunity to do a great reform work in the world. We must give the world all the truth we possess and open the door wider to the reception of new and higher truth from the other side of life. The N. S. A. is the proper instrument through which this work can be done.

We have purchased the library of the late Prof. A. E. Worthen, State Geologist of Illinois, also a number of valuable books now out of print, at a total cost of $92. We have

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scattered our tracts broadcast, have sent our missionaries into new fields and have pushed the work everywhere with voice and pen. Such missionaries as E. W. Sprague, Mrs. Loe F. Prior, Mrs. E. A. Bedell and C. W. Taylor have made records of which they may well be proud. I need not specialize their work; its results are known to you all, and we should give "honor to whom honor is due."

Mrs. G. S. Clendaniel and Mrs. Francis Dingman represented the N. S. A. at the National Mothers' Convention, in compliance with the vote of our last Convention. Our Vice President, Mrs. Richmond, and Secretary Woodbury were our delegates to the National Convention of the Secularists.

The Scandinavian Spiritualist, The Medium, The Dawning Light, Philosophical Journal, Light of Truth, The Progressive Thinker and *Banner of Light* have been the firm supporters of the N. S. A. throughout the year. No one realizes more fully than I do the aid these journals have rendered us. The Spiritualist press will unitedly support a straightforward business organization. We must not forget the secular press at this time. It has been uniformly just and fair. The Associated and United Press Associations have given our great meetings due notice and have spoken courteously of our efforts and workers. Let us remember that we can have the friendship of the press so long as we deserve it.

We have not accomplished any miracles during the past year. We have all done our very best, and we render to you to-day the accounts of our stewardship. We claim that the work has been well and successfully done. The stringency of the times has hurt us, but your officials have done their duty conscientiously and rest the case in your hands. The N. S. A. is a potent factor in spiritualistic work and should be loyally sustained. It is the Moses to lead Spiritualism to the "Promised Land" of righteousness, and will be a safe guide so long as it is true to the truths of pure Spiritualism.

Last October Mr. J. R. Francis, the genial editor of *The Progressive Thinker*, published the report of the President of the N. S. A. in full and made up a special edition of his excellent paper containing it. This special issue he caused to be circulated widely throughout the country. From the many thousand copies disposed of, Mr. Francis hoped to place that report before 1,000,000 readers. I disposed of 3,000 copies of that edition myself. Mr. Francis did this at his own option, without even a hint from the N. S. A. officials that such a step would please them. I feel especially grateful to Mr. Francis for this great effort and sacrifice on his part. It gave the Spiritualists of the world a clearer knowl-

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edge of the aims, claims and purposes of the N. S. A. than had ever been given before. I recommend that suitable acknowledgment of this devoted service on his part be made by this Convention.

I close my lengthy paper with feelings of deepest emotion. My mind sweeps over the four years of hard, untiring labor that has been given to this Association by many of us who are connected with it to-day. We may have made mistakes, but when the full history of Spiritualism shall be written a century hence, those who have sacrificed and toiled for the good of the N. S. A. of to-day will be given due credit for their labors and awarded the praise of having tried most conscientiously to do something for the good of their fellow men. I enter no eulogy upon them nor their labors. What they have done speaks for itself. They have been only a means to the divine end of trying to aid humanity in its struggle upward.

My eye scans the horizon of the future most hopefully. The sacred associations of the past four years are hallowed memories to spur us on to greater efforts for the future. I can see the changing panorama of the dead years but dimly—the kindly words, the warm handclasps, the hearty "God speeds," the tear-dimmed eyes, the voices husky with emotion, the tender invocation for angel guidance, the fervent prayers and the joyous assurances of a happy meeting in the "land beyond the cloud-rift" make sacred and holy the present hour, linked as it is with the silent but glorious past. For the sympathy that has been given me so freely in my many weary weeks of physical and mental anguish, for the timely ministrations of friends and physicians when illness has swept over me, for the succor that has been at hand when disaster seemed imminent, I am grateful to you and all of my co-workers in Spiritualism. I have tried to do my duty—tried to prove my sincerity by my devotion to my religion. My record is before you and the world. I make no excuses for myself, nor do I ask immunity at your hands for any wrong that I have done. I thank the Spiritualists of this Continent for their confidence and unfaltering trust in me. I am inspired by it to a greater effort to nobler living and a more earnest devotion to duty.

I turn to the work of this Convention, pledging my fealty to the N. S. A., to you and to Spiritualism anew, and assure you that I am as ready to defend the right as I perceive it as ever before.

Respectfully submitted,

HARRISON D. BARRETT,
President N. S. A.

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THE VICE PRESIDENT: The report of the President will go to the Committee on President's Report.

President Barrett in the Chair.

THE CHAIRMAN: The following will be the standing committees of this Convention:

Committee on Resolutions: Hon. E. W. Bond, Ohio; Dr. J. M. Peebles, California; A. J. Weaver, Maine; Mrs. E. F. Kurth, New York; Allen F. Brown, Texas.

Committee on President's Report: H. W. Richardson, New York; Mrs. Martha E. Root, Michigan; Milan C. Edson, District of Columbia; W. C. Bowman, California; Ida P. A. Whitlock, Rhode Island.

Committee on Secretary's Report: Capt. E. W. Gould, Missouri; Mrs. A. M. Glading, Pennsylvania; Mrs. Carrie F. Loring, Massachusetts; E. W. Sprague, New York; C. W. Stanglen, Maryland.

Committee on Treasurer's Report and Auditing: Theodore J. Mayer, District of Columbia; Mrs. Carrie L. Hatch, Massachusetts; B. B. Hill, Pennsylvania; E. R. Whiting, Connecticut; Mrs. M. J. Stephens, California.

Committee on Delegates' Reports: Mrs. M. E. Cadwallader, Pennsylvania; George W. Kates, New York; Mrs. May S. Pepper, Rhode Island; Mrs. J. D. Storrs, Connecticut; C. H. Figuers, Tennessee.

Committee on Finance, Ways and Means: Mrs. Loe F. Prior, Georgia; C. L. Stevens, Pennsylvania; Moses Hull, Massachusetts; Mrs. Carrie E. S. Twing, New York; Edgar W. Emerson, New Hampshire.

Committee on Amendments: F. A. Wiggin, Massachusetts; Hon. A. Gaston, Pennsylvania; Mrs. Georgia Field, Maine; Miss E. J. Walker, New York; Mrs. Rachel Walcott, Maryland.

The next order of business is the reception of the report of the Vice President.

MRS. RICHMOND: I rise to a question of privilege.

THE CHAIRMAN: State your question of privilege.

MRS. RICHMOND: This morning, in my brief introduction, I suggested that we should send our fraternal greetings to the Congress of Religions now assembled at Nashville, Tenn. It seems that recommendation was also in the President's report, and I beg leave to submit the following, which refers to it, for the acceptance of the Convention:

"*The Congress of Liberal Religions, Nashville, Tenn.:*

"The National Spiritualists Association, in Annual Convention, sends greetings and clasps hands in true fraternity with the Congress of Religions at Nashville."

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THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair rules that this is a question of privilege. Shall greetings be sent, as moved by the Vice President? It is carried. It will be sent by the Secretary through the Sergeant-at-Arms.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT.

MR. PRESIDENT, BROTHER AND SISTER DELEGATES: It is with no desire to magnify the work that your Vice President has accomplished in connection with the N. S. A. during the past year that this report is made, but that the Convention and the public may know the actual labor performed and the results of that labor, as well as the existing state of our cause in different parts of the country.

The exceeding uncertainty of the state of health of our honored President rendered it necessary that as much of the labor incident to attending camp-meetings and State Associations be taken from him as possible.

While mentioning the list of such meetings visited by your Vice President, this report will be confined exclusively to those occasions where the President could not attend or where at the times and places mentioned the Vice President was the especial representative of the National Spiritualists Association.

During the year, since the first of January last, I have visited four State conventions, two mass conventions and six camp-meetings. In order to accomplish this and attend the Board meetings at Washington, I have traveled something over 18,000 miles.

My visit to San Antonio, Texas, was one of the most pleasing and, I think, profitable (in the way of aiding the cause) visits of my public career. I was received as if among old and tried friends. I found the National Association the one watchword around which they rallied to perfect a State organization that in every way is admirable. The workers in Texas are enthusiastic, capable and earnest. The local associations have fashioned and rallied around the State Association, whose president, Allen F. Brown, is with us to tell of their good work.

I know of no State in the Union where I think the cause of Spiritualism gives such good promise as in Texas. This is due to the intelligence and capability of local workers and societies, to the work of Jennie B. H. Jackson and others; that this whole body of societies and workers in Texas is now organized under the banner of the National Spiritualists Association is due to the former visit of our President to that

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State. I regard it as an especial privilege to have been there at the convention for State organization.

I wish particularly to call the attention of the Convention and the incoming Board to the condition of affairs in the West and Northwest—all that portion of the country between the Lakes and the Rocky Mountains and north of the Missouri River. The Northwestern Camp Association, an auxiliary of the National Association, meeting between Minneapolis and St. Paul, is crippled by financial difficulties, the result of the exceeding financial depression throughout that section of the country. Nevertheless, our able and zealous missionary, Mrs. Loe F. Prior, did admirable work there, and during the week of my engagement there we succeeded in having a day—not Sunday—for the National Association, and had the aid of many speakers and mediums on the grounds. The results have already appeared in my financial report, which I will recapitulate at the close of this report.

At Peoria, Ill., where I went to fill a promised visit by our President, I found a handful of workers endeavoring to hold a camp-meeting outside of the city. They certainly received me in a fraternal spirit and did all in their power to aid the National Association.

The West, however, feels its inability to cope with the double problem of financial depression and distance, amounting almost to isolation from the annual meetings of the National Association. The needs of the West and Northwest are *efficient missionaries* in each State to organize local societies and instruct in the value of State organization, to the *ultimate end* and as soon as practicable that State Associations (having jurisdiction in the States to which they belong) shall alone be represented in the annual conventions in Washington.

Too many Spiritualists never get beyond a local organization for holding Sunday meetings. If a State Association is formed it is frequently by a handful of people, who give it that name without representing any portion of the societies throughout the State, and often the widest range of vision is incapable of perceiving that a local organization gains strength by being associated with other associations as a State body, and it requires a grasp of perception beyond the possible range of many minds to see that State Associations (properly formed) gain strength by association in a grand national body.

The records of the year show, however, that light on this subject is gradually increasing.

Allow me to return to the subject of the great Northwest and urge that provision be made for an efficient corps of mis-

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sionaries and organizers to bring those States into relation with the National Association.

I return with pleasure to report my visit to Topeka, Kans., where a new camp-meeting association (the Kaw Valley Association) received and entertained me, defraying my expenses from and to Chicago and allowing me to present the claims of the National Spiritualists Association at my Sunday meeting. The results were far better than we could have expected. I need not mention old camps like Cassadaga, but refer with pleasure to my one collection there, the result of an appeal from the platform. Freeville, N. Y., a very young camp, and Vicksburg, Mich., responded well for their size.

The close of the summer season brought us to Nashville, Tenn., to our grand series of meetings in connection with the Exposition there. You have already heard and will hear further of this mass convention. I wish to add my word in praise of the untiring work of Col. C. H. Stockell, of Nashville, and our missionary, Mrs. Loe F. Prior, who prepared the way for those meetings. It became my duty to preside over six of the eight sessions held there, and I am sure no more successful meetings under the circumstances were ever held in any State. The thanks of this Association are especially due to the workers already mentioned and to the speakers and mediums who gave their services on those occasions free of cost except actual expenses.

It is notable that the Commissioners of the Nashville Exposition and the State and city authorities manifested so broad and liberal a spirit, and I believe this late convention will prove the open sesame hereafter to the South for Spiritualism as represented by the National Spiritualists Association.

I feel sure that the year now closing presents encouragements that no preceding year has done since the existence of the National Spiritualists Association and that we shall go forward more and more encouraged to our grand jubilee of 1898, and then on without limit to triumph.

FINANCIAL RECAPITULATION.

My collections at various places were:

From	Minneapolis	$31 82
"	Peoria, Ill	6 00
"	Freeville, N. Y	6 00
"	Cassadaga Camp	60 35
"	Vicksburg, Mich	5 76
"	Topeka, Kans	42 68
	Total	$152 61

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THE CHAIRMAN: The report will be referred to the Committee on the President's Report, to be acted upon in connection with it. We will now listen to the reading of the Secretary's Report.

MR. WOODBURY:

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

DELEGATES TO THE FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL SPIRITUALISTS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA:

Not desiring to trespass on your valuable time, I shall not go over the ground so thoroughly reviewed by our President in his report, studiously avoiding any statement, as far as possible, that would be but repetition of what has already been reported.

In the face of most severe financial depression we steadily have gained in membership. This has been the result of a determination on the part of the officers that demanded this, and practical, careful business methods, and devotion to duty.

The objects for which this institution was chartered have never been lost sight of, and the representatives of the N. S. A. have endeavored to present Spiritualism as a scientific religion, free from creed, dogma or theology, to present the phenomena, the scientific proof, the evidence that cannot be denied, with the philosophy, in a manner to demand the respect of all people.

Our present membership consists of 197 chartered societies, 10 of which are State Associations. We have gained during the year 46 societies, 6 of which are State Associations.

STATE ASSOCIATIONS.

The sentiment of the Board has been unanimous in favor of united effort to organize Spiritualists of the several States into State Associations. We have accomplished all possible in this department. You have heard the result. This work should be continued throughout the United States.

TRAVELING EXPENSES OF THE TRUSTEES.

We have added to our expenses in only one department this year; the traveling expenses of the Board of Trustees have been paid from the treasury. We have expended thus $350, but this is a wise expenditure. The Board of Trustees of our National Association ought to *represent the people.* If we do not pay the traveling expenses of the Board, no poor men or women can serve thereon. There are men and women of in-

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tellect, men and women of great spiritual power, who are not wealthy but who are needed on the Board. Wealth is a good thing in its place, but thank God there are attainments it cannot buy, and demands it cannot secure. Never cease then the payment of the expenses of your Board, that the *honorable poor*, as well as the *honorable rich*, may have an *honorable place thereon*, and this institution be sustained, as it has the past year, as representing *all our people, for the people, by the people.*

WORK IN WASHINGTON.

The work, inaugurated two years ago, of uniting our forces with those of Secularists, Hebrews and Adventists in this city, is still going on. We have defeated God-in-the-Constitution and Sunday laws too numerous to mention. Up to date, we have never lost any battle in opposition to legislation, in which we have engaged at the Capital. But there is before us a gigantic task; there is work enough for us to do in the next Congress to take one man's entire time during the session. We all admit that we should rest one day in the week, but we do not admit that we ought to be compelled to go to church on a special day or proceed to make ourselves and other people miserable because some man or body of men have said it is the Lord's day. Congressional archives will show you that during the last two years, hundreds of petitions have been received from Maine, California, Texas, Florida, and the rest of the world, for a *Sunday Rest Law* for the District of Columbia. What a deep interest the United States Christians have in the District of Columbia workingman! Don't you believe it! There is no city in America in which there are so few people who work regularly on Sunday as in Washington, where there is so little disturbance on Sunday, as in this city. Why then this National demand for Sunday rest here? The Congress of the United States is the city government of this city; we have no local government. If Congress enacts a Sunday law, it not only is a violation of the Constitution but it is a lever our opponents desire to use to secure the enactment of extreme Sunday laws in various States and Territories. Even the ladies of the last President's Cabinet were organized into a Sunday Protective League, and endeavored to secure private hearings before the various committees in Congress because they were Cabinet ladies. We put a stop to that sort of business at short notice. Citizens of the United States have a right to know what is going on at hearings on questions that concern the public, and the Cabinet ladies must present their arguments for Evangelical Sunday laws in open meeting with their opponents before committees, or remain silent.

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We must sustain our share of the work and the expense of a thorough opposition campaign this winter. The Evangelical powers are determined to control the city of Washington and the Congress of the Nation; *they control it far too much already.* Adventists, claiming that any religion that cannot suceeed on its own merits will not succeed with guns and constitutions behind it, are our most powerful and able assistants, and are as true as steel to the American ideas of government —the secular. I have received the following statement from the Rev. W. E. Parson, pastor of the Church of the Reformation, Washington, D. C., in regard to the position of some of the churches on the God-in-the-Constitution question, "The best thought of our larger churches is against the God-in-the-Constitution movement." To Rev. Allen Moon, a Christian gentleman, do I publicly return my thanks for his most patriotic aid and that of his people through their International Liberty League. Allow me to just second the motion made by the President that we insist, from now on, that all church property be taxed. In this connection, I quote from Gen. Birney's address, of last Sunday, before the Washington Secular League:

"A great danger lies in the association under the names of 'Good Citizen Leagues,' and 'Christian Endeavorers,' and 'Epworth Leagues.' It is quite clear that designing men are intriguing to turn these into political organizations, for the purpose of rising on them to places of power. They already begin to tread in the footsteps of the 'God-in-the-Constitution' party. In the *Christian Citizen* for December, I find the following: 'Not until the kingdom of God is established over the land will the Christian Citizenship League have its purpose.'

"In the official report of the C. E. Convention held at Boston, I find: 'What is my work as a member of the good citizenship committee? It is to enthrone Christ in every town and city in the State, to have every mayor and councilman a Christian; then Christ will rule.' In the official report of the C. E. committee of the Washington Convention in 1896, that body is spoken of 'as the clearest omen yet seen of the coming time when Christ, whose right it is to reign, shall be supreme on Capitol Hill.' These associations of young people might do great service to the country in other directions, but if they shall be led by designing party leaders, their days will be few in the land.

"In conclusion, the complete separation of the Church and the State has been a foregone conclusion since 1776. It has been coming slowly but surely. The last vestige of church

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rule in secular affairs will disappear in the first half of the twentieth century. The spiritual life of the Church will be developed instead of the corporate greed for money and power. Both Church and State will be better if each will confine itself to its proper functions."

We have already started a campaign to open the magnificent new Congressional Library on Sundays. This campaign must be continued until it is permanently opened.

WORK IN THE NORTH.

President Barrett has alluded to the work in this section of the country. I was very thankful to be able to, in my humble way, assist our President in his hours of severe illness, to talk when he could not. Suffice it to say that August 1 found me with a great task on my hands:—absolutely no money, printers' bills not paid, the President sick unto death, and only a little over sixty days when I must report of my stewardship to this Convention. I shall never forget those who aided us in those trying times.

I do not desire to burden the Convention with many recommendations, but I ask your consideration of one. We are about entering the Fiftieth Anniversary year. There is one man who has distinguished himself by his persistent labors for the National Spiritualists Association, who has added laurels to those already earned by his magnificent work on the *Banner of Light*. I deem it but just that Harrison D. Barrett be elected as President of this Association, at least to preside over its deliberations during the Anniversary year.

WORK IN THE SOUTH.

In 1895 I requested the Convention to send a missionary South, in 1896 I appealed to you again, in 1897 I say to you the fields are ripe unto the harvest in the great Southland and the demand made of you now is greater than ever, and more earnest. Unitarianism does not flourish South; Universalism is almost unknown, but the religion of the inspiration of to-day, if presented as a religion in a polite and dignified manner, will flourish and grow like a green bay tree.

In July last, I went to Lookout Mountain. The friends there, having met with several disasters, were nearly discouraged. Mrs. Jennie Hagan Jackson, Mrs. A. E. Thomas and myself united our efforts and not only held well-attended meetings on the Mountain, but in the Chattanooga Unitarian Church, the progressive pastor, Rev. Mr. Ham, himself cordially inviting us to come there and receiving us after we arrived. The National Association will not be doing its

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duty if this important camp-meeting is not assisted in every way possible. This camp-meeting is indeed a light set upon a hill that illuminates the whole South.

You have heard in the President's report something of the Southern work. Mrs. Loe F. Prior has accomplished a splendid work in this section of the country, in Atlanta, New Orleans, Cordele, Chattanooga and Nashville. The Nashville mass-meeting arranged for by Mrs. Prior and Col. C. H. Stockell was ably planned, perfectly managed, and the results were far-reaching and most excellent. We have just chartered two societies in what is considered the most conservative State in the South, Tennessee, at Chattanooga and Nashville, and Memphis is nearly ready to join us. So well were we able to please the people of Tennessee that I have received an invitation from the Governor of that State, the mayor of the city of Nashville, and the managers of the Exposition, for this Convention, at the close of the meeting, to unite in a trip to Nashville.

Blessed are ye who work for humanity's sake, who work in the name of the truth for truth's sake, *Commercial Spiritualism is dying, the day of the Religion of Spiritualism has dawned.*

CO-OPERATIVE WORK.

Representatives of the National Association attended the Mothers' Convention at Washington, D. C., the Free Thought Federation at Chicago, and the Congress of Free Religions at Indianapolis. They were well received and entertained at all these conventions, participating in the exercises and uniting our forces with those who were laboring to aid and bless the race.

THE LYCEUM.

I regret sincerely that so little has been accomplished for the Lyceum. Indeed, if it were not for a few persistent spirits, Hatches, Hulls, Bachs, Adamses, Sopers, Lees, Snyders, Butlers, Smiths and Danforths, this department would have ceased to exist. Cannot we do something more than talk at this Convention for the lyceum? If we talk to hear ourselves and then go from these meetings, not to attend the lyceum during the year, or send our children, or pay our money in support of it, talk is not valuable. Spiritualism demands now at your hands a revival of the lyceum movement. What are you going to do about it?

FOREIGN REPORTS.

No foreign reports will be presented to this Convention. Foreign talent will speak for their respective countries at

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Rochester in June, 1898. Dr. Fred L. H. Willis, foreign correspondent of the Jubilee, receives all correspondence for this department.

MISSIONARY WORK.

We ought to have next year two paid missionaries in the field all the time. Shall the National Association have money to do the work that is required of it? The great West demands our attention; shall we make no response? The President and Secretary have given everything they possess in this world, financially, that the National Association might be brought up to its present position in the community and country as a religious institution organized for practical work. We do not mention it to boast of our good works, but we do say such devotion entitles the institution to the support of every honest and true Spiritualist. Why have we labored and given our money for the N. S. A.? We were drafted by spirit intelligences, and, clasping hands together, made a solemn promise to prove that the organization of Spiritualists could be accomplished. We have, in a measure, succeeded.

A gentleman once employed an Irishman, who had not been in America long, to work for him. He said to him one morning, "Pat, go grease the wagon." Pat went away, and in an hour and a half returned with the perspiration rolling off of him. "Have you greased the wagon, Pat?" he was asked. "Indade, I have greased it all over but the things where the wheels go around." Spiritualists are apt sometimes to do about as Pat did. We do a great amount of work and don't grease the wagon at all in the right place. Spiritualists of America, the National Spiritualists Association wagon wants to be kept in good running condition. Will you help to do this? Everything needed now for perfect success is the union of all our people and the liberal subscription of funds. I am positive that the right persons selected for missionary work would not only accomplish much for the National Association and Spiritualism, but pay all their expenses as well.

MASS-MEETINGS.

The finances show that these meetings have been a success. Not only have the financial returns been good, but the spiritual fellowship engendered, the flow of reason and the unity of souls have been sweet and uplifting.

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD, 1897.

All our meetings have been characterized with a spirit of sweet harmony, love and unity, and I personally desire to

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return my thanks to all the members of the Board for their kindness and the fraternal good will that has existed all the year.

There is one other who deserves from me acknowledgment in public of her faithful co-operation in my work for the National Association—my faithful wife. It would have been impossible for me to succeed in accomplishing what I have without her aid and co-operation and even personal sacrifice for the N. S. A. To Spiritualists of Washington we unite in returning our thanks for that fraternal spirit, that warm-hearted co-operation which has been so much an incentive to achieve success. We rejoice in the truly spiritual and harmonious relations existing among you now and trust they may always continue.

With regret we have to announce that Mrs. Abby L. Pettengill desires to be retired from the Board, a true friend of the National Association, whose reserve spiritual power has been a mighty aid in stormy times. May the angels of God bless her as she has blest humanity.

SIGNS OF PROGRESS.

Norwich Connecticut Spiritual Union has recently dedicated a new temple, and Columbus, O., Greenwich, Mass. New York and Washington associations have discontinued the admission fee to lecture services. The last three associations have settled regular speakers, as have San Antonio and a majority of societies in Texas. In Washington, D. C., the Ladies' Aid, with a fund of $700 toward erecting a temple, is again uniting its labors with the First Association; success is already assured this association.

LOCAL SOCIETIES' REPORTS.

One of the severest trials of my position is the carelessness of officers of local societies in making returns to this office of annual elections. A new set of officers is elected in a local society, and no report of said election made to this office. Perhaps retiring officials are disgruntled and will not turn over, for weeks, documents sent to the society from our office to local officials. Perhaps six months or a year after, the Secretary will be severely condemned because he did not know an election had taken place and officials changed. We scrutinize every Spiritual publication to find these things out, but we have not always been able to do so.

FILES OF SPIRITUAL PAPERS.

We are still collecting spiritual papers for binding to grace the shelves of the National Library. We have now bound nearly fifty volumes.

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LIBRARY.

We have increased the number of books contained in our library to about six hundred volumes in constant use, except one department in which are collected rare and out-of-print literature, which is never loaned. We purchased the library of State Geologist Worthen of Illinois, and a number of rare and out-of-print books from the Banner of Light Publishing Company. The following persons have contributed to our library during the past year: O. R. North, Mrs. Dr. Chapman, Roswell Child, Mrs. Helen O. Richmond, Mrs. Virginie Barrett Arthur Dent, Mrs. J. J. Whitney, Mrs. Ida P. A. Whitlock, Mrs. Annie Lord Chamberlain, Miss Carrie Swenson, Dr. C. T. H. Benton, Rev. Herman Snow, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, D. S. Richards, Joseph T. Dodge, Dr. N. U. Lyon, Alonzo Danforth, Dr. Rowland, Mrs. E. D. Smith, Geo. Moscow, Prof. Wm. Lockwood, and S. N. Blakely.

CHARTERS SURRENDERED AND RECALLED.

The Independent Free Thought Bible Society of San Francisco was suspended because the promoters of it insisted on ordaining wholesale, regardless of the character or ability of applicants. The Progressive Spiritual Church, Washington, D. C. First Society Spiritualists, Washington, Pa., First Society Toledo, O., Spiritual Temple, Augusta, Me., Religio-Psychic Association, New Orleans, and Progressive Spiritual Association, Houston, Tex., have surrendered their charters. Galveston, Tex., desires to withdraw to affiliate with the Texas State Association, and the Spiritual, Educational and Protective Union of Lily Dale, N. Y., has been merged into the New York State Association.

COURTESIES TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

You have heard and know about our invitation to Tennessee. We have received an invitation to hold a meeting at Omaha, Neb., during the exposition next year. The city authorities of Milwaukee and Detroit have also extended to us invitations of like nature. These courtesies testify of the importance of organized Spiritualism.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES.

I have prepared and arranged a very large number of newspaper articles for the Washington *Post*, *Star* and *Times*, the Baltimore *American*, St. Louis *Dispatch* and Nashville *Banner and Sun*.

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LITERATURE.

We have had printed 2,000 copies of our Constitution and By-Laws; 20,000 copies of the tract "What is Spiritualism"; 10,000 "Presentation of Spiritualism." We have also printed the Annual Report and 1,000 copies of the History of the National Spiritualists Association.

CONCLUSION.

Surely and steadily the careful and dignified presentation of the truths we represent as a religion, which shall yet become universal, are winning success. Steadily the building-up process is going on and we are gaining hour by hour, and day by day, and year by year, the aid and support of loyal souls in this and the other life. Loving helpful service for humanity's sake brings its sure reward. Would you wish your name on the fair pages of the history to be written of the religion that emancipated the human race, let no envious or jealous spirit enter your bosom. Do thou thy work; let others work also. Cannot we have a little more harmony and love and good will among us? Can we not forget and forgive? Organization will succeed if we can lose *ourselves a little in the great work before us.*

The Spiritualists of America can lead the liberal progressive religious army to-day, if they will in harmony and love unite to do so. Shall we not open the Jubilee year in this Convention by a love feast that shall touch every heart and from the spirit side of life we shall hear the glad refrain of victory, "Peace on Earth, Good will to all Men"? Quarrel not about non-essentials. The radical working in his way, the conservative in his way, united fondly in one common purpose, the cementing together in the largest liberty all that is good and grand and true. Oh, ye emancipated ones, who suffered and passed intospirit life for the truth's sake, we ask for thy benediction and blessing on this Convention. May all inharmony, hate, envy, be left outside this temple, and this Convention of the free be free from all that shall mar the name of the great religion we profess.

Respectfully submitted.

FRANCIS BAILEY WOODBURY,
Secretary.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Secretary's Report will be passed to Mr. Gould, the Chairman of the Committee on the Secretary's Report.

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We will now listen to the report of the Treasurer, Mr. Geo. S. Clendaniel.

MR. CLENDANIEL:

REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., October 19, 1897.

The National Spiritualists Association of the United States and Canada:

I submit the following report of the receipts and expenditures of this Association for the year ending September 30, 1897:

Received by transfer of funds, from T. J. Mayer, late Treasurer, "Current Funds"	$1,093.67	
"Mediums' Fund"	515.14	
		$1,608.81
Received from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 1896	$1,028.93	
Received from Jan. 1 to March 31, 1897.	858.40	
Received from April 1 to June 30, 1897.	587.88	
Received from July 1 to Sept. 30, 1897	1,325.03	3,800.24
Total on hand and received during the year		$5,409.05
Disbursed from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 1896	$ 793.83	
Disbursed from Jan. 1 to March 31, 1897.	1,596.26	
Disbursed from April 1 to June 30, 1897.	876.24	
Disbursed from July 1 to Sept. 30, 1897.	1,018.11	
Total disbursements during the year,		4,284.44
On hand Sept. 30, 1897		$1,124.61

RECAPITULATION.

Current Fund	$245.47
Mediums' Fund	520.14
Babe Will Fund	359.00
	$1,124.61

In hand, deed No. 31 of the Queen City Park Association, South Burlington, Vermont, donated to the "N. S. A." by Mrs. Isadore E. Bussey.

GEO. S. CLENDANIEL,
Treasurer.

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THE CHAIRMAN: The report will be passed to Mr. T. J. Mayer, Chairman of the Committee on Auditing Accounts. The Secretary's Financial Report is now in order.

SECRETARY'S FINANCIAL REPORT.

ON HAND IN TREASURY OCTOBER 1, 1897.

General Fund	$245.47	
Mediums' Fund	520.14	
Babe Will Fund	359.00	
		$1,124.61

ON HAND OCTOBER 1, 1896.

General Fund	$1,093.67	
Mediums' Fund	515.14	
		$1,608.81

RECEIPTS FROM OCTOBER 1, 1896, TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1897.

GENERAL FUND.

Contributions	$1,579.35	
Collections	416.16	
Charters	235.55	
Dues	593.30	
Mass-Meetings	241.38	
Reports	89.00	
Rent from Secretary Woodbury	120.00	
Registering Ordinations	12.00	
Books	9.50	
Balance Convention receipts	140.00	
Total	$3,436.24	
Mediums' Defense Fund	$5.00	
Babe Will Fund	359.00	
		$3,800.24
		$5,409.05

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EXPENDITURES OCTOBER 1, 1896, TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1897.

On Salary, President H. D. Barrett	$375.00
Salary Secretary	1,000.00
Convention expenses, 1896	55.65
Stenographer, Convention	100.00
R. R. Agent for Convention	11.00
Traveling expenses Board	350.00
Mass-meeting expenses, traveling expenses, etc	346.49
Clerical	236.89
Rent of office	480.00
Printing, including reports	562.38
Books for library	92.00
Office expenses	51.70
Water rates, ½	7.09
Expenses on Jubilee, advanced	159.35
Legal advice	2.00
Postage and sundries	196.40
Freight, express and teaming	90.70
Advertising	44.33
Bonds	20.00
Fuel, ½	31.15
Telegrams	37.45
Gas, ½	9.86
Repairs	25.00
Total	$4,284.44
On hand and receipts	$5,409.05
Expenditures	4,284.44
Balance in Treasury	$1,124.61

SECRETARY WOODBURY: It is reported that Mrs. Cadwallader has some stock in her possession that was donated to this Association.

MRS. CADWALLADER: I rise to a question of personal privilege.

THE CHAIRMAN: Please state your question.

MRS. CADWALLADER: I have no stock in my possession that is the property of the National Association. I have some stock in my possession that was given to me, in my name, to hold as trustee for the National Association. I was instructed at the time it was given to me to hold that stock. It is on the books in my name, and when the dividends come in to

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pay them over to the National Association, and that I assuredly shall do.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Secretary's financial report is referred to the Auditing Committee.

The reports of the Special Financial Agents will be deferred until to-morrow morning. The Chair will appoint the following Committee on Communications and Correspondence: J. V. McIntyre, District of Columbia; Mrs. H. W. Grant, Connecticut; C. W. Hidden, Massachusetts.

Any letters or communications the delegates wish to make will be referred to this committee.

We will now open under the head of introduction of business and assignment of orders. The Chair feels that it may be well to lay this matter over until to-morrow morning. Is there any objection to the laying over of this introduction of business and assignment of orders until to-morrow morning? Hearing none, it is so ordered.

The meeting is now adjourned to meet at 7.30 this evening.

SECOND DAY.

MORNING MEETING.

OCTOBER 20, 10.00 A. M.

President Barrett in the Chair.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Convention will be in order.

MRS. RICHMOND: I rise to a question of privilege.

THE CHAIRMAN: Please state your question of privilege.

MRS. RICHMOND: I have a letter from our esteemed friend and co-worker, Colonel Freeman, of Illinois, who is also President of the Mississippi Valley Camp Association, and as he cannot be with us, I ask permission to read his letter to the Convention.

THE CHAIRMAN: The letter will be received.

MRS. RICHMOND (reading):

(Letter from Colonel Freeman and one addressed to him.)

BLOOMINGTON, ILL., October 18, 1897.

MRS. CORA L. V. RICHMOND,

Washington, D. C.

DEAR FRIEND AND CO-WORKER: After having my grip packed to start for Washington, circumstances combined to prevent me from going. I regret it more than words can express. I wished so much to see you personally in regard to our "State Association." *We must have one*, and the sooner the better. We have all depended so much upon your wisdom and discretion that now you are away we feel "all at sea."

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Some other matters I desired to present to the N. S. A. for consideration, one of which is embodied in the enclosed paper handed to me by Brother M. W. Packard, should receive the prompt and careful attention of the Convention.

Please let me hear from you soon in regard to a State Association.

Sincerely yours, for truth and humanity,

COL. JAS. FREEMAN,
President M. V. S. A. and B. P. S. A.

BROTHER FREEMAN: I think the N. S. A. should fix, establish, or at least recommend a certain form or manner for the celebration of the marriage rite. The statutes of many of the States, ours in particular, permit any religious denomination to perform that ceremony according to the *custom* and *usage* of such society. We are young, so to speak, and have no *custom* and *usage* in that behalf. Let us establish one—simple, but impressive, and one that would meet all the requirements of a common-law marriage. Also the ceremonies at funerals. It seems to me the N. S. A. should *recommend* the desired or a *desirable* programme, so that our burials may be uniform to a certain degree—simple, but impressive—and the ceremonies at the grave, I think, should always include, when practicable, appropriate *voice* music. We have adopted that here.

I hope the coming Convention will appoint a committee on both these subjects, and were I to be present, I would cheerfully serve as a member of either or both, but as I cannot I suggest these matters to you.

Sincerely, M. W. PACKARD.

THE CHAIRMAN: The two communications will be referred to the Committee on Correspondence, Mr. McIntyre, chairman.

The first order of business this morning is the reports of your Special Financial Agents. Mr. Walker is the First Special Financial Agent; is he ready with his report?

Mr. Walker is now in order and has the floor.

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I first beg leave, as Chairman of the Committee on Credentials, to report a few additional names of delegates who are entitled to seats in this Convention.

(The report was adopted and the delegates named therein accorded their proper privileges.)

Mr. President, I have no written report to make as Financial Agent. I have visited a few of the mass-meetings where some money was collected, as reported by your President.

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At the Brooklyn, N. Y., mass-meeting we raised about $800, out of which, of course, the expenses had to be paid. At the Buffalo mass-meeting, held in March, between three and four hundred dollars were raised for the National Association and a like sum by the Women's Progressive Union of that city. I also attended the mass-meeting in Nashville, Tenn. I assisted in raising funds at some of the camp-meetings and I have personally received some pledges that have not matured yet, which will undoubtedly be paid as soon as the subscribers are able to do so. Having been appointed by the Board of Trustees to superintend the work of the jubilee, it has been impossible for me to devote as much time to the raising of funds for the National Association as I would have wished. I have done my best to raise money and have aroused some enthusiasm among the people and induced some of them to give larger amounts, perhaps, than they otherwise would have done. The National Association needs money, and we should all work together to put a large fund into its treasury. (Applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the report of your First Financial Agent. What is your pleasure? Shall the report be adopted? The motion prevails.

MRS. KILGORE, of Pennsylvania: Mr. Chairman, I rise to a question of privilege. I desire to address the Convention for a few moments for the Women's Progressive Union, if I may be permitted to do so.

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing no objection, the lady will be permitted to address the Convention.

MRS. KILGORE: Mr. President, we have just come into this National Association as a body of women, chartered under the laws of Pennsylvania for the express purpose of securing to woman, as the mother of the race, better culture, physically, mentally and spiritually. We have come to the conclusion that Spiritualism means a very great deal.

It does not mean simply the union of our departed friends with us here. That is glorious enough, but it is not all; it does not only tell us of immortality, but it teaches us that we live eternally after we pass beyond. Spiritualism teaches another thing: it teaches that every good deed done here lives through all ages. (Applause.) Some say to us that we have no hell and no hell-fire to talk about, but we have a grander and more powerful fire than that lake of brimstone about which we have been taught in our younger days by the churches. We have the truth that the soul lives on and on and on through all eternity. (Applause.) It behooves Spiritualists to see that their every act is right.

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The members of the Women's Progressive Union were originally members of the First Association of Spiritualists of Philadelphia, and that association was chartered in 1866 or '67. My husband devised and secured our charter and wrote the constitution and by-laws. We shortly afterwards met in a hall similar to this one and the women, as women usually do, went to work to see what they could accomplish in the way of getting a home for the Spiritualists in Philadelphia. We worked with that association for years, and made no advancement toward a home. Some of the women then said: "Let us stand by ourselves and see to it that we get a home for the Spiritualists in Philadelphia." We collected a thousand dollars by making aprons and the kind of work that women so often do to relieve the churches.

It cost us many, many hours of toil, but we collected a thousand dollars, which we kept in the Spring Garden Bank, which failed, and we lost all we had, with the exception of two or three per cent. But we were not discouraged, and the Women's Progressive Union of Philadelphia is the strongest financial institution that you have in this Association to-day. We applied for a charter from this Association for two reasons: We wanted to help the National Spiritualists Association and we wanted to have our power felt beyond Philadelphia. (Applause.) We did not know until the meeting we had, about one week ago, that we could not send a delegate here without a charter, therefore we applied for it a day or two ago. We did not fully understand your methods of work, and that is why we came in so late. I do not know why we were not granted our charter before the Convention met, but there has evidently been a mistake somewhere, through which we were left out of yesterday's Convention. But we are here to-day and we are glad to take our places as workers in the great cause of Spiritualism. (Applause.)

I want the Women's Progressive Union to be felt far and wide. There is a society in Brooklyn, N. Y., patterned after our society, but we are the parent body, chartered under the laws of Pennsylvania in 1889. Since that time there have been other Women's Progressive Unions formed in different places. Friends, we want to make humanity better. Some one said yesterday: "Why are our asylums and institutes and such charitable institutions required?" We want to so educate humanity and so change society that there will be no need for asylums, no need for jails or prisons. If the people of this earth were all Spiritualists, I do not believe a jail would be necessary. (Laughter and applause.)

This morning a lady from Massachusetts came to me and

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asked what this little yellow ribbon we wear meant. She thought we were Catholics. I do not know how she ever got that idea. I want to explain what we mean by this ribbon, Spiritualism is as old as eternity and it must live through all eternity, for truth is eternal. But this new-born light has just come to us. Now, our yellow ribbon is expressive of the fact that Spiritualism is a dawning light at the present time. But I am talking too long. The Women's Progressive Union of Philadelphia was anxious to have representation in this Association, that our city might have a full delegation here.

Our society presents to you, Mr. Barrett, as President of this Association, a little token of their appreciation of your great work in the cause of Spiritualism during the past year and your great work for the National Association of Spiritualists. Before leaving Philadelphia we ordered these roses to be sent here by express, that they should really represent Philadelphia. The outer dark green of this bouquet is expressive of the everlasting verdure of truth; the light yellow is expressive of the dawning light of progression, and the beautiful white is the light of the eternal day. In the name of the Women's Progressive Union of Philadelphia, allow me to present this to the President of the National Association. (Loud and continued applause with cheers.) It is our earnest desire that this Association shall be thoroughly based upon truth, justice and the eternal principle of right. I don't need to say Spiritualism, when I say eternal principle of truth; I don't need to say truth, when I say the eternal principle of Spiritualism; but it is our earnestde sire that we shall be so thoroughly based upon the eternal principle of liberty and truth that this shall be an Association that shall live so long as the United States of America shall endure. (Applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Friends from Philadelphia, members of the Women's Progressive Union, the Chair returns his sincere thanks to you for this expression of your good will and he pledges anew in these words his devotion to the cause of Spiritualism—to the National Spiritualists Association that we here represent—that it may be as enduring as this Union itself, as true as the stars that shine in the blue firmament above, and as far-reaching as the light of the glowing sun that comes down to us each day. Personally I have to again thank you, dear friends, for this expression of your good will. This question of privilege has been entertained because the holy message of love that has been borne in upon the assembly promises that its sweet force shall penetrate into the hearts and souls of all those who have assembled here this morning. (Loud applause.)

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We will now proceed with the regular order of business.

The report of Special Financial Agent, E. W. Sprague, is n order.

MR. SPRAGUE:

Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates—As Missionary and Financial Agent for the National Spiritualists Association, I beg leave to submit the following report:

During the past year I have organized and chartered thirteen Spiritualist societies in different parts of the country.

I have raised $25.05 for "Babe Will Fund" of the National Association.

I attended two of the great Mass Conventions of the N. S. A., one in Brooklyn and one in Buffalo. I also attended the New York State Spiritualists Convention, and assisted at each meeting in raising funds to carry on the work. The combined amounts subscribed and pledged at these three Conventions aggregated upwards of $1,900.

Under a three months special engagement with the N. S. A., commencing March 1, I was sent into the State of New York to work up an interest and help establish a State Association there. I arrived in Brooklyn, N. Y., on Saturday afternoon, and in the evening attended the meeting of the "Spiritual Advance Conference," in Single Tax Hall. There I delivered a lecture in the interest of the State organization, after which the society elected a delegate to attend the State Convention.

During the next day I visited and addressed four societies: the First Society of New York City, Judge Dailey's Society of Brooklyn, the Mediums' Progressive Meeting and the Fraternity Hall Society. I was received cordially and welcomed to the platforms of all these societies, and they all expressed themselves as being in sympathy with the movement to organize the State, and three of them said they would try to send delegates.

This completed the day's work, which was a full one, having spoken at four meetings and giving tests at three of them.

From here I journeyed to Rochester, where I met Brother Walker, and then on to Buffalo, where I held two meetings in the Spiritual Temple, Friday and Saturday evenings

The Temple was filled with people, and the meetings very enthusiastic. This society sent delegates to the Convention, and is loyal and true to the N. S. A., as its contributions for its support, given at the mass-meeting, held later, truly show.

The following day, which was Sunday, I held two meetings at North Collins. Here is one of the oldest Spiritualist societies in the land, "The Friends of Human Progress." It

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has held its annual meetings regularly for forty-two years, and has done a greater work for human progress than any one person can conceive of. This society elected three delegates.

Tuesday, March 16, found me at Jamestown, my home, where a very enthusiastic meeting was held, and two delegates elected, who represented our society at Syracuse.

Friday and Saturday, March 19 and 20, I attended the six sessions of the grand mass-meeting at Buffalo, and took part in the good work there.

Sunday and Monday, March 21 and 22, I held three meetings in Lockport, and organized and chartered a society with the National Association.

Wednesday, March 24, I held a meeting at East Aurora, with good results. It was a very cold and stormy night, but our good Brother Richardson managed to get out a good audience.

Thursday and Friday, March 25 and 26, I held three meetings at Moravia, and organized and chartered a society with the N. S. A. This society is alive and doing good work. I served them for the month of September. They are full of the spirit, but need encouragement from the State and National Associations.

Sunday, March 28, I held two meetings at Waverly. They have a good society and are chartered with the N. S. A.

April 1 and 2 I held two meetings in Elmira.

April 4 I held two meetings in Saratoga Springs. They have a society there with Dr. W. B. Mills, as president.

April 6 I held a meeting at Cambridge, the first Spiritualist meeting ever held in that town. It was a very enthusiastic one, and will bear fruit in the future.

April 7 I visited Troy, Albany and Utica. Three places in one day. Troy has a good society; Albany and Utica have none, though both have had good strong societies in the past, which I believe went down for want of State and National organization. The Spiritualist paper, *The Carrier Dove*, was once published at Utica. The right person, backed by the State Association, could, without doubt, build up a good strong society there. But they are *dead* now.

I took the train from here to Rome, N. Y., where I walked six miles to find three Spiritualists. I learned that there were but six known Spiritualists in this vicinity. Here I got the promise of two Spiritualists to come to the Convention if possible, but they did not materialize.

I left Rome at 1.36 P. M., and had to run to catch the train for Oneida, which is ten miles away. I found I could do

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nothing here; all of the Spiritualists that I could hear of in this town were of the "twilight" sort, except one, and he advised me to go to Durhamville, a little burg two miles away.

I went there, held a meeting in the evening, which elected delegates. This, I felt, was a good day's work, having visited three towns.

I stayed in Durhamville another day, held another meeting and organized and chartered a society with the N. S. A.

From here I went to Troy, N. Y., where I held two meetings on Sunday, April 11. They have a good working society there, and we had very enthusiastic meetings.

Monday, April 12, went to Syracuse, where I attended the State Convention, assisting in its work the three following days.

Mrs. Sprague joined me here and remained with me, assisting in the work until the close of my labors in the State.

We remained in Syracuse three days after the convention, and organized and chartered a good strong society with the newly-formed State Association.

April 20 and 21 I held three meetings in Pythian Hall, Auburn, and organized and chartered a good healthy society with an excellent board of officers.

April 22 and 23 at Moravia I held two enthusiastic meetings, and the day following went to Courtland, where I held four meetings, organized and chartered a fine society.

From there I went to McLean, where I gave one lecture, then visited Freeville and Dryden, N. Y.

Sunday, May 2, I was again in Waverly, where I held two meetings. Right here I want to say I had much trouble in getting replies to my letters. I sent out a good many, and I think not more than two-thirds of them were answered at all. Some persons neglected to answer, some had moved away and some were dead. I wish every one in this Convention would take pains on his return home to secure the addresses of all Spiritualists in his neighborhood, and forward them to the Secretaries of the State and National Associations, so that the Spiritualists of the country may be reached when it is desired.

Wednesday, May 13, after waiting two days for replies to my letters, I started for Olean, where I had an engagement for Sunday. I stopped off at Hornellsville, found Spiritualists by inquiring, and held a parlor meeting in the evening. Next morning engaged a hall and published notice of meeting. The hall was full, and at the close of the services I organized a good strong society, electing officers, making out application for charter, and all complete in two evenings. I am

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serving this society for the Sundays of this month. This shows what a little work may do.

Next morning I went to Olean, where I held four meetings, organized and chartered another society, filling them with enthusiasm which will be lasting.

May 19 I went to Bolivar, where I held six meetings, organized and chartered another good society.

From here I went to Friendship, where I held four meetings, organized and chartered a fine society which will live and become an honor to that little town, though it may make it hard for the Universalist Church in that village.

Sunday, May 30, I held a meeting in Jamestown, N. Y., which closed my three-months special engagement with the N. S. A.

During this thirteen-weeks campaign I visited 32 towns and cities, held 76 meetings, and organized 11 societies. I talked Spiritualism all the time I was awake, and that was generally until about twelve o'clock at night. I organized eight of these societies in the six weeks following the Convention. I made no special effort to organize societies before the Convention.

The total expense of this three-months' campaign was	$363.24
Total receipts, collections, charter fees, donations and contributions	248.54
Balance	$114.70

By this you will see that the entire expense to the National and State Associations, over and above what the campaign brought into the treasury, was but $114.70. At that rate it would cost the N. S. A. but $458.80 to keep a missionary in the field the entire year, if he could stand so much work the year round as I did for the three months, which I very much doubt.

Everywhere I went the Spiritualists were, with a very few exceptions, heartily in favor of the movement for organization. The Spiritualists of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois are ready to organize, and I believe they are throughout the Nation.

I believe if we had missionaries who were organizers, that we could put into the field and keep them there, that in three years' time our grand National Association and our State Associations would be placed on a sound financial basis.

I believe the N. S. A. is doing the very best work that can be done under the present financial conditions, and I feel that expressions of gratitude and appreciation are due our

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present official Board from every true Spiritualist in the land, for its efficient and faithful work for our organization and the cause it represents. I trust that this Convention will not adjourn until some well-defined plan shall have been devised to send out missionaries, and to keep them in the field until our people are united in one grand and harmonious working body. This is the only way that Spiritualists and mediums can ever get their rights or Spiritualism can ever be made respectable in the eyes of the world.

The societies that we have organized are employing speakers more or less. Occasionally there is a speaker who opposes organization, but such sometimes are the first ones to write our newly organized societies for an engagement. It is to be hoped that the National Anti-Spiritualists Association may be instrumental in converting all such persons to a belief in organization.

Wherever I went the people were calling for platform tests, and my lectures were nearly all followed with tests, either by Mrs. Sprague or myself, which of course helped to enthuse and inspire the people to work. It is not easy to refuse to follow a lecture with a test seance, even though one is tired out, when so many Spiritualists are hungry for messages from their loved ones, and so anxious to have their friends who are not Spiritualists receive the evidence of the fact of spirit return.

During this campaign in this State I found many places where good societies once flourished, some of them having large and well managed lyceums, but all had gone down together, as I learned from investigation, simply for lack of State and National organization. I reared several new societies on the ruins of these old ones, but there are many more in the State that must be resurrected. We need a National Lyceum Association with State and county auxiliaries, and I recommend that the question of such an organization be considered by this Convention. The lyceum is the strength of the society, and all officers and teachers will be of great assistance to local organizations.

In conclusion I will say: Let every medium and speaker, as well as every believer in Spiritualism, take hold and help by word and deed to sustain our National and State organizations, for in them lies the future success of our beloved cause.

I want to impress upon all of you in this Convention that you should do what you can to organize a Spiritualists society in the places where you reside. If there are one hundred and fifty delegates here to-day, and each one of them should or-

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ganize one society, that would mean one hundred and fifty new societies to charter with the National Association during the year. I believe every one can organize a society of at least seven members. If you live away back in the woods ten miles from town, organize there, have your proper officers, send in the names of your officers to the National Association, secure your charter, and we will send you speakers. There are a great many speakers out of employment who will be glad to serve you. We want an organization in every town; let us have your confidence and we will assist you. If you cannot hold weekly meetings, come together quarterly and enthuse the people. If you cannot do that much in your own town go into the adjoining town and join the society there. We must be united in our work. (Loud applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN: What shall be done with the report of your Second Financial Agent?

MR. STANGLEN: I move the appointment of a committee of five to consider the report of Mr. Sprague, and report to the Convention.

THE CHAIRMAN: The motion prevails and it is so ordered.

The Chair will appoint Mr. C. W. Stanglen, of Maryland, Mrs. Francis E. R. Dingman, District Columbia, Mrs. Sarah Crockett Billings, Massachusetts, Wm. Brodie, Louisiana, and Dr. F. S. Bigelow, Maine, as members of said committee.

MRS. TWING: I rise to a question of privilege. Our brother has told us that we ought to get together, but we are met with many difficulties, because so many of our Spiritualists are in the church. I know that in the city of Buffalo there is a circle of twelve persons who are instructed by a spirit calling himself Red Dog, who is furnishing matter for a book that is to be published. Not one of these twelve would be willing to have it known that he is a Spiritualist; every one of them goes to church on Sunday and during the week attends test seances. Now we must admit that the strongest spiritual force is in the church. Why are we not at liberty to send the names of those we know are Spiritualists, whether they are willing to own it or not? I want to know, if, when we know that a man or woman is a Spiritualist, we have not the right to add his name to our list? Must each one declare himself a Spiritualist before we can send in his name? I think that when one is fully converted to the interest of the cause, and goes to seances, he should not then be a follower of the Presbyterian or any other church. We have either got to dock the church, or something, I don't know what.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair would be in favor of counting no one who is too cowardly to come out and acknowledge that he is a Spiritualist. (Loud applause.)

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We will now receive the report of the Third Special Financial Agent, Mrs. Loe F. Prior.

MRS. PRIOR: I did not prepare any report of my year's work, but I feel it has not been much, yet I can report what I have done. After being appointed as one of your missionaries by the N. S. A. Board, my first work was done in Toronto, Ontario. From there I went to Hamilton, Ontario, where I received, above all expenses, eight dollars for the N. S. A., with the promise that a charter would be taken from the National Association. Whether the charter has been forthcoming or not, I have not heard. I think that before last year's Convention there were in that society in the neighborhood of some sixty members.

Leaving Canada, my next field was in Atlanta, Ga., where I made arrangements for a mass-meeting to be held there on the 12th, 13th and 14th of March. I found that society somewhat different from any I had come in contact with. It was composed of nine bachelors and one woman. These bachelors were, every one of them, thoroughly in earnest and enthused with the work. I took charge of the work, and the result was a very fair mass-meeting for the South at that time. I believe our collection at that place, Mr. President, was some sixteen or seventeen dollars. After this meeting took place I was called to New Orleans to take part in another mass-meeting in that city. It was a success. I visited Tallapoosa, Ga., and took up a collection there. I visited Fruithurst, Ala., where there is a large hotel. There is no city nor town, simply this inn, and during the winter months quite a number of people congregate there. I held meetings every evening in an adjoining hall. The proprietors and the clerks of the hotel showed me every courtesy, invited me back again, and gave me the full privilege of the hotel for the cause of Spiritualism.

I visited Chattanooga, Tenn., three different times, with the intention of organizing a society there, and each time I was disappointed. My last visit was on my way to Nashville, Tenn. Brother Albert said: "Mrs. Prior, after the Nashville mass-meeting, if you will come back to us, I pledge my word we will charter a society with you." Going to Nashville, Tenn., my work there for a couple of months occupied my full time.

I left Nashville on the 17th day of June for my engagement at the Northwestern Camp-Meeting. I returned to Nashville eight weeks later and found that strict attention must be given to the Nashville Mass-Meeting in the way of raising funds to meet expenses. It cost to bring our workers from

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the north to Tennessee, although railroad fares were low. Col. C. H. Stockell and myself determined to raise that money. How did we do it? Many of the society ladies would not aid the Spiritualists, but they did ask me to hold test seances in their parlors, at five dollars a seance. I held five or six of these test seances in Jewish and in aristocratic families of Nashville. Under any other conditions I would not have gone, but I felt that I must have money for the mass-meeting, and the result of my efforts there, friends, was, I hope, a success. We turned in fifty dollars to the National Association from that mass-meeting and four charters as well.

I succeeded in organizing a society in Chattanooga, of forty active members and seventeen contributing members, the latter being those who do not desire to be known as Spiritualists. This ended my labors as missionary.

I wish to present a communication, if I may be allowed to read it. Yesterday, in the President's Report, and in the remarks of Dr. J. M. Peebles, and others on the floor of this Convention, mention was made of Spiritualist Schools. I feel, friends, that we, as Spiritualists, should see to it that we have our children educated and reared in a Spiritualist institution. These are my principles, and, therefore, I have placed my four children in the Belvidere, N. J., Seminary. I think that Miss Belle Bush and Mrs. Ewell, the proprietors, are stanch Spiritualists. Miss Bush has worked for twelve years under heavier burdens than I have known woman to carry, and she needs the support of each earnest Spiritualist.

"SEMINARY, BELVIDERE, N. J.,
October 19, 1897.

"DEAR MRS. PRIOR: I send you, with this, a package of our circulars, trusting you will kindly use them to our advantage.

"You know I wrote to you of money I must have to meet a payment of $250.00 due on our home. Well, I have paid $150.00 toward it, but was informed yesterday that the balance *must* be paid this week or cost will be added. You see my strait. What can I do? Help me out if it is in your power, and let me know as quickly as possible. I write in haste. We are all well and doing well in all respects, save this need of funds. We must have more pupils, and shall have, no doubt, for I believe "Sunbeam," and she has promised to help me, so I keep my courage up and work away. I am sure you will do all in your power for us as for yourself. Please say to the friends in the Convention that an orphans' fund is needed by the Spiritualists, and it will be to their

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great credit to sustain our work here, for the climate is healthy, the scenery beautiful, and now our beloved sister has been called to her spirit home, all here are able to work and will not need to be helped as pensioners. All we ask is the kindly influence and patronage of those whose cause we have served by our time, our labors and our means for thirty years. Are we not entitled now to some recognition as Spiritualists who have suffered for our blessed cause more than tongue or pen can ever tell. What think you? Regards and greetings to all the friends. Let me hear from you before Saturday, please.

"Yours, with love,

BELLE BUSH."

My friends, it has been said by some, who do not understand the work at the Belvidere Seminary, that Miss Bush is too old to carry on this work, and that their children cannot be educated there. I know that her back is bent, her hair white and her eyes dim. Her back is bent by the burdens she has carried for all these long years; but if you could see her as I have seen her, working first in the kitchen, then in the schoolroom, then having to do her own marketing, you would feel as I do, that we, as Spiritualists, should come to her support in this, her only manner of earning a livelihood. I know there must be some method by which we can devise some ways or means to help out the only Spiritualists School we have in the United States. This place I know to be a very profitable place to educate our children. I have a little one ten years old, who is placed there, who is now a splendid German scholar. I have two daughters studying music there; they play the violin and piano, and have taken up voice culture, and I can assure you, my friends, that no one need fear to place his children there. Prof. Boynton, the principal, is a thoroughly educated teacher. I want you, friends, if it is possible for any one here, who feels he can assist Belle Bush in her work, to do so. Belle Bush does not ask you for your money without returning something to you for the money advanced. She has placed a scholarship for one year at $250.00. Are there not fifteen or twenty Spiritualists who feel they can contribute the sum of five, ten or twenty dollars toward the placing of some orphan in the school? Let us help Belle Bush to pay off this indebtedness before her home is taken from her. I thank you for your kind attention. (Applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN: This question in reference to the subject of schools is a special matter which will be received later on.

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The financial report made by Mrs. Prior is accepted. Mr. Moses Hull is now in order and has the floor.

MR. HULL: I do not know as I have any special report to make, but I will state that the document appointing me as a missionary, came to me without my knowing anything about it until it came. I was called upon to hold certain discussions, and I wanted, if I held them, to meet representative men. I was tired of meeting lesser lights. Since I received my missionary papers I have not had many opportunities to work for this Association, because I was not allowed to take up a collection or solicit contributions for it. I got just one society to let me appeal to its members for the benefit of the National Association, and that is the society of which Brother Locke is president; we raised $5.35. Wherever I have worked I have asked permission to take up a collection for the National Spiritualists Association. I have always met with the same answer: "No." So I have not been able to do all I should like to have done in this way.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the report of Mr. Hull. It is adopted.

The next order of business is the reports of delegates. All delegates will present their written reports to the proper committee.

MRS. CLENDANIEL: Mrs. Prior has also raised five dollars for the National Temple fund, for the Ladies' Aid Society.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair wishes to announce as the fifth member of the Committee on Delegates' Reports the name of Mrs. Carrie Kilgore, of Philadelphia.

MR. GOULD: I should like to know what course delegates' reports are to take. Are they to come up in their regular order or are we to do something with them now? In my mind this is the most important subject brought before the Convention, or will be. This matter, which has been introduced by Mr. Sprague, Mr. Hull and Mrs. Prior, we need to know, but we may come here as long as we live unless we act upon the suggestions which they make. It seems to me that these Financial Agents are good things, for through them the finances of the N. S. A. are augmented. We should reap the fruits of the labors of these missionaries. We get members through their efforts, and we get money as well. I hope their reports will not be passed into oblivion, and I do not know a better time to consider them than now.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair rules that these reports are to go to the Committee on Finance, Ways and Means, whose report will come up in its regular order.

MR. MCINTYRE: The Committee on Correspondence has

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some letters that properly belong to the Committee on Resolutions. I beg leave to turn them over to the committee to which they rightfully belong.

THE CHAIRMAN: The letters will be sent to their proper committee.

MR. MCINTYRE: There are two other letters here that should go to the Committee on Credentials.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is so ordered.

The Chair now recognizes Mrs. Sommers, of Illinois.

MRS. SOMMERS: Being the representative of a Spiritualistic Church, I wish to say, by the privilege of this National Association, we would like you to know that we are trying to organize societies in every small town in the State of Illinois. My society, in Chicago, has donated ten dollars to this Association. If it will be received, I will gladly turn it over to the Association. (Applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN: The money will be received.

MR. ALTEMUS: I have a suggestion from the State Agent of Maryland and, if it is in order, I would like to read it.

(Reads letter:)

To the Officers and Members of the National Spiritualists Association.

GREETING: Having been appointed as State Agent for Maryland by your honorable body, and instructed as per Article IX, Section 1, in your By-Laws, in promoting the interest of the Association, is a matter which has received my earnest consideration and attention.

Baltimore, a city of half a million inhabitants, has but three societies whose charters each indicate allegiance to the N. S. A. Their existence is a continuous struggle, due to the non-support of Spiritualists themselves. There is no doubt that our societies here would be in quite a flourishing condition if our local mediums would co-operate with us to the extent of giving the one evening of the week, Sunday, for societary platform work.

As it now is, and has been for some time, from fifteen to eighteen announcements are advertised holding test seances in the different sections of our city for this particular evening, and thus detracting persons from the philosophical and religious to the phenomenal only. It is, therefore, apparent that if this interest, which, being cut into so many fractional parts, could be centralized to several society meetings, it would redound to building and strengthening them in every particular—numerically and financially—consequently benefiting the N. S. A. In order to assist us in what we believe

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would positively be our mutual welfare, I beg to suggest that your Secretary send a circular-letter to our mediums questioning their willingness to aid us by not handicapping us in our efforts to further the cause with the people at large. Whilst these Sunday evening seances are doing good work and financially benefiting but *one individual*, we, on the other hand, will ever remain in a stifled, crippled condition as long as such a state of affairs exists. This being remedied, we are then confident of success.

Yours fraternally,

H. FRED. GAUSS,
State Agent for Maryland.

BALTIMORE, October 20, 1897.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the report of your State Agent of Maryland. What is your pleasure?

MR. LOCKE: I move the report be accepted and the request complied with.

MR. STANGLEN: I have listened with interest to the remarks of our co-worker in Maryland, but, sir, there are certain provisions that must go with them. I, as the president of one of those churches, protest against any medium occupying my rostrum, or the rostrum upon which I must stand, who sells charms to bring good luck and prosperity, etc., to the people. (Loud applause.)

Mr. President, the city of Baltimore is a broad field. We have men and women there who are true to the principles of Spiritualism, who have held their little developing circles and received their communications, in their own homes, because they have been helpless and defenseless against such gigantic fraud and deception as selling charms.

I had a box of powder, Mr. President, that unfortunately I neglected to bring with me this morning. I had intended to sprinkle it around this hall, just before we started to raise funds, as it is guaranteed to bring prosperity, about which I am beginning to feel somewhat anxious. (Laughter.)

Now, Mr. President, I for one believe with my co-workers, Brother Gauss, Mrs. Walcott and others in the State of Maryland, that we should not patronize or have anything to do with any medium, or pretended medium, who will stoop to sell charms. (Applause.) It is very well known that the person who sells these charms and powders, and gives one or two tests, draws the largest congregation in the city of Baltimore. He is the drawing card there, while the honest workers are speaking and giving tests to a very few persons. I hope that this Convention, in conjunction with that report, will

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pass resolutions that will not be misunderstood by the world, and that, as delegates to the National Spiritualists Convention, we denounce all charm-sellers. (Loud applause.)

Mr. President, I am sorry this matter has come up now, for I intended to refer to it under the head of "advertisements." It requires no more to make an advertisement attractive than the simple word "medium." (Applause.) Make it an honest advertisement, of honest mediumship, and I believe our success will be assured. I hope this Convention will not be afraid to strike a blow for truth, no matter whom it may hit. (Loud applause.)

MRS. WALCOTT: I have had a very great desire to express a thought relative to the workings of this National Association with regard to cleaning house, as was remarked here on several occasions yesterday. In every place people become dissatisfied because they cannot carry out their own ideas, irrespective of the principles of Spiritualism, and are desirous of new societies which will carry out their own ideas. But the greatest thing we have to encounter in Baltimore is the anti-Spiritualistic movement. We have in our body mediums who are not mediums at all, and whom we denounce. While we know some of them are good mediums, and give fine tests, they also sell charms—charms for business, charms for love, charms for all sorts of things, from one dollar to five dollars apiece. People go to such a medium, anxious oftentimes to learn whatever they can of spiritual communion. They are respectable, honest people, who would gladly embrace Spiritualism, but are repelled in their first attempt to investigate, by these ridiculous and damnable things that are enough to disgust any intelligent, honest person.

Two ministers called upon me last week, and wished to learn what they could about Spiritualism. I asked them if they were representatives of the anti-Spiritualistic movement, and they told me that they knew very little about it save what they had read in the local papers, but, as they were preaching to the people, they wanted to know if there was anything in Spiritualism that could put any greater hope in their work. They gave me their names; I looked the papers over and found they were advertised as two Baptist clergymen in the city. So there are many people that we might have in our ranks, were it not for that class which claims to represent us and deceives the people many times. Their lives are such as to throw a shadow over our cause. I suggest that if there is any power in this National Association by which we can find some way to drive out these people from our ranks, we should exercise it. I know that Spiritualists will never rally to our

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treasury while we have that class of people as our representatives, and I believe that the people would be more free-handed in their efforts, and would do more for the National Association, if such frauds were not among us. So I agree with the sentiments of Mr. Stanglen and other noble workers. About twenty-two meetings are advertised in Baltimore. Our President went to the newspapers and endeavored to have our advertisements inserted apart from the others, but they said they could make no distinction. He asked that the chartered societies be put under the heading of "Spiritualism" and the others under the heading of "mediums," but they would not do it, and so we have to stay, if we advertise at all, in that list of people. We know it is the desire of all true Spiritualists that we shall have the purest elements in our ranks, and all our efforts should be to bring to the front pure, moral individuals, those who are good test mediums and good speakers.

MR. WIGGIN: The hardest month's work I ever have done upon a Spiritualist platform was done last January in the city of Baltimore, Maryland. It is well known that the National Spiritualists Association desires to help Spiritualism in the United States and Canada, and the world. To strengthen and spread the truth of Spiritualism it is also necessary, absolutely necessary, that the local organizations shall come to the support of the National and help it out. (Applause.) It is a well-known fact that in the city of Baltimore there is one character, above all others, who stands pre-eminently before the people as a seller of charms, and the people of Baltimore dare not turn a hand against him. For one, I want to ask this question: Why do not those people dare to stand up for the truth and testify who the man is that does this work?

DR. HIDDEN: I have a manner of dealing with dealers of charms, impostors and the like. Whenever they come to my city, before they get a chance to do much work, I go to the city clerk and request that a license to sell such goods be refused. If the city clerk declares in favor of the impostor, I go to the chief of police and enter a protest with him, saying I mean to bring the man before the court. My next rule is to go to the mayor of my city and request him to prevent the issuance of a license to give an exhibition. I do not do any talking, friends, excepting in the quarter where talking counts. I call upon the law to prevent their giving their exhibitions. Thus, when a bogus medium comes to my town and flaunts his flaming advertisements, claiming he has charms to foster love, etc., I go to the places where they

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board; I see the persons and tell them they are violating the law of Massachusetts; that if they do not stop it I will bring them before the judge of the police court, and expose them. They generally leave town immediately. Just so long as I live, and have the power of toiling for Spiritualism, just so long will I do what I can for the honest Spiritualist, and keep up the fight against the fraud and fakir. I believe that there is law enough in every town, city and hamlet to stop that sort of business being carried on in the holy name of Spiritualism. (Applause.)

MR. LOCKE: Having made a motion to accept the report and comply with the request contained therein, I ask you, sir, if this discussion is in order? That report was specific. I had intended to speak later to this question, but this discussion is not in order.

THE CHAIRMAN: This discussion is entirely out of order. The question is upon the adoption of the motion made by Mr. Locke. That motion was, that the report be received and the request complied with. It is adopted.

MR. WALKER: I have just received a letter containing an important matter to be placed before this Convention as a special privilege. This letter is from W. H. Bach, of New York. He expresses his sentiments of good-will to the National Association and wishes to be remembered kindly to all present. Enclosed is the following which he desires to be placed before the Convention as a matter of privilege:

To the N. S. A. Convention of 1897, Greeting:

The Young People's Spiritual Union, of Cassadaga Camp, was organized in July, 1896, for the purpose of doing its part to assist Cassadaga camp-meeting, through the young people, in a public way. Its success has been so marked that, at the annual meeting, it was decided that it was advisable to start a movement looking toward the formation of a National Young People's Spiritual Union.

The power of the National Spiritualists Association to grant it a charter was discussed, and it was decided that whatever movement was made, it should, by all means, be made in connection with the National Spiritualists Association.

Mr. Frank Walker being in attendance at the camp, was invited to be present at the meeting, and we were informed that at present there was no authority for the issuance of a charter for a National Young People's Spiritual Union by the National Spiritualists Association.

A committee was therefore appointed to present a paper to the National Spiritualists Association Convention, calling

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attention to the fact, and asking that the proper officers of said Association be authorized to issue a charter to a society to be organized in the interests of the young people among the Spiritualists.

The greatest mistake the Spiritualists have made, in our humble estimation, is their lack of social features in the work of their societies. Many of them do not pay the slightest attention to that side of the question. While this may attract and hold some of the older members, it presents no charms to the younger members, and, in fact, very little attention is paid to the younger members of the society, while experience has shown that, given an equal opportunity with their elders, they will accomplish as much, if not far more, than their elders in attracting people through social features, and enrich the treasury to a great extent.

Every church organization has its young people's societies. Their popularity is evidenced whenever a convention assembles. Thousands attend every Y. P. S. C. E. convention, as the members of your honorable body well know.

We can learn many lessons from our orthodox friends, notwithstanding the opposition that is aroused every time anything of the sort is suggested. The Young People's Spiritual Union therefore asks that we may take this lesson from them and apply it to ourselves, and, by adding the strength of the young people to our societies, make them far stronger than they are at present.

The objection that is made to special societies for their benefit, by many Spiritualists, that we do not want the nonsense and fol-de-rol of young people in our midst, is not to be considered for a moment. We *do want* the aid of the growing members. That can only be obtained by appealing to them in the proper manner. Not only that, many *older children* are appealed to through features that the young can and will add.

Only a few days ago, Mrs. Bach, who is secretary of the local Young People's Spiritual Union, received a letter asking about the society and directions for forming one. They were sent. This young lady had learned the truth of Spiritualism and had immediately left the church. No social features are maintained by the society of her city, and she had about decided to go back to the church *for the social features*, while she could not endorse its other features.

Such a state of affairs is deplorable, and every worker knows it to be only too common. In our travels over the country we have met it time and again. We have even found places where the children of society officers never came near

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the meetings, and only by parental authority could they be induced to assist us in entertainments, to aid the finances of said society.

The young must take the places that are being vacated rapidly by the old. Since the last convention was held, some who were steadfast workers have entered that higher life, where eternal day takes the place of the darkness of earth life. We should have a training school for those left in earth life and it should begin with our young. First the Lyceum, then the Young People's Union, will make places for our young that will lead them into the Spiritual fold as similar societies do for orthodox societies.

There is no claim on the part of this organization to be National, yet it comprises members from every section of the Union. We wish to be a part of a National organization. No better time than the forthcoming Jubilee can be found for its organization. The manager of it has signified his approval of the step and his willingness to aid it in every possible manner. We therefore ask that the members of the Convention authorize the issuance of a charter to a National Young People's Spiritual Union, and give their endorsement to an effort to organize one at the Jubilee. The matter can then be safely left in the hands of the manager of the Jubilee.

W. H. BACH,
EVIELENA P. BACH,
Committee for the Y. P. S. U. of Lily Dale, N. Y.

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I move that this communication be referred to a special committee.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any objection? Hearing none, it is so ordered. That committee will consist of Frank Walker, New York, chairman; Mrs. Wheeler Brown, District of Columbia, George W. Kates, New York, Mrs. Nettie Holt-Harding, Massachusetts, and Dr. Mary J. Wright, Connecticut.

MRS. CADWALLADER: Mr. Chairman, I rise to a question of the highest privilege.

I deem it proper to make a supplementary report from the last year's Convention, in regard to the situation of the mediums in Philadelphia at the present time.

As you have all heard this morning, we have several strong societies in Philadelphia. Three of them, the Philadelphia Spiritualists Association, the Woman's Progressive Union, and the First Association of Spiritualists have representatives upon this floor. The members of the First Association of Spiritualists decided two years ago that they would no longer

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hold meetings in a small hall, but would find a home in an attractive part of the city. We, as members, had considerable trouble in securing a hall, because the owners thought that the Spiritualists, when holding meetings, wanted a dark place where there would be no light, and that they would destroy the tables and chairs, etc. The hall engaged can seat one thousand people, and we wanted to have the first meeting fill the hall to its utmost capacity, so we invited the Spiritualists of Philadelphia to see to it. We determined at the outset to talk to strangers as to what Spiritualism meant. We commenced by distributing that paper written by our honored President, Mr. Barrett, "What is Spiritualism?" throughout the city. We sent a copy to every address we could obtain. At our opening session we were rewarded by seeing stranger after stranger come in to hear about Spiritualism and to see what the Spiritualists were like. Our President's pamphlet on "What is Spiritualism?" has done more to help our Association than any other thing we have attempted to do. It has brought the news of Spiritualism to hundreds who never heard of it before.

As you are aware, many of you, that association, and in connection with that the president of the Philadelphia Spiritualists Association, Mr. Thomas M. Locke, was made the defender of our mediums, and it is due to us that you should know why we have taken no more action than we have. According to the laws of Pennsylvania, as we have been informed by reputable lawyers, the district attorney has absolute power to call or postpone any trial he sees fit. The committee has waited on the district attorney many times, and has insisted that our cases be tried, that he was holding our witnesses and mediums under the ban of the law of the United States without granting them a fair trial. Time and again has he promised to bring up our cases, and we have gone there only to be told that in our prison there were many who had no bail, and that consequently we should be glad that our mediums are doing as well as they are, without insisting on the trials until they get ready, while there are others languishing in jail. But he agreed to bring them up at the last term of court, also at the October term, but this has not been done. One of our mediums whom we allowed to go out to do his work throughout the country has informally given us to understand that he thinks there is no question of his being convicted in our courts, but rather than face the ordeal he does not wish to be pressed to come back to Philadelphia the moment the trial comes up. That man is Mr. Price, who was convicted at his first trial, whom the courts, despite his conviction, allowed to go on bail.

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That is the position to-day. But we got up an amendment to our State laws, as you know, last year. Hon. A. B. Richmond drew it up, and at that time signatures were received from many of the Spiritualists at Cassadaga and in Pennsylvania, asserting our right to be allowed to present evidence in court. But, unfortunately, your speaker was taken ill last October, and was not any longer able to attend to the matter personally. Before the time of my recovery the legislature had adjourned, and there was no chance to present it.

I want you to know that we have in our possession at the present time ample funds to protect the mediums of Philadelphia, and ample funds to send a lawyer to our legislature to secure this amendment. (Applause.)

The Woman's Progressive Union is doing a most important work. The object of this body is to build a temple in Philadelphia. The members of the Union have found one Spiritualist, who, having been saved from insanity through the ministrations of a medium, when he passed away, left them a donation that amounts to $26,000, for a temple. For once in the history of Spiritualism there was no objection on the part of his family (and they were Catholics) to our having that $26,000 to secure a temple in Philadelphia. (Loud applause.) We have had other bequests left us, and in every case the court has awarded our Association of Spiritualists the proper amount of money, without a question. Through the efforts of Mrs. Kilgore, who is now upon this floor as a delegate, our treasury was made so secure that there has been no question as to our finances. The First Association of Spiritualists is the largest and I believe the strongest Association in the United States, financially. When we closed last year's work we found it had cost us $2,000, yet we closed our accounts with a balance in the treasury. So the work goes on in Philadelphia, and we are loyal to the National Association, every one of us.

For two years I have been asking the Woman's Progressive Union to take a charter with the National, but they, like a great many others, did not understand why it was necessary to take a charter in order to send delegates. But Philadelphia is now represented here on this floor by twenty-five members of the Woman's Progressive Union of Philadelphia. They intend to work with the National Association, and they intend to work for Spiritualism everywhere. They are here to express their loyalty, Philadelphia is here to express its loyalty, to the National Association, and not only to the National Association, but to Spiritualism. (Loud applause.)

The other associations of Philadelphia, of which there are

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four, I should not neglect to state all are in hearty fraternity with the National Association, and all are chartered with it. We have now six chartered societies in Philadelphia, chartered with the National, and I think there is no city in the United States which can exhibit six charters from this body. It shows well for Philadelphia, even if the laws are against us. When the law recognizes the fact that there is money at hand to fight for the mediums, they will have their rights. Let me tell you some of the reasons why these cases are not called. They thought they would find the mediums without a penny, but they met a defense committee of fifteen, with the millions, if necessary, to stand up for the mediums, not only of Philadelphia but of the world, hence they dared not bring up the cases, for they knew they would fail. (Applause.)

DR. HIDDEN: I wish to present this telegram to the Association, which I have just received.

"The Directors of the Veteran Spiritualists Union send thanks to the National Spiritualists Association for its generous contribution of money."

I have received in money and pledges for the Veteran Spiritualists Union $82.35.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Stephens is now in order.

MRS. STEPHENS: The State Association of California, of which I am a representative, desires me to present to this Convention the following set of resolutions:

"WHEREAS, It is in the true interest of unity in the spiritual work in California that all the local societies should be chartered only by the California State Association, whether in existence at the present time or to be established hereafter: therefore, be it

"*Resolved*, That the N. S. A. do surrender all the charters it has issued to local societies of the State of California to the State Spiritualists Association, and the Secretary of the N. S. A. notify all societies holding its charters in California to exchange them, free of charge, for the charters issued by the California State Association."

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the resolution. It will be referred to a special committee consisting of Thomas M. Locke, of Pennsylvania; Hon. L. V. Moulton, Michigan, and Mrs. Russegue, Connecticut.

MRS. RUSSEGUE: In recognition of the establishing of societies, and as an endorsement of successful efforts, I move that this National Association Convention send greetings to the Norwich Spiritual Union, congratulating it upon its success in dedicating its new home.

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MR. LOCKE: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: The motion prevails.

MR. HULL: Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen—I will try not to detain you long. Most of you know that for thirty years we have been arguing the fact that we should prepare our speakers and workers for public work. We find men and women in our ranks who love our cause, but they do not like a great deal that is said and done in the name of Spiritualism. We have urged that our people should be prepared for their work. About two years ago, when I made several speeches on this subject, a committee that had a charter for a college of that kind called me before them and asked me to tell them of my plans, and they stated to me, "We will carry out those plans if you will take charge." I told them I was not a teacher, and would rather somebody else should do it, but by and by it was forced upon me and so I accepted the school. About four weeks before the school was to open, I received a letter from the committee, stating, among other things, that they would have to abandon the school as they were without money and could not pay their bills. I replied, "I never look back." They congratulated me on that, and we got four teachers, six students who had money to pay their expenses, and about twenty students who had no money, but we kept a six-weeks school exactly as we said we would. Some of the students were graduates of Harvard and other colleges. They said they had never learned so much in six weeks anywhere as they learned at our school. They became deeply interested and said that the school must continue. It cost me about two hundred dollars, besides my own and my wife's time, out of my own pocket, but I have never paid out two hundred dollars in my life as willingly as I did that sum. Professor Weaver, who is here, was chosen as my right-hand man in that school, and he did not charge me as much even as his traveling expenses, or it would have cost me a great deal more. I only paid him thirty or forty dollars for all that he did. The people of Ohio were interested in it, also the ministers. And instead of criticising it they approved of it and wanted the school again. I said, "Now if you will organize and take this school, I will be glad to have you do so." They formed an association called the Spiritualists Training School, and they selected me as President of that Association. They have obtained a charter, and that school commences now in each department right away. Before this month closes we hope to have a little monthly paper through which we are going to teach a great deal. Mr. Weaver has entire control of that. In another department

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we are going to give lessons in Biblical Science, calling on the highest criticism throughout the world.

We are to have a six-weeks school near the city of Mantua, Ohio, beginning next spring. We received letters last year from more than one hundred speakers, who said they would like to go to that school. Somehow the other churches raise money with which to prepare their speakers for the platform work, and we are determined to find somebody to help us. I will simply say a life membership in that school costs you $25. A yearly membership costs you $10. Access to the home department of the school, to receive instructions through the press and other instruments that we have, will cost you $3. The books will cost you at wholesale $2.05. That part of the work opens immediately. We are going to start a monthly paper. That paper will go to every student, and others wanting it may get it for 50 cents a year. Mr. Weaver has entire charge of the whole department. I hope you will see him and inquire of him and he will tell you something of it. Any one who has a dollar he wishes to donate to help the cause is earnestly requested to do so in the interest of either of these two schools or colleges. If they are thinking of making their wills we will be glad to receive any endowment they may be able to leave us.

I believe that the individual who takes up this spiritual work should prepare himself for it. If he takes up that work for life, he should learn from our enemies, for there are ways by which he could profit by the lessons they have had, and we believe we should take these people and educate them for the right theory. I do not believe any man or woman is fit to go upon the Spiritualists rostrum, either as a medium or a speaker, who has not been trained for his particular line of work. I want to see our workers well prepared, but, as I nave said, since I have been here, a great many of our speakers start out for their work totally unprepared, and the way the English grammar is tortured by some of them is most disgusting. Now it is time we were preparing and getting ready to build up and strengthen the work of Spiritualism, and without these schools, or something else of that kind, to educate and prepare the people for the work, the work cannot be properly done. (Applause.) I hope this Association will find some method to take that school in its hands and make the President of the National Association the President of the school. I would be glad to step out, for I do hope they will do something to prepare our workers for the work they have to do.

Let me tell you a little story concerning a Baptist minister of Clinton, Iowa. Learning that we were going to have a

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Spiritualist camp-meeting near there, and that some of his people were going to attend, he said to them: "Ladies and gentlemen, I do not want you to go to that camp-meeting upon the hill. I am going to preach right here every Sunday during the camp-meeting, and I will preach as good Spiritualism as you will ever hear." He made every effort to hold the people so they would not come to us, and the people will not come to us unless we prepare our ministers who go out before the people. For that reason this school is started and demands of you your moral and financial support. (Applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair will appoint as a Committee on Schools, Moses Hull, of Ohio; Mrs. S. Myron, of Pennsylvania, and F. H. Roscoe, of Rhode Island.

The Committee on Lyceums will consist of J. B. Hatch, Jr., of Massachusetts; Florence Bray, of Maryland; Charles W. Stanglen, of Maryland; Margaret Gaule, of Maryland; Mattie E. Hull, of Ohio; Carrie L. Hatch, of Massachusetts, and Mary J. Stephens, of the District of Columbia.

MRS. RICHMOND: I come before the Convention at this time to present a thought which has occurred to me. In all religious, educational, or any other kind of bodies, especially of a National character, there is an assemblage after the transaction of business, on such occasions as our evening sessions, when special speakers are assigned special subjects upon important questions connected with the movement. It seems to me that in our future Conventions it will become necessary for some such order as this to be adopted.

I hope that in order to present the subject of Spiritualism, the result of the work of the Association, and the results of Spiritualism for the last fifty years, in the best possible manner, we will have in the future such a symposium, and that those who arrange the programme will be instructed by this Convention to correspond with and invite eminent teachers of Spiritualism (whether connected or not with the Association), who can present the subject in its most beautiful and attractive manner. It seems to me that the Board of Officers has labored under great constraint in past years. It seems to be the desire of nearly all of the delegates that speakers or mediums from their localities shall appear on the programme. You know the evening sessions must be limited, and it is desired that some of the very best test mediums shall appear. It is also desired that we should have the very best speakers. Therefore, I most earnestly recommend, Mr. President, that a committee be appointed to draw up some such suggestions upon this subject for consideration that in future Conventions there may be selected to speak on

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chosen subjects those who represent some particular department and who can present it in the best possible manner.

These evening sessions should be confined particularly to the subject of Spiritualism, and it should be presented by representative speakers and mediums. In this way we can draw from a large body of able speakers from the brilliant talent in our ranks such as will represent the subject in the most able manner. We feel that those who have had this matter in charge during the past have done their best, yet I hope, Mr. President, that this will receive the consideration of the Convention.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved and seconded that this matter be referred to a special committee for recommendations regarding suitable programmes for future Conventions. The motion prevails, and the Committee will consist of Mrs. Cora L. V. Richmond, George A. Fuller, Elvira S. Loring, J. H. Altemus and C. L. Stevens.

MR. LOCKE: I noticed yesterday in a report of this Convention that one of our able workers was in need of aid. I refer to Mrs. Colby Luther. I was requested by the citizens of Philadelphia to inquire in this Convention of those who live in her neighborhood as to whether that which we saw in the papers is correct, and if such be the case, it does seem to me that this Convention ought to take some action. (Applause.) I will state that just before I left my home I received a letter from a friend of mine who is taking care of her at Muncie, Ind., and I learned the lady was receiving the sum of two dollars per week, with the strong probability in the near future of not being able to look after the welfare of Mrs. Luther. If there is any one on the platform to-day whom I revere, it is Mrs. Colby Luther. (Applause.) I desire to bring this matter before the Convention at this time for fear that it be forgotten, and when the time comes that Spiritualists will forget to honor and revere their workers, then let the cause die.

I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, to take up your valuable time, but this matter is of great importance, to you and to me and to every lover of our philosophy, and she should not be allowed to go uncared for. I sincerely trust that this Convention will take up this question.

While I am on the floor, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask for information. I understand that some two or three years ago Mrs. Luther had a considerable sum of money, but that for the last two or three years a family of ten or twelve persons has been living off it and that there is very little of it left. I ask for information.

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I hope, therefore, that those who know anything about her case will speak concerning it.

MRS. RICHMOND: I can answer that question, for I recently saw a letter in one of our Spiritualist papers saying that the little amount she had left had been exhausted by her long illness, and that she is in actual want of financial support. I think that the matter is very timely, and I hope that we shall all feel that this is our case and that the Chairman will appoint a committee to consider it.

MR. HULL: I have spent two Sundays with Mrs. Luther. I took up a collection for her and took it to her home, and I have talked with her, so I think I know something about her. She has lost the sum of about $3,500 which she had to pay for a surgical operation and other things within the last year or two. She has about $600 left now, but she cannot get at it, for it is loaned to the Indiana Camp Association on six per cent interest. She said to me that if we could find somebody who could take up that note that money would last her for some little time. The note is good and well secured and, as I said, bearing six per cent interest. If some one would take up that note it would help her very much. I took up two collections for her, and when I saw her I told her I knew something would be done. She is very feeble. She has had to provide for thirteen people.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair will take it as the sense of the Convention that a committee shall be appointed to consider this case. That Committee will consist of Mr. Thomas M. Locke, Mr. F. B. Woodbury and Mrs. J. V. McIntyre.

MR. GOULD: There is a subject in which we are all interested and about which there is a great diversity of opinions as to what course should be taken by this Convention. I have drawn up the following resolutions, which I will read, which will bring the matter before this body to be considered later.

(Reads:)

"WHEREAS, An organization known as the Anti-Spiritualists Association has recently been formed by certain individuals, composed largely of orthodox clergymen, for the purpose of destroying the usefulness and influence of Spiritualism and to disturb its progress as a religion: therefore be it

"*Resolved*, That we, a Convention of Delegates, representing a large majority of the Spiritualists in America, and others, expressing the sentiments of our constituents, do hereby declare that body of the above organization is unworthy of our notice and should be passed in silence and consigned to the oblivion of the past which it deserves."

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THE CHAIRMAN: The resolution will go to the Committee on Resolutions.

Adjourned.

AFTERNOON MEETING.

OCTOBER 20, 2.30 P. M.

President Barrett in the Chair.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Convention will be in order.

The first business is the reception of the report of the Committee on the President's report, Mr. H. W. Richardson, Chairman.

Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Richardson is in order and has the floor.

MR. RICHARDSON:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

1. We believe, with our President, that it is because of our organization of Spiritualists, that the Anti-Spiritualists have united in their effort to overthrow us, and that it behooves us to work more and more for organization throughout the United States and Canada.

2. We endorse the recommendation of the President regarding the printing of the proceedings of this Convention in the same general style as in former years, also the bringing of the history of the N. S. A. down to November 1, 1897, and the making and holding of plates of same for future use. We further recommend that all societies be invited and urged, through the columns of our Spiritual papers, to provide themselves with one or more copies of this report.

3. We recommend that vigorous efforts be made to secure the complete file of old publications necessary to the work of compiling the history of Spiritualism, and that the fund appropriated last year for this purpose, and still unused, be applied this year for the same work.

4. We heartily agree with our President in his recommendation that two grand mass-meetings be held each month in the large cities, under the auspices of the N. S. A., between December 1 and June 1.

5. We recommend that the matter of holding grove-meetings be left to the discretion of the incoming Board, and would suggest to them the propriety of encouraging State Associations to organize and carry forward this branch of the work.

6. We emphasize the necessity of pushing forward State organizations for looking after State legislation and other

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work, and we also recommend, as a necessity to complete organization of our work, that as soon as a sufficient number of State organizations are formed to justify it, all charters of local organizations shall be obtained from State organizations and work under their supervision of State, and that thenceforth State charters alone be granted by the National Organization, they to work under its supervision, provided suitable arrangements are made for supplying the N. S. A. with necessary funds.

7. We heartily approve of the custom of securing N. S. A. Days at the camps, and recommend the appointment of missionaries for attendance at the various camps, as suggested.

8. In view of the fact that the *Progressive Thinker*, in the issue of October 16, has recognized the great value of systematic missionary work by old and well-trained workers, and generously offered to be one of ten to donate $1,000 to keep one worker in the field as such during the coming year, we therefore recommend that the Board appoint, at a suitable salary, a National Grand Lecturer and Organizer, with a sufficient number of district missionaries, as suggested, to do an efficient work.

9. The principle of long engagements for our speakers and mediums is worth the consideration of all local societies. So far as the general interests of the work will permit, the tendency should be in that direction.

10. Regarding a National Spiritualist Temple we recommend the consideration of this matter to the incoming Board.

11. In relation to that part of the President's report touching the matter of ordination, your Committee is willing to leave that matter to the decision of the incoming National Board, but offer the following, viz: that the practice of ordination, as such, be eventually discontinued among us, as not proving beneficial to our cause, but that, instead thereof, all lecturers and mediums working under auspices of Spiritualism be required to furnish to local societies proper evidence of being duly accredited persons, both as to their ability and moral character, thus preventing imposition and humiliation resulting from the employment of unaccredited strangers on our public platforms.

12. The wise and appropriate recommendation of our President, in regard to schools and lyceums, has our hearty endorsement, and earnest efforts in that direction should be made; and we recommend that a special committee be appointed to devise plans for the improvement of lyceum work.

13. The Fraud question, to which our President so pointedly refers, should receive vigorous but judicious treatment.

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Fraud and deception in every form should receive the stamp of disapproval from every true Spiritualist, and we place the matter before the Convention for such action as shall seem proper.

14. The continuance of the black list, and the mailing to each society a copy of the same, as our President recommends, meets the approval of your Committee.

15. Your Committee recommends a liberal response from all Spiritualists to the call for funds to defend the Babe will.

16. The recommendation of the appointment of special financial agents to attend Mass-Meetings and the N. S. A. Camp Days, is, in our opinion, important, and we submit its consideration to the incoming Board, who should, and undoubtedly will, use especial care in the selection of persons for such positions.

17. In regard to the question of Finance, we believe that as the several States fall into line with State organizations, it will become necessary and proper to so amend Article VIII of our Constitution as to bring to the N. S. A. more revenue than is now provided for from the 25-cent dues from local delegates. We presume this and other points in this connection will be fully covered by the report of the Committee on Finance.

18. Inasmuch as Spiritualism has, from its inception, urged upon its devotees the practical brotherhood of man, no true Spiritualist can ignore any movement that tends to better the condition of the human family spiritually, ethically, economically and politically, and your Committee heartily concurs in all the recommendations of our President along reform lines, and suggests the adoption, by this Convention, of the following resolutions, passed by the recent State Spiritualists Association of California:

"WHEREAS, The impulse which moved our ancestors in issuing the immortal 'Declaration of Independence' was to secure and perpetuate the liberty of the people; and,

"WHEREAS, The subsequent creation and adoption of the Federal Constitution and the legislation had thereunder, has signally failed to secure liberty to the people: therefore,

"*Resolved*, That the establishment of direct legislation, commonly called the Initiative and Referendum, is the only method by which the alarming encroachments upon personal liberty can be prevented, and the equality and happiness of the people be secured.

"*Resolved*, That, as thinking and earnest people, we cannot but be profoundly impressed with the trend of present civilization toward luxurious wealth on the part of the few,

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and the increase of suffering and poverty on the part of the many, and we hereby proclaim it as the bounden duty of Spiritualists to put forth every effort, as moral and political factors of the nation, to secure such changes in constitutions and laws as will establish a practical brotherhood of the people."

19. We recommend that the section of the President's report entitled "A Secular Government," be adopted as expressing the sense of this Convention, which is as follows:

"I recommend that we declare to the world our firm belief in and support of a secular form of government for the United States, and that we favor the equal and uniform taxation of church property of all kinds. I feel that we should also urge the removal of sectarian instruction from our public schools, and that Government or State appropriations for the support of sectarian schools be prohibited by law. In view of the present widespread distress, the taxation of $3,000,000,000 church property would be a great relief to a suffering people. In this work I urge that we co-operate with the Secularists, Free-Thinkers, Seventh Day Adventists and others who are battling for freedom in religion in and for America."

20. We recommend to the Convention to take in hand the question of a declaration of principles as suggested by our President, and if in their wisdom it is deemed proper, a special committee be appointed to draft and present to this body, for their action, such declaration of principles. In case a committee should be appointed, we recommend that they consider the declaration of the principles adopted by the New York State Association of Spiritualists, which can be obtained from the Secretary.

21. We recommend to the incoming Board the consideration of the question of making the special appointment of Lyman C. Howe, to prepare the History of Spiritualism, as suggested by our President.

22. Finally, your Committee recommends the hearty approval, by this Convention, of the form, spirit and completeness of the entire report of President Barrett, and commend it to the whole body of our American Spiritualists as replete with wholesome instruction, as well as a demonstration of the eminent ability and faithfulness of our chief officer in the discharge of the great and arduous duties incumbent upon him in that high, sacred and responsible position.

H. W. RICHARDSON,
M. C. EDSON,
W. C. BOWMAN,
MARY A. HATCH,
IDA P. A. WHITLOCK,
} Committee.

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THE CHAIRMAN: Shall this report be considered *seriatim?*

MR. LOCKE: I move that the report be considered *seriatim.*

MR. STANGLEN: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: The motion is carried. Section 1 will now be considered. It is adopted.

2. We endorse the recommendation of the President regarding the printing of the proceedings of this Convention in the same general style as in former years, and also the bringing of the history of the N. S. A. down to November 1, 1897, the making and holding of plates of same for future use. We further recommend that all societies be invited and urged through the columns of our Spiritual papers to provide themselves with one or more copies of this report.

DR. LYON: I do not suppose there are fifty in this hall, outside of the delegates, who have read these reports. But if you take these reports and read them thoroughly and understand what is going on among the Spiritualists, you will know more than you do to-day. I recommend that every one take each report and read it and study it.

MR. EDSON: I would like to say that in a report of this kind there is more practical value in advice and in other important information that every Spiritualist should have, than can be found in any other work. Even the President's report alone is worth the amount, without speaking of the other spiritual reading which it contains, and we cannot get such information concerning the affairs of the National Association from any other source, and I do not think we should neglect these reports.

The section was adopted.

Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 were adopted without debate.

9. The principle of long engagements for our speakers and mediums is worth the consideration of all local societies. So far as the general interests of the work will permit, the tendency should be in that direction.

MRS. WRIGHT: I move the adoption of the recommendation.

THE CHAIRMAN: This question is now open to discussion.

MR. BOND: The Committee on Resolutions has that matter under advisement, and if all these reports be accepted there will be a conflict.

THE CHAIRMAN: This section will be referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

Sec. 10. Adopted.

Sec. 11. Referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

Sec. 12. Adopted.

Sec. 13. Referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

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MR. KATES: I would like to offer the following:

Resolved, We will make special effort to protect every true medium, and whilst we are weeding out the frauds we urge local societies to employ only well-tried public workers.

THE CHAIRMAN: The resolution will be referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

Sec. 14. Adopted.
Sec. 15. Adopted.
Sec. 16. Adopted.
Sec. 17. Referred to the Committee on Finance.
Sec. 18. Referred to Committee on Resolutions.
Sec. 19. Adopted.
Sec. 20. Referred to Committee on Resolutions.
Sec. 21. Adopted.
Sec. 22.

The Vice President in the chair.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: This section will be adopted by rising. (The Convention rose en masse, amid much shouting, applause and waving of handkerchiefs.)

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I will not call for the negative vote. (Laughter.)

President Barrett in the Chair.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question now is upon the adoption of the report of the Committee on the President's Report, as a whole, as amended. It is adopted.

The next item of business is the report of the Committee on the Secretary's report, Captain Gould, Chairman.

CAPTAIN GOULD: I am going to ask the secretary of our committee to read this report, as his voice is stronger than mine.

MR. STANGLEN:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Mr. Chairman and Delegates Assembled in the Fifth Annual Convention of the Spiritualists of the United States of America and Canada:

Your Committee on Secretary's Report submits the following:

Having considered the many questions referred to in said report, and the able stewardship of your honorable Secretary, Francis Bailey Woodbury, would recommend the following for your consideration:

Many questions which were of vital importance have not been considered in this report because of the fact that they will be brought before this Convention by your Committee

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on Resolutions and President's Report. We believe that the suggestions of your Secretary in reference to the question of Church and State are of vital importance, and should be considered by this Convention in no uncertain manner. The subject of Lyceum missionaries and missionaries at large meets our hearty approval, and as they will be considered by your Committee on President's Report, we make no recommendations.

We believe the suggestion in relation to the organization of State Associations wherever possible, is for the best interest of the National Spiritualists Association.

We believe that the liberal distribution of tracts by the National Spiritualists Association and local organizations will do much to advance the propaganda work of Spiritualism, and would recommend that this Convention make provision for the printing of the same.

Your Secretary suggests the advisability of having Spiritualist papers now on file at headquarters bound; we would recommend that this Convention provide the ways and means for the same.

We would especially call the attention of this Convention to the question of taking a census of the Spiritualists of the United States of America and Canada. We would suggest that the delegates to this Convention take the census of their respective States, with the assistance of their local organizations, and file their report with the General Manager of the Jubilee, Mr. Frank Walker.

Respecfully submitted,

E. W. GOULD, Chairman,
CARRIE F. LORING,
E. W. SPRAGUE,
ADELINE M. GLADING,
CHAS. W. STANGLEN.

THE CHAIRMAN: Shall the report be considered *seriatim?*

MR. STANGLEN: I move it be accepted as a whole, as there is nothing but suggestions in it.

MR. WALKER: There has already been some work done in connection with the taking of a census of Spiritualists of this country. It is not expected that it will be complete, but I think it should be done through one source and not several sources at the same time. On the occasion of the Jubilee for next year arrangements have been made to take a census of the Spiritualists of this country. If it is decided to turn that over to the Secretary, it will relieve me of considerable work.

THE CHAIRMAN: An amendment can be made.

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DR. LYON: We all know—if you don't I do—that there are as many Spiritualists in the church to-day who don't want to be known as there are out of it, and how are you going to get these names? This means that we form resolutions and try to put them in force, but you never can find them. I want the people to stand up and be counted. I have been counted since the year 1846. I was true then, and I am true now. The best thing to do is to stand up and be counted.

MR. STANGLEN: Is the motion to refer now in order? If so, I will move that it be referred to the committee, who will make it satisfactory to all concerned.

The report was again referred to the committee.

THE CHAIRMAN: We will now receive the report of the Committee on Auditing Accounts, Mr. Mayer, Chairman.

MR. MAYER (reads report):

REPORT OF AUDITING COMMITTEE.

1. After auditing the accounts of the Treasurer and Secretary, we find them all correct. We have also carefully examined the detailed financial account of our President, and find everything O. K., showing a balance due him of $631.72.

2. We recommend that the two items of March 24 of $50, and May 8 of $74.65, be eliminated from his expense account, because it was expended for talent employed at the Nashville and Texas conventions.

3. His account shows most forcibly that *although he received no salary after January 24, he kept on working* faithfully for the interests of the N. S. A., which fact is splendidly illustrated by his Sunday work in New England.

4. He only charged $5 per Sunday for his services, and turned all the proceeds over to the N. S. A., and therefore the charge made by some one that he received double pay is false and most unkind.

5. In consideration of the fact that our Secretary has expended about $60 to go to the Free-thinkers' Convention in Chicago, we recommend that in the future the officers of the N. S. A. devote their time and energy to help the cause of Spiritualism instead of Free-thought organization, when it takes funds from our treasury.

6. The Committee also recommends that, where State agents are appointed in certain localities, they should not be at liberty to have more than one member of the Board to assist them at the expense of the N. S. A. This recommendation is made on account of the large sums that have been expended in this way, thereby depleting our treasury.

7. In regard to the mining stock mentioned in the report

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of the Secretary and held by Mrs. Mary E. Cadwallader, we find no records on our books of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) THEODORE J. MAYER, Chairman,
CARRIE L. HATCH,
MARY J. STEPHENS,
B. B. HILL,
E. R. WHITING.

THE CHAIRMAN: The report will be considered *seriatim*.

Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 were adopted as read.

5. In consideration of the fact that our Secretary has expended about $60 to go to the Free-thinkers' Convention in Chicago, we recommend that in the future the officers of the N. S. A. devote their time and energy to help the cause of Spiritualism instead of Free-thought organization, when it takes funds from our treasury.

MR. WOODBURY: I think that a little explanation is necessary at this time upon that point. Because I happened to go to the Free-thought Convention on that trip, it is not supposed that sixty dollars were devoted to the Free-thought Convention. It is not true. We were invited to send two delegates to the Free-thinkers' Convention at Chicago. The Free-thinkers of America were represented in your Convention last year by a very able man. The Free-thinkers of America have united with us in our work in Congress. They have been one of our strongest allies in that work, but our sixty dollars were not expended for the Free-thinkers' Convention. We went to the Free-thinkers' Convention first; a meeting was then held in Chicago by the Vice President of this Association and myself. We then went to the convention of the Liberal Congress of Free Religion at Indianapolis, and if the entire sixty dollars were expended to send your delegates to that convention alone, they were well expended. When a Congress of church people invite us to attend their convention, as they did there, and gave your delegates a chance to speak and to enter into their discussion, never in any way discriminating against us as Spiritualists, it won't hurt the National Association to invest a little money in that kind of a meeting. (Applause.) I never shall forget that meeting. I don't think that any man, woman or child that was in attendance at that meeting will ever forget it. I wish that as Spiritualists we could go so far into the true soul of things as that meeting did. That meeting was composed of almost all religious denominations in America, and no inharmonious sound was heard. Shall we not participate in such gatherings when we have the opportunity? (Applause.)

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From that meeting we went to the Spiritualists Church in Indianapolis, Ind. We did not turn anything over to the National Association from that place. Why? Our good Brother Wiggin had been working there day and night to found a Spiritualist church that was to be an honor to the cause of Spiritualism in that city, and we thought that the National Spiritualists Association could devote one evening to sustain our noble brother in his work there. (Applause.)

From there we went to Muncie, Ind. The society there was divided against itself and we tried the best way we could for two days and two nights to restore love and harmony to that society.

From there I went to Lexington, Ky. Mr. President, that was the place where one of our mediums was arrested and where he was tried and convicted. They told me I did not dare to go to Lexington, Ky., and lecture on the subject of Spiritualism, and I said I would go there if I stayed in jail six months afterward. (Applause.) I knew why I could go there, and go there safely. One of the wealthiest women in town had invited me there. She had hired the court-house where the medium was tried. I went there and delivered my lecture from the very desk where the judge sat when he sentenced that medium. (Applause.)

Out of that trip I turned into the National Association almost thirty dollars. I believe the balance was well invested.

MR. SPRAGUE: I would like to inquire if the Convention last year did not vote to send two delegates to that convention?

THE CHAIRMAN: It did not. It was left to the Board of Trustees.

MR. MAYER: I think that our Secretary is not in order, because we simply found the charge of sixty dollars on the book and we made the recommendation for future Conventions. We have no charge to bring against the Secretary. We brought that forward simply as a recommendation regarding the future, for our treasury is entirely depleted, and we recommend that the funds of this Association should be used for the cause of Spiritualism, as the funds are low and we have no funds to spend in any other way or shape.

MRS. RICHMOND: I simply rise to make an inquiry. Women are not supposed to know much about business, but I would like to ask any man in this Convention if the business of the Auditing Committee in a convention is to give advice? It seems to me that the Board of Trustees having had its Auditing Committee, and these accounts having passed through

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the Board of Trustees, that the Auditing Committee of this Convention is simply to audit the accounts. Then, as delegates, any proposition or advice can be given.

MR. EDSON: Mr. President and fellow delegates—It seems to me your Committee should be sustained in this matter, because it was evident they saw that the society was in debt to our worthy President for a large sum of money. They also saw that it was necessary for us to commence at home to liquidate our indebtedness before we had any money to expend in matters that were outside of Spiritualism. Inasmuch as the account was entered by the Secretary as expenses of the trip to the Free-thought Convention, and inasmuch as their action was eminently proper, the Committee should be sustained.

MRS. CADWALLADER: Mr. President and fellow delegates—If I heard the report aright, the question was upon having the money expended for the benefit of Spiritualists. There is no one who questions that work was done, for we read it in the paper, but a great many complaints have been made against the Association for having the Secretary out of his office to do that work, especially from the fact that you have had your Vice President in Chicago, and she is abundantly able to represent the Spiritualists at the Free-thinkers' and other conventions.

Nobody is saying it was not expended, but when we came in last year, having left a balance of $1,000, and now find we are $600 in debt to the President, it is high time we should look to the expenses and find out that the railroads are not paid out of our funds any more than is necessary.

MRS. HATCH: I want to say that the Committee decided to offer that advice, whether it was proper to make such or not, but we were instructed that it was.

MR. STANGLEN: I rise to a question of information.

THE CHAIRMAN: State your point.

MR. STANGLEN: Did not this Convention last year authorize the selection of these two delegates to Chicago?

THE CHAIRMAN: It was referred to the Board of Trustees.

MR. STANGLEN: Then does this Convention propose to send delegates to Chicago and have them walk there? I think this is entirely out of order, and if there is any criticism to cast upon it, it should be cast upon the delegates who were here last fall and voted upon it.

MR. WHITING: I want to say a word concerning the matter of our sending a delegate to Chicago. I presume that this National Association has the same rules for sending delegates to other bodies as our local societies do to this Convention. Who

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expects to get paid when we come here from our local societies to this Convention? We have carefully gone over all points. At the present time, can we afford to pay for the delegate attending outside conventions? That was the question which came before our committee, and our committee decided we had a right to recommend. I am surprised to think that our honorable officer should ask what is the province of the auditing committee. I want to ask you if we find among these accounts things we think you ought to know, shall we keep it covered up, or shall we recommend to this Convention what shall be done or what ought to be done? It seems to me that the Spiritualists have got nothing to cover up. We want to know all there is in it. There are many things in the finances of this Association that should come before the delegates, and so we have made this report. We felt called upon to say what we did. I know what work we bestowed on that report and why we have given you what we have given you. I do not doubt what our good brother says. The money was well laid out, but the question comes to us: Shall we, the Auditing Committee of this Association, to-day stand silent and not recommend the things we believe are vital things that we believe you all ought to know? I say, shall we remain silent? The committee decided that it would recommend all such things to this Convention.

MR. WIGGIN: The objection that I would raise to the recommendation consists of the fact that it is too sweeping in its nature. The committee states that the money was expended very wisely indeed. After Sister Richmond and Brother Woodbury attended this Congress of Liberal Religions at Indianapolis, where at that time I was raising funds for a Spiritualists' Church, I was invited by the pastor of the Plymouth Church to exchange pulpits with him. I have not the slightest idea, nor do I entertain the thing for one moment, that such a courtesy would have been extended to me had not the Spiritualists been represented on the floor of that congress. I believe the Spiritualists themselves should show a deeper and broader influence in the general welfare in this work than they have ever yet shown. (Applause.) Some qualification along the line has been suggested, but I do think that the proposition is a trifle too sweeping in its nature.

MR. EDSON: I would like to have that section read again. I think our brother labors under a misapprehension. If there is no objection I would like to have it re-read.

The section was re-read by the President.

MR. TREAT: I would like to inquire if the Board of Trustees

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authorized the payment of expenses of the delegate to Chicago?

THE PRESIDENT: The Board of Trustees did not vote to pay the expenses of the delegates to that Convention.

MR. TREAT: I saw our brother and sister in Chicago at that Free Thinkers' Convention. I want to say, as all Spiritualists know, that Mrs. Richmond addressed that Convention one night in my hearing, and it seems to me she educated the people *somewhat.* (Applause and laughter.) If Brother Woodbury did spend sixty dollars there, I don't think this Convention ought to vote a censure for doing so. I heard his little speech before those infidels and I think it helped to spread our influence. But I would like to have that resolution fixed up so as not to convey the idea that the delegates went there on their own responsibility.

MR. HILL: Mr. President, most of the delegates who have spoken on this subject seem to have gone around the question. (Applause.) It is not the question of whether it was wise, but the question is upon the expediency under the present condition of the treasury of this Association. Should we use money for this purpose when we do not have it in the treasury? If we are going to go on in that style of business, we shall be in bankruptcy right away. I have been somewhat interested and engaged in this Association since its inception. I do hope we will adopt this section. We should not vote away money that we cannot raise. We owe the President between six and seven hundred dollars. I think caution in this respect is very wise.

MR. LOCKE: I move that the recommendation of the committee be not agreed to. I believe that this Association has the utmost confidence in its Trustees, and I believe the Secretary would not have gone to that place had he not done so by and with the consent of that Board.

MRS. STEPHENS. Did the Board of Trustees instruct Mr. Woodbury to attend the Liberal League Convention? Any man or woman, any Spiritualist, seeing the condition of our treasury to-day, would object to it, as I do. Our treasury is depleted. We owe our President between six and seven hundred dollars, with not one-half that sum in the treasury to pay him. It is not right. We, as Spiritualists, have enough work to do amongst ourselves.

MR. MCINTYRE: In seconding Brother Locke's motion, I wish to say this: I understand from the Secretary that the amount he charged for expenses for that trip was sixty dollars that the amount he received in donations, and which was returned to the treasury, was thirty dollars. Now suppose tha

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thirty dollars had been three hundred dollars, the accounts on the books would have stood exactly the same. I believe the Convention would not then have considered that Mr. Woodbury had done the wrong thing. (Applause.) In seconding the motion I hope the debate will cease. There were five societies he visited in that time, according to his own report.

MRS. TWING: I most assuredly trust that, with the true consciousness of our liberal religion in this country, an individual who has to stand face to face with the whole country, as Mrs. Richmond has all the days of her life, this National Association can easily afford to pay sixty dollars or six hundred dollars. To make up the funds used by Mr. Woodbury I will subscribe one-sixth of that sum that he might be free from all censure or criticism.

MRS. RICHMOND: I rise to a question of privilege. In this trip from Chicago to Indianapolis, and Indianapolis to Muncie, the National Association incurred no expense whatever, so far as I am concerned, but I am willing that my name shall go side by side with Mr. Woodbury's, with approval and respect for his action.

DR. HIDDEN: I think we are getting too dizzy. I think if we keep talking about this trip we will be working ourselves into a frenzy. We should look into both these things along sensible lines. The resolution was based on practical sense and was worthy of some thought. He did what he believed to be his duty. I believe we should not imply censure, and I hope you will vote to non-concur in it.

SECRETARY WOODBURY: I want to make a little explanation.

THE CHAIRMAN: Will the Convention receive it? He has spoken once to the question. There is no objection. The Secretary will proceed.

MR. WOODBURY: The Board, when it voted, Mr. President, that I go upon this trip, took into consideration, not only the good that was to be done, but they felt that the money I had put into the institution, more than I had taken out, with the services I had rendered the Association, entitled me not only to go upon that trip but to represent this institution in the Congress of Liberal Religions. Now, Mr. President, that Board knew full well I did not have money enough in my pocket when they voted that I should go to Chicago to pay my fare to Philadelphia. In response to the good feeling that was expressed to me by sending me upon that trip I endeavored to do what I could for the cause of Spiritualism before I came back. I could not raise all the sum but I did the best I could to reduce the expenses because the Board has been

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kind enough to vote that I should go, and I knew the members of the Board knew I did not have the money to go with.

MR. MOULTON: Mr. President, I have not encroached very much upon the time of this Convention so far, but as a member of that Board that transacted the business, I desire to explain to the Convention. The Board elected Secretary Woodbury a delegate to the Free Thought Convention in Chicago. He must either pay his own expenses or the Association must pay them for him. If you censure him you censure us. I am in favor of non-concurrence, because we are voting to censure the present Board, and nothing else can be made of it.

MR. WHITING: I move the section be recommitted.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon recommitting the report. The stenographer will call the roll.

The roll call resulted as follows:

Ayes—Messrs. Altemus, Bigelow, F. S., Broadhead, Edson, Emerson, Figeurs, Hatch, Hill, Mayer, Peebles, Sherman, Walker, Weaver, Whiting; Misses Barrett, Walker, Mesdames Barrett, Bray, Billings, Dingman, Field, Glading, Harding, Hatch, Mrs. Carrie L., Kurth, Kilgore, Loring, Mrs. Carrie F., Myron, Sherman, Stanton, Stephens, Storrs, Summers. Total, 33.

Noes—Messrs. Brodie, Brown, Fickey, Fuller, Gould, Grayburn, Gaston, Hidden, Hull, Kates, Locke, Lyons, McIntyre, Moulton, Richardson, Richmond, Shook, Sprague, Stanglen, Steinberg, Stevens, Storrs, Treat, Wiggin; Miss Mary A. Hatch, Mesdames Brown, Cadwallader, Clendaniel, Evans, Grant, Jacques, Klein, Locke, Loring, Mrs. Elvira S., Matteson, McIntyre, Moore, Prior, Russegue, Richmond, Root, Steinberg, Story, Twing, Walcott, Whitlock, Woodbury. Total, 47.

Absent or not voting—Messrs. Bacon, Barrett, Bond, Bowman, Butterfield, Bigelow, Isaac, Clendaniel, Loring, Mansergh, Roscoe, Snow, Watson, Woodbury; Mesdames Butterfield, Chapman, Hall, Holmes, Johnson, Pepper, Pettengill, Sage, Sprague, Wright. Total, 23.

THE STENOGRAPHER: The result of the vote is 33 ayes and 47 noes.

THE CHAIRMAN: The motion is lost. The question now is upon the motion to non-concur. The Chair is in doubt.—The Chair declares the vote to non-concur carried.

MR. EDSON: I rise to a question of privilege. What I want to state here is why I voted against non-concurrence; it is because I think it is a disrespectful action to your Auditing Committee, in not giving it a chance to reconsider its work

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upon a question that did not satisfy the Convention. It is a reflection upon your committee I think you will be sorry for.

DR. PEEBLES: I want to say why I voted against non-concurrence. To send a man off to do missionary work and no money to pay him for it looks to me absurd.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the adoption of Section 6. It is adopted.

SECTION 7. In regard to the mining stock mentioned in the report of the Secretary, and held by Mrs. Mary E. Cadwallader, we find no records on our books of the same.

MRS. CADWALLADER: Some of the delegates were not present yesterday, when I made my first explanation, so I rise to a question of personal privilege. I went before the Auditing Committee last night with my certificate of stock, and with a letter from the donor. There is no name on the stock whatever except Mary E. Cadwallader, Trustee. I informed the Auditing Committee that just as soon as there were any dividends from the stock they would be turned over. I also said that, if deemed necessary, I would go under bond for the faithful delivery of the same. I showed them my authority for holding that stock, and I told them why that stock was given to me. It was in answer to a special appeal of mine for funds for the N. S. A. The party that gave me the stock had no money, but he said, "this stock will be valuable some day, and I will make you trustee of it." It was at no solicitation of mine that he executed it in that way. The committee found everything was as I have stated. I hold that stock as trustee and I have no power to transfer it to the Board of Trustees of this Association. I have had what I consider good advice from a member of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania on the question, and I am informed that I have no power, as guardian or trustee, to turn that stock over to the National Association. I do not think that anybody who knows of my work will doubt that when the dividends come in they will be turned over to the Association. I assure you it is safe, and I would like to have a record made of it upon the books of the Association. The only reason why it has not been done, is, the gentleman who presented it said he wished not to have it mentioned at all. He felt he could trust me, and so that is why there has never been any record. I am at all times, and have always been, ready to answer any questions that any one wishes to ask me concerning my work for the National Association. I think this explanation will settle this question forever.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the adoption of the recommendation of the committee. It is adopted. The question is now upon the adoption of the report as a whole,

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as amended. It is adopted. The report of the Committee on the Vice President's Report will now be received.

Your Committee on Vice President's Report commends said report to the careful perusal of all Spiritualists of America, and recommends that it be published in the Annual Report of this Convention, in order that the valuable suggestions and information therein contained may be preserved for that purpose. We recommend the financial part of the report be referred to the Committee on Finance.

H. W. RICHARDSON,
M. C. EDSON,
W. C. BOWMAN,
MARY A. HATCH,
IDA P. A. WHITLOCK, } Committee.

THE CHAIRMAN: The report is adopted. The report of the Committee on Delegates' Reports will now be received.

MRS. CADWALLADER: Mr. Chairman, it is only partially completed, and I would like to have it deferred.

THE CHAIRMAN: The report will be deferred. The report of the Committee on Resolutions is next in order, but as the Committee on the Secretary's Report has now completed its report, it will be received.

MR. STANGLEN (reads): "Last Section: We would especially call the attention of this Convention to the question of taking a census of the Spiritualists of the United States of America and Canada. We would suggest that the delegates to this Convention take the census of their respective States, with the assistance of their local organizations, and file their report with the General Manager of the Jubilee, Mr. Frank Walker." Adopted.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon adoption of the report as a whole, as amended. It is adopted.

The report of the Committee on Resolutions will now be received.

MR. BOND: I want to say in the outset that instead of a few hours in which to construct a platform that would be acceptable to a large body of the Spiritualists of America, we ought to have had a week in which to consult the best minds in the Union. There is a call coming from all quarters for a defined set of principles that we can stand by. We want our action to be unanimous upon these resolutions that we present to you for your consideration. We have done the best we could in the short time we had. But first I want to dispose of a special matter that was referred to the Committee on Resolutions. A gentleman handed me a letter, from the State Asso-

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ciation of California, with the desire that we comply with the request contained therein. This case touches my State as well as California, and all of the recent State Associations, hence ought to be settled here and now.

(Reads:)

The Board of Directors of the California State Spiritualists Association, at a meeting held on October 2, adopted the following:

WHEREAS, It is in the true interests of unity in the Spiritual work in California, that all the societies in this State should be chartered only by the California State Spiritualists Association, whether in existence at the present time or to be established hereafter: therefore,

Resolved, That the Secretary be instructed to request the National Spiritualists Association to surrender all the charters it has issued in this State, to the California State Spiritualists Association; and that the National Association be requested to notify all societies holding its charters in California to exchange them, free of charge, for the charters issued by the California State Spiritualists Association.

Resolved, That our delegates to the National Association be instructed to unitedly act in the National Convention so as to have this important matter attended to, and by resolution to have our request granted, and all the societies in this State notified to surrender their charters to the California State Spiritualists Association for exchange.

The Delegates of the California State Spiritualists Association, who are duly accredited to represent this State in the National Convention, are hereby instructed to attend to this matter promptly under the order of new business, and to press it to completion.

C. H. WADSWORTH, *President.*
JOHN KOCH, *Secretary.*

MR. BOND (continuing): As I said before, Mr. Chairman, three or four other organizations have recently been formed, and this is a serious matter. It touches our finances. What are we going to do? For instance, the village in which I live took a charter from this Association some three or four years ago. Since that time we have organized a State Association. Now I am in favor of that Association at Willoughby withdrawing from the National Association and becoming a subordinate society of the State Association. It has got to come to that in the end, and we will require the co-operation of the State in that way. I present this to you for your consideration.

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THE CHAIRMAN: What is the pleasure of the Convention?

MR. WALKER: In organizing a State Association in New York the constitution provides that it, as a State Association, shall pay to the National Spiritualists Association annual dues at the rate of twenty-five cents per capita for every direct member of the State Association or member of any local association. If any society in the State of New York which is chartered by the State Association, or if it is now chartered by the National Association, shall throw up its charter and become connected with the State Association, the National Association will still receive from it the same amount of dues it has previously obtained. I understand the State of Ohio adopted this same plan.

THE CHAIRMAN: This matter will be referred to the special committee appointed to act upon it. Mr. Bond will proceed.

MR. BOND reads:

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES.

1. We, as Spiritualists, do not believe in a creed by which to be bound, or to be used as a test of fellowship, but the following is a declaration of principles most commonly accepted by us:

1st. We believe the indwelling energy of the Universe, whether called by the name of God or by any other name, is incomprehensible, undefinable, illimitable and eternal.

2d. We hold that the universe is a unity which has neither beginning nor end—one being the visible form or expression of the other.

3d. We not only hold, but affirm as a demonstrated fact, that man is a spirit, and the highest expression of life; that he is clothed in a twofold form, one a spiritual form which can never sicken nor die, the other a fleshy body covering the spirit body and which is subject to sickness, pain and death; that when the external body dies, the man in his spirit form rises out of it and lives on, as the same individual, in a world and under laws as natural, as real and as tangible to the spirit as the present outer world is to us; and that he is free to go back and forth between the two worlds; and, when conditions are favorable, is able to hold actual converse with those still remaining in flesh.

MEDIUMSHIP.

2. *Resolved*, We hold that mediumship is the bed-rock of our Spiritual Temple, and all attacks made upon our genuine mediums strike at the very foundation of our philosophy; at the same time, we denounce, in the strongest terms possible,

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all attempts to deceive the public by simulating the various forms of genuine spirit manifestations either by those who have more or less of psychic power or by those who are simply fakirs, fortune-tellers and persons utterly devoid of any moral principle that ought to govern human actions, and we pledge ourselves to do all in our power to eliminate the fraudulent and pretended mediumship from our ranks.

ORDINATION.

3. *Resolved*, That the ordaining of ministers of the Gospel of Spiritualism be left to State organizations where they exist, and elsewhere to chartered societies of the N. S. A.; that extreme caution be used by such societies in granting ordination papers; and, further, that on the proper proof that any persons who have already been ordained and registered at the N. S. A. headquarters have by their conduct disgraced their high calling, such persons' ordination papers be revoked.

4. *Resolved*, That we still hold with the immortal Declaration of Independence that all men are born free and equal, endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; therefore:

We view with alarm the encroachments of large corporations on the rights of the people, the concentration of wealth in the hands of the few, the unequal distribution of wealth created by the laboring masses of this country, who by unjust laws are deprived of a large portion of their earnings.

We denounce in unmeasured terms the growing tendency of the various corporations to use the Federal force of these United States to further enslave labor by a process entirely unknown to the Fathers of this Republic, to wit, by injunction.

We are also unqualifiedly opposed to the effort that has been made, all-too successfully in some States, of enacting so-called medical laws at the dictation of the medical fraternity.

We will resist to the utmost all attempts of religious bigots, of whatever name, to engraft their God upon the Constitution of these United States.

We are opposed to all Sunday laws that are based on the idea that it is God's holy day; we are in favor of taxing church property.

We extend our cordial sympathy and co-operation to the struggling masses of other countries as well as our own, in their efforts to achieve larger liberty, a better chance to earn an honest living, thereby to better their condition socially, morally and physically.

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5. *Resolved*, That this National Association recommend the organizing of a Young People's Institute for the purpose of interesting and educating the young in the broad, liberalizing principles of Spiritualism.

6. *Resolved*, That we earnestly recommend the yearly engagement of speakers, together with the construction of fitting temples or edifices to be used exclusively in connection with and for the benefit of Spiritualism.

7. *Resolved*, That we, as Spiritualists, feel it our duty to emphasize the clause in our President's report relating to a high moral standard and social purity in every avenue of life, and that in view of the sacredness of that married relation based upon love and mutual adaptation, we ask the Representatives in Congress to pass uniform marriage and divorce laws.

8. *Resolved*, That we endorse the "First Spiritualist Training School," incorporated July 4, 1897, under the laws of the State of Ohio, and all other efforts, wherever made, to encourage a higher standard of education in our ranks, and especially among our mediums, writers and speakers.

9. *Resolved*, That we earnestly recommend the establishment of lyceums in all local societies.

10. *Resolved*, That we endorse the Veteran Spiritualist Union and all other similar and praiseworthy efforts to assist the aged, sick and worn-out workers who are needy.

11. *Resolved*, That we believe all Spiritualists throughout the country should organize into local societies; that all local societies should organize into State Associations, and that all State Associations should join the National Association.

12. *Resolved*, That we discountenance the use of tobacco, opium, and all similar articles which are deleterious to human welfare, and especially do condemn the use of strong drink as a beverage, and the saloon as a breeding-place of a swarm of evils, and that we support all feasible and practical movements for their suppression.

13. *Resolved*, That we recommend to our mediums and lecturers the utmost simplicity in their public work, in all that pertains to dress and adornment; believing that true life is within and not in what is external.

14. *Resolved*, That inasmuch as one thousand copies of the proceedings of the Convention last year were published, and only one hundred have been sold, that we recommend to the officers of this Association the utmost economy in the management of all the affairs of the Association, and that the very best business ability is as essential to attain success as in any department of the business world.

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15. WHEREAS, The interests of Spiritualism are vitally connected with private family circles; and,

WHEREAS, The value and safety of such circles depend largely upon an intelligent understanding of the laws and principles of spirit control and mediumistic development; therefore, *Resolved:*

1st. That this National Association earnestly urge upon all Spiritualist families the organization of family circles in their own homes; and,

2d. That a committee be appointed by this National Convention to prepare a brief and lucid hand-book of instructions, setting forth the most approved and successful methods of organizing and conducting such circles, in order that the very best results may be realized therefrom.

16. WHEREAS, The future of Spiritualism will depend much upon the character, intelligence and culture of the men and women in its ranks; and,

WHEREAS, A high degree of intelligence and culture can be secured by reading, thought and study: therefore,

Resolved, That this National Convention take such steps as are necessary for the inauguration among the Spiritualists of America, of a system of organized reading and study, after the manner of the Chautauqua organization, but under a name suitable for Spiritualists; and for such name we recommend the title suggested by the El Paso Spiritualist Society, viz: "Harmonial Reading Circles."

17. *Resolved*, That the thanks of this Convention are hereby extended to the Officers of the N. S. A. for the very able manner in which they have conducted the affairs of the Association during the past year.

18. *Resolved*, That we extend our hearty thanks to the Spiritual Press, which has generously given its aid and encouragement in the work of organization, also to the secular press, not only of this city, but of the Nation, for reporting our meetings fairly, without prejudice or malice.

E. W. BOND, Chairman,
A. J. WEAVER,
J. M. PEEBLES,
ALLEN FRANKLIN BROWN,
ELIZABETH F. KURTH,
} Committee.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the adoption of the report as read.

MR. STORRS: The committee had a resolution sent to it concerning universal suffrage. (Applause.) That matter should not be left out.

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MR. STANGLEN: There were several resolutions referred to the Committee on Resolutions, reported in the President's report, that this committee has laid aside, all of which, I believe, it was the intention of this Convention to have represented in this report. I would like to call for its report on those resolutions; I don't think this report is complete without them.

MR. TREAT: There is one resolution that should not pass this Convention. I have worked myself up to where I stand by hard labor. I will never surrender my rights nor sell my liberty, for the highest price I could get, to any committee or body of men in the world. I consider the Constitution of the United States guarantees me that right, and every other man in this country the same thing; but when you adopt such a resolution as the one offered, you hit me right on top of the head and knock me down.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentleman from Missouri objects to the composition of the report, as read, therefore it will have to be considered *seriatim.*

MR. LOCKE: I move that the report be recommitted with instructions to report something in regard to universal suffrage.

DR. PEEBLES: We had supposed that every Spiritualist and all liberal people would infer that. We did not suppose it was necessary at all, as all of us believe in it, and what is the use of paper and pen to indicate and point it out?

MRS. TWING: We all believe in it, and we want everybody to know it. (Loud applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN: The motion to recommit the report is adopted.

MRS. RICHMOND: I move the committee be instructed to report in full upon all matters referred to it from the President's report.

Motion carried.

THE CHAIRMAN: The next in order is the consideration of the Statement of Principles (Reading):

We, as Spiritualists, do not believe in a creed by which to be bound or to be used as test of fellowship, but the following is a declaration of principles most commonly accepted by us.

Adopted.

1. We believe the indwelling energy of the Universe, whether called by the name of God or by whatever other name, is incomprehensible, undefinable, illimitable and eternal.

MRS. KILGORE: I don't like the construction, "indwelling

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energy of the Universe." We all believe in God; it doesn't make any difference what the name is, and that is the name that is adopted to-day by the Christian world because it means good, and now, why don't we in so many words say that we believe in God. It seems to me that where Spiritualists lack more than anywhere else is they leave "God" out of all their meetings. The churches leave "spirits" out. Now, what we want is the reunion of God and the reunion of the spirits, too. Religion is very deeply seated in every human soul, and God is the spirit, and you can't get above that. Now, it seems to me that Spiritualists need devotion in their religion. This is one of their essential needs, and the words "indwelling energy" are capable of being, it seems to me, very thoroughly misunderstood. Now let us see what we really do mean, because we want the world to understand us. We believe that the Supreme Spirit pervades all things in the universe, seen and unseen. I would like the words "indwelling energy" stricken out and something of the kind I have suggested used in their places. I will not make that as a motion unless other members of the Convention are in harmony with it.

MRS. RICHMOND: I think the objection of the lady is well taken. I believe the Spiritualists as a body have been far too sensitive about using words they consider have been perverted by ecclesiasticism. Let us restore these words to their general and original meaning. The word "Good" is, I believe, the proper interpretation, and that is the Universal Spirit. I believe we can lose nothing but gain everything by the adoption of the simplest words.

MRS. ROOT, of Michigan: I dislike that word "indwelling energy." I believe that an "all-present energy" is preferable. I prefer that to the word that has been chosen, for the phrase "indwelling energy" I dislike altogether.

MR. SPRAGUE: In my opinion there are a great many Spiritualists in this country who would not approve of the use of the term "God," for the God of many people is an angry God, and a jealous God, the God of theology. Therefore I hope that word will not be adopted.

MRS. TWING: Let us see that the God we have is a decent God. (Laughter and loud applause.)

MR. HULL: The word "God" has been so misused. It signifies the devil and half a dozen other things, in the estimation of the world. I don't like it. I like those words, "indwelling energy." I don't like the "all-present energy." I am going to vote for the resolution just as it stands. I think it is beautifully worded.

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MR. WEAVER: I was the author of those words. We understand that Spiritualism embodies the whole of humanity. God is a Christian word, and Christianity extends over two-thirds of the earth. That word is used even in way-off Japan. They have all heard of God, and we want to keep that idea of the Supreme Being in such a way as would be acceptable to the whole world.

MR. LOCKE: The people who have been so anxious to keep God out of the Constitution do not desire it in their own declaration of principles. (Laughter and loud applause.) I think our views were fully presented when this question was seriously before Congress, and I don't like to see the word "God" in this instrument. Let us be consistent in this matter.

MR. EDSON: I would like to make a few remarks. This is a very important matter. It is well known that all, or at least half, of our Spiritual societies and their members are opposed to terms of that sort, although they may not have any good reason to be so. I am sure we ought not to decide this question at this time, and it should be passed until we have had time to thoroughly study the matter over. This is a very important matter and requires a great deal of discussion, a great deal of thought, and I think that as far as the Committee on Resolutions is concerned, it was wise to be cautious.

MR. MOULTON: Mr. President, to undertake to define the indefinable and to prove the unprovable will bring a grand discussion always. (Laughter.) In the writing of contracts I have had some experience, and all attorneys, especially attorneys of the Patent Office, have to weigh every word carefully. We are always very cautious to use words in the manner in which the public uses them, and the public uses the word "God" in an orthodox sense, and not in the specification of that sense, and therefore I oppose any such amendment to our Constitution.

MR. MCINTYRE: I simply echo the thought that we should go slow in this matter. It is a very important question, and it is something we are going to hand down to posterity.

MRS. LORING: I believe we should move carefully before we place upon record these terms. We should understand the definition thoroughly before we shall place the words "indwelling energy" or "God" therein.

MRS. CADWALLADER: I rise to endorse the remarks that Mr. Locke has made. I think that, after all that was brought before this last convention regarding all the Secretary had done, and the agitation of the Spiritualists, Freethinkers and everyone else against putting "God" in the Constitution, we are

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simply making fools of ourselves by putting that word into *our* Constitution. (Loud applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Kilgore rises to close the debate. She opened the discussion, and, therefore, is entitled to close it.

MRS. KILGORE: I would like to know why we don't want "God" in the Constitution. The reason we don't want God in the Constitution is that the people believe in the separation of the Church and State. It is not that they don't believe in God, but because we believe the State should be separate from the Church, and, therefore, when we place the words, "We believe in God" in our declaration of principles, we are not doing anything in opposition to the work that has been done about placing "God" in the Constitution of the United States. If our expression, "We believe in God," or the "Supreme Spirit," if you choose to put it, is our intention, let us act upon it. We surely can explain what we mean by the "Supreme Spirit." I believe all of you can comprehend that. We say we are the spirits and a part of God. Now, why don't we say "We believe in God the Supreme Spirit"?

Mr. President, there is an association in Philadelphia the members of which do not call themselves Spiritualists at all. They were afraid of offending the Church. It was started by very liberal men who went under the name Unitarians. They were all Spiritualists, and they tried to preach Spiritualism every Sunday, hence they organized a society called the "Spring Garden Unitarian Association." Their creed is this: "We unite in the worship of God and the service of man."

I declare to you, Mr. President, that I could go into any church in Philadelphia, I could go into any Spiritualist society in Philadelphia, and would not find half of the genuine spirituality in it that there is in that little church. Let us not be so afraid we are going to do something that will be like Unitarians or Presbyterians or some other religious denomination. Are we to go back on these denominations and ignore the good they have done and all the good words they have used? Let us have some of their good words. Why should not we use those words? If they put into their declaration of principles a good word, why should we ignore it because they have used it? What we want to do is to bring our Spiritualism into the churches or bring the churches to us, and I declare to you I believe we should put into our worship something of what the churches have.

Now, why should we use words that are misunderstood by those churches if we wish to bring the churches into our be-

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lief of Spiritualism? They are all based upon one idea, and there is some truth in what our members have said relative to Spiritualism being all around the world. We don't want to adopt a word that will be misunderstood in other parts of the world, and the word "God" is understood everywhere. We can call it the "Supreme Spirit," if you prefer it, or the "Supreme God."

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the elimination of the words Indwelling Energy. The motion is lost. The question is upon the adoption of the original resolution. It is adopted as read.

Adopted.

Section 3, Resolution 1, was amended by inserting the words "in the mundane sphere," after the word "life," and then adopted.

Resolutions 2 and 3 were adopted as read.

4. *Resolved*, That we still hold with the immortal Declaration of Independence, that all men are born free and equal, endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness:

Therefore, we view with alarm the encroachments of large corporations on the rights of the people, the concentration of wealth in the hands of the few, the unequal distribution of wealth, created by the laboring masses of this country, who, by unjust laws, are deprived of a large portion of their earnings.

We denounce in unmeasured terms the growing tendency of the various corporations to use the Federal forces of these United States to further enslave labor, by a process entirely unknown to the fathers of this Republic, to wit, by injunction.

We are also unqualifiedly opposed to the effort that has been made, all too successfully in some States, of enacting so-called medical laws at the dictation of the medical fraternity; we will resist to the utmost all attempts of religious bigots, of whatever name, to engraft their God in the Constitution of these United States.

We are opposed to all Sunday laws that are based upon the idea that it is God's holy day; we are in favor of taxing church property.

We extend our cordial sympathy and co-operation to the struggling masses of other countries as well as our own, in their efforts to achieve larger liberty, a better chance to earn an honest living, thereby to better their condition socially, morally and physically.

MR. TREAT: I move that resolution be divided into three or four parts. It covers too much ground. I am in favor of a large portion of it, but favor striking out some of it.

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MR. EMERSON: There is one question which does not seem just right. I think the word "demand" should be substituted for the words "are in favor."

THE CHAIRMAN: The motion to amend is carried.

MR. TREAT: I move the words "by injunction" be eliminated from the resolution.

MRS. KLEIN: I would like to know what we are to understand by the word "Creator"? What we are to consider the word "Creator" to mean? If I understood rightly you have that word there.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is true.

MR. MOULTON: From a temporal standpoint the phrase "indwelling energy" is a sufficient explanation. (Much laughter.)

MR. STANGLEN: I certainly am in favor of the adoption of the resolution, and I think the Spiritualists who have gathered in this Convention, when they go back to their respective homes, will do more good for the government of the United States, and for the cause, for this will spur them on to investigate and lead them to act for themselves.

MRS. TWING: They can do both.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the amendment. The amendment is lost. The question now is upon Resolution four. It is adopted as read.

6. *Resolved*, That this National Association recommend the organizing of a Young People's Institute, for the purpose of interesting and educating the young in the broad, liberalizing principles of Spiritualism.

THE CHAIRMAN: This question has been referred to a special committee.

MR. KATES: This is a matter we will all willingly endorse. This question we have referred to the committee for its recommendation. It was then the business of that committee, and the Committee on Resolutions has considered the matter thoroughly. It has resolved to recommend their formation. The business of the special committee is to give you some of its ideas as to how we are to do it, and not simply to sustain this resolution. I cannot see why the adoption of this resolution to recommend will restrict the powers of that committee to formulate the question further, and proceed with the recommendation. This resolution simply recommends the formation of such, and we would again have to pass upon it before it could go forward in the process of its development of that which this resolution refers to, and I move its adoption.

MR. WALKER: The resolution as offered recommends the

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formation, I understand, of a Young People's Institute, and in regard to the special committee appointed to consider the Young People's Spiritual Union, steps have already been taken toward recommendations, and the opinions of the two committees might clash.

MRS. LORING: For the name of the institute, which, I believe, is the "Harmonial Institute," I would substitute "Spiritual Academy."

THE CHAIRMAN: The resolution is referred to the special committee on the Young People's Union.

7. *Resolved,* That we as Spiritualists feel it our duty to emphasize the clause of our President's report relating to a high moral standard and social purity in every avenue of life, and that in view of the sacredness of that married relation based upon love and mutual adaptation, we ask the representaitves in Congress to pass uniform marriage and divorce laws.

MRS. KILGORE: I rise again to be opposed I presume in what I have to say, but it seems to me we all ought to go very slow. I think we are hurrying over matters without stopping to think.

What business have the representatives of Congress with marriage and divorce laws? We cannot force any affairs upon Congress not conferred upon it by the Constitution. The States have exclusive authority on that matter. Now, instead of passing such a resolution as that, I think we should pass one requiring the use of our influence as far as possible in favor of universal marriage and divorce laws adopted by every State in the Union. I move to amend by substituting the words "in the several States of the Union," in place of the words "representatives in Congress."

MR. BOWMAN: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Remarks upon the amendment are in order.

MR. BOND: I think the lady is mistaken: I think Congress has jurisdiction. It certainly has passed laws that have been upheld by the Federal Courts. Congress should pass a uniform marriage and divorce law as liberal as it is possible for the public to have.

MR. MOULTON: Mr. President, the Congress of the United States has no power not delegated to it by the Constitution. There has never been delegated to Congress any authority on this question. But the Congress of the United States does not always observe the Constitution of the United States, but over-rides it frequently, and of course we understand that some time, sooner or later, that tendency will be a dangerous one. We have very liberal divorce laws in one State; we

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have stringent laws in some other States, and we all know that it is desirable to have uniform laws. If it is desirable to have uniform divorce laws it is also desirable to have uniform marriage laws in every respect.

It seems to me that we are wasting time upon things that are a long way out of range of the legitimate business of this Convention, especially when we have need of some guidance in this matter. Congress cannot deal with this matter at all, but it is desirable that the States should have uniform laws upon these questions.

MR. TREAT: Mr. Chairman, I agree with the lady upon my right. I think we should handle this question very cautiously. There is no Spiritualist here in the Convention who has not been stigmatized by being called "a Free-Lover." I for one feel that if we pass that set of resolutions, taking them as a whole, we are going too fast. We cannot go before the American people with that declaration, for the people of the United States are too well read to swallow some of these things. The people of the United States believe in a majority ruling. Brother Moulton has told us truly that the Constitution gives to Congress no authority to legislate on that question. The Congress of the United States cannot legislate upon anything except what the Constitution gives it authority to do. This question belongs to the States.

MRS. TWING: I want to say that the thought of this resolution was for uniform laws. If this law should be brought about by our State Legislatures, let us have the resolution prepared in that way. Let us have it changed. There is not one here in this audience who is not in favor of uniform laws upon this question. Why cannot we say we are in favor of not having one State call a man and woman married and another State not calling them married. It causes confusion, and it is wrong for the unborn generations. I believe that if we change it to the State Legislatures it would cover the ground.

MR. HULL: I move that we strike out all that refers to this matter—that is, by striking out the last half of that resolution, letting the resolution read as follows: "*Resolved*, That we, as Spiritualists, feel it our duty to emphasize the clause in our President's report relating to a high moral standard and social purity in every avenue of life."

MRS. CADWALLADER: Mr. Chairman, and fellow delegates, do you remember the Convention we held in Chicago, when we took up the time talking and upon a resolution, until Mrs. Luther (who is now at the point of passing out of this life) said that if we went on talking we would talk our brains

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away. We talked and talked, and then passed the resolution. It was printed in the Convention reports, and one of them happened to get into the hands of a newspaper man. He stated that the Spiritualists had voted such and such a thing as a declaration of principles. Then trouble at once began. One said, "I was not at the Convention; that is not my idea; I was not there, and how dare the National Association say this and that was the truth." We are talking in about the same way. The people of the world don't care anything about it. Let us go on working upon something of interest to the National Association.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is now upon the amendment to the amendment. It is adopted. The adoption of the amendment to the amendment offered by Brother Hull does away with amendment offered by Mrs. Kilgore. The question now is upon Resolution 7 as amended. It is adopted.

Resolutions 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 were adopted as read.

14. *Resolved*, That inasmuch as one thousand copies of the proceedings of the Convention last year were published and only one hundred have been sold, we recommend to the officers of this Association the utmost economy in the management of all the affairs of the Association, and that the very best business ability is as essential to attain success as in any department of the business world.

MR. GOULD: Is that a fact?

SECRETARY WOODBURY: I think that the number of copies of the printed proceedings of last year that has been sold is nearly $100.00 worth, or 400 copies.

MR. STANGLEN: I move that part be stricken out.

MRS. CADWALLADER: It is most important that the report of the National Convention be printed every year. It is a matter of pride to have in my possession the entire reports of 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th and 5th National Conventions held in the 60's. I read over the record of that great series of meetings, and if some one had not been careful to have a complete report of them, they would not have been in existence to-day. I think from the amount of valuable work they have done in Chicago, in Philadelphia, and at various places where Moses Hull, Dr. Peebles, Mrs. Cora L. V. Richmond, and many others that I could name, took part, it would be a very unwise thing not to preserve the report. Let us have the report in print, although a special fund may be raised for it.

MR. BOND: We thought of the number of reports we had on hand of the proceedings of other conventions. We were informed that the reports are simply accumulating from year to year to no purpose.

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MR. MAYER: I fully endorse the remarks of Mr. Bond. For the last three or four years we have paid a great many hundred dollars for this work. I was told that there were only one hundred copies sold, or, as I understand now, one hundred dollars' worth this last year. We are carrying over six hundred copies, and eight or nine hundred copies of the year before. This proves the resolution is a wise one. It is only asking us to be cautious and take care that we do not spend more money than is necessary. You will find the headquarters loaded down with the reports; they are dead capital and are an actual nuisance to have on the premises. We want the room for something else than these books.

MR. HILL: It seems to me wise to limit the number of reports to five hundred.

MR. WIGGIN: I wish to add a few words to the question as I did not use my entire time during my first speech. I have been in the printing business extensively in the past, and I know that the expense of printing one thousand copies is very little more than five hundred. I fully believe that we should reduce the price per copy. I think that, if it were so arranged, it could be more easily circulated and reach more people, and we would get just as much money out of them as we do now. I could dispose of one hundred copies of the report if they could be sold for ten instead of twenty-five cents.

MR. SPRAGUE: Mr. Chairman, since we have so many of these old reports, why could we not present a complete set to every society that reports to this Association?

MRS. BARRETT: I think that if we have so many reports on hand of the last four conventions, it proves that the delegates to those conventions have not done their duty. If I took twenty-five copies to sell and could not sell them, I would pay for them myself and give them away. (Applause.)

MR. STORRS: I believe I was the first one to carry any of these reports to Connecticut. I have presented to the State Convention a full set of the four past numbers from the first to the last. I have purchased them from the National Association, and I intend this year to take one, and as long as I live a report of this national work will be placed with the State Convention. I also procured ten copies and sold them. I have often said the President's report is worth the price of the book. This is an important work and I think we would lose nothing by the transaction.

MRS. ROOT: I don't see why the people do not want to know what this Association is doing. If I had not read the minutes of the last Convention, I should not have been here to-day. I consider the report one of the best things I ever

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read. I shall continue to take one of the reports every year. I will subscribe for twenty of them now.

MR. STANGLEN: Mr. President, I move to lay this section of the resolutions on the table. If our board of officers is not capable of attending to the business of this organization, then, delegates, let us elect men and women who will do so. Next year will be our Jubilee year, and if the delegates to this Convention cannot sell a thousand copies of its report, it is time to close its doors and stop coming to Washington.

MR. MOULTON: Having been upon the Board of Trustees for three years, I am heartily in accord with our friend who has preceded me in regard to this matter.

What is a business body incorporated for but for the purpose of doing business, concerning which the delegates are sent here who have to report to their constituents? They didn't come here to make a payment of some kind; they did not come here to make speeches; we can find plenty of those in our papers every week at one dollar a year. The newspaper is all right in its place. The type-setting of one volume would be very great, the second copy would reduce the cost about one-half, and the third copy reduce it to one-third. We could cut down the report by not being extravagant with our resolutions and trying to cover the whole world at once. We can cut down the report so that we could sell it for ten cents, but what would such a report be worth? I am sure it would not suit the people. We want a report that will tell precisely what was done here, and a report that the delegates can show to their constituents as the result of their work.

But, on the other hand, you may resolve that your Board of Trustees should be capable of doing business economically and judiciously. The best thing now to do is to pass that resolution over, and our nominating committee ought to see that the names of the Board of Trustees should suit them.

Vice President in the chair.

MR. BARRETT: In view of the fact that I have edited the last four annual reports I am entirely responsible for everything that has been published in them. Last year I removed all of two-thirds of what was reported by our stenographer. Even then it took a report of some 210 pages. If you eliminate the other third you would have no report at all. I believe that the records of these conventions should be preserved in book form, even if the reports are cut down as much as possible. Twenty-five cents is a very small sum for a report of the proceedings of one of these conventions. We ought to be able to dispose of many more of these reports

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this year than ever before, because it is Jubilee year. Every one who goes to Rochester will want to know what has been done at all of the conventions of the National Spiritualists Association.

President Barrett in the Chair.

MR. EDSON: I have a complete file of the reports and I believe they will be appreciated fully as time goes on. They are full of very valuable matter and I am satisfied they will sell in time. It is well to consider what Brother Moulton has said in regard to making the matter as brief as possible and in using all economy in printing the coming report. I think we make a mistake if we cut them down so they will be uninteresting to the people; if they are cut down more than they have been in the past, they will not be interesting enough for anybody to read.

MR. GOULD: I do not think we can do without these reports. Our Sister from Michigan came to this Convention on account of what was published in the last annual report. Such reports not only reach Michigan, but all other States as well. We get many new societies every year, and they all should have copies of them. I think that the Secretary or the Board should distribute them gratis rather than have a pile of them on hand. Let us print them, send them abroad and sell them. The delegates to this Convention should also pledge themselves to take two or three copies. I am very much in favor of printing the usual number.

MRS. RICHMOND: I believe the motion was made to strike out this resolution. Heretofore the reports have served a great purpose in the end. We also should require these reports every year as far as they possibly can be made with economy, and it should be left to the discretion of the Board of Trustees.

MRS. PRIOR: The Finance Committee has considered the matter of publishing these reports, and it has recommended that we should publish a less number than last year.

DR. LYON: I will report what I said last year; the people don't know the value of these reports. I said last year I thought there was not one hundred people on the floor that had read these reports, and I hardly think to-night there is one-half of the people in this Convention who have read them. If you are Spiritualists and want to know what Spiritualism is doing, take the reports and read them, and lend them to the people where you are. I have had nearly a dozen and they are all gone. If every one takes a book, carries it home and gives it away as a missionary document, it would be one of the best things he could do.

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THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the motion to strike out Resolution 14. The motion is lost.

MR. GOULD: What is the effect of this vote?

THE CHAIRMAN: It leaves the matter in the hands of the Board of Trustees.

15. Adopted.

16. Referred to Special Committee on Young People's Unions.

17. Adopted.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Committee on Resolutions still has other resolutions to offer, but adjournment is now in order, and the committee will again report to-morrow morning.

Adjourned.

THIRD DAY.

MORNING MEETING.

OCTOBER 21, 10.00.

President Barrett in the Chair.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Convention will be in order.

MR. WALKER: The Committee on Credentials has an additional Report to make recommending the seating of Isaac F. Bigelow, to represent the Queen City Park Camp-meeting Association, of Burlington, Vt., and John R. Snow to represent the Church of the New Dispensation, of Brooklyn, N. Y.

MRS. CADWALLADER: I want to know something about the seating of delegates. Will you tell me how many delegates the societies are entitled to?

THE CHAIRMAN: One delegate for the charter and one for each one hundred members or major fraction thereof.

MRS. CADWALLADER: In the last Constitution and By-Laws wasn't that changed?

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair is of the opinion that it was not.

MRS. CADWALLADER: (Reads.) "Article VI, Section 1, Membership. The membership, or primary units, of this Association shall consist of all Spiritualist societies chartered by it, and they shall send delegates to the annual conventions upon the following basis, viz: One delegate for each chartered society and an additional delegate for each one hundred members or major fraction thereof. The membership of a chartered delegate body shall be the duly accredited delegates to its latest regular meeting for the transaction of its business."

That means a delegate for the charter, one for the first hundred and one for the second hundred. I wish to have that

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understood thoroughly, for the Church of the New Dispensation, of Brooklyn, N. Y., states that it has no delegates' report to make, but it is entitled to a delegate. I wish to know, for the benefit of this and future conventions, if a society that holds no meetings during the year is entitled to representation here.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair is of the opinion that any society, whether it holds meetings or not, shall be entitled to one delegate for its charter so long as its dues are paid each year.

MRS CADWALLADER: Then I respectfully submit to this Association that this is wrong. It is absurd for any society to send delegates' dues to this Association. We can have no fair election; we can have no fair votes on any amendment; we can have nothing of the kind, as you will see by the delegates' reports. The Chair rules upon this, saying the society is entitled to a delegate for its charter, whether it holds any meetings or not. This is not fair.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the adoption of the Supplementary Report of the Committee on Credentials. It is adopted.

The regular order of business will be suspended for a few moments to permit the delegates from the several States to meet for the purpose of electing their representatives upon the Committee on Nominations. Representatives outside of the Board of Trustees must be chosen.

(At this point the several States were called upon and designated positions in different parts of the hall.)

THE CHAIRMAN: The Convention will be in order. The Chair has been asked for a ruling in regard to the election of the members of the Nominating Committee. The Chair rules that said committee must be elected before noon to-day. Therefore the election of the members of the Nominating Committee will continue.

(The work of selecting members by the several State delegations was then completed.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Friends, the Committee on Nominations will assemble promptly at one o'clock to-day.

The Supplementary Report of the Committee on Resolutions is now in order and will be received.

MR. BOND: We have only one further resolution to report. Yesterday I rose in my seat once or twice, when the report of the Committee on the President's Report was being read, and called attention to the fact that they had covered the same grounds we had covered in our report. I suggested they be left over, as we had already taken action upon them, but

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we have seen nothing further of the business connected with the President's Report.

MRS. TWING: Let me make a few remarks. When the Committee on Finance met we found some articles among our papers for our consideration. They related to the President's Report, and I said: "Surely this has nothing to do with the Finance Committee." I don't know what Mrs. Prior did with the papers, but I presume they are in her possession. These may be the papers Mr. Bond has missed.

MRS. PRIOR: The papers were left on the committee table for the Committee on Resolutions. They were handed to me, and I supposed they were to be given to the Finance Committee. I called the attention of the committee to them, read them, and then decided they were not ours at all, so I laid them on the table of the Committee on Resolutions.

MR. RICHARDSON: I believe I saw Mr. Bond last evening and asked him in regard to this matter. He said that the ground was all covered, and I said, if the report was wanted, I would get it, and I have it now in my hands.

MR. BOND: Mrs. Prior has brought to my mind some correspondence that did not relate to financial matters. She thought it properly belonged to the Committee on Correspondence, but it was sent to us. These letters were certainly very valuable, and there would be no harm if they were printed in the proceedings of this Convention. I will read the resolutions that we have prepared for your consideration.

(Reads.) 18. *Resolved*, Inasmuch as woman is subject to law the same as man, she ought to have the same right in making laws as man.

Resolved, That we, as a convention, believe that woman has long enough been placed in the list of Indians, idiots, and the insane, performing the duties of wifehood and motherhood, bearing the burdens, helping to build up home without being a financial partner in the firm, obeying laws that she can have no voice in making, paying taxes without power to say how much money shall be appropriated, facing great wrongs without the power to stay them; therefore, in view of the above and other reasons too numerous to mention, in the name of justice and common sense, we ask for the emancipation of woman, carrying with it the right of franchise. Adopted.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question now is upon the adoption of the report of the Committee on Resolutions as a whole as amended.

MR. EDSON: In view of the fact that the report of the committee is very voluminous, and as a "Declaration of Princi-

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ples" by this National Body is therein considered, and as we have had but a short time to consider them, I wish to make a motion. I move that the report of the Committee on Resolutions as amended, be now divided; that those resolutions affecting the immediate business of this Convention, such as the one regarding the convention reports, thanking the officers of this Convention, the representatives of the press, etc., be passed upon at this time; that the final consideration of the remainder of the resolutions be postponed for one year, these resolutions going, meanwhile, to the incoming Board, with instructions to have them printed; that a copy of the same be furnished to each delegate of this Convention and to every chartered society belonging to the N. S. A.; that the new Board be requested to report the same to our next Annual Convention for final action, accompanied by such recommendations as that Board may deem pertinent and proper; that when this Committee on Resolutions is discharged, it be with the thanks of this Convention for its excellent work, when we consider the vast importance of the questions treated and the very limited time at its disposal.

I believe this motion will appeal to the business sense of this Convention. The resolutions are good, and I heartily endorse nearly every one of them; but I want to see every society have a chance to endorse them also, and to say whether or not they will approve their final adoption. This is my reason for offering this motion.

MRS. RICHMOND: I second the motion. I believe in having a declaration of principles, but we should have at least a year to think about it. It has taken fifty years for us to fully make up our mind what Spiritualism stands for, and I believe we can lose nothing and gain everything by adopting the business or practical portion of the resolutions and place the rest in the hands of our constituents.

MR. BOND: While I, of course, have had no time to consult with my Committee on Resolutions since the motion of Brother Edson, allow me to say I cordially and heartily endorse every word of it. I will further suggest that a Committee on Resolutions be appointed by this Convention, that shall in the coming year formulate a declaration of principles for the Convention one year from to-day. Instead of three days it ought to take three years to formulate principles such as we ought to have. It is a marvel that we do as much as we do in these three days. We want a declaration of principles we can all agree to, therefore I am in favor of Brother Edson's motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the motion offered

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by Mr. Edson. It is adopted. The next business before the Convention is the reception of the report of the Committee on Delegates' Reports; but the report is not ready. We will now take up the reports of special committees.

MR. LOCKE: Mr. President and fellow delegates to the National Association in Convention assembled—Your committee, to whom was referred the resolution concerning State jurisdiction in California, would respectfully recommend that the matter of State jurisdiction be referred to the Board of Trustees, who have full power over the matter under the Constitution; and, further, it is the opinion of your committee that we have no power to cancel and transfer charters without cause, as they are in the nature of a contract with the various societies.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed: THOMAS M. LOCKE,
L. V. MOULTON,
HELEN L. RUSSEGUE.

Report adopted.

MR. LOCKE: I have the report of the committee on raising funds for Mrs. A. H. Luther: "We recommend that local societies be requested to take up collections; that mediums unite in the work of holding Luther benefit meetings, and that all Spiritualists endeavor to raise sufficient funds to care for our beloved sister; said funds to be placed in the custody of some suitable person to have charge of and disburse the same, the person to be appointed by the incoming Board of Trustees.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed: THOMAS M. LOCKE,
MRS. J. V. MCINTYRE,
FRANCIS B. WOODBURY."

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the report of the committee. It is moved by Mrs. Twing and seconded by Mr. Edson that the report be adopted.

MR. SPRAGUE: I am fully in favor of placing that matter in the hands of the Board, but it will be very hard to get money for our co worker.

MR. LOCKE: The committee thought that the Trustees could select some one in the locality where Mrs. Luther lives. The Board of Trustees of this Association should use its best efforts to receive and disburse that money. Mrs. Luther is one of the most fearless workers that we ever had on our platform. Your committee, knowing the condition of the treasury of this National Association, recommends a course of action

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that would not take one dollar out of it. We urge that the local societies should raise enough money to keep her as long as she lives, which it really is our duty to do. I desire to say to this Convention that there was a time in the history of Spiritualism when Mrs. Luther preached for liberty, for freedom, making it possible for you and me to enjoy these glorious privileges to-day. Your committee recommended this, for they thought the Board would be able to find some suitable person to take charge of the funds. She is not competent in the condition she is in to handle this money. The Board of Trustees of this National Association can best judge as to whom that person shall be.

MR. HULL: I have had two visits with Mrs. Luther, and I know she has a man chosen, a thoroughly honest man, to take charge of her property. I would like to have that man selected by the Board. I think his name is Benjamin Lukens, and he lives at Anderson, Ind.

DR. PEEBLES: I know Mr. Lukens. He is one of the most honorable men I know.

THE CHAIRMAN: The report is adopted.*

MR. WALKER: Your committee, to whom was referred the question of Young People's Associations, also the resolution relating to the formation of a literary circle, similar to that known as the "Chautauqua Literary Circle," respectfully recommend the organization of Young People's Spiritual Associations to embrace the young men and women who are interested in Spiritualism; that they be encouraged in every possible way for the development of spiritual, mental, physical and social interests. We also urge that such societies shall seek, as soon as possible, to co-operate upon one system of organization and shall become auxiliary to the National or its State Associations.

We also approve of the organization of reading circles for the study of Spiritual and other literature, but deem it unwise at the present for the National Association to assume the development of a specific course of study.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANK WALKER, Chairman,
MRS. NETTIE HOLT-HARDING,
MRS. M. L. WHEELER BROWN,
G. W. KATES,
DR. MARY J. WRIGHT.

Report adopted.

* (Mrs. Luther passed to spirit life December 27, 1897, S. E. 50.—ED.)

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MR. MCINTYRE:

COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE.

Your Committee on Correspondence has given the letters and communications, submitted to it, careful consideration, and begs leave to report as follows:

The subject matter contained in them was divided under three general heads,

1st. Those which, in our judgment, should properly be considered by the Committee on Resolutions;

2d. By the Committee on Credentials, and we asked and obtained leave of this Convention to refer them to those Committees, and they were so referred.

The balance of the correspondence was of such a nature, that, in our opinion, it would be impracticable to consider it in this Convention, but should be acknowledged and answered in detail by the Secretary of the N. S. A. after the adjournment of this Convention, and we so recommend.

Signed: J. V. MCINTYRE, MRS. H. W. GRANT, C. W. HIDDEN, } Committee on Correspondence.

To be referred to Secretary Woodbury:
A. L. Gossett, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Jos. T. Dodge, Madison, Wis.
Tillie U. Reynolds, Missionary in Texas.
J. R. Alter, Stuttgart, Ark.
Col. Jas. Freeman, Pres., Bloomington, Ill.

J. V. MCINTYRE, MRS. H. W. GRANT, } Committee on Correspondence.

Report adopted.

MR. HULL: The Committee on Schools is ready to report.

(Reads:) Your committee, to whom was referred the matter of schools, has taken the subject under consideration, and begs leave to report that it sees the necessity of a more integral education among the workers in Spiritualism. This lesson we learn both from the effects of education in the church workers, and from the lack of education in many of our own, otherwise worthy workers.

Our cause is, in many places, losing ground on account of the lack of the ability, on the part of many of our earnest workers, to compete in a knowledge of those things which prepare one to appear acceptably before an educated assembly.

As no one would think of employing an uneducated lawyer to take an important case, or an uneducated teacher to take

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charge of the education of the young, so an intelligent world cannot be induced to turn from an educated liberal ministry to listen for any length of time to one who is destitute of training in those branches which enable one to properly appear before the public.

While we have the grandest truths to which the world has ever been called to listen, we should prepare to present our message in a manner which will not offend, but will enlist the attention of the most cultured classes.

While we thoroughly believe in spirits and spirit influences, we believe that exalted and intelligent spirits can co-operate better with those whose minds are well trained than with those who have nothing to present them but an empty head.

While the churches are holding out inducements to young men and women to prepare for and enter their ministry and we do nothing in that direction, we cannot expect young men and women of talent to enter into the work now needed to be done by Spiritualists unless we do something to prepare them for that work.

Believing that an especial training in the outlines of physical science, psychic science, physical culture, voice culture, elocution, English language, rhetoric, logic, Biblical exegetics and what is denominated "The Higher Criticism" is needed to enable our workers to meet the opposition and to render themselves otherwise "apt to teach," and that to render one an acceptable teacher his or her deportment should be such as becomes a gentleman or lady, and that the new chartered school called the "Spiritualists' Training School" is calculated to effect all this; we believe it to be the duty of the delegates of this Association to do what they can to assist the cause we love by furnishing aid to this school.

We hear with regret that the school founded many years since at Belvidere, N. J., by the Misses Bush, is still laboring under financial difficulties; and that after so many years of arduous toil they are liable to lose their school by the foreclosure of a small mortgage. We ask Spiritualists who have means to take stock in that school or otherwise render such assistance as may relieve them of their present financial difficulties.

Signed: MOSES HULL, S. MYRON, F. H. ROSCOE, } Committee.

MR. WEAVER: I wish to say just a word in regard to the school which has lately been chartered under the laws of the State of Ohio. I have heard it said many times since I have

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been here in this Convention, that Spiritualism is beginning to make a start in the world.

In this great movement it seems to me that education is to have, and ought to have, a permanent place. I wish it could have been made more prominent in our Convention here. I think if there is anything the Spiritualists need it is the Christ principle. If there is anything we all need, it is a better trained ministry. Though we have grand workers, I believe, from what I have heard, that there is no one who comes to our platform but could do a more thorough work had he received a more thorough training in every direction. This school is established that the people who are interested in Spiritualism can be trained in all the branches of school work, so that they can stand on an equality with ministers in the other denominations. They also can receive instruction in psychic science, which is the foundation of our philosophy. There are no other ministers in the land but what receive a special training in each line of their work.

A minister said to me last summer, "I hear you are starting a school out here. What do you want to start another school for when the Universalist colleges and schools are all open to you?" "Yes," I said, "and the other day one of your people heard me preach on Spiritualism, and I asked him if I could preach the sermon he heard on Spiritualism from his pulpit;" he said, "No, indeed, it would not do, it would break up my church. I am a Spiritualist, but I never dare say a word in my sermons about Spiritualism." "Then," I said, "you want us to go into your schools and yet to keep out of your pulpit." I feel we must have schools of our own in accordance with the doctrine of psychic science that we teach in our colleges, and if our young men and women are forced, as they have been, to receive an education in the schools of other denominations, they will be biased against us and enter the other churches. That is the reason, my friends, why so many men and women have gone into the Universalist ministry who ought to have been ministers of Spiritualism. If we don't build these institutions of learning to train the young men and women who want an education to specially fit themselves to go before the world with this great principle of ours, we will drive them into the Unitarian churches, who have their rooms wide open to receive them.

I remember a Unitarian minister who has turned against Spiritualism. I had preached again and again for him, but alluded once in a sermon to Spiritualism. I think he had heard me half a dozen times preach on general themes, "and just to think," he said, "I would have allowed you to preach on

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anything, because I know you would say nothing wrong, but I have not one iota of sympathy for your devotion to Spiritualism." I have not been invited since that time to go to speak for him one Sunday, simply because I advocated our views. It will not do for us to send our children to the Unitarian or Universalist schools. When I entered the Universalist ministry, we Spiritualists did not have a single institution of learning in this line.

MR. KATES: I believe this morning we are doing the best business of our whole session in encouraging the people to form associations, in encouraging reading circles, in encouraging these training schools so that the people can fearlessly pursue their studies in all directions. I believe the spirit of co-operation in this matter may be of such force that it will induce the young people to take an interest in Spiritualism. I believe if we will encourage the young people, the young men and women everywhere will go enthusiastically into Spiritualism and, in encouraging them, let us, by all means, encourage these men in connection with these universities. Allow me to make one suggestion, that, in the curriculum of this training school, we have somebody formulate lessons for the very young people. That is just where we fail in the lyceum. I heartily welcome this movement and wish to make this suggestion for the little folks.

MRS. TWING: Mr. President and friends, I think we are pretty well fixed now; there is Belle Bush's school for the children and young people, and there is the Ohio school for the older people. We have got a good start, but are we remembering Belle Bush's school? She is our sister, and is driven to the wall, while Spiritualist children are in almost every other school. Belle Bush would not ask for charity nor your sympathy if she had the patronage of the Spiritualists, but she does not. I see there are some among you who say, "Oh, well, my children are all grown up, or my children are gone over, and my rooms are empty." Not while there are hundreds of children who need to be taught; not while there are orphans that need to be taken to your hearts and cherished; not while ignorance is rampant on our streets, with bare footed boys and girls to need your help.

Let us take a few dollars out of our pockets and give them to Mrs. Prior to go to Sister Belle Bush to help her in her work. I know she will appreciate it.

MR. GOULD: I want to make a suggestion. This resolution, as I recall it, was referred by the Convention to the incoming Board of Trustees, but what I want to get at is this. This school, which has been referred to and is represented by

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Mrs. Prior, is now before us and should be acted upon by this body. This business should not be referred to the Board of Trustees but should be acted upon now—to-day, by this Association. We have been informed that there has been a mortgage placed upon this property and it is to be foreclosed this week, and if we refer this resolution, it may have to wait until next year. Let us act upon this matter now.

MR. SPRAGUE: I am sending my daughter to a Unitarian school in Pennsylvania. She will graduate as a Unitarian minister, and I am doing it because the Spiritualists of the United States have no school in which I can place her. I am censured by many Spiritualists for having her in the school. I am a Spiritualist, and I want to see the Spiritualists prepared to do their work properly, and that is what every intelligent Spiritualist ought to do. I placed my child in that school at the direction of our angel guides. It was not my own opinion, but I yielded at the request of my spirit guides.

MRS. PRIOR: Miss Bush does not ask your charity, but she does ask that ten, fifteen or twenty earnest Spiritualists pay for a scholarship. She will give this scholarship to any child whom you wish to send to her Institute for the small sum of $250.00. If you cannot forward that sum this week, you will receive a receipt for the sum you do send. The $250.00 includes also board and all attentions. I speak as a mother. I have four children in this Institute who have been there for one year, and if these children were in my own home they could not be better cared for spiritually, morally and intellectually. I can speak from observation and say that I recommend this school. I placed my children in that Institute because I feel as Spiritualists they must receive a spiritual education. They will take up classics when the time comes, and Miss Bush can prepare any child for a college course.

MRS. RUSSEGUE: Allow me to say one thing in regard to the education of our mediums, as I was on the Committee on Schools and Education. We have upon our platform one of the grandest workers and eloquent speakers I have ever heard. That lady with a fine talent, grand rhetoric, only attracted an audience of twenty people, whilst another person who really could not utter an intelligent sentence, drew such an audience that many were turned away. We want people to understand fully the theme that they are going to talk about. I feel that it is time that the Spiritualists were organizing and to put those people before the world who are fully trained in their work; they will be received by all intelligent people everywhere. We don't want speakers on our platform who will talk and talk and not give to the world any spiritual

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food. I trust the Spiritualists will bear this in mind while they are upon the rostrum, and those who are able to deal intelligently with their subject will command the respect of the Spiritualists everywhere.

DR. PEEBLES: I simply rise to emphasize what has been said by Brothers Hull and Weaver. We should put upon our rostrum those who will command the respect of all who come to hear them.

Now, in San Diego, California, a large number of our people belong to the Unitarian Church. You ask why. The pastor pleases them. They have there the Rev. Solon Lauer. He is at heart a Spiritualist, yet has charge of the Unitarian Church. The people go there because they go where they can be fed.

But when you hear on the platform a medium who will murder the English language, in grammar, in rhetoric and in science, the people in the audience are ashamed, and get sick of hearing him. Now then, we want to educate the brains of our young folks. (Applause.) And, by the way, there are many in the Spiritual world also who ought to be trained. (Laughter and loud applause.)

Take your sectarian Methodist preacher away in the backwoods, and put up a medium who is appreciated. What we want here is scholars, advanced workers, those who, when they come on our platform, will command the respect of every man.

Now about this Belle Bush Seminary; I have known her for years. There are Spiritualists who are sending their children to Catholic schools. This is a shame. They will come out by and by Catholics in the Roman Church, and in all probabilities they will be Catholic priests going to say mass over your graves. I talk plainly because I want to inspire you with the importance of Education, *Education.* (Applause.) Give our people scholarship and by and by they will stand upon our rostrums and move the world. Mr. President, that is what we want. (Loud applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the adoption of this report. It is adopted.

The next order of business is the reception of the report of the Committee on Lyceums.

MR. STANGLEN: Mr. Chairman, as secretary of the Committee, I am requested to read the report:

Your Special Committee on Lyceum Work and Organization respectfully submits the following report:

We believe that the interest of Lyceums would progress and advance if placed under the supervision of a special

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board, whose duty it would be to supply special information and literature suitable for the children of our Lyceums, and we believe that such results can only be obtained by proper organization; therefore, we submit the following recommendations:

First. That this Convention organize a National Spiritualist Lyceum Association; said association to stand in the same relation to the National Association as a State organization would, with this provision, that said association shall pay into the treasury of the National Association the sum of ten dollars as yearly dues and be exempt from all other assessment.

Second. That said association may issue charters to Lyceums upon the same condition as a State organization, providing said National Lyceum Association exchange, free of cost, new charters for all those heretofore issued by the National Spiritualists Association.

Third. That the officers of said association shall be composed of Conductor, Assistant Conductor, Guardian, Secretary and Treasurer.

Fourth. That it shall be the duty of the President to appoint said officers upon the adoption of this report, said officers to serve one year from the day of their appointment.

Fifth. It shall be the duty of the officers to organize and assist the advancement of Lyceum work throughout the United States of America and Canada and encourage such publication as may assist the advancement of Lyceums in general.

Sixth. That said National Spiritualist Lyceum Association shall make an annual report to the National Convention through its officers.

Respectfully submitted,

J. B. HATCH, JR., Chairman,
FLORENCE BRAY,
CHAS. W. STANGLEN, Secretary,
MARGARET GAULE,
MATTIE E. HULL,
CARRIE L. HATCH,
MARY J. STEPHENS.

THE CHAIRMAN: The report is adopted as read.

MR. STANGLEN: There is a Special Committee on Mr. Sprague's Report, if it is now in order. (Reads report.)

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Mr. Chairman and Delegates Assembled:

Your committee, to which the report of Mr. E. W. Sprague was referred, submits the following report:

That we believe it would be to the best interests of the National Spiritualists Association and our cause to keep a number of missionaries in the field during the coming year, and believe that, with judicious advertising, said workers would be a source of revenue and at no great expense to the National Association.

We further believe that many of the organized societies would gladly turn over to said missionary the total receipts for the benefit of the National Association when said missionaries are filling their platform, for it is a fact evident that there are many societies at the present time who cannot afford a first-class speaker, and are simply going to the wall for the want of them.

We believe that many miles of railroad travel could be avoided if their engagements were made ahead, for at the present time there are many small towns that formerly held well-attended meetings, in which there are many Spiritualists who are waiting for some one to rekindle the fires of our cause, and we believe that a letter to them stating our purpose would find ready co-operation, and in many places hall rent, advertising and board free for our mediums during their visit.

Therefore, we would recommend that the incoming President be instructed to appoint one missionary at large, and missionaries for the following districts: Southeast, Northeast, Southwest, Northwest, and as many more as the Board in its wisdom may decide; said missionary to be paid by the National Association at such salary as the Board of Trustees may decide.

Respectfully submitted,

CHAS. W. STANGLEN, Chairman,
FRANCES E. R. DINGMAN,
SARAH CROCKETT BILLINGS,
WM. BRODIE,
DR. F. S. BIGELOW.

THE CHAIRMAN: The report is adopted. The report of the Committee on Amendments will now be received.

MR. WIGGIN (reads): Mr. Chairman and delegates at the Fifth Annual Convention—Your Committee on Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws respectfully submit the result of our unified and harmonious deliberations. Our duties, although not exceedingly burdensome, have been attended to faithfully, and in harmony of spirit.

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The following is a copy of the amendment with our recommendations:

Amendment to Article VI of the By-Laws of the N. S. A., entitled "Mediums' Defense Funds," which reads as follows:

ARTICLE VI.

Mediums' Defense Funds.

SECTION 1. There shall be set aside a special fund to be known as the *General Mediums' Defense Fund*, to be used exclusively for the defense of mediums as hereinafter provided, which fund may be appropriated to aid chartered societies in such defense, or for the assistance of the Mediums' Special Defense Fund.

SEC. 2. The Board of Trustees shall provide for the issue of Beneficiary Certificates to persons who shall contribute to a *Mediums' Special Defense Fund*, a sum of not less than five dollars ($5) per annum, and who shall also agree to pay additional assessments for the said fund, not to exceed five dollars ($5), within any three months, and to observe such rules and regulations in the conduct of their mediumship as may be prescribed by said Board.

SEC. 3. Said certificates shall entitle the holders thereof to all the benefits of the Mediums' Defense Fund, and also to prompt assistance and defense by said Board or its agents in the event of arrest, prosecution, persecution, slander, or other injury in any way concerning their mediumship, upon proper application therefor.

SEC. 4. Said Board shall have power to refuse said certificates, by a majority vote, or may cancel the same by an affirmative vote of six members upon finding the holder thereof guilty of fraud, gross misconduct, non-payment of assessments, breach of contract, or other sufficient cause.

SEC. 5. Said special fund shall be solely for the benefit of those holding said certificates and none others.

SEC. 6. In the case of the arrest or prosecution of any medium not having such certificate, a chartered association shall be the channel of invoking the aid and assistance of the National Association, which latter in such event shall not become principal in defending such mediums, but may assist the chartered association at the discretion of its Board of Trustees.

After earnest consideration of the above article your committee respectfully submits the following recommendation, to wit:

That the amendment eliminating it be rejected, and that there be no change in the present By-Laws upon this question.

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THE CHAIRMAN: The recommendation of the committee is that the amendment to eliminate be rejected. It is so ordered.

MR. WIGGIN (reading): Amend Article 8 of the By-Laws by striking out Section 3.

"SEC. 3. Any delegate may appoint a proxy in event of inability to serve, and any society entitled to representation may supplement or substitute its credentials of delegates by sealed instructions to the Committee on Credentials, directing said committee concerning the appointment and instructions of proxies to represent said society."

After considering the above your committee recommends the striking out of Sec. 3, Art. 8, as above read, and in lieu thereof would recommend the following:

"SEC. 3. In case any delegate being unable to serve, the society appointing shall have power to substitute a delegate at any time previous to the meeting of the Annual Convention."

F. A. WIGGIN,
A. GASTON,
RACHEL WALCOTT,
ELIZA J. WALKER,
MRS. G. A. FIELD,
} Committee.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the amendment.

MR. WALKER: Would it not be well to add after the words "previous to" the words "or during the Convention"? The local society only has power to substitute a delegate if this amendment is carried. The Convention would have no power to appoint a proxy in Convention.

THE CHAIRMAN: None whatever.

MRS. TWING: That does not seem to me to be fair. Sickness might prevent a person from coming here; then who could represent the society? No other person in the room or in the Convention could act for that society. It seems to me unjust to the N. S. A. I believe that we are cosmopolitan enough and understand these things. We can trust each other just a little bit.

MR. WIGGIN: We all know that we are in very near touch with all points in this United States at the present time, and we can inform our society in five minutes by wire. It would be possible for the local society to co-operate with us in this movement. I think it would serve us in many ways, and it would tend to distribute the delegates among the Spiritualists throughout the country instead of centralizing them. (Applause.) If our sister takes this view of it she will feel we are right in this.

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MRS. PRIOR: There are few societies who can send delegates unless the delegates who have been appointed take the money for the railroad fare out of their own pockets. If this society cannot send any one here, it is only just to know that it has not been left out of the Convention; the Convention should appoint a proxy, to have that society represented.

MR. WHITING: I rise to ask concerning the matter of taking this question out of the delegates' hands and putting it into the hands of the Trustees. Has any injury resulted from it as it is? If there has been no injury, I can see no good reason why it should be changed. If our committee has had the matter under consideration and has found something wrong then perhaps we had better take the recommendations of the committee. Inasmuch as we hear nothing, and the fact that the committee has not heard anything of the kind, it seems to me the matter should stand as it is. We are in the habit of changing some of the laws before we fairly understand them. Mr. President, we are liable to make some mistake in making these changes.

MRS. CADWALLADER: Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates, I think if you will take a sensible view of this matter you will see that, until the time comes when we do away with proxy representation made by the Committee on Credentials we will have nothing more than a local society here in our national body. It is true, and I agree with the representative from Georgia that there is difficulty in raising funds to bring the delegates from distant States, but because that is the case have we a right to make by-laws that are all the time militating against our success as an organization? As chairman of the Committee on Delegates' Reports, I find society after society sending in no reports and no annual dues, and you have heard your President ruling this morning, if a society holds a charter it can have its representative on this floor if it pays its dues, whether it holds meetings or not. By proxy, remember, by proxy.

A society in New York, in an official report, says: "We have held no meetings," and yet is entitled to representation. A society in Utah is represented by a worker from Massachusetts; a society in Oregon is represented by a resident of Washington City, and when the Nominating Committee comes together to represent the several States, we have a local committee, not a national, for it is all filled with these proxies. You may say this is all right, but I earnestly recommend you to think a while, and not let the sentiment go out that twenty-five residents of Washington or twenty-five from Philadelphia, or twenty-five from Baltimore, can be ap-

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pointed proxies to represent California, Maine, Tennessee and Georgia. Look at your list of the Nominating Committee to-day and then say whether I am right or not; that is not a representative body; it is simply a local body. One society has held only one meeting this year. It was obliged to have one meeting to select its delegate to this Convention. It took in no money, spent no money; it has no hall; consists of nine members, and it is represented by a delegate to-day, last year by a proxy. How long can the National Association exist under these conditions? If you wish to stand by the National, do away with your proxies and let these societies send their own representatives or have their choice as to who shall represent them.

MR. STANGLEN: I am in favor of the adoption of this amendment, not because I believe that there has been any wrong done, or that I believe that this Convention has been packed by delegates from the State of Maryland or the District of Columbia. I do not think one State should have two members upon the Nominating Committee. The reason I am in favor of the motion is because I believe the National Spiritualists Association is a progressive body, and it is its duty to adopt the best forms and the greatest safeguards against possible error. We want to adopt a method to prevent possible abuse. And we should state the truth in plain terms. I am in accord with the adoption of the amendment excluding proxies except where they are ratified by the societies they are to represent.

I hope this Convention will adopt this resolution, so that there can be no insinuation hereafter, as there has been in the past, that the Chair has done whatever suits his personal views. I believe that the principle in vogue in every national society should be followed by us. If proxies must be appointed let them be selected by the societies they represent.

MRS. WALCOTT: The suggestion was made in our committee meeting to strike out the whole of the article. We did not wish to deprive societies of representation, hence we suggested the amendment that is under discussion, so that in case a delegate was unable to attend the Convention, he could name some person to act for him.

MR. WALKER: Having had the honor of being chairman of the Committee on Credentials for the past three years, I can state some things in connection with its work. I wish to say that while this amendment may be a good thing if it is as I understand it; does it mean that when a society has elected a delegate and instructed him, he could appoint no substitute in case of his inability to attend the Convention?

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THE CHAIRMAN: He could not appoint a substitute when a delegate was unable to serve; the society appointing him will have sole power to appoint a substitute.

MR. WALKER: If a society had elected a delegate whose credentials were properly filed, what could be done in that case?

THE CHAIRMAN: Should the pending amendment be adopted, should a society elect a delegate and that delegate fail to attend the Convention, that society could not be represented unless it re convened and elected another one.

MR. WALKER: I wish to refer to proxy representation from the city of Washington. There are many prominent Spiritualists here, who should be delegates on this floor. Should a committee, biased in favor of any particular point, be chosen, then a large delegation of proxies from the city of Washington would be possible, and it could legislate here. But if your committee is wise in its choice, I think there is no danger in this respect. The committee, so far, has endeavored to avoid a too numerous representation from any one locality. I know that to be the case, having been on the Committee on Credentials for four years. One member of our Committee is a gentleman from the city of Boston. We know there is a large delegation from that city, but we have avoided giving many proxies to that city for fear of being censured.

I think that this amendment should provide that the delegate elected should have power to substitute, provided he was under instructions from his association. It would be a proper amendment to make.

MRS. RICHMOND: Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that in adopting this proposed amendment, we shall, in a great measure, cut off the representation of the West, Northwest and the South. A great many societies adjourn for the summer, from June to October. They elect their delegates to the Convention usually at the last business session before the adjournment, and there is no possibility of convening the society again in time to meet the requirements of the Constitution concerning the delegates, especially if the people appointed cannot serve. I think the abuse of the proxy system can be avoided by the good sense of the Convention. It may be wise to have no possibility of danger, but I think the dangers of non-representation are much greater, if this amendment is carried, than if the Constitution remains as it is. We don't wish to give up the great Northwest, West and Southwest; they are far enough removed from us already, and if this amendment is carried they will

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feel they are almost totally excluded from the deliberations of the National Association.

MR. MOULTON: Mr. President, those who prepared the By-Laws gave this matter very careful consideration. The abuse, or the possibilities of abuse, as it may be, of the proxy system, has not been unforeseen. There is a sufficient safeguard against it already. In the first place, a delegate duly elected is entitled to a voice in this Convention, but whether he alone is to exercise that privilege or have the power to appoint a proxy, is left to his own society at home. Take, for instance, my own case. I have the power of proxy certified on the face of the credentials. This Convention cannot kill that power. Then, furthermore, if the officers of that society had not signed those credentials, and placed that power in my hands, they could have instructed our Committee on Credentials, and that committee could fill the vacancy.

The Committee on Credentials cannot make the appointment of a proxy unless empowered from a local or State society where the power comes from. If that committee thinks proper and demands written instructions, our rules now provide for that, and if it has not been done, then the laws of this Association have been violated.

Again, the Michigan State Association elected its President, Mrs. Root, as direct delegate; they exhausted their proxy power forever by electing alternates, and therefore they have taken away Mrs. Root's power to fill any vacancy.

Any one who has any doubts concerning a proxy can write to the society asking who it shall be; if they don't want somebody from Boston to represent a society in California they can say so, and the committee is bound by it. Now, under this rule, it is clearly within the power of the local society to control this matter, if it seems that the Committee on Credentials is abusing its power. If the committee has appointed any proxy without any direct written instructions from the society, it has violated the law already.

MR. WOODBURY: I want to speak in behalf of a number of very small societies that are very large contributors to this institution. One of these societies has been mentioned this morning, the one at Hannibal, Mo. Though it has held no public meetings, it has lately held parlor meetings. They have nine members, and though they have not as much influence in the country as where there is a large number of Spiritualists, though they have not built up a large society, they are doing their best in this direction, and each member of that society is represented in our treasury to-day with a dollar bill, while some of our largest societies have not paid

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their annual dues. (Applause.) Now when societies pay as well as this one has, I claim it has a right to be represented on this floor. There is another little society at Lexington, Ky., to which I referred last year. At that time it had but one member, and he wrote to me, asking if he should surrender the charter; I said, "No, hold your little parlor meetings and work up another society." He has since written to me that they now have a good society there. They have but ten members, yet they have turned in every dollar of their dues, hence we can't afford to deprive such societies of their right to representation.

MR. HATCH: Mr. President, I merely wish to say that the Massachusetts State Association covered the ground by appointing three delegates and three alternates.

MR. MANSERGH: I have listened with attention to all that has been said here, and I think there is a way out of this difficulty. The amendment suggested I don't think covers the ground. Supposing the Committee on Credentials has an especial point to win; if its members have a good chance, and can appoint whom they please, as the law now stands, a majority of that committee may be in favor of a certain appointment, and can appoint proxies who will carry the point for them.

Now, Mr. President, we want an amendment to the amendment, and I offer one, as follows: In appointing proxies, the Committee on Credentials should have no power to appoint but one proxy from each State, so that not more than one can be appointed from, say, the District of Columbia or from the State of Massachusetts, or I don't care where it is, every State should have only its proper delegates, and only one person from that State should be taken as a proxy to represent a society in another State.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question now is upon the amendment to the amendment.

MR. EDSON: Fellow delegates, I think that the Committee on Amendments has gone over this question very carefully. I believe, and have believed for some time, that the idea of the word proxy, as it stands now, is misleading. The substitution which our committee has offered in its report is the proper thing and it makes our position clear. It is perfectly fair, therefore I think the committee was wise in its recommendation and I wish to see it sustained. I believe if things are left as they are it will be possible for people to say, "Why, that is just the thing I want for individual membership." I think this amendment will make matters plain, and I believe our committee has reported the right thing.

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MR. BACON: I have listened with deepest interest to the ventilation of this question. Practically, it seems to resolve itself to the consideration as to the advantage or disadvantage of the adoption of the proposed amendment. Taking that ground for a basis, I cannot agree with the last speaker. I see that as many disadvantages are likely to arise under the amendment as it is possible under the present Constitution. We have heard from the Chairman of the Committeee on Credentials for the last three years, that no harm has befallen the N. S. A. by fraud or abuse of the power that has been entrusted to that committee. It has been my pleasure and prerogative to represent for the last three years on this floor the Yonkers Society in the State of New York, because I am temporarily a resident of Washington. They have given me specific instructions in black and white what to do with reference to this very question. Those here who know me know that I would be likely to do that which would prove for the best interest of the N. S. A. in all respects. I don't feel, with the present law we have, to vote for the amendment, and shall vote, therefore, to sustain the Constitution as it is.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the adoption of the amendment to the amendment.

The amendment to the amendment is lost.

The question now is upon the amendment to insert after the words "previous to" the words "or during the."

The amendment is rejected.

The question now reverts to the adoption of the original proposition as offered by your committee.

It is rejected. (Loud applause.)

The question is now upon the adoption of the report as a whole as amended.

The report as a whole, as amended, is adopted.

The next order of business is Unfinished Business. What is the further pleasure of the Convention?

MRS. RICHMOND: A special committee was appointed, of which I was unfortunately made chairman, to consider the program and order of exercises for future Conventions. I now present the report of the committee, upon which I wish to speak a little more at length.

(Reads:)

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMS FOR FUTURE CONVENTIONS.

In view of the widespread interest in the ethical, phenomenal and religious questions connected with our grand philosophy, it is evident to your committee that it will be necessary

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in future Conventions to endeavor to present the best thought of the movement in the most condensed form in our evening sessions, with a view of giving to the world the principles, aims and workings of our philosophy in these Conventions. It is hoped by your committee that the reviewing board will ascertain as far as is practicable the eminent minds in our midst who are to attend the Convention, and that the names of the speakers and their themes be announced as long beforehand as is practicable. In fact, that we may have a plan of presentation by speakers that represent some especial phase of the movement as well as the general cause.

CORA L. V. RICHMOND,
GEO. A. FULLER,
ELVIRA S. LORING,
J. H. ALTEMUS,
C. L. STEVENS.

MRS. RICHMOND, continuing: Mr. President, in presenting this report I desire to add that it is important that we should, in advance of every Convention, report the names of all the speakers and mediums who possibly can attend these Conventions. As we have had this morning, and at other times, debated on the floor of this Convention the subject of education, the lyceum, and the various movements connected with our work, it would be desirable for some representative mind connected with these movements to discuss that which has been done in some especial direction at the evening sessions. Supposing, for illustration, that Mr. Hull or some one was assigned the subject of schools and education; another the lyceum; another, spiritual teachings, etc. This is the method of procedure in all conventions of contemporaneous bodies, and it seems to me that while we all have a great deal to say about the general theme of Spiritualism, the speakers are liable to cover the same ground. I do wish that we might adopt in future some such plan, hence I move, Mr. Chairman, that this report be referred to the incoming Board with power to act.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is so ordered.

Is there anything more under the head of Unfinished Business?

MR. EDSON: I have been handed a paper to present to this Convention at the present time. The subject, I think, is important, and should be acted upon at this time. (Reading):

WHEREAS, It is notorious that numbers of women and men, calling themselves Spiritualists, are plying their trade and parading themselves in the newspapers as healers by massage treatment; and

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WHEREAS, It is equally well known and self-evident that said practice, promiscuously carried on as it is, without distinction of sex, is immoral in its tendency and an enemy to social purity: therefore

Resolved, That said practice, as above defined, is emphatically condemned by the N. S. A., and its practitioners discountenanced and disowned as Spiritualists.

MR. EDSON, continuing: Mr. Chairman, I move that this report be accepted and given to the incoming Board with power to act.

Adopted.

THE CHAIRMAN: The report of the Committee on Delegates' reports is now in order.

MRS. CADWALLADER (reads report):

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DELEGATES' REPORT.

1. Mr. President and fellow delegates—Your committee reports that out of 193 societies chartered by the National Spiritualists Association, only 57 have sent in a report of any kind, and the most of them are sadly deficient in many of the items. In our opinion the Secretary should be instructed to call for full statistics from each society, so that in the future we may be able to compute the full strength of the societies connected with the N. S. A.

2. These reports give a total membership of 2,998. Receipts for the year, $13,364.89; expenses, $13,171.15. Property held by the Associations is valued at $19,944.38. Only one society reports cash on hand to any amount. Most of the societies report no funds on hand.

3. In many cases the societies have filed no reports, but have sent letters concerning the condition of the societies. These are in a few instances careful statements, but in most cases calculated to show a very weak state of affairs.

4. In view of this state of affairs your committee submits the following recommendations:

We earnestly suggest that no representation be allowed on the floor of the Convention until each society meets all the requirements of the Constitution and By-Laws of the N. S. A.

5. We also recommend that no proxy delegate shall be appointed by this Convention.

6. We recommend that no society shall be represented at the Annual Convention unless it has applied for a charter at least three months before the Convention.

7. We recommend the enforcement of revoking all charters of societies which are this year in arrears of dues. Such so-

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cieties exist in name only and should have no voice in our annual deliberations either by delegate or proxy.

8. We recommend that in all cases where the annual dues have not been paid, no representation in the N. S. A. be allowed.

9. We also recommend that another item be added to complete the statistics, that each society be required to report how much it has contributed to the N. S. A. the current year.

10. In conclusion, we suggest that a greater effort be made to secure representation direct from each society. This, we think, will insure a more enduring interest in the N. S. A. As it is the apathy apparent in these reports shows that once the charter is obtained, in many cases the society does not feel under any special obligation to financially support the N. S. A. This state of affairs will continue as long as a society is allowed representation upon the floor of the Convention without having paid annual dues to this Association.

Respectfully submitted,

M. E. CADWALLADER, Chairman,
G. W. KEATS,
CARRIE B. KILGORE,
C. H. FIGUERS,
J. D. STORRS,
} Committee.

MRS. CADWALLADER (continuing): In presenting this report I have an additional statement that has been kept exclusive from the official reports of societies.

Your committee thinks that the delegates to this Convention should carefully consider the following, coming, as it does, from the officers of the respective societies:

The local society at Lily Dale reports that three years ago it sent two delegates to the N. S. A. Convention, since which time it has never breathed. It is dead and buried. It holds the charter and is entitled to representation upon this Convention.

Hannibal, Mo., reports nine members, holding only one meeting during the year. No receipts, no expenses, no cash on hand and no property.

Woman's Benevolent Aid, of St. Louis, Mo., reports that it cannot send a delegate, and will send no proxy.

Cincinnati, Ohio, reports that it had closed the meetings two years ago, and comments upon the fact that the N. S. A. never communicates with the President of the Society except when money is needed.

Baldwinsville, N. Y., reports its society a thing of the past, and that there seems to be no sign of its reviving.

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Toledo, O., asks to have their charter considered null and void.

Oswego, N. Y., reports that it has gone to the wall. It could not get enough together to elect officers, and was too poor to pay dues.

Fort Wayne, Ind., reports that the society is in a poor financial condition.

These are only some of the reports. To read them all would require too much time; but these statements require careful consideration on the part of the delegates.

Some of the societies report that they spent from five hundred to two thousand dollars within the year to run their meetings. Any seven people at any point, if they would come together and get a charter, are entitled, by your own ruling, to send a delegate here year after year, and that would last for two years without paying a cent. I earnestly request the delegates to consider it carefully and see that the societies that are connected with the National Association are obliged to pay their dues. It was said in the last Convention that we were arbitrary, and it would not do to bar out the right of the little societies from representation because they could not pay. Let me ask, does that apply to the large societies also, local or State, and if they are to be allowed representation? I do know the object of the National Association is to gather the majority of the societies together, and be supported by their annual dues. This matter will come up for consideration in the future. We are here to see that our National Association is supported financially.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the report of your committee. Shall it be considered *seriatim*? It is so ordered.

Article 1. Adopted as read.

2. These reports give a total membership of 2,998. Receipts for the year, $13,364.89; expenses, $13,171.15. Property held by the Associations is valued at $19,944.38. Only one society reports cash on hand to any amount. Most of the societies report no funds on hand.

MR. WOODBURY: I want to say that one of the great faults of the Spiritualist societies is, that they have not been in the habit of making reports, hence are slow to change. We know that up to the time this National Association was organized, a great majority of the Spiritualist societies of this country were not doing business in a business manner. You cannot change all of our societies in a minute. I can see a great improvement since last year in the reports. There are indications that in many societies no books are kept. I

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earnestly recommend that we request each of these societies to keep financial accounts. It is a mistake for any association to go on through the year, taking in money and paying it out without making a report thereof. You will find the National Association has attempted for the last three years to institute a business order for the conduct of our local societies. This is a very important subject, and you will find that a number of societies have gone to pieces simply because there was a quarrel over the money matters. I want to say there is a great improvement in the Spiritualist societies in America in the way of conducting business during the past year. The reports have come in better, materially better, than last year.

MR. WHITING: I want to say a few words in this relation concerning Connecticut. In Connecticut all of its organizations that I know of have taken out charters with this body. Connecticut is loyal to the N. S. A. Even our little basket picnic, that has been held annually for the last three years, takes out a charter, and how can we send in a report to our Secretary of the basket picnic? We only meet once a year. And, too, our little Niantic Camp-Meeting is almost the same. We have our annual meeting, and there are many members of our Niantic Association who are not Spiritualists; still they are members of our Association. We wish to report our membership and answer the questions asked by the N. S. A., but we could not make a report that would be reliable; I am speaking now of Connecticut alone, and especially for those two societies. Our picnic association holds a charter from the N. S. A.; our secretary makes a report and sends the names of its members, and this is all the report we can make.

New Haven now has a society through the efforts of our Sister, Mrs. Wright, who is here as a delegate. I believe in the future the N. S. A. and the people generally will hear from New Haven.

MR. KATES: As a member of this committee I want to make a few remarks. It is an important matter, an essential thing that we should have these reports, and the principal idea of the committee was to impress upon the delegates the great necessity of going home to their societies and enthusing their friends next year to make these reports. So long as the National Association orders you to report your membership, your receipts and disbursements, what property you own, the capacity of the hall, etc., you should do so. Now it is very unfair to the cause of Spiritualism in America to make a report to be read and published showing such a meager amount

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of annual receipts, such meager membership in the National Association. Let me tell you the average computation of membership. The National Association has 193 charters, its members should be from twenty to thirty thousand, but we have to report that only 2,998 are reported. There is the greatest necessity of filling these blanks, and therefore we say that the Secretary should explicitly request their reports, and send them back until they are filled in correctly, so that we can get these statistics. As it stands now, it does not do justice to our local or National Associations.

THE CHAIRMAN: Article 2 is adopted.

Article 3. Adopted as read.

4. In view of this state of affairs your committee submits the following recommendations:

We earnestly suggest that no representation be allowed on the floor of the Convention until each society meets all the requirements of the Constitution and By-Laws of the N. S. A.

MR. GOULD: I believe we should indulge our delinquents and encourage them by extending the time and by talking the matter over with them. By so doing, they will not be at fault in the future.

Our Secretary has clearly shown us that this National Association is educational, hence we should not be arbitrary. We should not expect the local societies to be at once aware of the great importance of making a complete report to the National Association. They will in time realize the importance of reporting their membership, their financial condition and the number of meetings held, etc., but let us be lenient and educate them to the plans and the requirements of the Constitution.

MR. TREAT: I rise to a question of privilege to discuss this resolution. Our little society at Hannibal, Mo., has been censured somewhat by some members in this Convention for not having more members, for not having held more meetings during the year. We are also rather stigmatized for not reporting more money. I believe if we owe any money, according to the Constitution and By-Laws of this National Association of Spiritualists, we are ready to pay it any minute, and if we don't have many members, this Association will not be called upon to defray any of our expenses or support any of our poor. There is a reason, and I have explained it to some of the members here, why we don't have any more meetings there. Our Western country has been filled with a class of mediums we used to call "trying the spirits to see if they were good." Beware of those who only peep. Now we have a great many licensed robbers in the West and quite a

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number of them in Hannibal, where we have been hoping to starve them out. That is one reason we don't have meetings there. I beg leave to favor the rejection of this recommendation.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the rejection of the recommendation. It is rejected.

MRS. CADWALLADER: Does that mean that the recommendation of the committee is rejected?

THE CHAIRMAN: The recommendation of the committee is rejected.

MRS. CADWALLADER: Then I move its reconsideration.

MR. EDSON: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the reconsideration of the vote to reject the recommendation.

MR. MOULTON: I move to lay the motion to reconsider on the table.

Adopted.

Articles 5, 6, 7 and 8 were laid upon the table.

9. We also recommend that another item be added to complete the statistics, that each society be required to report how much it has contributed to the N. S. A. the current year.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved that the article be laid on the table.

MRS. RICHMOND: Is not this provided for also?

THE CHAIRMAN: It is not. A division has been called for. Mr. Kates and Mr. Mansergh will come forward and act as tellers.

THE CHAIRMAN: The vote stands 49 in favor and 14 against. The motion to lay on the table is carried.

Article 10 is adopted as read.

The question is now upon the adoption of the report as amended as a whole. It is adopted.

MRS. RICHMOND: The Committee on Delegates' Cards and Badges wishes me to make a report that the total amount received was $20.90, cost, $15.90, balance for the National treasury, $5.00. It is signed Mrs. Brown, Chairman of the Committee on Badges.

THE CHAIRMAN: The report is accepted. The meeting is now adjourned to 2.30 P. M.

AFTERNOON MEETING.

OCTOBER 21, 2.30.

President Barrett in the Chair.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Convention will be in order.

MR. WALKER: Representing the Committee on Nominations, I wish to request all persons who desire to present the names

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of candidates to that committee, or any other business, to do so at this time.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair remembers that something was left over from last year, a matter presented by the late Dr. Aspinwall, of Minnesota, and it was to be acted upon this year. It was an amendment to the Constitution regarding the place of meeting—that the Convention should meet in Washington only once in three years, and doing the intervening years meet at different places throughout the country.

MR. EDSON: I would like to ask if it is proper for that matter to be acted upon here, and whether it could be done without changing our Constitution.

THE CHAIRMAN: It was offered as an amendment to the Constitution by Dr. Aspinwall. The Chair then ruled that it would be brought forward this year as an amendment to the Constitution. As it has not been printed the Chair is in very grave doubt as to its being possible to entertain it.

MR. EDSON: It seems to me that an amendment to the Constitution must be printed before it could be admitted. I think the Constitution states it must be printed and sent to the local societies.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair rules it out of order at this time, hence it will go over as an amendment to the Constitution to be considered by the next Convention.

The Board of Trustees of the N. S. A. is called for.

Mr. Sprague will please take the Chair.

Mr. Sprague in the Chair.

The Convention at this hour joined in a general discussion, in which the following participated: Hon. Thos. M. Locke, Mrs. M. Summers, Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Klein, Dr. Peebles, Mrs. Kurth, Mrs. Twing, Mrs. Pepper, Mr. Wiggin, Mr. Sprague, Moses Hull, Mrs. Kilgore, Mr. Stanglen, Mr. Whiting, Mrs. Russegue, Mr. Treat, Mrs. Richmond, Mr. Weaver, Mrs. Hull and Mr. Moulton. The conference lasted until four o'clock.

President Barrett in the Chair.

THE CHAIRMAN: Friends, the business of this Convention will now be continued.

MR. HATCH: I move that a committee of five be appointed to organize a National Lyceum Association as an auxiliary to the National Spiritualists Association, to be designated as follows: National Conductor, Assistant Conductor, Guardian, Secretary and Treasurer; to report to this Convention tonight. Carried.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair appoints Mrs. Mary J. Stephens, Mr. C. W. Stanglen, Mrs. Mattie E. Hull, Mr. J. B. Hatch, Jr., and Mr. W. H. Bach.

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Is there any new business to be brought before the Convention?

MR. HATCH: I move that all expenses of the non-resident members of the Board of Trustees, from their homes and return thereto, be paid from the treasury of the National Association.

Carried.

MR. HATCH: I also move that the salary of the President be the same as last year, fifteen hundred dollars ($1,500).

Adopted unanimously.

MR. HATCH: I think the Treasurer will look upon me as a wretch. I move that this Association pay to Harrison D. Barrett whatever sum of money it owes him.

Mrs. Richmond in the Chair.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved and seconded that this Association pay Harrison D. Barrett whatever sum of money it owes him.

Adopted.

PRESIDENT BARRETT (in the Chair):

Friends, what shall be the salary of your Secretary for the year next ensuing?

MR. MCINTYRE: I move it be fixed at $1,200.00.

Adopted.

MR. HATCH: I made the motion that the President receive what money is owing him, and I now move that the first money received be paid to the President.

Mrs. Richmond in the Chair.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved and seconded that the first money received by the National Association be paid for the liquidation of the debt to the President. It is so ordered.

THE CHAIRMAN: We are now ready to listen to the report of the Committee on Finance, Mrs. Prior, chairman.

MRS. PRIOR (reads): Mr. President and Delegates of the National Spiritualists Association of the United States and Dominion of Canada, in Convention assembled:

As a committee working harmoniously to consider the important question of raising funds for carrying on the duties and business of this Association for the coming year, we recommend and suggest the following:

1. We recommend that portion of our President's report relating to the appointment of State and financial agents and missionaries, the arranging of mass-meetings and all suggestions relating to finance be adopted.

Referred to the incoming Board of Trustees with power to act.

2. We also recommend that there shall be placed in the

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field no less than five missionaries—two in the South, one in the North, one East and one West. These missionaries shall be expected to devote all their time and interests to the N. S. A.; shall be employed and for such services shall be paid the sum of not less than fifty dollars ($50.00) per month, payable monthly, and traveling expenses while so employed; that all sums of money received by the several missionaries from collections and donations and all other sources be receipted for by these said missionaries and be accounted for to the trustees of the N. S. A.; that a monthly statement and report of all said receipts be made and duly rendered to the said board not later than the 15th of each month, together with all moneys for said preceding month while so employed.

MR. MOULTON: I suggest that this Convention is liable to get mixed in its work. We have already spent ten or fifteen thousand dollars. I move that this section be left to the incoming Board of Trustees.

Adopted.

3. We recommend that all officers, lecturers, speakers and missionaries who are traveling at the expense of the N. S. A., while employed by the said body, try to so arrange their route so as to travel at as little cost to the National Association as possible, or so arrange their work that they can travel in a circle, if need be, visiting and working for the societies en route, so as to avoid the paying of extra railroad fare over the same route.

Adopted.

4. We recommend that, in place of publishing one thousand (1,000) copies of the Convention Report, as was done last year, and having nine hundred of the said copies on hand, that there be but five hundred (500) published this year.

MR. GOULD: That report states that only one hundred copies of the report of last year have been sold. That should read four hundred.

MRS. PRIOR: That was stated according to the information that was given us. I suppose the mistake occurred by the fact that one hundred dollars' worth, and not simply one hundred Reports, were sold.

THE CHAIRMAN: The correction will be made.

MR. SPRAGUE: I think we will need a great many more if we hold the Jubilee, and I move that the matter be referred to the Board.

MRS. CADWALLADER: Mr. Chairman, I would like to suggest as a practical printer, that everybody knows that the whole cost is type-setting, and after the setting of the type the dif-

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ference is so little it is very foolish for us not to have a thousand. We certainly will need a thousand.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon referring the matter to the incoming Board. It is adopted.

5. We suggest that the President or Secretary of all local societies instruct their speaker or medium to make a special plea for collections once each month for the N. S. A., even if the sum so collected be but a few dollars.

MRS. KURTH: I object to that for this reason: The members of the local societies are all taxed *per capita* dues of twenty-five cents, also one collection during the year. This plan will be unjust to the members of the local societies who pay their dues in connection with the work of their society. Once a month is too often to take such collection.

MR. HATCH: I object to it on the same ground. Our society is a member of both the State and National Associations. Many of its members are on this floor here, and they pay double dues. I don't think it would be right.

MRS. PRIOR: Perhaps we have not worded that suggestion in the proper manner. Our idea was that if our local societies would permit their speakers to mention our National Association, there are nearly always strangers in the places of meeting, and if their attention was called to the National body they, perhaps, would come forward and make a donation. We did not ask that the members of the local societies make this donation every month, but that strangers be invited to make small contributions.

MRS. PEPPER: I know, and every speaker knows, that very few places will allow a speaker to make a collection for any other society or cause. I wanted to take up a collection for the Babe Will fund in one city and the only way I could carry my point was, I said I would stay until I could do so. I think that it should be stricken out.

MR. HULL: I was going to suggest a substitute, that we ask every delegate to take out what is called honorary or contributing membership in this Association. This is a matter for the delegates and agents to ask individuals to become individual contributing members of the National Association, by paying one dollar.

MR. STEVENS: I feel, as a member of that committee, responsible for this recommendation. It was not the intention to take up a collection each month, but to have those speakers who go among the societies generally and are capable of presenting the claims of this Association, express to the audience its needs, once a month. It is not necessary to pass around the basket on such occasions. You will find that the

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people, if they only know the needs of the National Association and its grand and elevating work, will certainly come to its rescue. I said it was not the intention to pass the basket at these times but to receive voluntary collections.

MRS. GLADING: The speakers have no right to go into the local societies for collections. We are not allowed as speakers, from my own personal experience, to take collections for the Association.

MRS. CADWALLADER: This is a question of vital importance. The Board of Trustees of every local society have to take up subscriptions and collect money to run their own societies. Bills have to be met every month; rent and the speaker's salary must be paid. It is right that the National Association should be supported; it needs a great deal of money. But local societies are in no condition to take up any collections for the National Association when they only take in twenty-five cents or a dollar themselves on Sunday. I have had experience running through a number of years, and I know that in many of the societies the last Sunday in the month a good many people stay away to avoid aiding in paying the expenses of the month.

MRS. TWING: As a member of that committee I want to say we have worked untiringly, trying to devise means for the support of this Association. If we cannot get money from our local societies, I wish to know of this Convention what in the world do you want of a Finance Committee?

MR. WIGGIN: I would like to know if we are in possession of any facts relative to the number of speakers and mediums who can be said to be connected with the N. S. A.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair can give the total number in the United States. There are 350 public mediums and speakers in the United States.

MR. WIGGIN: It devolves upon your public speakers to raise funds for the support of this cause. As a speaker I am willing to contribute at least the proceeds of one seance a year, if the other speakers and mediums will agree to do the same throughout the country to aid the N. S. A. I will say the average receipts of my private seances amount to about ten dollars. If every speaker would give a like meeting it would amount to a good deal. I think if our Secretary will request every medium and speaker to co-operate and give the proceeds of one meeting in their locality, or one seance to the N. S. A., it would be responded to quite generally and as a result several thousand dollars would come to the N. S. A. I believe all workers will be willing to join in this work.

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THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the rejection of this resolution.

MR. HULL: I move as a substitute we invite every delegate and everybody else here to take out contributing membership certificates at one dollar each.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the adoption of the substitute.

This was amended by substituting "once each year," and then adopted.

6. We would also suggest that each speaker and medium, who feels that he can do so, be requested to devote one evening each month to giving a lecture or test seance, the net proceeds of which will go to the N. S. A. As there is no time like the present, we would suggest the taking of pledges, from those present, who feel that they can aid the N. S. A. in its workings next year. Mrs. Carrie E. S. Twing is recommended to take such pledges.

Adopted as read.

7. We suggest as other organizations have for years strengthened their cause for the future by interesting their children in the said organizations, we would deem it advisable that we have dollar wheels, with little cavities for ten ten-cent pieces, having upon the wheel the object for which the money is to be used and the name of the child who acts as collector; that as soon as it is filled each child send the collection to headquarters and receive therefor a picture of "Our President" or some officer of the N. S. A., or any speaker or medium who will contribute his picture for that purpose; that we ask those present who are willing to donate one dozen pictures for this fund to pledge themselves accordingly. This will not only be a financial aid to the N. S. A., but will be the means of making our children familiar with our work and workers; especially would this be beneficial to Spiritualist families who live far from any local society.

MR. HATCH: I move that be left to the Lyceum Department.

Adopted.

8. We also suggest that the needs of the National Society be kept before the local societies, and in connection with the observance of National day each society give one social a year, the net proceeds to be applied for the benefit of the N. S. A.

Adopted.

9. Your committee, Mr. President, has inspected the reports of Mrs. Cora L. V. Richmond and Mr. E. W. Sprague, the accounts of the Mass-meeting work for the year just past, and find them correct in every particular; the mass-meetings

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have contributed to the N. S. A. treasury $222.00, therefore we, your committee, recommend the continuance of mass-meeting work, and if our State agents, missionaries and lecturers can so arrange this work, let us have one mass meeting each month in different portions of the United States and Canada.

Adopted.

10. In closing, we suggest that a special agent or agents be appointed to visit all the camp-meetings they can reach next summer, having our Secretary inquire beforehand what date or dates our agents can have to make a special plea in behalf of the N. S. A.

Adopted.

MRS. LOE F. PRIOR,
MOSES HULL,
CARRIE E. S. TWING,
C. L. STEVENS,
EDGAR W. EMERSON,
} Committee.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the adoption of the report as a whole, as amended.

It is adopted.

Mrs. Twing at this period made a special plea for contributions and pledges of money, also pledges of those who would give the proceeds of one or more meetings and seances, etc., during the coming year, which resulted in the net sum of $3,793.47 being pledged or given in cash; a number of parties signified their willingness to donate the proceeds of one or more seances, etc., for the benefit of the N. S. A.

THE CHAIRMAN: The report of the Committee on Nominations will now be received, Mr. Walker, Chairman.

MR. WALKER: The Committee on Nominations begs leave to report the following:

For President, HARRISON D. BARRETT, of Lily Dale, N. Y.

For Vice President, CORA L. V. RICHMOND, District of Columbia.

For Secretary, FRANCIS B. WOODBURY, District of Columbia.

For Treasurer, GEO. S. CLENDANIEL, District of Columbia.

For Trustees, HON. L. V. MOULTON, Grand Rapids, Mich.; DR. GEO. A. FULLER, Worcester, Mass.; ALLEN FRANKLIN BROWN, San Antonio, Texas; H. W. RICHARDSON, East Aurora, N. Y.; COL. C. H. STOCKELL, Nashville, Tenn.

The above nominations were all unanimous.

Signed—Frank Walker, Chairman, New York; Wm. Richmond, Secretary, Illinois; E. W. Bond, Willoughby, Ohio; J. B. Hatch, Jr., Massachusetts; J. V. McIntyre, Dis-

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trict of Columbia; Loe F. Prior, Georgia; Joseph Broadhead, New Jersey; M. L. Wheeler Brown, British Columbia; Carrie Chapman, Indiana; Isaac Bigelow, Vermont; Martha E. Root, Michigan; C. H. Figuers, Tennessee; E. W. Gould, Missouri; Margaret Gaule, Oregon; Ida P. A. Whitlock, Rhode Island; G. W. Shook, Kentucky; Marie C. Evans, Minnesota; W. C. Bowman, California; Allen Franklin Brown, Texas; C. W. Hidden, Utah; Mary A. Hatch, Connecticut; Rachel Walcott, Maryland; C. L. Stevens, Pennsylvania; Wm. Brodie, Louisiana; Dr. Frank S. Bigelow, Maine.

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I move that the report of the committee be accepted.

Carried.

MR. WATSON: I move that the Sergeant-at-Arms be instructed to cast the vote of the Convention for the officers named.

MR. MANSERGH: I second the motion.

Carried.

THE CHAIRMAN: Friends, the Sergeant-at-Arms has performed his duty, and the officers named by your committee have been unanimously elected. (Loud cheering and applause.) The Chair expresses his thanks to each and every delegate present, and pledges you his earnest endeavors to make the National Association a grand success during the year next ensuing. As there is no further business to be transacted by this Convention the Chair now declares the Fifth Annual Convention of the National Spiritualists Association adjourned *sine die*. (Loud applause and cheering for the cause of the N. S. A.)

During the evening session (October 21) the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, The Washington *Post*, *Star* and *Times* have been fair and just in reporting the proceedings of the Fifth Annual Convention of the National Spiritualists Association; and

WHEREAS, It is desired to express our high appreciation of the same: therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the delegates representing the Spiritualists of the United States of America and the Dominion of Canada in convention assembled, do extend our sincere thanks to the above-named papers.

J. V. MCINTYRE, Chairman.
CHAS. W. STANGLEN,
CARRIE L. HATCH.

WHEREAS, Mr. Burch, proprietor of the Ebbitt House of

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this city, has been most courteous in extending to us the liberty of his famous house, by throwing open to our use his magnificent parlors; and

WHEREAS, We desire to testify our high appreciation of the same: now therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the delegates to the Fifth Annual Convention of the National Spiritualists Association representing the Spiritualists of the United States of America and the Dominion of Canada in convention assembled, do hereby extend our hearty thanks for his generous hospitality.

J. V. McINTYRE, Chairman,
CHAS. W. STANGLEN,
CARRIE L. HATCH.

The National Spiritualist Lyceum Association was organized by the National Spiritualist Convention to-day with the following officers:

JAMES B. HATCH, JR., of Massachusetts, National Conductor.
CHAS. W. STANGLEN, of Maryland, Assistant Conductor.
MRS. MARY J. STEPHENS, of Washington, D. C., Guardian.
MRS. MATTIE E. HULL, of Massachusetts, Secretary.
W. H. BACH, of New York, Treasurer.

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ORDAINED SPIRITUALIST SPEAKERS REGISTERED AT N. S. A. OFFICE.

Allen, J. Madison ..... Springfield, Missouri
Allen, Mrs. M. T. ..... Springfield, Missouri
Aspinwall, Mrs. Bessie..... Minneapolis, Minnesota
Baade, Mrs. Nellie..... Detroit, Michigan
Bach, W. H..... Lily Dale, New York
Barnicoat, Dr. Lucy..... Boston, Massachusetts
Barrett, Harrison D. ..... Lily Dale, New York
Barrett, Mrs. Virginie..... Indianapolis, Indiana
Bonney, W. E..... Wichita, Kansas
Bowtell, Edward J. ..... Boston, Massachusetts
Briggs, Mrs. Scott..... San Francisco, California
Brooks, Geo. H ..... Elgin, Illinois
Brown, Allen Franklin..... San Antonio, Texas
Bullene, Mrs. Emma J..... Topeka, Kansas
Cadwallader, Mrs. Mary E., Box 446..... Philadelphia, Penna.
Carpenter, Geo. W..... Chestnut St., Riverside, California
Carpenter, Mrs. Marian..... Detroit, Michigan
Colville, W. J..... 9 Bosworth St., Boston, Massachusetts
Conant, Mrs. Clara Field..... Millwood, West Virginia
Cooley, Mrs. Georgia ..... Chicago, Illinois
Daniels, Mrs. O. E..... Chicago, Illinois
Denslow, Dr. E. H..... Fort Worth, Texas
Dewey, David P ..... Grand Blanc, Michigan
Drake, J. S..... 2613 Michigan Ave., Chicago, Illinois
Drake, Mrs. Maud Lord..2613 Michigan Ave., Chicago, Illinois
Drynan, Mrs. Mary F..... San Francisco, California
Edmunds, Silas W..... New Orleans, Louisiana
Ellis, Mrs. Mary A. Cummings..... San Francisco, California
Ford, Mrs. Edna M..... Wonewoc, Wisconsin
Fuller, Dr. Geo. A..... 42 Alvarado Ave., Worcester, Mass.
George, Dr. P. S. ..... Lincoln, Nebraska
Glading, Mrs. Adeline M..... Doylestown, Pennsylvania
Grimshaw, Thos..... Pittsburg, Pennsylvania
Hammond, M. F ..... Worcester, Massachusetts
Harvey, Mrs. J. M. ..... Maquoketa, Iowa
Hodge, Will C ..... 40 Loomis St., Chicago, Illinois
Howe, Lyman C ..... Fredonia, New York
Hull, Moses..... 536 Prospect St., Cleveland, Ohio
Hutchinson, Mrs. Mary P..... Cherry Vale, Kansas
Jackson, Mrs. Jennie Hagan ..... Grand Rapids, Michigan
Jacquess, Mrs. Anna M..202 Indiana Ave., Washington, D. C.
Johnson, John A..... St. Louis, Missouri
Judson, Abby..... Arlington, New Jersey

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Kaynor, Mrs. I. W .....8736 South Wood St., Chicago, Illinois
Lake, Mrs. H. S.....Cleveland, Ohio
Lillie, Mrs. R. S.....Lily Dale, New York
Logan, Mrs. Frances A .....Alameda, California
Longley, Mrs. M. T. S.....517 Olive St., Los Angeles, California
Lowell, Mrs. Sophronia M.....Anoka, Minnesota
MaBee, Mrs. L. A.....Topeka, Kansas
Magoon, Mrs. Ella Gibson.....New York Life Building, Kansas City, Missouri
Magoon, Jas. N.....New York Life Building, Kansas City, Mo.
Martin, Mrs. Annie.....San Antonio, Texas
Mitchell, Mrs. Julia Steelman.....Newport, Kentucky
Moss, Mrs. Effie.....Scoville Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
Moulton, Hon. Luther V.....Grand Rapids, Michigan
Morse, J. J .....London, England
Newnam, Thos. G.....Market St., San Francisco, California
Palmer, Mrs. Millie Renouf.....310 N. Broad St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Parker, Mrs. Margaret E.....Cliff Cottage, Summerland, Cal.
Perkins, Geo. F.....Chicago, Illinois
Price, Theodore F .....Cape May, New Jersey
Prior, Mrs. Loe F.....Atlanta, Georgia
Reynolds, Mrs. Tillie U.....Troy, New York
Richmond, Mrs. Cora L. V.....3802 Ridge Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Rogers, Mrs. M. J. H.....San Francisco, California
Root, Mrs. Martha E.....Bay City, Michigan
Robinson, Anna L.....Port Huron, Michigan
Schermerhorn, Fred.....Grand Rapids, Michigan
Schlesinger, Mrs. Julia.....534 Page St., San Francisco, Cal.
Seeley, Mrs. Emily.....San Francisco, California
Sheets, Mrs. Abbie E.....Grand Ledge, Michigan
Sloper, Mrs. Elizabeth.....543 Jersey St., San Francisco, Cal.
Sprague, Eli W.....Jamestown, New York
Sprague, Mrs. C. A .....Jamestown, New York
Steers, Mrs. Clara Mayo..317 Clepper St., San Francisco, Cal.
Storrs, Mrs. J. D .....Hartford, Connecticut
Summers, Mrs. Morean .....Chicago, Illinois
Switzer, Mrs. Anna V.....Lincoln, Nebraska
Teed, Mrs. E. Louise.....Denver, Colorado
Temple, John M.....San Francisco, California
Thiebaud, Mrs. Lily.....241 Madison Ave., Anderson, Indiana
Thomas, Mrs. Annie A.....Newport, Kentucky
Thompson, Thomas A.....Wichita, Kansas
Tisdale, Albert.....New London, Connecticut
Tuley, Mrs. R. Lizzie Fulton.....San Francisco, California
Tussey, Mrs. Mary A.....Summerland, California

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Twing, Mrs. Carrie E. S.....Westfield, New York
Wagner, Mrs. Annie.....Lincoln, Nebraska
Waite, Mrs. Maggie.....San Francisco, California
Walcott, Mrs. Rachel.....Baltimore, Maryland
Walrond, Geo. W.....Hamilton, Ontario
Walton, Julia.....Jackson, Michigan
Watson, Elizabeth Lowe.....West Side, California
Weatherford, Mrs. Carrie Fuller.....Milwaukee, Wisconsin
White, F. Cordon.....3058 Calumet Ave., Chicago, Illinois
Whitlock, Mrs. Ida P. A.....Providence, Rhode Island
Whitney, Mrs. J. J.....218 Stockton St., San Francisco, Cal.
Wickland, Carl A.....206 Oak St., Chicago, Illinois
Wickland, Mrs. Carl A.....206 Oak St., Chicago, Illinois
Williams, Mrs. E. R.....Salem, Oregon
Wrenn, Mrs. H. D.....San Francisco, California
Woodruff, Mrs. C. E.....South Huron, Michigan
Wyant, Mrs. D. H.....Toledo, Ohio
Yeaw, Mrs. Juliette.....Leominster, Massachusetts

MISSIONARIES, N. S. A., 1897–'8, S. E. 50–51.

Adams, Dr. O. G. W.....Dubuque, Iowa
Allen, M. Theresa.....Springfield, Missouri
Barrett, Virginie.....Indianapolis, Indiana
Brown, Allen Franklin.....San Antonio, Texas
Claman, Mrs. L. N.....4021 Cottage Grove Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Claman, W. R.....4021 Cottage Grove Ave., Chicago, Illinois
Kaynor, Mrs. I. W.....8736 South Wood St., Chicago, Illinois
Kaynor, T. D.....8736 South Wood St., Chicago, Illinois
Magoon, Mrs. Ella Gibson.....New York Life Building, Kansas City, Missouri
Magoon, Dr. J. N..New York Life Building, Kansas City, Mo.
Mitchell, Mrs. Julia Steelman.....109 Van Veast Ave., Newport, Kentucky
Price, Theodore F.....Cape May, New Jersey
Prior, Mrs. Loe F.....Atlanta, Georgia
Reynolds, Mrs. Tillie U.....Troy, New York
Sprague, Mrs. C. A.....416 Newlands Ave., Jamestown, N. Y.
Sprague, E. W.....416 Newlands Ave., Jamestown, New York
Twing, Mrs. Carrie E. S.....Westfield, New York
White, F. Cordon.....3058 Calumet Ave., Chicago, Illinois
Wickland, Carl A.....206 Oak St., Chicago, Illinois
Wickland, Mrs. Carl A.....206 Oak St., Chicago, Illinois

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STATE AGENTS N. S. A. 1897–1898, S. E. 50–51.

ALABAMA.

John W. Ehrman.....Birmingham
R. Hawkins.....Clanton

ARKANSAS.

Alter, J. R.....Stuttgart
Campbell, B. F.....Little Rock
Rea, J. L.....Van Buren

ARIZONA.

Tripp, Dr. R B.....Fort Thomas

CALIFORNIA.

Longley, Mrs. M. T.....517 South Olive St., Los Angeles
Peckham, Joshua.....Fresno
Small, B. F.....310 Fell St., San Francisco

COLORADO.

Beatty, Harry S.....Pueblo
Van Dyke, L. W.....Denver

CONNECTICUT.

Chapman, Mrs. J A.....Norwich
Hatch, Mrs. Mary.....South Windham
Storrs, Mrs. J. D.....Hartford

DELAWARE.

Fogg, N. W.....Wilmington

FLORIDA.

Bond, Frank E.....De Land
Forward, Peploe.....Jacksonville
Parcell, C. P.....Tampa

GEORGIA.

Swan, D.....Tallapoosa
Webster, Rowland E.....Atlanta
Welch, M. I.....Cordele

ILLINOIS.

Black, Mrs. Carrie McCall.....Canton
Freeman, Col. J. A.....Bloomington
Wheelock,.....Moline

INDIANA.

Schmid, B. F.....Indianapolis
Snoke, S. E.....South Bend
Sweringen, Dr. H. V.....Fort Wayne

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IOWA.

Adams, Dr. O. G. W.....Dubuque
McCarroll, Mrs. Mary.....Ottumwa
Reynolds, Mrs. Emily T.....Marshalltown

KANSAS.

Crone, Harriet T.....Topeka
Sailing, Wm.....Derry

KENTUCKY.

Gray, Samuel P.....Lexington
MacAboy, Dr. Thomas.....Louisville
Mitchell, Julia Steelman.....Newport

LOUISIANA.

Brodie, Wm.....New Orleans
Lamoriere, J.....Shreveport

MAINE.

Blackington, A. H.....Rockland
Rand, Mrs. Viola A. B.....Hartland
Weaver, Rev. A. J.....Old Orchard

MARYLAND.

Fickey, Fred, Jr.....Baltimore
Gauss, H. Fred.....Baltimore

MASSACHUSETTS.

Hatch, J. B., Jr.....Dorchester
Loring, Mrs. Carrie F.....Braintree
Smith, Woodbury C.....Worcester

MICHIGAN.

Hutchison, John.....Jackson
Root, Mrs. Martha E.....Bay City
Sheets, Mrs. A. E.....Grand Ledge

MINNESOTA.

Dunn, Hon. A. C.....Winnebago City
Johnson, Hon. O. J.....Minneapolis
Ryder, Merrill.....St. Paul

MISSISSIPPI.

Canong, Luther.....Jamestown
Horton, Robert.....Senatobia
Robinson, Jerry.....Swan Lake

MISSOURI.

Allen, J. Madison.....Springfield
Parkhurst, Dr. H. M.....Baldwin
Treat, C. A.....Hannibal

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NEBRASKA.

Gillette, Paul S ..... Omaha
Thompson, Alonzo ..... Fullerton

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Emerson, Edgar W ..... Manchester
Stevens, Addie M ..... Hillsboro Bridge

NEW JERSEY.

Dorn, H. C ..... Newark
Fowler, N. L ..... Vineland

NEW MEXICO.

Dean, Mrs. M. J ..... Clayton

NEW YORK.

Kurth, Mrs. E. F .....
Stone, James R .....
Walker, Frank .....

Barrett, Hon. W. W.
Orvis, H. D .....
Schmodt, Mrs. E

Bond, Hon. F
Bruner, J. F
Meyers, W

Springer

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SOUTH DAKOTA.

Freeman, Thomas J. ..... Sioux Falls
Potter, Mrs. H. H ..... Aberdeen

TENNESSEE.

Albert, Paul R ..... Chattanooga
Christian, C. K ..... Nashville
Rosenheim, S. J ..... Memphis

TEXAS.

Lang, George ..... Rosenberg
Ring, John W ..... Galveston
Newnam, Chas. W ..... San Antonio

UTAH.

Holmes, Mrs. Mary ..... Salt Lake City
Ravlin, Dr. N. T ..... Salt Lake City

VERMONT.

Hubbard, A. F ..... Tyson
Smoth, Dr. E. A ..... Brandon

VIRGINIA.

Forney, D. S. ..... Allisonia
Hurlbut, Mrs. F. M ..... Cardinal

WASHINGTON.

Mills, P. C. ..... Edmunds
Thomas, L. S ..... Seattle

WEST VIRGINIA.

Conant, Mrs. Clara Field ..... Millwood
Davidson, T. T ..... Parkersburg
Spates, Col. T. S ..... Clarksburg

WISCONSIN.

Dodge, Joseph T ..... Madison
Ray, Dr. Claude F ..... Milwaukee
Sanderson, C. W. ..... La Crosse

WYOMING.

Cross, H. W ..... Laramie
Davis, D. H ..... Rock Springs
Wilcox, Samuel ..... Cheyenne

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OFFICERS AND DELEGATES

TO THE

Fifth Annual Convention

OF THE

National Spiritualists Association of the U. S. A. and Dom. of Canada,

WASHINGTON, D. C., OCTOBER 19, 20 AND 21, 1897.

OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES.

Barrett, Harrison D., President.....Lily Dale, New York
Richmond, Mrs. Cora L. V., Vice President, Chicago, Illinois
Woodbury, Francis B., Secretary.....Washington, D. C.
Clendaniel, Geo. S., Treasurer.....Washington, D. C.
Moulton, Hon. Luther V.....Grand Rapids, Michigan
Fuller, Dr. Geo. A.....Worcester, Massachusetts
Pettengill, Mrs. Abby L.....Cleveland, Ohio
Fickey, Frederick, Jr.....Baltimore, Maryland
Steinberg, Henry.....Washington, D. C.

DELEGATES.

Altemus, J. H.....Washington, D. C.
Bacon, Geo. A.....Washington, D. C.
Barrett, Mrs. M. C.....153 West Concord St., Boston, Mass.
Barrett, Miss Lucille.....Canaan, Maine
Bigelow, Isaac.....Skowhegan, Maine
Bigelow, Dr. F. S.....Skowhegan, Maine
Billings, Mrs. S. Crockett..65 Wayland St., Dorchester, Mass.
Bond, E. W.....Willoughby, Ohio
Bowman, W. C.....Los Angeles, California
Bray, Mrs. Florence E.....Baltimore, Maryland
Broadhead, Jos. R.....Linwood, New Jersey
Brodie, Wm.....New Orleans, Louisiana
Brown, Allen F.....San Antonio, Texas
Brown, Mrs. Marie L. Wheeler.....Washington, D. C.
Butterfield, Mrs. Amanda.....27 Pembroke St., Chelsea, Mass.
Butterfield, Simeon.....27 Pembroke St., Chelsea, Mass.
Cadwallader, Mrs. M. E..1413 Somerset St., Philadelphia, Pa.

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Chapman, Mrs. Carrie.....Washington, D. C.
Clendaniel, Mrs. Geo. S.....Washington, D. C.
Dingman, Mrs. Frances E.....Washington, D. C.
Edson, Milan C., 1728 N. J. Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C.
Emerson, Edgar W.....Manchester, New Hampshire
Evans, Mrs. I. C. I.....St. Paul, Minnesota
Field, Mrs. Georgie A.....Dexter, Maine
Figuers, C. H.....Nashville, Tennessee
Gaston, Hon. A.....Meadville, Pennsylvania
Gaule, Miss Maggie.....Druid Hill Ave., Baltimore, Maryland
Glading, Mrs. A. M.....Doylestown, Pennsylvania
Gould, Capt. E. W.....Washington, D. C.
Grant, Mrs. H. W.....Bridgeport, Connecticut
Grayburn, John.....Pittsburg, Pennsylvania
Hall, Mrs. Harriet.....Meriden, Connecticut
Harding, Mrs. Nettie Holt.....14 George St., Somerville, Massachusetts
Hatch, J. B., Jr.....74 Sydney St., Dorchester, Massachusetts
Hatch, Mrs. Carrie L.....74 Sydney St., Dorchester, Mass.
Hatch, Miss Mary A.....South Windham, Connecticut
Hidden, Dr. C. W.....14 Purchase St., Newburyport, Mass.
Hill, B. B.....1102 Girard St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Holmes, Mrs. Frances M.....Brooklyn, New York
Hull, Moses.....536 Prospect St., Cleveland, Ohio
Jaquess, Mrs. Anna E..202 Louisiana Ave., Washington, D. C.
Kates, G. W.....Rochester, New York
Kilgore, Mrs. Carrie.....Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Klein, Mrs. M.....Van Wert, Ohio
Kurth, Mrs. E. F.....478 Grand Ave., Brooklyn, New York
Locke, Mrs. Julia R.....605 No. 7th St., Philadelphia, Penna.
Locke, Hon. Thos. M.....605 No. 7th St., Philadelphia, Penna.
Loring, Benj., J.....East Braintree, Massachusetts
Loring, Mrs. Carrie F.....East Braintree, Massachusetts
Loring, Mrs. Elvira S.....Fitchburg, Massachusetts
Lyon, Dr. N. U.....Fall River, Massachusetts
Mansergh, J. S.....Boston, Massachusetts
Matteson, Mrs. J. H. R.....248 No. Division St., Buffalo, N. Y.
Mayer, Theo. J.....214 B St. S. E., Washington, D. C.
McIntyre, J. V.....Howard Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C.
McIntyre, Mrs. J.V.....Howard Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C.
Moore, Mrs. T. Aurelia.....Meriden, Connecticut
Myron, Mrs. Chas.....Pittsburg, Pennsylvania
Peebles, Dr. J. M.....San Diego, California
Pepper, Mrs. May S.....Providence, Rhode Island
Prior, Mrs. Loe F.....35 Houston St., Atlanta, Georgia
Russegue, Mrs. Helen Palmer.....95 Farmington Ave., Hartford, Connecticut

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Richardson, H. W.....East Aurora, New York
Richmond, Wm.....3802 Ridge Ave., Chicago, Illinois
Root, Mrs. Martha A.....Bay City, Michigan
Roscoe, F. H.....Providence, Rhode Island
Sage, Mrs. Mary A.....Ionia, Michigan
Shook, Geo. W.....Traverse City, Michigan
Sherman, J. L.....Willoughby, Ohio
Sherman, Mrs. M. L.....Willoughby, Ohio
Snow, J. R.....Malden, Massachusetts
Sprague, E. W.....416 Newland Ave., Jamestown, New York
Stanglen, Chas. W.....Baltimore, Maryland
Stanton, Mrs. R. T.....Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Steinberg, Mrs. E. D.....506 12th St. N. W., Washington, D. C.
Stevens, C. L.....3 Sixth St., Pittsburg, Pennsylvania
Stephens, Mary J.....402 A St. S. E., Washington, D. C.
Storrs, Mrs. J. D.....122 Clark St., Hartford, Connecticut
Storrs, J. W.....122 Clark St., Hartford, Connecticut
Story, Mrs. M. A.....13th St. N. W., Washington, D. C.
Summers, Mrs. M.....40 Loomis St., Chicago, Illinois
Treat, C. A.....Hannibal, Missouri
Twing, Mrs. Carrie E. S.....Westfield, New York
Walcott, Mrs. Rachel.....837 No. Fremont St., Baltimore, Maryland
Walker, Frank.....Hamburg, New York
Walker, Miss Eliza J.....Hamburg, New York
Watson, Fred H.....Boston, Massachusetts
Weaver, A. J.....Old Orchard, Maine
Whiting, E. R.....New Haven, Connecticut
Whitlock, Mrs. Ida P. A.....Providence, Rhode Island
Wiggin, F. A.....Boston, Massachusetts
Woodbury, Mrs. A. L.....600 Pennsylvania Ave. S. E., Washington, D. C
Wright, Dr. Mary J.....New Haven, Connecticu

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National Spiritualists Association.

(INCORPORATED NOV. 1, 1893.)

OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES:

HARRISON D. BARRETT, *President.*

CORA L. V. RICHMOND, *Vice President.*

FRANCIS B. WOODBURY, *Secretary.*

GEO. S. CLENDANIEL, *Treasurer.*

HON. LUTHER V. MOULTON,
DR. GEORGE A. FULLER,

ALLEN FRANKLIN BROWN,
HARVEY W. RICHARDSON.

CHARLES H. STOCKELL.

Annual Convention, 3d Tuesday in October of each year, Washington, D. C.

The Official Headquarters of the National Spiritualists Association are open at all times, and Spiritualists from any part of this or foreign countries visiting Washington are invited to call and register.

Officers of all Spiritualist Societies are solicited to send their names and addresses to the National Secretary, and for blanks to fill out respecting desired information, in order that a perfect and complete list of Societies and Officers may be compiled for general information.

Lecturers and Mediums are invited to send us their names, addresses, and phases of development for record, and if connected with any local societies.

Charters will be issued by the National Spiritualists Association to all Societies desiring membership. Copies of the Constitution and By-Laws will be sent on request to any address.

Spiritual Literature of any character is respectfully solicited for our National Library.

Information of importance to Spiritualists is desired from any friend of the cause, and any within the knowledge of the officers of the National Spiritualists Association will be cheerfully accorded to inquirers on application to the National Secretary.

Copies of the reports of the Conventions of '93, '94, '95, '96 and '97 can be obtained, price 25 cents each, upon application to the Secretary.

Blank applications for charters, copies of recommended constitutions for local societies will be sent free to any address.

Copies of the history of the N. S. A. will be sent free to any address, upon receipt of five cents in stamps.

In order to secure prompt attention ALL communications must be addressed to

NATIONAL SPIRITUALISTS ASSOCIATION,

Francis B. Woodbury, Secretary,

600 Penna. Avenue S. E., Washington, D. C.

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Sixth Annual Convention

OF THE

1848

1898

National Spiritualists Association

Held at
WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 18, 19 and 20, 1898.

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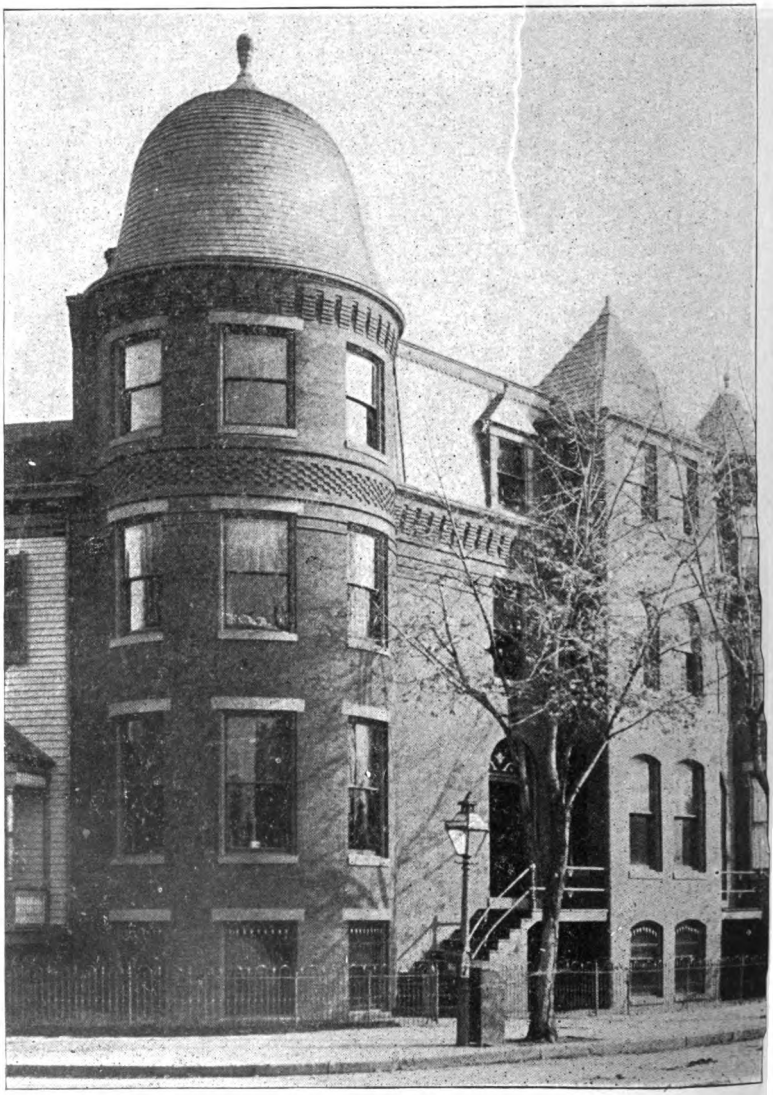

HEADQUARTERS NATIONAL SPIRITUALISTS ASSOCIATION,
600 Pennsylvania Avenue S. E.,
Washington, D. C.

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

OF THE

NATIONAL SPIRITUALISTS ASSOCIATION

OF THE

United States of America and Dominion of Canada

HELD AT

WASHINGTON, D. C.

OCTOBER 18, 19, 20, 1898,

WITH

AN ALPHABETICAL LIST OF THE DELEGATES IN ATTENDANCE

I. C. I. EVANS, STENOGRAPHER.

ISSUED BY
THE NATIONAL SPIRITUALISTS ASSOCIATION,
600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE S. E.,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Sixth Annual Convention

OF THE

National Spiritualists Association

OF THE

United States of America and Dominion of Canada.

The Sixth Annual Convention of the National Spiritualists Association of the United States of America and Dominion of Canada convened at Masonic Temple, corner of 9th and F Streets N. W., Washington, D. C., on the 18th day of October, 1898, S. E. 51, whereupon the following proceedings were had, to wit:

The President, HARRISON D. BARRETT, of Needham, Mass., at the hour of 10 A. M., called the Convention to order.

After a short song service the Vice President of the Association, Mrs. Cora L. V. Richmond, offered an invocation.

Singing by the congregation.

PRESIDENT BARRETT: Friends of the Convention, it falls to my lot at this time to deliver the formal opening address. For me to try to forestall the work that you, as delegates, are here to perform would be unjust to all, in view of the fact that it would be consuming valuable time. I congratulate you upon being in attendance at this annual conclave of our National Spiritualists Association. I could report to you much of the progress our Cause has made during the past twelve months, but, my friends, each delegate knows full well the impress that Spiritualism has made in his immediate community, and, I believe, can tell of the progress made far better than I can portray it this morning. I believe we are approaching a great crisis in spiritual matters in America, as well as in

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our National affairs, and it behooves those whose religion is founded upon the corner-stone of peace to come to the front with something to say concerning the destiny of this nation and the perpetuity of American institutions. (Applause.) Hence, my friends, I take pleasure in welcoming you to the work of the Convention. I pledge you the earnest co-operation of the Board of Trustees and all others who are to take part in the labors of this Convention.

I firmly believe this National Association has come to us from a power higher than that of the mortals. There is to-day, I feel, a congress like unto this in the higher spheres, and if we will but open our hearts and souls, we can receive the higher inspiration that that spirit congress is sending earthward. If we will do this inharmony and injustice will be unknown in our deliberations here, while Spiritualists and Spiritualism will be blessed thereby, and a closer union between the two worlds established. Let us approach our work with our minds reverently turned toward the beloved angel friends, and fill our souls with thoughts of truth and purity, to the end that harmony and good will may flow from every heart, and all may labor earnestly to make our National Association a power for good in this land.

Delegates are here from all sections of our great nation, and in behalf of the National Association it gives me great pleasure to greet you in the spirit of fraternity, and to welcome you to the work that will be laid before you by your executive officers.

We also have with us our brother who has come to us from over the sea, our esteemed friend, Mr. E. W. Wallis (Applause), editor of *The Two Worlds*, Manchester, England. It is fitting that we should give him a hearty welcome and make him feel at the very outset that he is one of and with us, that our Spiritualism knows no city, no county, no State, no national lines, but one people, one destiny, one common brotherhood. (Applause.)

I must not trespass upon your time, but again I welcome you to the work that is before us. Let us strive to bring out the best thought that is in each and every soul, and prove to the world that we value our Spiritualism because we live up to its sublime teachings. (Applause.)

Singing by the audience.

THE CHAIRMAN: It gives the Chair great pleasure to introduce to you our honored Vice President of the National Spiritualists Association, Mrs. Cora L. V. Richmond, who will deliver the formal address of welcome to the delegates of this Convention.

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MRS. RICHMOND: Mr. President and fellow delegates: For the sixth time we are assembled in Convention, and for the fifth time in the capital of the nation, the very beautiful city that, if the spirit and letter of all the laws enacted here were only as beautiful as the city itself they would remain a glory unto all coming time; if they were as beautiful as the spirit of the foundation of that government under whose law we are thus enabled to meet according to the dictates of conscience they would be a light unto all nations of the earth.

It would seem that, as beautiful as has been this golden autumn, as full of fruitage as the year, so should be the deliberations of this body. It would seem that in this Jubilee year the spiritual harvest should be such that we can all come here laden with golden sheaves, showing the results of our work and the progress in our Cause. It is the belief of the one addressing you that this year has been not only the most important in name as the Jubilee year, but really the most fruitful of results for this nation and for all nations of the earth. (Applause.)

You will have, before the sessions close, the results of the Jubilee celebration placed before you; also the gathered results of those fraternal greetings over sea and over land that bind heart to heart, nation to nation, and soul to soul, in the perfect bond of union for one Cause. A word of greeting from our esteemed brother, E. W. Wallis, who has so recently come with us from the celebration of the Jubilee in the congress at London, will also be a feature of this convention. It would seem that we are in touch at the present moment, through the laws of spiritual telepathy, with all the nations of the earth; that we not only have the spoken word, but the spiritual sympathy for bearing forward this great work, and we know that, having learned much wisdom by experience, there are societies and people who feel more earnestly the work of the present Convention than any previous one held in the name of Spiritualism.

It is only necessary that human beings shall stand soul to soul as they do face to face, to understand that each one is moved by the highest that she or he knows, and that all are equally interested in the progress of a cause that must enlist the highest and noblest sentiments of humanity. If we can remember this, and, though there may be differences of opinion as to procedure, that each thinks and acts according to the same soul motives that we wish to be accredited with ourselves, we shall then find that our deliberations are easy, for truth reveals herself to an open mind.

The clear progress of a cause depends upon the ability of

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the minds that attempt to bear it forward. We are not expected to do impossibilities; neither has your Board, and we expect you to accord to its members in your deliberations the same high motives and exalted feeling of wishing to do the best, that you desire to have accorded to you in your deliberations and enactments, and we know that you will consider all of these questions in a calm, clear and dispassionate way; that you will enter into these deliberations with the spirit of the Cause in your hearts, that you will sink those minor differences of opinion for the sake of the one great good that you wish to present to the world. We desire to stand as a National Association, as a solid front against the assaults from without, and in order to do this we must each present the best that is in us so that we may stand as a solid body. We desire the world to understand that the National Spiritualists Association is a unit against those criticisms from within our ranks, coming from those who have not been associated with our work and those from without who have had no interest but to seek to destroy. Whether they do or do not believe in organization does not affect the work of this Convention, since organization is an established fact; whether they do or do not believe in the work of the National Association is not for us to consider, since they are not here to present their views and criticisms. Therefore, with reference to the work that is in your hands, that you should be governed by the highest moral influence of those who are wise and good who can be present with you, we can well imagine, but that you should be governed by the captious criticisms of those who can but who do not wish to be here, we certainly deny. We think you should be moved by the same spirit shown in the constitution that you yourselves have adopted to act under, and if there are any minor ways in which you wish to alter this in its cardinal or essential principles, it is for you to do it in the suitable and lawful manner provided by the constitution. All this you have borne in mind in previous conventions and we feel certain that you come to the work of this Convention with just as lofty impulses, just as high resolves, just as noble ends and aims as at any previous time, and we also feel certain that you are strengthened by the great chain of sympathy that has been established in the past year throughout the world. (Applause.)

It will be the privilege of your Vice President to tell you, later, something of that work in foreign lands. For the present it is enough that we are here, that the great fruitage of this harvest of spiritual love for a half century has been entrusted to our hands, that we bear this trust humbly and

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with proper spirit of appreciation of those under whose guidance we work, not taking from us any individual responsibility of doing and saying with the highest, noblest and best motives, for the forwarding of the work of this Convention.

On behalf of the National Association I welcome you; on behalf of the citizens of Washington, the First Association of Spiritualists here, whose pastor stands before you, and of all who are in sympathy, I welcome you, and on behalf of those who draw near at this hour and in the light of whose wisdom and true enfranchisement bend above this Convention, expecting that the hearts will be opened to the highest light, I welcome you. (Applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair now has the pleasure of introducing to you one whose voice has often been heard from this platform, one who is well known to the citizens of Washington, to respond to the address of welcome on behalf of the delegates, Mr. Moses Hull, of Buffalo, N. Y. (Applause.)

MR. HULL: Mr. President, esteemed co-workers: I am glad to be here to represent you to-day. Mrs. Richmond, in her eloquent welcoming words as a representative of the Association, that has called you here to this meeting, spoke particularly of the beauties of this city of Washington. Every word she said on that subject is true, but there is one word more it seems to me should be said. Washington is probably the most cosmopolitan city in the world, certainly the most cosmopolitan city in America. Here we of the United States send our representatives once in two years from every Congressional district in our forty-five States to represent us. It is supposed we send the intelligence of those districts here. Our States select two of the very best men of head and heart and intelligence among their citizens and send them here to represent them for six years. Here is the mouth of this great government, that speaks not only to the people of this Nation, but to all other nations. Here the individuals reside whom we have chosen because of their ability to meet the issues of our Nation from time to time. Here the diplomats, the wisest men of all the world (or the nations are mistaken in sending them) come together to regulate the relation between this and all other governments. Here we, too, have assembled as delegates, I think from the most important campaign in the world, to represent the new dispensation; we represent the kingdom of heaven, and our friends have sent us here to lay down plans by which we can accomplish the most good. For nearly fifty years after the angel world had vouchsafed to us those principal truths, our Spiritualism was a kind of go-as-

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you-please religion. If one wanted to be a speaker he ordained himself and went out to do his work; if one wanted to do the work of a medium, he or she announced that fact and went out everywhere and anywhere. I think we, as mediums, each and every one of us, should be worthier, as Paul says, than any of the churches, but it looks as though our Spiritualism had gone down. We find ourselves to-day desirous of standing together, of working together for the best ends and for the same purpose, instead of each one striving and working for his own aims.

Five years ago our representatives met in the city of Chicago, to see if they could not organize a spiritualistic association. Honest, noble men and women were there with as earnest desires as we have here to-day, and they said: "We will try to organize something methodical; instead of working alone we will all work together. We want to join hand in hand and heart to heart." They had learned that in union there was strength. They came together and did the best they could—better, possibly, than others would have done under the same circumstances, and they handed us an organization to carry forward. (Applause.)

When our forefathers gave to us the republic we now have they had had no experience in governmental matters. They were subjects of the different parts of the Old World from whence they came; they organized a republic; they did wisely and well to give us a constitution. It has been found necessary to amend that constitution from time to time, until sixteen amendments have been added already. If our Nation lives as many years longer as it has since the Constitution was adopted, it may have to have more than sixteen other amendments in the next one hundred years. While our friends who met in the city of Chicago did the very best they could and handed us the organization, it was for us to carry it forward, for us to perfect, and we have come here now to lay out work for the year to come. Our National Association can do us no good if we come here simply to pass resolutions, spend three or four days in congress and then go home to sit down and fold our arms. Spiritualists fall very generally under the charge that good old Jeremiah brought against the Jews; they are strong, he said, to sit still; but some of us have been sitting still so long that we have come to feel there is but little for us to do besides come to these conventions. Now, we come to this Convention to lay down plans for *work*, and we should go home from here to carry out the plans that the wisdom of this Convention may devise. (Applause.)

I do not believe the work that you and I are to do as dele-

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gates is merely to devise the great work of this Convention; I believe we have come here to receive a divine baptism, the baptism (if you will allow me to say it) of the Holy Ghost, and we are to go home from this Convention as giants, filled anew with wisdom to carry the work to the various places that you and I are to go to from this time forward. There is much for us to do. We need knowledge and we need wisdom—knowledge to know what is to be done, knowledge of the men and women in whose hands we are to put this work for the year to come; wisdom to select the right individual for the right place, who will endeavor during that time to carry that work forward. For that reason I feel almost like stopping now and asking that the good angels, who have this work in their hearts, who well know our needs in every line, will take command at this time that we may accomplish that which is for the good of the people. Let us each work for the good, the great, the holy.

Now, before I do anything else I want you all to take a maxim second hand. Don't bring any of your axes here to grind; don't have any favorites here. I have come here for the good of the Cause. If any brother differs from me, let me think that he is as honest as I am; that he has investigated the matter from a different standpoint than I have. Let us listen to each other's plans and let us fall in with them, so that we may carry our work on to the greatest perfection. Organization is good for nothing unless we do something for it. The first thing we want is intelligence to draw the best out and try to do what is right; the second great thing we want is integrity, not to be led by any one individual, but to consider together, heed and do the right. "Hew to the line, let the chips fall where they may," with intelligence and integrity, then we can have harmony. "First purity," says James, "and then the best that mankind has is harmony," which you and I will do well to consider when doing our work and laying plans. We will all go home stronger than we came here to do the work during the next year, carrying out the program devised in this Sixth Annual Convention, such a work as we never have done before.

I want to say one word more. Our President expressed the idea that we are passing through a crisis just now—a national crisis—and a spiritual crisis; these crises are upon us, and are we ready for them? The old Egyptian sphinx used to ask the people as they were passing: "How can Egypt best maintain and carry out the desires of the people?" and as the Egyptians passed along, every one who could not answer the question was slain. The great American sphinx—the

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sphinx of the American people—has propounded the question: "How can we maintain the democracy of our movement, and how can we, as Spiritualists, maintain the great spiritual democracy, and still set an example that will lead over every other institution in the land?"

We have the best religion in the world, and we should have the wisest and most harmonious people in the world. We want to go before the world hand in hand and heart to heart, in order to show that Spiritualism means something more than to assemble in delegate convention once a year. (Loud applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN: The next order of business is the appointment of standing committees. As the Chair is not acquainted with the whole number of delegates present, and wishes to be absolutely impartial in the appointment and distribution of committees, it will be necessary to delay the same for a time. The Committee on Credentials and the Committee on Rules will now be appointed in order that the Convention may be formally organized.

Committee on Credentials: J. B. Hatch, Jr., Massachusetts, Chairman; Hon. D. P. Dewey, Michigan; H. C. Dorn, New Jersey.

Committee on Rules: Hon. Thomas M. Locke, Pennsylvania, Chairman; C. D. Pruden, Minnesota; B. M. Bradbury, Maine.

These committees will kindly enter upon the discharge of their duties.

The following persons will be the officers of the Convention: Stenographer, I. C. I. Evans, Washington, D. C.; Assistant Secretary, Wm. Richmond, Chicago, Ill.; Doorkeeper and Ticket Seller, Henry Steinberg, Washington, D. C.; Reading Clerk, W. J. Colville, Philadelphia, Pa.; Musical Director, Moses Hull, Buffalo, N. Y.; Sergeant-at-Arms, B. Grant Taylor, Lawtons, N. Y.

A recess of forty-five minutes is now declared.

The meeting was again called to order at 12 o'clock and immediately adjourned until 2.30 P. M.

AFTERNOON MEETING.

OCTOBER 18, 2.30 P. M.

President Barrett in the Chair.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Convention will be in order. We will now have a selection of music.

Singing by the Convention.

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THE CHAIRMAN: Is the Committee on Credentials ready to make its report? Will the Sergeant-at-Arms kindly ascertain?

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: The Chairman of the Committee announces that he is ready to report in part.

(Mr. Hatch, the Chairman of the Committee, submitted a partial list of the delegates who were entitled to seats in the Convention. The completed list appears at the end of this report.)

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the report of your committee; what is your pleasure?

MR. LOCKE: I move the report be accepted, the delegates acknowledged, and the committee continued.

Carried.

THE CHAIRMAN: The report of the Committee on Rules is next in order.

MR. LOCKE: Your Committee on Rules begs leave to submit the following: That the rules of last year be adopted, with the exception of paragraph 8, which is changed to read: "The sessions of this Convention shall be from 10.00 A. M. to 12.30 P. M., 2.00 to 5.30 P. M and 7.30 to 10.30 P. M."

MR. KATES: I would like to hear what the rules of the last Convention were.

MR. LOCKE reads:

"1. That as far as practicable the order of business will be in accordance with the printed program in the hands of the Convention.

"2. This Convention shall be governed by the parliamentary rules found in Robert's Rules of Order, save where the same are contrary to the Constitution and By-Laws of this Association.

"3. No delegate shall speak longer than ten minutes, and no delegate shall speak a second time on any subject until all have spoken who desire to do so.

"4. Speakers must confine their remarks to the subject matter before the Convention.

"5. Unless otherwise provided in the Convention, all questions shall be decided by a majority vote.

"6. Appeals from the decision of the Chair must be sustained by at least ten delegates.

"7. The previous question shall not be ordered unless the same is demanded by at least ten delegates.

"8. The sessions of this Convention shall be as follows: 10.00 A. M. to 1.00 P. M., 2.00 to 6.00 P. M. and 7.30 to 10.30 P. M."

The last section is the only one amended.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the report as amended. It is adopted and the Committee discharged. The next order of

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business is the reception of the report of your President. That being in order the Reading Clerk will kindly come forward and enter upon the discharge of his duties.

READING CLERK reads:

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT, HARRISON D. BARRETT, FOR THE YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 20, S. E. 51.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE CONVENTION: It becomes my pleasant duty to submit for your consideration my annual report as President of the National Spiritualists Association of the United States of America and Dominion of Canada, for the year ending October 20, S. E. 51. I deem it a high privilege, inasmuch as this is the fifth time I have had the honor to present to the Annual Conventions of the National Association a report of this kind. I approach the duty recognizing the responsibility connected therewith, and fully appreciating the gravity of the situation to-day.

RETROSPECTIVE.

It is fitting at the outset that we should glance in retrospect over the year that has gone from us forever. It has been a most eventful year, with successes and failures plentifully interspersed in its work. The nation at large has never had to contend with a greater stringency in its monetary affairs in all its history than during the past twelve months. A great war has been fought to a successful finish during a portion of the year, and while victory has crowned American arms, it has not brought relief to the stagnated arteries of trade, nor has it enabled the yeomanry of America to find a market for their labor at living wages. On the whole, save where the United States Government has placed contracts for army and navy supplies, times are harder than they were when I last had the honor to address you. The stringency of the times has had much to do with the present unfavorable conditions found to-day in a majority of our Spiritualist societies. When business is at a standstill, labor without employment, and capital idle, it is easy to see why our societies have suffered as they have.

LIBERTY.

The part year has been one of struggle for liberty in many sections of the globe. England has fought a great battle against compulsory vaccination, and the people have triumphed in the contest. They are now no longer compelled

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to submit to the poisoning of their blood through the introduction of vaccine virus into their veins, unless they choose to do so. It gives me great pleasure to be able to report that the man who led in this good work, Mr. William Tebb, is one of the leading Spiritualists in England. I recommend that this Convention take steps toward placing our American States on the same broad basis now occupied by England. (Applause.)

In America attempts have been made to deprive the people of their liberties through stringent amendments to existing medical monopoly laws. In some States the people lost, while in others they were signally successful in the struggle. In Massachusetts the battle was long and fierce. The cause of the people was championed by the Spiritualists and liberalists of all denominations, and a Spiritualist led the battle before the State Legislature. He was able to call to his assistance such invaluable aids as Rev. B. Fay Mills, Prof. William James, Judge Thomas E. Grover and Hon. F. W. Kittredge, with whose aid a great victory was won for the people. Legislation was had in other States upon this same question. In some of them the Spiritualists made themselves felt through their organizations, while in others the enemies of liberty had their own way. The question of medical freedom is coming up during the present season before the Legislatures of many States, therefore I recommend that this Convention take suitable action with regard to the matter.

RELIGION.

The year just closed has been a remarkable one in respect to religion. The advanced utterances of Rev. B. Fay Mills, Rev. Lyman Abbott and Rev. R. Heber Newton have been taken up by the secular press, commented upon and sent broadcast over the land. The statements of these progressive, fearless men have had a marked effect upon public opinion, and wrought a good work in the direction of liberalism. Many of the leading thinkers in the Presbyterian Church have found their creed too narrow for them, and have forsaken the paths of orthodoxy to follow a broader highway of religious thought. Professors Briggs and McGiffert have stirred the Presbyterian body from center to circumference by boldly proclaiming their acceptation of other forms of faith. Other scholars in that body have had occasion to question the historical and scientific accuracy of the Bible, the result of which has been or will be trials for heresy of many of the brightest scholars in orthodoxy. This persecution of progressive men will surely result favorably to the

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cause of liberalism in religion. In fact, this is already apparent, when such men as Rev. Dr. De Costa of New York feel constrained to bewail the fact that the American people are not as religious as they once were, and that fifty millions and more now have no church home. I hail all of these evidences as signs of promise in the sky of progress.

PROF. RICHARD HODGSON—SIR WILLIAM CROOKES.

One great sensation was caused a few months ago by the publication of the report of Prof. Richard Hodgson of the English Psychical Research Society, in which he frankly admits his conversion to Spiritualism. This statement of Prof. Hodgson was commented upon by the secular press all over the globe, and his declaration in favor of Spiritualism has had a marked effect for good upon the public mind. It has not only strengthened Spiritualism, but it has created a new interest in psychical research, and led both materialists and Christians to take a deeper interest in psychic science. It is also in point here to state that Prof. William James of Harvard, instructor in psychology in that great university, devotes one-third of his forty-five lectures upon psychology to spiritual phenomena. Some of the professors in other universities in the United States have, during the past year, also taken up this subject and devoted from one-third to one-half of their time to spiritualistic phenomena in their relation to the science of psychology.

As Spiritualists, we should rejoice at these evidences of progress, and extend a hearty welcome to Prof. Hodgson, who has so bravely proclaimed his convictions to the world. Another notable event of the past year has been the elevation of Prof. Sir William Crookes to the Presidency of the British Association of Sciences. Prof. Crookes' position with regard to Spiritualism was well known, yet his opinions upon that subject did not prevent his unanimous election. He did not, after his election, keep silent with regard to his convictions, but said, "I elect to speak," and boldly proclaimed his adherence to his published opinions of four and twenty years ago. With a pronounced Spiritualist at the head of that great society, our Cause throughout the world cannot fail to be benefited thereby. Many other distinguished men, as well as some of the most eminent women in our land, have also come to the front, frankly admitting their conversion to the truths of Spiritualism. I congratulate you upon these signs of promise, and recommend that your honorable body take

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steps toward an alignment with these eminent thinkers who are now championing our Cause. (Applause.)

PEACE.

At this point I am constrained to call your attention to a matter in which I believe every true Spiritualist is interested. Spiritualism is the religion of peace, the science of civilization, and the philosophy of human brotherhood. Such being the case, every Spiritualist is interested in securing and maintaining peace among the nations of the earth. Great standing armies, large and expensive navies are menaces to the peace of the world. The Czar of Russia has asked the nations of Europe to take steps to reduce their national armaments in the interests of peace and civilization. I believe it is our duty to make some recognition of this act of the Czar, the more so because our nation, the United States of America, is considering the question of maintaining a large and expensive standing army, as well as a navy of immense proportions. I earnestly recommend that this honorable body enter its earnest protest against this policy, and earnestly plead for a peace footing for America. I also recommend this Convention make some declaration with regard to the question of Imperialism, now threatening the peace and stability of our nation. America should lead in the arts of peace, and Spiritualists believing in the religion of peace should not hesitate to offer advice in regard to its maintenance. I therefore recommend that a memorial be presented to President McKinley, requesting him to recommend in his forthcoming message to Congress that an International Peace Congress be called to consider ways and means by which all nations of the earth may be placed upon a peace basis. This may seem as if we were advising upon a great matter, but Spiritualism is greater than any other question, hence involves everything that relates to human progress. Therefore it is not out of place to offer advice upon the best way to secure universal peace. (Applause.)

DISCOURAGING SIGNS.

I wish I could pass over the signs of discouragement that have floated into the sky of Spiritualism during the past year. They are not, on the whole, quite as numerous as are the signs of encouragement, yet they are such as to demand your considerate attention. The first of these is the sad condition of the vast majority of our local societies. Very few of them paid expenses during the past year, and came out with money in the treasury. Less than twenty can be counted as having weathered the financial gale and storms of opposition, and sailed into the harbor of safety with a cash balance on the

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right side. The condition of our local societies is deplorable. The salaries of our speakers and mediums have been placed at the lowest possible figures, and no man wholly dependent upon the Spiritualist platform for a livelihood, can support himself and a family upon the income therefrom.

During the past year many local societies have passed out of existence. Some of them have died from wounds inflicted by the members, who quarreled among themselves, others from the loss of some favored leader, who paid all the bills, others from the lack of interest on the part of the members, others from the financial stringency occasioned by the war, and destruction of business. A few new local societies have been formed, but the number is much smaller than it was during the preceding year. There are causes for these conditions which I believe you, as delegates to this Convention, should determine, and find and apply proper remedies. The hard times has been a great factor in bringing the cloud over Spiritualism, but it is *not* the sole cause of the trouble. The selfish attempt to make each speaker and medium pay the hall rent and music for the society, as well as his own salary, is the chief cause of the difficulty. In the churches the clergymen are not expected to pay their way through a ten-cent door fee, nor through collections. They have subscription books, in which their members write their names, pledging so much money per month to the support of their religion.

Spiritualists have sneered at this method in far too many cases, and have eagerly sought to make the outside public pay for their Spiritualism. They have placed a ten-cent fee at the door and thereby reduced their religion to the level of the dime museum, with the hope that they would not have to sacrifice one dollar for Spiritualism. It has been a virtual attempt to get something for nothing on the part of many who profess to be Spiritualists. This evil can be remedied by a change in the plan of work. Open subscription books, and ask each Spiritualist in the city or town to pledge what he can afford for the support of his religion. The charge that all Spiritualists are poor is false in every respect. Many of us are not rich, but there is not a professed Spiritualist in this country to-day outside of the almshouse who is not able to give from one to five dollars per year to the support of the Cause. That they do not do it, is due to the fact that they have depended upon others to do it for them. (Applause.)

SETTLEMENT OF SPEAKERS.

Another measure that will help to revive local societies is the settlement of speakers. I am pleased to be able to report

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progress in this direction during the past year. Washington, D. C., Columbus, O., St. Louis, Mo., Fort Worth, Texas, Brooklyn, Buffalo and Rochester, N. Y., Galveston, Houston and San Antonio, Tex., First Association, Philadelphia, Pa., and a few societies in California have settled their speakers for a term of months or for a full year. By this method Spiritualism can exert some influence in each locality, whereas the itinerant system destroys every atom of good that is accomplished from month to month. I am glad to note the change in the instances mentioned, and I respectfully recommend that this Association place itself on record as favoring the adoption of this progressive policy, and urge all local societies to give it a trial.

Another cause for the degeneracy of our local societies can be found in the indifference of the officers and members of the same as to the ability, character and standing of those whom they employ as speakers and mediums. Those who could and would draw the largest crowds have been given employment even if they did not possess the rudiments of an education, or were wholly devoid of moral principle. If they could give phenomena, it did not matter whether those phenomena were genuine or spurious provided they brought out the people who were willing to pay ten cents at the door to see the show. Indeed, in some cases I know where officers and members of certain local societies have offered to furnish the medium with a supply of startling tests in order that the people might be induced to come out in large numbers and pay the expenses of the meeting. Under these conditions it is not surprising that such local societies have lost prestige and gone out of existence. If we cannot have an honest Spiritualism, honestly supported and honestly presented to the world, we had better have none at all. (Loud Applause.)

QUALITY AND QUANTITY.

I believe we should urge the people to-day to consider the *quality* as well as the *quantity* of phenomena of all kinds presented in the name of Spiritualism. As speakers we should have men and women capable of instructing the people, whose work should be such as to uplift humanity, and not to gratify the curiosity or flatter the vanity of a few. To-day too many of our local societies pander to the idea that the people in attendance want amusement rather than instruction, and entertainment rather than spiritual illumination. With such a spirit in the ascendancy, it is not strange that tables upon the platforms of a large number of Spiritualist societies resemble a pawnbroker's shop, rather than an article for use and orna-

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mentation. With settled speakers this glaring fault can be overcome, and our Spiritualist meetings restored to their pristine dignity and power. Psychometry is a science, and deserves better treatment than it receives at the hands of the average showman, who uses it as a means to fill his pockets with cash at the expense of his victims.

Many local societies report losses in membership since our last annual meeting. Thoughtful people have, in many instances, withdrawn from societary work because the platform talent employed was not able to supply them with mental and spiritual food. Others have gone because of the degeneracy of the meetings to the level of a fifth-rate theatrical performance, and took this method to express their disapproval of the implied insult to Spiritualism. The Unitarian and other liberal churches have profited by these withdrawals from our ranks, and the money that should be devoted to the building up of a clean, wholesome, progressive Spiritualism, is paid into the coffers of organizations whose aims and objects are diametrically opposed to our Cause. I urge you, as members of this Convention, to find some remedy for this ill, and seek to practically apply the same. (Applause.)

FRAUD AND CHICANERY.

The question of fraud and chicanery has been constantly before the people during the past year, and their prevalence has been so great as to cause feelings of despair to sweep over our ablest workers. It is most discouraging to realize that men and women of intelligence prefer the shadows of Spiritualism to its substance; yet their blind worship of all kinds of phenomena, even when such are proved to be spurious, is disheartening. It is useless for me to enter into a detailed account of the humbuggery practiced in the name of Spiritualism. If I did, some of you would accuse me of falsifying, while others would become completely disheartened with regard to their work for our Cause. The fraud question is a crying evil, and can well be likened to a gigantic octopus whose feelers reach into the very souls of our friends in every city on the continent, to drag forth their heart-secrets and sorrows, to proclaim them to the world as tests of spirit-power. Many mediums, speakers and laymen are involved in this unholy work. A secret brotherhood has been formed by the unscrupulous ones, who perhaps actually possess some genuine medial powers, when put to the test, for the express purpose of filling their pockets with money wrung from their fellow-men through the profanation of their sacred loves. I have

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not time to describe to you the *modus operandi* of this secret alliance, but its influence is too widespread for any one of you present to-day to be unaware of its existence. Fellow-delegates, do not misunderstand me; I know there is such a thing as true mediumship, and because there is, I feel it to be our duty to protect and defend it. The phenomena of Spiritualism are all founded in fact, and the counterfeiting of the same is to me positive proof that the genuine lies behind them. (Applause.)

The lack of systematic organization is the chief cause of the prevalency of the counterfeit spiritual coin. Those who present it usually have nothing to lose and everything to gain in respect to character, hence do not mind a dozen genuine *exposés*, for they are advertised thereby, and are coddled even more fondly by credulous Spiritualists. With no organizations back of them, they can go on with their nefarious work of deceiving the people, *ad libitum*, laughing in derisive scorn at the gullibility and soul agonies of their dupes. The fact is that the majority of Spiritualists have put a premium upon fraud through their desire to witness extraordinarily marvelous manifestations. They have bought the counterfeit phenomena at a high price, and paid for them with their heart's best blood. But it is of no avail to dwell upon this subject at length. The time of demarkation between the genuine and spurious phenomena is a very delicate one, and I cannot draw it from you without a surer compass than that of fickle public opinion to guide me. If all Spiritualists would unite to do a thorough work in house cleaning, applying liberal quantities of the soap of common sense, well rubbed in by the muscles of honesty, the fraud question would soon be settled. Then the blue text books, materializing paraphernalia, bogus spirit-photographs, jugglery and other travesties upon genuine phenomena would soon disappear. (Applause.)

AN IMPORTANT POINT.

I cannot dismiss this question without touching briefly upon one important point connected with it. I believe we ought to place such safeguards around our mediums as will protect them from want and physical suffering, so that they will not be tempted to resort to trickery in order to obtain money with which to buy bread. (Applause.) To-day, owing to our lack of organization, and our overweening desire to witness the marvelous, our genuine medium is placed at a fearful disadvantage. He sees the fakir drawing the patronage of the people, while he is in need of food. I do not

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wonder that he is tempted to follow the unholy example set him by the trickster, nor will any one do so who has ever felt the pangs of hunger. I recommend, therefore, that this Convention place itself on record as favoring the taking care of our mediums. Instead of going to them and buying a dollar's worth of Spiritual wares, let us take care of them as the oracles of old were cared for by their friends, and make them to feel that they are in no danger of coming to want. Then, and not until then, can we ever have an assurance that we shall receive the genuine proofs of spirit return through very many of our mediums.

Directly allied with the fraud question is one the delicacy of which is so great as to give me many misgivings as to the best methods of dealing with it, or even of discussing it. I believe that this Convention should have a word to say upon the question as to who should occupy the platforms of Spiritualism. We cry out against fraud, and denounce counterfeiting most vigorously, yet will place before the public those whose moral characters are at least open to suspicion. I do not believe in denouncing fraudulent mediums, unless we also denounce fraud among speakers. (Applause.) In other words I had rather deal with a downright trickster in mediumship than pose as an apologist for Oscar Wilde, H. B. Foulke and their satellites. (Loud Applause.) We should at least be consistent enough to demand *character* in all and for all of our workers, hence I feel that those who see fit to engage in all kinds of crimes against nature should not be countenanced as exponents of the Spiritual Philosophy. The youth of America are our wards, and I believe it to be our duty to denounce all crimes against them in the interests of a higher morality. (Applause and cheers.)

N. S. A. WORK.

The officers of the N. S. A. have not been idle during the past twelve months, although there has been less missionary work done than in any previous year. Several very successful mass meetings have been held from which good returns have been made to our treasury. Quite a number of societies have chartered with the National body, but I regret to say the number is much smaller than it has been in any year in the history of the N. S. A. I attribute this falling off to the absence of missionary work in its behalf. Speakers and platform workers have called upon us for aid in securing half-rates over the several lines of railroads, all of whom, when

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found to be entitled to the same, had no trouble in having their claims allowed.

SUPPRESSION OF FREE SPEECH.

The suppression of Spiritualistic meetings at the Soldiers' Homes in Dayton, Ohio, and Marion, Ind., has repeatedly come before our Association for action since our last convention. I wrote the Secretary of War, General Alger, for information on the subject. He referred the matter to the National Board of Managers of the Soldiers' Homes, from whom I learned that the meetings of the Spiritualist soldiers at Dayton were suppressed because of a division among the members of the Spiritualist society there, which had culminated in an open quarrel between the two factions. In the interests of peace and harmony, the manager of the Home had seen fit to suppress all spiritualistic meetings in the halls or upon the grounds connected with the Dayton Home. Free speech in religion can be suppressed with impunity at Dayton simply because the Spiritualists are the only ones hurt by it. I wrote the authorities, also, in regard to the suppression of our meetings at Marion, Ind., and was informed that my letter of inquiry had been received, and would be given due attention. That is the last I have heard from Marion.

In order to reach these cases we had recourse only to the National Board of Managers, several of whose meetings I have personally tried to attend, or have requested other members of our Board to do so. We tried, especially, to reach the meetings at Norfolk, Va., but owing to lack of funds in our treasury, we were unable to do this. We then tried to appear before the Board at its Washington meeting, but our Vice President, Mrs. Richmond, was informed that she could not be heard, as it was a secret meeting, held behind closed doors. When the Managers met in Boston, I expected to appear before them, but did not learn the exact date on which their meeting was to be held until the next day after it had adjourned. The meeting at Dayton, Ohio, was well advertised. I wrote Hon. L. V. Moulton, one of our Trustees, asking him to represent the N. S. A. in the case at that meeting. He was unable to do so, and the N. S. A. could not incur the expense of a journey from Boston. On the day of the meeting I telegraphed Gen. Wm. B. Franklin, President of the Board of Managers, asking him to reopen the case in behalf of fair play. The message was received at the Dayton Home, but was not presented to the Board, owing to the temporary absence of General Franklin at the time of its delivery.

Such is the history in brief of this important case down to

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date. I believe your honorable body of delegates should take action concerning it. You should do more than to pass resolutions, and instruct the incoming Board of Trustees to move in the matter. You should discuss this question at length, and so endow this Association financially that it can do something in the premises. This is a case of the suppression of free speech in an institution belonging to the United States, which is supported by citizens of all shades of religious belief. I believe the Constitution of the United States is violated by this action of the Governor of the Home. We shall be doing injustice not only to Spiritualism by tamely submitting to this outrage, but also to the sacred rights of man. I earnestly recommend sharp, decisive action upon this question by this Convention. (Applause.)

THE JUBILEE.

Pursuant to the instructions of the two last annual conventions, each time by a unanimous vote, without the utterance of a single protesting word by any one, the semi-centennial anniversary of the advent of Modern Spiritualism was celebrated at Rochester, N. Y., in the form of an International Jubilee. The management of this great enterprise had been committed, under instructions of the Board of Trustees, to Mr. Frank Walker, of Hamburg, N. Y. His appointment seemed to give good satisfaction to the Spiritualists of America, and many expressions of approval reached the members of the Board of Trustees, assuring them that they had done well to advise the appointment of Mr. Walker. (Applause.)

The idea of a Jubilee celebration was first broached to me about two and a half years ago by our honored Vice President at the home of a mutual friend in Chicago. Her suggestions met my full and enthusiastic approval, and I took pains to embody them in an elaborated form in my report for the year 1896. Soon after our first talk upon this subject, several writers in the *Progressive Thinker*, *Banner of Light* and *Light of Truth*, among whom may be mentioned our friend and brother, George W. Kates, began to advocate the same thing. It is therefore apparent that the Jubileee idea was not a rainbow-colored fancy of one or two persons, but was the earnest, honest thought of many of the leading minds in our ranks. (Loud Applause.)

At the time of its inception everything was auspicious for a grandly successful celebration. The Presidential election was about over, the money question was to be rightly settled, and the nation was to enter upon an era of prosperity unequaled in its history. Such was the roseate picture pre-

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sented to the minds of the friends of the Jubilee. It was thought if such was the case, ten to twenty thousand Spiritualists would assemble at Rochester to celebrate the birth of our great movement. But the promises of 1896 were not fulfilled; the election gave the nation no financial relief, but rather increased the burdens of the people in that direction. Despite this fact, however, Mr. Walker secured some very flattering promises of aid from wealthy Spiritualists, as well as from the citizens of Rochester, that encouraged him to advise the Board of Trustees to go on with the work. They did so, and Mr. Walker was made sole manager of the affair, empowered to raise funds for the expenses of the same, and directed to appoint such assistants as he might see fit.

He pushed the work vigorously, and received encouragement from all sections, which led him to believe that thousands of Spiritualists would surely visit Rochester. Suddenly the Spanish War broke out, adding to the financial stringency of the times and completely demoralizing business in many sections of the country. It was then too late to call a halt upon the Jubilee arrangements, because many important contracts had already been signed, and too much had been expended in its behalf to make it possible to do so. In addition to these facts came assurances and promises of attendance that led the general manager to believe there would surely be several thousand people present when the Jubilee opened. Accordingly it was held, opening May 25 and closing June 1. It was at this point possibly that a great mistake was made in connection with the Jubilee. Owing to what seemed to be good and sufficient reasons, the date was changed from June 1–8 to May 25–June 1. This change undoubtedly kept many people away and militated against its success. The change was made from the best of motives, in order to secure better accommodations for the meetings of the Jubilee. To what extent the altering of the original plan injured the celebration can never be determined.

The results of the Jubilee are known to you all. It was a financial failure, and threw a great burden upon the shoulders of the General Manager. In accepting his commission from the N. S. A. he signed a contract binding himself to turn all surplus funds into the treasury of the National body, and to bear all losses himself in case of a deficit, to-wit:

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT

By and between the National Spiritualists Association, a corporation under the laws of the District of Columbia, of Washington, D. C., party of the first part, and Frank Walker,

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of Hamburg, Erie County, State of New York, party of the second part, witnesseth:

The said Frank Walker is hereby appointed as the special agent of said first party—to be known as "General Manager" to manage a semi-centennial Jubilee under the auspices of said National Spiritualists Association, said Jubilee to be held in the city of Rochester, in the State of New York during all of the first eight days of the month of June, A. D. 1898;

And said party is hereby empowered to solicit and collect a special fund to defray the expenses of said Jubilee; to disburse said fund; and to make all contracts and arrangements for said Jubilee: *Provided, however*, All such disbursements, contracts and arrangements shall be promptly reported to the Board of Trustees of the said first party and subject to the approval of said Board or a committee thereof; and *provided further*, That said first party shall not be made responsible for any expense connected with said Jubilee, beyond the said special fund.

It is further agreed that said second party shall be allowed his personal expenses from said fund while actually engaged in work under this contract, and in addition thereto for his personal services in full the sum of Two Thousand Dollars ($2,000). Said second party also agrees to keep just, true and accurate accounts open at all times to the inspection of said first party or a committee thereof, and to settle with and turn over to said first party all balances and surplus remaining on his hands at the close of said Jubilee.

Signed at Washington, D. C., this 22d day of October, A. D. 1897.

[SEAL.] THE NATIONAL SPIRITUALISTS ASSOCIATION,
By HARRISON D. BARRETT, President.
FRANCIS BAILEY WOODBURY, Secretary.
FRANK WALKER.

This shows his great faith in the success of the Jubilee, and proves his devotion to Spiritualism. He did his best to make it a financial success, but the hard times, the war, and the failure of many people who promised to attend, but did not do so, proved too much for him.

Spiritually and educationally the Rochester Jubilee was one of the grandest successes that ever came to Spiritualism. The speakers and mediums in attendance never did better, and their utterances found their way into the columns of the secular press in Rochester, and through the American and United Press Associations into the columns of thousands of papers throughout the Nation. In this way the Jubilee was a

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great educator and spiritual illuminator. The centering of the harmonious thoughts of the Spiritualists of the world upon Rochester I believe made a power for good in the psychic realm that will in the near future redound to the good of our Cause. I feel that its concept in the congress of the wisest spirits in the higher life was prompted by a desire to bring in a feeling of good-will and brotherly love among all the peoples of the earth.

The deficit, outside of the salary of the General Manager, at the close of the Jubilee, was about three thousand dollars, one thousand of which has been paid to Mr. Walker through donations from individual Spiritualists. Three hundred and twenty dollars of this sum passed through my hands, for which I hold Mr. Walker's receipts. Two thousand dollars, in round numbers, remain unpaid. It is possible, perhaps, under Mr. Walker's contract, that this Association is not legally responsible for this debt. Morally I believe it is, hence I feel that some action should be taken by this body of delegates. I hope two hundred loyal men and women can be found who are able and willing to give ten dollars each to wipe out this indebtedness. If they cannot be found, then surely the N. S. A. should not allow its representative to bear this loss alone. I recommend this matter to your considerate attention. (Applause.)

THE BABE WILL.

Last year I had occasion to say a few words upon this important topic. It will be remembered that this will was being contested by distant relatives of Mrs. Babe at the time of our last annual convention. I advocated a vigorous defense of the will, and a fund of $704.05 had been raised to defray the expenses of the threatened suits-at-law. It was found expedient, after several consultations with the Trustee of the will, Mr. Theodore J. Mayer, to compromise the two suits that had been instituted against the will, giving each of the contestants one-third of the estate, the N. S. A. to pay the claim of Mrs. Emma A. Rice for services rendered the late Mrs. Babe. This proposition was accepted by a majority of the Board of Trustees, and the Trustee of the will was directed to effect a settlement upon the terms named. As the estate consisted chiefly of real estate, its sale, under the existing financial depression, will necessarily be somewhat delayed. In the end, however, the National Association will no doubt receive its share of the proceeds of the estate. The Board of Trustees voted to retain the defense fund of $704.05, or so much thereof as remained in the Treasurer's

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hands after defraying the legal expenses incurred up to the time the compromise was effected, as a special defense fund for any contested will, or for the defense of the N. S. A., or the rights of speakers and mediums. I feel that this was a wise action, and recommend that it receive the approval of this Convention. (Applause.)

MASS MEETINGS.

A few mass meetings only have been held under the auspices of the N. S. A. during the past year. The gatherings at Cleveland, Ohio, Chicago, Ill., and Atlanta, Ga., were especially successful, and yielded large financial returns to the treasury of the N. S. A. Successful mass meetings were also held at Marlboro, Mass., and Portsmouth, N. H., which resulted in great good to the Cause of Spiritualism. Of the results of the three first named, you will probably hear at length from our Vice President and Secretary, who were in attendance on each occasion. The Marlboro meeting was planned by Dr. G. C. B. Ewell, formerly of Colorado, while the Portsmouth meeting was under the management of your President. I still believe that these mass meetings can be made a power for good to the N. S. A., if they are properly conducted.

I therefore recommend that a larger number of them be held during the coming year. In so doing, I venture to suggest a change in the plan of management of the same. I suggest that the local society, or societies, be consulted with regard to the feasibility of holding such a meeting, and that each one be given a certain percentage of the receipts after all expenses are paid. This would prove the willingness of the N. S. A. to render substantial aid to local societies, and show that it was not seeking to take away their support. I also venture to suggest that it would not be out of place to hold a few spiritual rallies in cities and towns where the people have grown lukewarm in their interest in Spiritualism, in order that the people may be induced to do something for the Cause. These meetings should be held without regard to financial returns, save only the defraying of the expenses of the speakers and mediums employed. (Applause)

It was decided at the last annual convention that only one member of the Board should attend each of the mass meetings held under the auspices of the N. S. A. This was voted in order that more of such meetings could be held, and heavy expenses avoided. Owing to some unhappy misunderstanding this order has not been carried out.

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CAMP-MEETINGS.

Spiritualist camp-meetings have become prominent factors in the propagandism of our philosophy during the past two decades. They have been instrumental in bringing the light of spiritual truth home to thousands of people, and have led some of them to take an active interest in local society work in their respective communities. There are now between fifty-five and sixty of these camps in the United States, all of whom can be made auxiliaries to the N. S. A., if the right steps are taken. I recommended last year that special N. S. A. days be secured upon the programs of the several camps. It was done to a limited extent, but was not as general as it should have been. I visited ten camps personally, at each of which I spoke in the interests of organization and the N. S. A. The financial returns were generous enough to convince me that there is no better way to reach the people than through special days at the camps. Outside of Lake Pleasant, Mass., where the money was paid to Secretary Woodbury, who was present, I have, through my own lectures, special collections and appeals for donations, received over four hundred dollars in the name of the N. S. A. The expenses connected with this work, covering a period of forty-five days, was nearly one hundred and fifty dollars. This shows what missionary effort and devotion to the cause of organization will do in a small way. With this policy extended to every camp, the N. S. A. would soon win for itself a large share of the affections of the people.

The camps visited by me were Harwich, Lake Pleasant and Onset, Mass., Queen City Park, Vt., Niantic, Conn., Cassadaga, N. Y., Verona Park, Temple Heights, Etna and Madison, Maine. I am especially indebted for courtesies received to Rev. S. L. Beal, Hon. A. H. Dailey, J. B. Hatch, Jr., J. Q. A. Whittemore, Dr. George A. Fuller, Dr. E. A. Smith, H. B. Emery, H. Hunnewell, Robert Hayden, A. Baker, A. H. Blackington, B. M. Bradbury, A. F. Smith, Hon. A. Gaston and George H. Brooks. The N. S. A. is also under obligations to these gentlemen and to the officers of the camps named for the privilege of presenting its claims to the assembled people. I recommend resolutions of acknowledgment, with directions to the Secretary to transmit the same to the friends above mentioned. These acknowledgments should also be extended to the many speakers and mediums who gladly lent their aid to make the N. S. A. day a success at these camps. Onset Camp still maintains the proud position as the most generous of the camps in its donations to this Association.

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(Loud applause.) Including the sum paid me for my personal services there, Onset's contribution in round numbers is two hundred dollars. I cannot refrain from naming J. Q. A. and Charles Whittemore as two friends of our organization whose deeds always speak louder than words. (Applause.)

A few other camps devoted some time to the cause of the N. S. A., but no return of their work has reached me. I presume their officers reported to the Secretary of this Association, from whom you will no doubt receive the information desired. I am persuaded that camp work is of the utmost importance to this Association, hence most earnestly recommend that the incoming Board of Trustees be instructed to open correspondence with the officers of every camp in the United States for the purpose of securing special days upon their programs. I further recommend that the Board be directed to have at least one direct representative, either of its own members, or of its special agents, appointed for the purpose of looking out for its interests on those days at every camp where the same are granted. In this way the people can be made acquainted with the real objects of this Association, and large financial returns secured. (Applause.)

STATE ASSOCIATIONS.

This important branch of our work has not been neglected during the past year. The great mass meeting in Chicago in February last brought the Spiritualists of Illinois together and led them to form a strong working State Association, with a live progressive corps of officers. Through the devoted efforts of Dr. J. N. and Mrs. Ella Gibson Magoon, splendid organic work was done in Minnesota, and a fine State Association was incorporated there. The two bodies named have already demonstrated their usefulness, and proved themselves bulwarks of defense for our cause. The State of Washington has also swung into line, and records itself on the side of liberty and union. These three Associations at once chartered with the N. S. A., and brought it no little support.

The State Associations previously organized nearly all report progress in their work. Maine has more than doubled its membership, while Massachusetts and Rhode Island have largely increased theirs. Vermont and Connecticut have done good work, as have New York, Michigan, Texas, California and Nebraska. They have defended persecuted mediums when occasion required it, and have rendered loyal service to the cause of freedom through their opposition to medical monopoly, capital punishment, and other unjust measures.

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State Associations are needed to protect the people from iniquitous and partialistic legislation in every State in the Union. I believe that New Hampshire, Wisconsin, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Kansas and Tennessee are ripe for organization, and I most earnestly recommend that your honorable body do something to assist the friends in those States to accomplish the desired result. (Applause.)

ORDINATION.

Very little has been said upon this subject during the year. It has been dealt with by a few local societies and one or two State Associations to a limited extent, but the appearance of the disease has been sporadic, and not at all dangerous. I feel that the Spiritualists of America should set the seal of their disapproval upon this effete inheritance from the superstitious past, as well as upon that other relic of priestcraft called christening of children. I recommend that the committee on resolutions be instructed to express in strong terms the sentiments of this Convention upon the two points I have just mentioned.

HALF RATES.

This question has been ever present during the past year, and your President has been kept busy investigating the applications received by the railroad authorities for this privilege. Under the rules adopted by the Passenger Associations, particularly the Western and Central, any speaker or missionary who is solely dependent upon his labor on the Spiritualist platform for his living, *provided* he gives no physical phenomenal manifestations, is entitled to an annual permit. Both physical and mental mediums, as well as speakers, have eagerly endeavored to obtain these rates. Many have felt grieved at the National Association because of their failure to obtain the same, whereas it was only their own statements that proved they did not come under the rules laid down by the railroad authorities that were at fault. It is to be regretted that so many Spiritualists have such a great yearning for the half-rate privilege. I fail to see why any priest, nun, friar, or other religious teacher should travel upon half rates while the farmers, mechanics and other laborers, earning only one dollar or less per day, are obliged to pay full fare. I most earnestly recommend this Convention to take a decided stand upon this matter by requesting that the half-rate system be abolished by all roads for the ministers of all denominations, to the end that full fare shall be paid by them all. This position is the only logical one that can be taken by Spiritualists who believe

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in "equal rights for all and special privileges for none." (Applause.) It gives me pleasure to state, however, that wherever our speakers have come within the rules of the Passenger Associations they have been shown every courtesy and granted every privilege extended to representatives of other denominations. This shows the respect paid to organization. (Applause.)

REFORM WORK.

During the past year this Association has endeavored to range itself in line with all reforms for the benefit of the masses. It has spoken repeatedly upon the question of medical freedom, compulsory vaccination, capital punishment, unjust taxation, and all forms of class legislation. These issues are now before the people; forty-two States have laws favoring medical monopoly upon their statute books; almost every State has laws or regulations of some kind favoring compulsory vaccination; over forty States endorse capital punishment, while every State, save California, exempts by law all church and sectarian school property from taxation. Class legislation is running mad in the halls of Congress and in the State Legislatures. These are crying ills, and demand and should receive the considerate attention of this Convention. I recommend that this honorable body speak with no uncertain sound with respect to all these questions. I urge that declarations in favor of a secular government for State and nation be made to the world in order that the position of the Spiritualists of America may not be misunderstood. Let us unite our forces to keep an orthodox God out of the Constitution of the United States, and to secure the equal and uniform taxation of nearly three billions of dollars' worth of church and sectarian school property. I feel that this Association should not hesitate to speak upon all questions relating to human progress upon the side of right and justice. (Loud applause.)

SCHOOLS.

I called your attention to this important subject last year, and urged that hearty encouragement be given to the Spiritualist Training School at Mantua, Ohio, under the management of Moses Hull and A. J. Weaver, as well as to the Belvidere Seminary at Belvidere, N. J., under the tuition of Miss Belle Bush. I respectfully repeat that recommendation at this point. I feel that the establishment and maintenance of schools should be one of the main objects of the N. S. A. It is true there are many schools in this country, but those that

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deal with the soul side of man's nature are conspicuous by their absence. Attempts have been made to establish schools of spiritual philosophy in the past, and in some instances endowments of thousands of dollars were in sight to support them. Owing to the opposition of a few who were believers in extreme individualism, or who felt that the spirits would educate all the denizens of earth, the progressive step was not taken. I believe the time has now come to attempt to revive the interest in that subject. I therefore heartily approve of the suggestion of President M. S. Norton of the California State Spiritualists Association, and earnestly recommend its adoption by your honorable body. President Norton suggests the establishment of a psychic school by the N. S. A., whose main object shall be to bring out the highest possible attainments in mediumship for the benefit of our race. If a movement is made in this direction in a business-like way, I believe it will lead in the near future to the erection and endowment of an institution of this kind. I urge this matter upon your attention, and hope you will discuss it at length, then take such action as in your judgment seems proper. (Applause.)

HISTORY OF SPIRITUALISM.

The importance of having an accurate history of Spiritualism has grown upon me during the past year. Our movement has now passed its half-century mark, and our pioneers are rapidly passing away from earth. It seems as if it would be wise to avail ourselves of the testimony of these patriarchs, to the end that future ages may know the truth with regard to Spiritualism's early history. I feel to recommend action in this matter, and respectfully suggest that it be discussed at length upon this floor. It may not be expedient at this time to elect the historian for this work, but it is our duty to lay such plans as will enable us to preserve the true record of the greatest revelation of religious truth the world has ever known, hence we should set to work to make it possible for it to be done. In this connection I believe it would be wise to secure the complete files of all journals ever published in this country in the interests of Spiritualism. The officers of the Association have endeavored to carry out the wishes of previous conventions in this direction during the past year, but owing to the scarcity of funds, very little has been accomplished. I again recommend that the incoming Board be instructed to appropriate any available funds that may come into their hands, under one hundred and fifty dollars, for the comple-

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tion and binding of the files of all of the Spiritualist journals, past and present, in America. (Applause.)

PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

The stand taken by Prof. Richard Hodgson with regard to Spiritualism has led many scientists to view the questions raised in the name of psychic science in a more favorable light. It is well known that the English Society for Psychical Research has been at work upon psychic problems for many years. The published results of its investigations have always leaned to the spiritualistic hypothesis, because the preponderance of evidence was on that side. Some of its members have arrived at different conclusions, yet they have never been able to contravene the facts presented. The aim of this society is a most worthy one, viz., to reduce the mental and physical phenomena presented by Spiritualism to an orderly form, in order that a spiritual science may be deduced from the well-authenticated facts. This the members have done to some extent. They have also established a branch of their society in America, of which such distinguished men as Professors William James and Richard Hodgson are members. The expenses of this American branch are largely borne by the parent society in England. This is not as it should be; our English brethren should not be asked to educate us in spiritual science, but rather should be invited to co-operate with us in that work. (Applause.)

Professor James has visited me twice with regard to this matter, and suggested that the time had come for Spiritualists to join hands with the Societies for Psychical Research in order that the grand truths of Spiritualism may be given to the world. Professor James also suggested that he felt as if the Spiritualists should lead in this work (applause), as it is their religion in whose name these psychic phenomena are offered to the public. If the Spiritualists will give every possible facility for a thorough and comprehensive study of their phenomenal evidences, they will render the cause of truth a signal service. Professor James has not yet accepted the spiritualistic hypothesis, but he and many other gifted scholars are anxious to know the truth, hence should be assisted in their quest by every true Spiritualist in America.

Professor James felt that the N. S. A. should lead in this enterprise. I heartily agree with him, and believe that our American Spiritualists could be induced to furnish capital with which to push forward this important work. I feel it to be our paramount duty to reveal the scientific facts of Spirit-

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ualism to our fellow-men, but we cannot do it by continuing the desultory and chaotic methods hitherto followed. It will be said at once that the Psychical Research brethren are only going over ground formerly occupied by Spiritualists. Not so; they are simply gathering up the facts our Spiritualists have so prodigally scattered over the land, without knowing their value, or seeking to apply them to the advancement of science. I know that the pioneers in Spiritualism did a great work, but they simply toiled that we might do better than they did. (Applause.) In this suggestion from our Psychical Research friends I see an opportunity to do a great work for Spiritualism. I therefore recommend that the incoming Board of Trustees be instructed to open correspondence with Professor James, in order that steps may be immediately taken to effect a union of forces in this important department of study. I also suggest that our Trustees be given power to act in the matter to the end that systematic work may at once begin. (Applause.)

A PSYCHIC QUARTERLY.

It has been suggested to me by several of the most loyal friends of the N. S. A., among whom may be mentioned Dr. W. W. Hicks and Dr. George A. Fuller, that an American quarterly magazine, devoted to psychic and occult science, is one of the great needs of the hour. It should cover a wider field of thought than that formerly traversed by W. T. Stead's *Borderland*, and represent the most advanced phases of spiritual and reformatory thought. The suspension of *Borderland* leaves this field open for a quarterly of this kind. It should be of a high order, with no side issues to detract it from its purpose to enlighten the teachers and thinkers of the globe upon the important question of spiritual science. A magazine of this kind would require the backing of capital, and I believe it could be obtained, provided the right person was selected to move in the matter. I have studied this suggestion very carefully, and I believe it to be an eminently practical one, as well as a necessary adjunct to our cause. I therefore recommend that this Convention consider this matter at length, and give such instructions to the incoming Board as will lead to the accomplishment of the desired purpose. (Applause.)

MISSIONARIES.

The by-laws of this Association direct the President to appoint a certain number of missionaries to present its claims to the people in various sections of the nation. I have des-

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ignated twenty-five persons to act as N. S. A. missionaries during the past year. Some of them have done excellent work, and made returns of the same to the Association. Others simply wanted our papers as an endorsement, in order that they might secure paying engagements and obtain half-rates upon the railroads. In making these appointments I have urged them all to do something for the N. S. A., to talk its claims to the people, to solicit donations and bequests, as well as to take collections for its treasury. They have all promised to do this, but many of them have signally failed to keep good their word.

The benefits derived from the labors of the few who were sincerely devoted to the cause of organization, lead me to again recommend the continuance of the missionary work. Due care should be exercised in the selection of candidates for this position, in order that those only may receive our papers who are willing to reciprocate for favors received. By corresponding with them at least every month, the Secretary would be able to learn the results of their work, and would be able, in most cases, to induce them to do something for the N. S. A. Letters from headquarters would lead their recipients to feel that they were in deed, as well as in word, parts of the Association they represent.

LYCEUMS.

The organization of a National Lyceum Association was accomplished at the close of the last annual convention. Reports of its work will be received during this Convention, and on Friday of this week its first annual meeting will be held. From what I have heard of it, much good work has been done during the year, and quite a number of local lyceums have been established. It now looks as if our children's lyceums were beginning to attract the attentive interest of all progressive Spiritualists. I am much encouraged at the outlook, and take much pleasure in recommending that the National Lyceum Association be given the hearty support of and every possible aid from your honorable body. (Applause.)

N. Y. P. S. U.

The National Young People's Spiritualists' Union was formally organized at the Rochester Jubilee and completed its work at Lily Dale, N. Y., August 10th, ult. It has a goodly number of names upon its roll of membership, and is designed to interest young Spiritualists of adult age in the philosophy and religion of Spiritualism. Its officers will present its claims for your consideration during this Convention. I be-

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speak for them your careful attention, and recommend that this new branch of spiritualistic work be given the hearty moral support of the N. S. A. (Applause.)

MOVABLE CONVENTIONS.

Your attention will be called to an amendment to the Constitution of the N. S. A. making the annual conventions of this body movable affairs. (Loud applause.) This step, I believe, is in the right direction, provided the headquarters of the Association can be kept in Washington. In order to make the proposed change, it may be necessary to amend the charter of incorporation, hence we will have to move slowly in this matter. I am also requested to ask you to consider the feasibility of making the term of office of the entire Board of Trustees three years in duration, one-third of which shall be chosen at each annual gathering. I submit these important questions without recommendation, feeling assured that the Convention will in its wisdom settle them in the right way.

THE FINANCIAL QUESTION.

Of all matters that will come before you, this is the most vital one, and will require your ripest, richest and most consecrated thought. The treasury has been sadly depleted during the past year, and, in place of surplus funds in our Treasurer's hands, I am forced to report a shortage of more than twelve hundred dollars. I have already outlined the causes that have depleted our treasury in my references to the war, the hard times and the sad condition of our local societies. The receipts from dues, collections and donations have fallen off largely during the past season, and some method by which the revenues can be increased must be devised. I feel that the auxiliary societies would render greater returns if they were kept in closer touch with the N. S. A. They should receive occasional letters upon other subjects than dues, collections and proxies for delegates, which fact would soon lead the members to see that the N. S. A. was *their* institution, in which they had a voice and a vote. (Applause.)

I have repeatedly urged the appointment of special financial agents to visit the Spiritualists of the country from house to house, soliciting donations for the N. S. A. This recommendation has been adopted by at least two conventions, but owing to some unhappy mischance, it has never been carried into effect. It was tried for a few weeks only in a limited circle, and the returns therefrom were seventeen dollars. On a larger scale of operations the results would have been much

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better. There are men and women of character and standing, out of work, who could and would give ample bonds for the safe keeping and accounting for all moneys received by them, who would gladly accept stewardships of this kind. I therefore again recommend that the incoming Board of Trustees be instructed to appoint a number of special financial agents, under bonds, to solicit funds for the N. S. A. in the manner above described. I further recommend that all N. S. A. missionaries be instructed to make at least one appeal each month for aid for this Association. (Applause.)

I am strongly impressed with the necessity of retrenchment in the expenses of the Association. "A dollar saved is as good as a dollar earned," is a motto that well applies to the N. S. A. I believe that the office of president should be made a non-salaried one, (Loud applause) the incumbent thereof to receive compensation only for time actually spent in the service of the N. S. A. I recommend that this change be made in the interest of economy. I have already shown you that the mass meetings, special days at the camps, and proper missionary effort can be made sources of revenue for the N. S. A. The receipts from all sources will, of course, largely depend upon the energy, enterprise and devotion of the officers of the N. S. A., and upon you as delegates. (Applause.)

It is neither fair nor right to place the entire burden upon the shoulders of a few; a division of labor is the sharing of honor, hence it is the duty of every officer and delegate to this Convention to take home with them a spirit of consecration that will lead them to interest their friends in the N. S. A. Convention enthusiasm is all very well, but home enthusiasm is much better. (Applause.) There are thousands of Spiritualists who could be interested in the N. S. A. through the personal appeals of the delegates here to-day. If ten thousand people will give one dollar each, yearly, to this Association, missionary work, reform measures and other important trusts could be met in the right way. I also believe in appealing to the philanthropists in our ranks for aid. They will respond when they see a spirit of consecrated devotion manifested by those who claim to be Spiritualists. For myself, I will agree to be one of one hundred persons to give or raise fifty dollars for the support of the N. S. A. during the coming year. (Applause.) I recommend these several suggestions to your thoughtful attention.

A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

The last annual convention referred the matter of a declaration of principles to the Board of Trustees, with instructions

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to ascertain the wishes of the Spiritualists of the nation through an extensive correspondence, to the end that a broadly comprehensive statement of the principles of Spiritualism might be published to the world. This question was agitated to some extent, and action taken by the people at the Rochester Jubilee, from which you will hear later. I am not informed as to the nature of the replies to the letters of inquiry sent out from headquarters, upon this point, but I have personally reached a number of people, whose opinions I have published from week to week in the columns of the *Banner of Light*, while many others have spoken through the other Spiritualist papers upon the same subject. The consensus of opinion is that some form of a declaration of principles should be made, and from the many suggestions offered upon this topic, you will be asked to select something that will express in plain terms the basic truths of Spiritualism.

I respectfully recommend the following for your consideratron: Spiritualism stands for (a) a Universal Principle of Life; (b) Truth, the revelator of that Life, and the gleaner of wisdom; (c) Immortality, the divine inheritance of the race; (d) Eternal Progression, the sublime destiny of man; (e) Spirit-return, a demonstrated fact in nature; (f) Sympathy, the principle that unifies the race on earth; (g) Love, the lever by which men are lifted out of sin and ignorance, and higher and holier conditions brought in among men. This is the declaration I once made in an important case in this city some years ago. It stood the test then, and I see no reason why it should not do so again. (Applause.)

THE CALIFORNIA STATE SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION.

This valuable ally of the N. S. A. last year asked for exclusive jurisdiction over the societies in that State. The matter was referred to the Board of Trustees, with power to act. Inasmuch as the N. S. A. has no power to cancel or revoke charters save for just cause, the transfer of all societies having charters from the N. S. A. was an impossibility, unless they themselves requested it. Some of the California societies prefer to carry charters from both State and National, and are willing to pay dues to both. The California State Spiritualist Association now asks for exclusive jurisdiction over that State, and will sever its connection with the N. S. A. on January 1, 1899, unless the same be granted. Since the organization of that Association in 1896 I am not aware that any charters have been granted by the N. S. A., save one in Los Angeles that was recalled, pending action by this body upon the question at issue. We cannot afford to lose California, and I urge calm

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deliberation upon this grave question. It may be possible to effect a compromise in this way: the N. S. A. to grant exclusive jurisdiction to the California Association, holding only such societies as desire to carry double charters, or do not wish to join the State Association. By adopting this method, there can be no clash of interests and reciprocity of relationship will be maintained.

THE LONDON JUBILEE.

From June 19 to 24, inclusive, a grand International Jubilee was held in London, England, under the efficient management of Mr. E. Dawson Rogers. Leading Spiritualists from all quarters of the globe were invited to take part in the proceedings, and to send papers to read at its several sessions. It was deemed advisable to send delegates from this country, bearing credentials from the N. S. A. Mrs. Cora L. V. Richmond, our honored Vice President, Miss Lilian Whiting, Dr. J. M. Peebles and Mrs. Jennie B. Hagan-Jackson were commissioned as representatives of this body, while Mrs. M. E. Cadwallader, through the Rochester Jubilee, was sent as the representative of the First Association of Philadelphia and the National Young People's Union. It is probable that brief reports will be presented to you from your delegates, in order that you may learn of the exalted character of the work performed by the leading minds of the world at the great London Congress. (Applause.)

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

The Board of Trustees has performed its work to the best of its ability. Owing to the absence of a quorum, no meeting was held in July, but the work was done through correspondence and by committees. The report of your Secretary will no doubt give you a detailed account of the work done at headquarters, and of the general stewardship of the Board itself. I commend the business history contained in his report to your especial attention.

PRESIDENT'S WORK.

I invite your closest scrutiny of this branch of my report. I have been criticised at great length for what I have and have not done, hence a succinct account of my work will place you in possession of the facts in the case. I need not remind you at the outset that missionary work is *not* the chief part of the duties of your President. I made it a leading feature of my work during the first three and

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a half years of my incumbency of my present office. I traveled far and near pleading for funds, soliciting charters and explaining the aims and objects of the N. S. A. to the best of my ability. If I failed to do my duty it was not from any willful neglect on my part, but was due to causes over which I had no control.

I explained my connection with the *Banner of Light* in full in my last annual report, hence it is unnecessary for me to repeat it here. I was re-elected to the presidency by a unanimous vote of the last convention with the distinct understanding that I was to remain with the *Banner of Light* as its editor. The last convention voted that the salary of the President should be fifteen hundred dollars per year. Nothing was said in the convention about my relinquishing any portion of that salary to the N. S. A., yet it was expected and tacitly understood that I would do so. After my re-election I informed my friends that my purpose was to charge only for such time as I devoted to the interests of the N. S. A. outside of my work on the *Banner of Light*. This I have done, hence I wish to denounce the statement that I have drawn double pay during the past year as absolutely false and most unkind. (Applause.)

Whenever I have absented myself from my office in Boston upon N. S. A. work, I have been charged with lost time by my employers, and have drawn no salary therefor from them. I refer to their books to verify my statement. During the year I have lost many days' time in the service of the N. S. A., including my attendance upon the quarterly board meetings. I believe I am entitled to compensation for that loss of time. In addition to this I have carried on a very large correspondence and attended to many important duties connected with my office. I have written eight hundred and eighty letters on N. S. A. business during the year. I have also edited the proceedings of the annual convention of last year, read and revised the proof-sheets, prepared statements of the standing of the N. S. A. for the New York *World's* Almanac, written for the secular press several defenses of Spiritualism against the attacks of clergymen, fought through to a successful finish a very bitter contest for medical freedom, written editorially in behalf of the N. S. A., and sent articles in its interest to the other Spiritualist journals.

It was my duty to do all of these things, and I ask all persons on this floor to-day if they feel that I ought to do this work for nothing. Be that as it may, I have not drawn one cent of salary from this Association during my entire year of service. I feel, however, that I am entitled to a fair equivalent for my labor. I do not ask nor do I expect the full sal-

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ary of fifteen hundred dollars for my services. I am willing however, to rebate sixty-five dollars per month on said salary, provided I am reimbursed for my expenditures in postage, stationery, office supplies and railroad travel. I am willing to do more than this. I wish to have deducted from the amount due me the sums pledged by Mrs. Barrett and myself at the last convention, also a note given by me to the N. S. A. in the interest of the State Association of California two years ago. My office and incidental expenses have been, in round numbers, two hundred and fifty dollars, an itemized account of which will be submitted to the auditing committee. This sum, added to what I claim for services rendered, makes the total amount due me nine hundred and seventy dollars. Against this must be charged the California note and the donation above named, three hundred and seventy dollars in all. This leaves a balance due me of six hundred dollars. (Applause.)

During the past year I have receipted for over seven hundred dollars in the name of the N. S. A. I hold the Secretary's receipt for nearly one-half that sum, and have the balance in my possession, subject to the settlement of my accounts. Last year I rebated nine months' salary in full, charging only per diem rates for services rendered, and turned in the amount of my earnings on Sundays during those nine months to the N. S. A. treasury. This year I have been asked to do the same thing; but I ask you, one and all, if you feel that I ought to do this in view of the fact that I am receiving less wages now than I did then. I ask your honorable body to direct the auditing committee, or some special committee, to investigate this matter thoroughly and report upon it to this Convention. If you deem my requests extravagant, if you feel that I ask too much, I am perfectly willing to arbitrate the case in the interest of harmony and brotherly love. (Loud applause.)

I wish to say this: that there has scarcely a day passed during the entire year in which I have not rendered the N. S. A. some service. I have loyally tried to advance its interests and striven to place its claims before the people on every possible occasion. Even in my personal letters to my relatives and closest friends, I have had something to say concerning the National Association. While I have not sought to make the *Banner of Light* the official organ of the N. S. A., I have endeavored to make it a staunch supporter thereof, and I leave it to those who have followed that work to judge of its efficacy and value. I ask for simple justice, and have no wish to make personal affairs too prominent in the case. It is but

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fair to say, in concluding this chapter of personal references, that all of my Sunday earnings at the camps, as well as convention Sundays and occasional Sundays when I have chartered societies with the N. S. A., have been credited to the N. S. A. Up to this time I have paid for all postage and other incidental expenses out of my own pocket. It is worthy of mention, at least, that many of the express packages received from headquarters, as well as an occasional telegram, were marked "collect." I now ask your honorable body to consider these remarks with due care, and make a full, impartial investigation of the case. I also have a bill of fifteen dollars left over from last year, on account of music, that I have not pushed because of lack of funds. (Applause.)

On Sunday, October 16, in response to the very cordial invitation from friends in Philadelphia, I visited four societies, where I spoke in the interest of co-operation and the N. S. A. I was more than cordially received, and the responses to appeals for financial aid were very generous, as the sum of thirty-nine dollars and twenty-five cents testifies. To this must also be added the sum raised by our good friends, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. M. Locke, who have brought the per capita dues of their society to hand in person to our Secretary. The moneys handed to me were the per capita dues from the First Association, the Second Association, the Spiritual Fraternity, and the balance of the dues of the Woman's Union. The people of Philadelphia assured me of their loyalty to the N. S. A., and their deep interest in its welfare. No better work has been done by local societies that can be shown in Philadelphia.

REVIEW OF THE FIELD.

During the past year some mistakes have been made in connection with the work of the N. S. A. The sales of the reports of the last convention have not been as numerous as was hoped, owing to the mistake of not pushing them upon the market. I recommend that the incoming Secretary be instructed to have the reports of all conventions on sale at all camp and local meetings, as well as at State and quarterly conventions.

The Spiritualist press has stood by the N. S. A. most loyally during the past year. (Applause.) Some journals have subjected it to severe criticism, but it has served a good purpose through the prominence it has given the N. S. A. by keeping it constantly before the minds of the people. Every Spiritualist paper in America has generously devoted a large amount of space to this Association, and I feel as if due rec-

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ognition should be made by you to each and all of them. Personally I feel under special obligations to Thomas G. Newman, of the *Philosophical Journal*, Ed. D. Lunt, of *The Medium*, Charles W. Newnam, of *The Dawning Light*, J. R. Francis, of *The Progressive Thinker*, Willard J. Hull, of *The Light of Truth*, W. W. Sargeant, of *The Evolutionist*, and Miss Carrie Swenson, of *Nya Tiden*, and I take this opportunity to express my thanks to them for favors received. (Applause.)

In reviewing the work of the year, it is well to note the fact that the N. S. A. has grown upon the attention of the people more than it has in any period of its history. The need of a strong central organization for business purposes, as well as a psychic center, has become apparent to every truly progressive Spiritualist. There has sprung up a laudable desire to remedy the defects now existing in the machinery of the N. S. A., as well as a determination to make it the servant of the people. As delegates, it is your duty to carry out the wishes of your constituents in these directions. It will be your duty to instruct your officials in plain terms, then hold them in a strict accounting at our next annual conclave. (Applause.)

It has been a grave mistake to hurriedly pass over important recommendations, or refer them to the "incoming Board of Trustees with power to act," on the part of former conventions. I most respectfully ask you to refer nothing to the Board of Trustees that you can settle here and now. The work of the year can be outlined in part, at least, by your honorable body, while emergency cases can be trusted to the judgment of the capable men and women whom you will call by your votes to fill the offices connected with this Association. I am constrained to venture one further recommendation with regard to your work as delegates. I believe it to be only right and just for you to make it possible for all nominations for office to be made upon the floor of the Convention, and not through the mediumship of a nominating committee. (Loud applause and cheers.) It will be impossible to effect a change for this year, but you can place yourselves on record in favor of the principles of true democracy by adopting this plan for the government of future conventions. (Applause.)

During the past year several of the truest friends of Spiritualism, and loyal friends of the N. S. A., have taken their departure to the higher life. On the 27th of December, 1897, that noble veteran and true-hearted friend of humanity, Mrs. A. H. Colby-Luther, took leave of earth and passed to her reward in spirit. On February 8, 1898, Hon. J. O. Barrett,

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reformer and spiritual teacher, went home to spirit-land. J. Henry Brown, Merrill Ryder and Mrs. Sarah Durham have also completed their sojourns on earth during the past twelve months. Each and all of these were true friends to the N. S. A., and it is only fitting that their names should be spoken and memories honored in a convention of this kind. I recommend action upon this matter by you.

This Convention will complete five years of service for me as your President. I have tried to do my full duty by the Association, and faithfully sought to repay trust with trust. That I have made many mistakes, I freely admit, but I have honestly endeavored to rectify them whenever I have discovered them. I come now to the close of my fifth term of office with the consciousness that I have been loyal to the cause of co-operation during the entire period I have served you. To the many friends I have made during that time, I return my heartfelt thanks for their uniform kindness and hearty support. Their words of encouragement and good cheer remain with me now, and will continue to do so in the future, as compensations for the hardships I have met with in this work.

Words fail to express my gratitude to you for the honors you have heaped upon me during the past five years. The law of compensation has brought me many returns for all ills, and the loyal friendships, the words of kindly encouragement and practical aid are cherished memories in the arcana of my memory. I feel again to thank you for your courtesy and good will, also for your kindly forbearance in listening to my lengthy paper to-day.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

HARRISON D. BARRETT,

President National Spiritualists Association of the U. S. A. and Dominion of Canada.

(Long continued applause and cheers.)

PRESIDENT'S FINANCIAL REPORT.

To the Auditing Committee of the Sixth Annual Convention of the National Spiritualists Association:

I have the honor to submit for your consideration the following statement concerning moneys handled and receipted for by me as President of the N. S. A. for the year ending

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October 20, S. E. 51; also an itemized list of all expenditures incurred by me up to that date:

Oct. 25, 1897, paid to F. B. Woodbury	$91.23	
Nov. 29, 1897, paid to F. B. Woodbury	14 46	
Dec. 24, 1897, paid to F. B. Woodbury for J. M. Peebles	50.00	
Jan. 5, 1898, paid to F. B. Woodbury for M. W. Lawrence	17.00	
Jan. 5, 1898, paid to F. B. Woodbury	8.00	
Feb. 8, " " "	35.50	
Mar. 31, " " "	46.29	
July 22, " " "	19.00	
Total		$281.48

For these several sums I hold Secretary Woodbury's receipts. I have received the following sums for my work at the several camps, from collections and donations:

July 23, Harwich, Mass., personal services	$15.00	
" 31, Queen City Park, Vt., personal services	26.25	
" 31, Queen City Park, Vt., collection	8.52	
Aug. 7, Niantic, Conn., personal services	14.00	
" 10, Lily Dale, N. Y., personal services	31.25	
" 14, Verona, Me., personal services	20.25	
" 16, Temple Heights, Me., person'l services	14.75	
" 20, Donation J. Q. A. Whittemore, Onset	50 00	
" 20, Donation Chas. Whittemore, Onset	50 00	
" 20, Collection, Onset	28.84	
" 21, Onset Camp, personal services	35.00	
" 21, Onset Camp, contributing members	40.00	
Sept. 3, Etna, Me., camp collection	15.95	
" 3, Contributing member	1.00	
" 4, Etna Camp, personal services	50.00	
" 11, Madison, Me., personal services	38.90	
" 30, Donation, C. Fannie Allyn	5.00	
" 30, Donation, Mrs. M. R. Goff	5.00	
Total		449.71
My receipts for the entire year are		$731.19

My expenses for postage, telegrams, railroad fares, sleeping-car tickets, office supplies, express charges, etc., are $257.71. To this should be added the amount of my salary,

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$1,500. I wish, however, to rebate the sum of $65 per month to the Association, leaving $720 due me on account of salary. The entire amount due me to date is $977.71. From this must be deducted the amount I hold to the credit of the N. S. A., $449.71; also the donations of Mrs. Barrett and myself to this Association, $75; also the amount of a note given by me in behalf of the State Spiritualists Association of California, on account of my services and expenses incurred in behalf of this Association in 1896 in California, $295.50; total, $820.21. This sum deducted from the grand total due, leaves a balance of $157.50 in my favor. I have filed an itemized account of all my expenditures with the officers of this Association, and take pleasure in presenting to your honorable committee a copy of the same. I ask you to note the fact that I have made no charge for stenographer's services during the entire year. Had I done so the bill would have been in excess of the sum I ask of you on account of salary.

Respectfully submitted,

HARRISON D. BARRETT.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: You have heard the report of your President. It will be referred to the Committee on President's Report.

President Barrett in the Chair:

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair will take this opportunity to appoint that committee. Committee on President's report: Frank Walker, New York, Chairman; Mary T. Longley, California; Clarence D. Pruden, Minnesota; Miss Mary Hatch, Connecticut; Mr. Lloyd Norris, Maryland.

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, as the report of the President has in it something of a personal nature to me, as well as from the fact that while arranging for the celebration of the Jubilee it was my duty to collect special funds for that purpose, and when the Jubilee was over it ceased to be a fund for the public, but became a private fund then, I cannot consistently act upon the recommendations of the President with regard to that matter connected with myself. I hope you will appoint someone else upon that committee.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair will then appoint Mr. F. A. Wiggin in his place.

The next order of business is the reception of the report of our Vice President. It is now in order and will be received.

Reading Clerk reads:

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VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

Mr. President and delegates of the Convention: Your Vice President has the honor to report her especial work in connection with the National Association since its last annual convention:

The year just past is the most important in the annals of Modern Spiritualism, excepting the one that gave it birth; since this is not only the half-century jubilee, but many events have occurred in connection with our Cause that will serve to make of this year a landmark for all coming time.

Agreeable to the instructions of the last convention, the official Board of the National Association (as you have been informed by the reports of the President and Secretary) has endeavored to hold mass meetings or conventions in many important cities, with the very best results.

It is the purpose of this report to refer only to such meetings, conventions, or other work as has been personally under the management of or over which your Vice President has been called upon to preside. The first of those conventions was appointed to be held in Cleveland, O., Dec. 28, 29 and 30, 1897. There were but few in that city to co-operate with the Executive Committee, located at Washington, besides Moses and Mattie Hull, who did everything in their power compatible with their other engagements to make the convention a success. At the last moment it was found absolutely necessary for Sec'y Woodbury to go to Cleveland to make the requisite business arrangements. He arrived in Cleveland Saturday, Dec. 25, and found that nothing had been done toward holding the Convention. He secured the hall, advertised, distributed bills, etc., and on Tuesday morning a fine audience assembled to attend the first session. Three sessions were held each day for three days with a steadily increasing attendance, until the last two sessions, when hundreds were turned away for lack of standing room, and this notwithstanding the very disagreeable and icy condition of the streets, rendering them exceedingly unsafe for pedestrians.

The people were aroused to a degree of interest not manifested in that city for years. Of the nine sessions one-half of one morning was devoted to a memorial service to our arisen sister and co-worker, Mrs. Amelia Colby-Luther, who passed to the higher life while the convention was being held. Her brave, noble, fearless spirit, chastened and subdued by long suffering, was at last set free. The other half of that one session was devoted to a protest against invidious and unjust legislation against any class of people; especially with reference to

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the enactment of Sunday laws, and sectarian legislation of all kinds. The other night sessions were devoted to the advocacy of principles, teachings and phenomena of Spiritualism; the educational matters connected therewith, especially the lyceums, Sunday schools and young people's associations. There was great unity of feeling and a goodly pecuniary result after defraying all the expenses. We have to thank the Rev. J. W. Collie, of the Seventh Day Adventists, for his able address on "Civil and Religious Liberty." Also that veteran worker, Thos. Lees, for his timely aid and word of welcome; Mrs. Carrie E. S. Twing, Moses Hull and Mattie Hull, and others for their efficient and earnest co-operation and addresses. (Applause.)

The most notable convention of the year—and I believe my associates on the Board and all who know of the facts will bear me out in this statement—was the convention held at Chicago Feb. 22, 23 and 24 of the present year.

Your Vice President having been empowered by the Board of the National Spiritualists Association to take exclusive charge of that convention, I feel that the results should be here recorded for the encouragement of any and all who may undertake similar meetings in other cities. All arrangements were conducted by correspondence, the first and principal part being the fortunate selection of Ervin A. Rice, Esq., President of the Board of Officers of the Church of the Soul, as Chairman of the Business Committee. To his careful selection of committees, and to his and their courteous and courageous carrying out of the plans, were largely due the great success attending the three days' convention. The next act of your Vice President was to invite officially every society in Chicago to participate by appointing from three to five representatives to assist on the reception and other committees. Nearly every society responded. Then an efficient corps of solicitants (one or two from each society) was appointed (under the seal of the N. S. A. and the signature of the V. P.) to take subscriptions in money for aiding in the expenses of the convention.

Mr. Rice and his associates then made such arrangements as would secure the attention to every detail: music, ushers, decorations, printing, advertising, etc. The program was arranged by your Vice President, through direct correspondence with speakers and mediums. When all was arranged there was no hitch; everything moved on like clockwork. Handel Hall was secured for the three days, and from the first session to the last was full. After the first day as many were turned away as gained admission, and policemen were required

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to keep the crowds from the doors; the interest and enthusiasm were unbounded. I have to thank Mr. Ervin A. Rice and his committee for their splendid work, and most of the Spiritualist societies in Chicago for their hearty co-operation in the work of that convention. (Applause.)

By personal invitation from your Vice President, we had upon that program, besides a brilliant array of our own speakers and mediums, Rev. Jenkin Lloyd Jones, Independent; Rev. Richard R. White and Rev. Frederick R. Millar, Universalists; Rev. Dr. Rusk, of the Church Militant. These gentlemen of broad minds and earnest hearts were glad to clasp hands with us in our work for humanity, while the last two named were distinct in their advocacy of ministering angel and communicating spirits. Their addresses were full of the spirit ot Spiritualism and the true religion of humanity. I must here record our thanks for their presence and work, also to the following: Moses Hull, Lyman C. Howe, Mrs. Carrie Fuller Weatherford, Mrs. Dr. Warne, Mrs. Cooley, Mrs. Marion Carpenter, Dr. L. V. Sweringen, and the other speakers and mediums for the gratuitous donation of their services without other expense to the convention than their traveling expenses and entertainment. Also to Bro. Moulton, who came over from Michigan to assist in the work of organizing a State Association, which was successfully accomplished; and Bro. Woodbury for his efficient services throughout the Convention. (Applause.)

The mass convention called in Atlanta, Ga., in April, was unavoidably postponed until May 10, 11 and 12, but notwithstanding the disappointment of the people, a very interesting and successful convention was held. To our sister and co-worker, Mrs. Loe F. Prior, the greatest credit is due for her indefatigable labors in Atlanta during the season immediately preceding the convention, and to the officers and members of her society (the Society of Spiritual Science) we must also tender our thanks for their work and interest in the convention and for personal hospitality to the representatives of the National Association.

Two years ago your Vice President (not by virtue of her official capacity) was honored by an invitation from E. Dawson Rogers, Esq., President of the London Spiritual Alliance, to be present at the proposed international Congress of Spiritualists to be held in London. It was then proposed to hold that Congress in 1897. Later it was decided to hold it in this jubilee year. As the President of the National Spiritualists Association was unable to attend, the honor was conferred upon your Vice President to lead the delegates from the National Spiritualists Association to the London Congress. The

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other representatives appointed by the National Association were: Miss Lillian Whiting, Boston; Dr. J. M. Peebles, California; Mrs. Jennie Hagan-Jackson, Texas; Dr. Fred. L. H. Willis, New York; Miss Whiting was called suddenly to Paris and could not be present at the Congress. Dr. Willis was unable to attend. The three others, Dr. Peebles, Mrs. Jackson and your Vice President, accompanied Mr. J. J. Morse on his return trip from our National Jubilee. I here desire to place on record our acknowledgment of the courtesy and kindness shown by Mr. Morse on the voyage and in London.

ARRIVAL IN LONDON.

Saturday, the 18th of June, we arrived in London, and on Sunday, the 19th, as an opening to the Congress, a service was held in St. James Hall (banqueting room), under the ministration of the Rev. John Page Hopps. The room was so crowded that an overflow meeting was at once arranged in another room in the same building. Dr. Peebles, Mrs. Jackson and your Vice President were asked to assist at that meeting, Mr. Morse acting as chairman. Both meetings were a great success, and were a splendid beginning to the Congress.

Your representatives were received with every manifestation of honor and fraternity, not only as representatives of the National Spiritualists Association of the United States and Canada, but as representative workers in Spiritualism. (Applause.)

The report of the Congress has been published in full in the columns of *Light* and the *Two Worlds*. *Light* is edited by that efficient and long-time worker in the Cause, E. Dawson Rogers, Esq., President of the London Spiritual Alliance, under the auspices of which the Congress was held. Distinguished representative Spiritualists were, however, invited to take the chair at the different sessions. Each one, on opening the session over which he presided, presented an address both timely and characteristic.

Representatives were in the Congress from France, Italy, Denmark, Sweden, Germany and most all the countries of Europe, and from South America, Canada and the United States. To our surprise, no effort was made to interest the secular press of London in the proceedings of the Congress, which some of us regretted, as the essays and deliberations would have commanded the respect and interest of the reading public of London and the United Kingdom. However, the management preserved a dignified bearing and, perhaps, thought the press should seek the Congress as a matter of news instead of the Congress seeking the press.

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The meetings were crowded and the interest unabated from first to last. One noticeable feature of the Congress was the far-reaching nature of the subjects considered and the fact that continental Europe, through its representatives, presented papers discussing Occultism, Reincarnation (or successive lives), which latter subject is quite objectionable to the average British Spiritualist, as it was formerly to the average American Spiritualist. Yet there was room for all, and considerable toleration of the new views, though lively discussions followed the presentation of some of the papers. The various subjects, including the philosophy and phenomena, were ably and clearly presented. Many lengthy papers, however, could not be read at the Congress, but the whole are being published in *Light*, in each successive number, and we were told that it would require a whole year to publish them. (Applause.)

SPIRITUALISM ON THE CONTINENT.

It was noticeable that Spiritualism, as presented by the representatives from the Continent, treated mostly of the philosophical and mental phases, the physical phenomena and tests or messages occurring usually in the family circles and private séances, both to protect the sitters and mediums from the surveillance of the authorities (who are very active against spiritual phenomena in most European cities), and to insure the best results. Automatic or inspirational writing seems to be a favorite form of mediumship in Italy, France and other European countries. It is also noticeable in Great Britain that the physical phenomena and tests are secondary to the philosophy, or are, at least, not so much a part of the public presentation as formerly, or as in America. There seems to be very little occasion, either in continental Europe or England, for the discussion of that so much mooted question (in this country) of "Fraud." The police on the one hand and the tendency to private investigation on the other have led to different results from those existing here, and the Congress had no occasion, apparently, to deal with this subject, the affirmative side of the question, the undoubted mediumship and phenomena, being the side chiefly considered.

One of the best letters to that Congress, also one of the best to our own Jubilee at Rochester, was sent by W. T. Stead, editor of the *Review of Reviews*, who was prevented from attending the Congress by a serious accident on the very first day of the Congress (I think). Sir William Crookes, who also was unable to attend, sent a very good, but rather noncommittal letter, in which he reaffirmed his former experi-

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ments, but did not so distinctly affirm his conviction of their spiritual origin as the Spiritualists in the Congress might have wished. We are happy to note, however, that in the recently published address of Mr. Crookes on the occasion of his acceptance of the Presidency of the British Academy of Science, he spoke with no doubtful sound, and distinctly reaffirms the phenomena and their undoubted source. Nothing could be better calculated to reassure Spiritualists, and to interest the scientific minds than Mr. Crookes' address; better far before the British Association of Science than before the Congress of Spiritualists. (Applause.)

DR. ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE.

Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace was chairman on the afternoon assigned him, and read his paper. Preliminary to the reading he stated that he had made known the results of his investigations in Spiritualism from time to time and as recently as ten years ago, since which he had no further experiments to record, and had not changed his then expressed convictions (*i. e.*, of the truth of the phenomena and their spiritual origin. His Spiritualism, however, had led him along the line of applying its principles to the social and political problems of the day; and he then proceeded to read his paper, which was broad, far-reaching, and which every true American and every friend of progress the world over could fully endorse. He touched with matchless skill those problems that are now agitating the most enlightened minds of all nations. He seemed to be inspired by some of those great reformers who have passed to the higher congress of the skies. His benignant face was crowned with silver hair, and his earnestness of speech made him seem like a prophet declaring some of the social and political fulfillments of the twentieth century. Many expressed disappointment that Dr. Wallace did not give an address on Spiritualism. He gave what his Spiritualism had brought to him, and none could do more. (Applause.)

The reunion or *conversazione* held in the large St. James Hall on Friday night was a fitting close of the Congress, and brought together the largest assembly of representative Spiritualists ever held in London, perhaps in the world.

DISPERSION OF REPRESENTATIVES.

At the conclusion of the Congress your representatives dispersed to different fields of labor. Mrs. Jackson went to Glasgow, and later she joined Dr. Peebles and Mr. Morse in

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the annual meeting of the Federation of Spiritualists in Keighly. They also attended a grand meeting in Manchester, at which place they met that veteran co-worker and sister, Mrs. Emma Hardinge Britten. I was informed that at that place there was the utmost enthusiasm for the Cause and respect for your representatives.

Mr. Richmond and myself remained in London, as your Vice President had engaged to speak three out of the four remaining Sundays of her stay in England for the principal London society, the Marylebone Spiritualists' Association, meeting at the Cavendish Room, and presided over by that veteran Spiritualist, Thos. Everitt, Esq. (who, with his noble wife, has sustained and strengthened the Cause in London for more than twoscore years). Here was familiar ground indeed, though alas! not many familiar faces, since of all who twenty-six years ago first welcomed your Vice President to London only a handful of the veterans remained. I recall Stainton Moses, James Burns, Benjamin Coleman, Mr. Wm. and Mrs. Mary Howitt, Mr. and Mrs. Hall, and a full half-hundred who, ripe in years and good deeds, have joined the great company beyond.

WORK IN NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, ENG.

On Sunday, July 10, your Vice President and her husband visited Newcastle-on-Tyne, in the extreme north of England, speaking for the Spiritualist society of that place. Here again were old and new friends, and here, as in all the northern and middle counties of England, she found a truly American spirit, and the cause has made much progress since our former visits. In fact, on the four previous visits noticeable progress had been made, but now it is more marked. We miss the bodily presence of our Chairman, William Barkas, Esq., scholar, artist, politician and business man, one who for years bore the banner of Spiritualism forward in Newcastle, to his great credit and advancement. People would say: "Oh, yes! if Alderman Barkas is a Spiritualist, there must be some good in it." Three week-day meetings were held at Newcastle and one at North Shields, near the mouth of the Tyne, with eminently good results.

Both before our visit north and after our return to London visits and receptions occupied the time until the date of sailing for America, July 21.

Perhaps it will not be out of place in this report to mention that we joined the throng of Americans who are annually invited to visit the American minister on the Fourth of July by public notice. Mr. Hay was one of the best representa

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tives that our country has ever sent as minister to London. A true American who never forgot his nationality (which one of our representatives seemed to when there). We were there at the right time to celebrate the great victory of the destruction of the Spanish fleet at Santiago, tidings of which had just reached London by cable.

My next work for the N. S. A. was at Clinton, Iowa, where a date had been assigned to the N. S. A., August 24, the last day of the session; considerable opposition had been manifested to the N. S. A. before the arrival of your Vice President, but after the addresses and answers to questions relative to the National Association, there was established quite a friendly feeling to all national organizations generally, and the National Spiritualists Association particularly. Notwithstanding the heavy indebtedness of the Camp Association, which they were trying to raise, that week your Vice President forwarded a check for forty dollars to Secretary Woodbury, the result of a collection and personal subscription after one meeting. The utmost cordiality and fraternal feeling was extended to me by old-time friends, many of whom were officers of the Camp Association. Col. James Freeman, now ex-President, and the Board of Management extended the hospitality of the camp. A reception in Liberty Cottage was extended me by the ladies of the reception committee.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, it may be time to say that your Vice President has found that the general Cause of Spiritualism is making steady progress, both in this country and in Great Britain. And from the testimony of the representatives of other countries in attendance at tne International Congress throughout the world, there exists in all those countries local and general organizations representing either the general movement or some specific branch thereof; and the fact that nearly all of the representatives to that Congress in London bore the credentials of national societies, having Spiritualism as a central truth or basis of the organization, proves the efficacy of organized effort among Spiritualists.

Throughout our own country, notwithstanding the financial depression and the excitement of the war with Spain, there has been an increasing attendance at many of the camp-meetings, and there has been manifested an increasing interest in the National Association.

Our Vice President feels the most profound conviction that the rank and file of Spiritualists throughout the country desire local and national organization, permanent speakers,

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lyceums, or Sunday-schools, systematic outlining of work, protection and encouragement of mediums, increased facilities for obtaining information on the subject of Spiritualism through the central library at the headquarters of the National Association and the general literature of Spiritualism. She also feels certain that this Convention will insure the best carrying out of these results for the furtherance of our common cause and the work of our National Association.

Respectfully submitted,

CORA L. V. RICHMOND.

(Loud applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN: The report will be referred to the Committee on President's report, to be acted upon in connection with it. The report of the Secretary will now be received.

SECRETARY WOODBURY reads:

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: The National Association *is not dead;* the spirit power that called it to life is still with it, and with the aid of true men and women will advance it to success. True, we are somewhat in debt, but I have received undoubted evidence that if the N. S. A. shall be continued in the right spirit the people will support it as never before.

I am not to take up your time by a rehearsal of the trials of the year. I have endeavored to do my duty as I saw it, and have devoted my time to endeavoring to bring the N. S. A. up to this Convention in the best financial condition possible. Having accomplished that work, I seek no worldly honors for doing what I believed to be right. Certainly no man living has ever received more powerful assurances of the loyalty of the spirit friends than I, while true souls in earth life have endeared themselves to me by their intense loyalty and friendship.

I have no words of condemnation now to utter in regard to the Jubilee. Spiritualists do not believe in eternal punishment—let us practice what we preach. There were mistakes made—the manager, like a man, admits them, now let the Spiritualists unite and pay the bills.

In regard to all the criticism of the N. S. A. and its officers, and the manager of the Jubilee, and the defense of the Philadelphia mediums, I desire to go on record as stating positively here and now, in the presence of the angel world and these witnesses, that during the four years of my connection with this institution I have never found one man or wo-

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man dishonest in regard to money affairs to the fraction of one cent. In regard to this give them all the credit they deserve.

My recommendations are few. I plead earnestly, however, that the present headquarters be sustained. No one in this company realizes as much as I the magnificent work accomplished in this city through the headquarters here. It will be the saddest day of my life if the day shall ever come when the present headquarters shall be closed. Put the convention on wheels, if you must, but leave the headquarters in Washington, D. C. I sincerely wish the time of meeting might be changed. Our people, most of them, attend camp-meetings, and the present date of our annual convention is too soon after these meetings. I would also reduce the expenses by abolishing at least the July Board meeting.

I am in favor of a convention each year and no public political campaigns between conventions. The National Spiritualists Association must not deteriorate to the level of any political party in existence. I believe two persons, at least, should be nominated for every office in the gift of the N. S. A. and balloted for. I have no ill-feeling toward any candidate for the office I have held. Mrs. M. T. Longley and I are friends, have been for twenty years, and shall be always.

When I returned from the Jubilee, completely prostrated, to face an almost empty treasury and to hear on all sides the N. S. A. is dead, I, for the first time, almost gave up the battle; but there was a brave little woman who said, "No! the spirits that called us to this work will never desert, if you are faithful to the end." To the firm confidence and the persistent effort of that little woman, my wife, I owe the success that has been, at least, partially achieved.

Theo. J. Mayer also proved himself a man worthy the respect of all our people. We have had differences in the past, but I hope all this Convention will do as we have done, forget them entirely for the good of the great cause we represent.

Of our successful work in Congress, I leave the report to W. A. Croffut, Fraternal Delegate from the Secular Union and Free Thought Federation.

Again I plead with you in regard to the publication of reports. A large number of reports were printed that it was hoped would be sold to the Jubilee; $1.25, however, were the returns.

The National library has been read by Washington people and visitors more than ever this year; several books have already been completely worn out by constant use. We have received contributions this year of Mrs. Babe's entire library,

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some fifteen volumes from our good sister, Mrs. Porter of Oneonta, N. Y., Annie Lord Chamberlain, J. R. Francis, Gen. Wright, Washington, D. C., Mrs. Klein, Van Wert, Ohio, J. C. Abbott, Herman Snow and Prof. Lockwood.

We have granted twenty new charters this year (two State, Minnesota and Illinois). We have lost quite a number of societies through their withdrawal to unite with State associations. The National Association is, however, stronger than ever before, and can be made a success.

Our country has been through a season of war this year, but this brought about the union of the blue and the gray. Shall the Spiritualists not breathe the unity that is in the air, and by uniting their forces achieve the success only just in advance of us? Will you help to bring this about?

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

WASHINGTON, D. C., October 18, 1898.

The National Spiritualists Association of the United States and Canada:

I submit the following report of the receipts and expenditures of this Association for the year ending September 30, 1898—S. E. 51:

Balance on hand October, 1897		$1,124.61
Received from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 1897	$1,340.10	
" " Jan. to March 31, 1898	684.76	
" " April 1 to Sept. 30, 1898	772.48	2,797.34
Total on hand and received during the year		$3,921.95
Disbursed from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 1897	$1,292.85	
" " Jan. 1 to March 31, 1898	787.32	
" " April 1 to Sept. 30, 1898	598.59	
Total disbursements during the year		2,678.76
		$1,243.19

RECAPITULATION.

General Fund	$256.15	
Mediums' Fund	520.14	
Babe Will Fund	466.90	
		$1,243.19

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FINANCIAL SUMMARY, 1897-1898—S. E. 51.

Balance on hand Oct. 1, 1897	$1,124.61
Babe Will fund	107.90
Collections	398.19
Balance Convention 1897	115.25
Badges, Convention	5.00
Contributions	883.14
Registering ordination papers	10.00
Charters	125.00
Contributing membership	183.02
Dues	579.42
Rent	60.00
Mass meetings	262.42
Reports	68.00
	$3,921.95

EXPENSE ACCOUNT, OCT., 1897, OCT., 1898.

Rent	$360.00
Trustees, traveling expenses	424.50
Salary Prest. H. D. Barrett to Oct., 1897	681.72
Convention expenses	204.00
Salary F. B. Woodbury	700.00
Stenography	102.66
Bonds	17.00
Stamps	88.82
Advertising	37.63
Telegrams	13.21
Express	11.67
Fuel	8.55
Gas	15.28
Water Rent	7.08
Cleaning office	6.00
Press clippings	.64
Total	$2,678.76

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCIS B. WOODBURY,
Secretary.

SECRETARY WOODBURY, continuing:

One statement of our Vice President in regard to the Cleve-

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land mass meeting should be elaborated a little, and brother Moses Hull and sister Mattie Hull given due credit for their work. The hall at Cleveland and the preliminary arrangements were all arranged by them. They needed help, as there was not a very strong local society at Cleveland, and I was very pleased to do the work I did there. We all worked for two days and two nights to make the Cleveland meeting a success.

I hope that this Convention will not forget the position that we occupy as Spiritualists of America, and that we shall transact the business of this Convention as business men and women, with only one thought in our mind, and that is the advancement of the cause we love.

THE CHAIRMAN: The report of the Secretary will be referred to the Committee on Secretary's Report. This Committee will be as follows: Capt. E. W. Gould, Missouri, Chairman; George W. Kates, New York; Mrs. Marie Wheeler-Brown, District of Columbia; Mrs. M. M. Haire, Illinois; David Sheppard, Massachusetts.

MRS. BARRETT: Mr. Chairman, a committee was appointed at Lily Dale, N. Y., by the National Young People's Spiritualist Union, which had assembled there in their first annual convention, to present to this body the question of the Union becoming an auxiliary of the National Spiritualists Association. I therefore move that a special hour be set aside for the consideration of this matter.

The question being put to vote was unanimously adopted.

THE CHAIRMAN: The first hour of Wednesday afternoon's session is designated for the consideration of this question.

MR. BACON: As our worthy Treasurer is paymaster for "Uncle Sam," and as there is a hungry horde of his em-

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ployees waiting for their pay, I have been requested by him to read his report, which I would like to do at this time.

THE CHAIRMAN: The report will be received.

MR. BACON reads:

WASHINGTON, D. C., October , 1898.

The National Spiritualists Association of the United States ana Canada:

I submit the following report of the receipts and expenditures for the year ending September 30, 1898:

Balance on hand October 1, 1897		$1,124.61
Received from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 1897	$1,340.10	
Received from Jan. 1 to March 31, 1898.	684.76	
Received from April 1 to Sept. 30, 1898.	772.48	$2,797.34
Total on hand and received during the year		$3,921.95
Disbursed from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 1897	$1,292.85	
Disbursed from Jan. 1 to March 31, 1898.	787.32	
Disbursed from April 1 to Sept. 30, 1898.	598.59	
Total disbursements during the year		$2,678.76
On hand Sept. 30, 1898		$1,243.19

RECAPITULATION.

General Fund	$256.15	
Mediums' Fund	520.14	
Babe Will Fund	466.90	
		$1,243.19

In hand, deed No. 31 of the Queen City Park Association, South Burlington, Vermont, donated to the "N. S. A." by Mrs. Isadore E. Bussey.

GEO. S. CLENDANIEL,
Treasurer.

THE CHAIRMAN: The report will be referred to the Committee on Treasurer's Report and Auditing Accounts.

The Committee on Credentials at this time submitted a supplementary report, which was accepted.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Convention is now adjourned.

MORNING MEETING.

WEDNESDAY, October 20, 10.00 A. M.

President Barrett in the Chair.

Singing by the audience.

THE CHAIRMAN: The first order of business is the reception

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of the report of the Special Financial Agents, Mr. E. W. Sprague, Capt. E. W. Gould, Mr. Frank Walker, and two or three others.

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, while I have been handling more or less finances in connection with work under the auspices of the National Association, I have been unable to do any great amount of direct soliciting for the N. S. A., although I have turned over to the Secretary a small amount of funds. I do not remember the exact amount. That is all the report I have to make.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the statement of Mr. Walker. What is your pleasure?

MR. LOCKE: I move the report be accepted and entered upon the journal. Adopted.

CAPT. GOULD: I have to beg the indulgence of the Convention until this afternoon.

THE CHAIRMAN: The request is granted. Mr. Sprague is not present. Are there other financial agents to report?

SECRETARY WOODBURY: Mrs. Prior has not sent in any written report, but it would be very unjust to one of the most faithful missionaries we ever had if an allusion were not made to the magnificent work she has done for this Association, financially, especially during the past two months.

In Seattle she raised some thirty dollars, and has repeated it since in California. Not only that, but her work in Atlanta, Ga., has been very successful. Her audiences there have been large and representative, and she has been very successful in missionary work in the South. I simply make this statement because I believe in justice. I believe Mrs. Prior should receive the thanks of this Convention for her faithful work for the National Spiritualists Association. (Applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the remarks of our Secretary with reference to the work of our missionary, Mrs. Loe F. Prior. What is your pleasure?

MRS. RICHMOND: I move that they be accepted, with the thanks of the Convention, and entered upon the journal.

Adopted unanimously.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sprague is not present. The next in order is the report of delegates. Has any delegate any special report to make concerning the work in his locality?

MRS. CADWALLADER: I think there is a special report from the Woman's Progressive Union of Philadelphia, who asked especially to have it read before the Convention. Has the delegate from that society the paper with her?

MRS. HILL: No.

MRS. CADWALLADER: Would it be satisfactory if it was made

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personally? It is under the seal of the Association and has been prepared, and I think—

THE CHAIRMAN: It should come under the head of unfinished business. Are there any communications or letters to be read at this time?

SECRETARY WOODBURY: I have received a lengthy communication that I could give you the gist of, from the society of Van Wert, Ohio, and while it is one of the smallest societies it has been one of the most faithful supporters we have, financially. Mrs. Klein has for a long term of years, without salary, conducted services for this society. There are, I think, but twelve members, but this association is as representative a body of people as we have in America, by their truly spiritual work, and Mrs. Klein desired that I should express to you their loyalty to organization, and their prayers that this Convention might result in advancing the Cause of Spiritualism. (Applause.)

MRS. CADWALLADER: A copy of the report of the Woman's Progressive Union is here, if it could be received at this time.

THE CHAIRMAN: If there is no objection it will be received.

MRS. CADWALLADER reads:

PHILADELPHIA, October 15, 1898.

MR. H. D. BARRETT, *President of the N. S. A.*

DEAR SIR: At a meeting of the Woman's Progressive Union of Philadelphia, held two weeks ago, it was voted unanimously to ask for some explanation as to why we have not received our charter from the N. S. A.

The action of the executives of your body toward this Union has been questionable from the time we first applied for a charter. We complied with all the requirements of the constitution and by-laws in making the application, desiring to affiliate with the N. S. A. Not expecting to be refused a charter, being a well-known society, we elected a delegate to the Convention in 1897, and paid the expenses of twenty other members of the Union to the Convention, so that each member could become familiar with the workings of the National body.

Arriving in Washington, we were informed that the charter had not been granted. We protested against such action, and a special meeting of the Board was called to consider the matter, resulting in the charter being granted and our delegate seated the second day of the Convention, though no explanation was offered for the delay.

Many of the members present feeling they had been unjustly discriminated against, wished to refuse the charter,

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but consented to abide by the decision of the majority of those present, hoping that some explanation would come later, as to why the charter had not been granted at the regular Board meeting.

We wished to do our part well and paid $10 into the N. S. A. Since the last Convention we have received no communication from the officers of the N. S. A. except a notice from the Secretary to send more money and elect a delegate. We have not as yet received our charter even, and wish to know if it is the intention of the officials of the N. S. A. to withhold it altogether, or is it due to the neglect of the Secretary.

Having been a working body of Spiritualists for a number of years, every one of our members having been closely identified with the cause of Spiritualism for many years, we feel it is due us to receive some satisfactory answer to this inquiry, which will direct our future course in regard to the National body. We have, therefore, instructed our delegate to present this letter at the Convention in Washington in October, 1898, and await the response of the National body.

Respectfully and fraternally,

THE WOMAN'S PROGRESSIVE UNION,

MARY E. HUMPHRIE,

[SEAL] *President.*

HELEN A. MILLIMAN,

Secretary.

SECRETARY WOODBURY: That there was no intention to slight this society in regard to its charter is very evident from the fact that its members were notified to elect a delegate to this Convention, and to send in their annual dues. It is a fact that during the past year we have lost several charters in transit through the mails. The President can bear witness that the Texas charter was lost. If this charter was lost, I did not know it, as the society did not report it to me. I cannot, nor can any other person, conduct the office of the National Association as a medium and find out these mistakes through mediumship. I did not know that this society had not received its charter. Had I been so informed they would have received one in the next mail. I know this charter was made out; I know it was mailed, and I have nothing more to say on the subject.

MRS. CADWALLADER: I think the important part of the letter is this—at least the understanding of the members of the Woman's Progressive Union is this: They did not so much feel the slight neglect about the charter that they did

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feel when they came here last year and found their charter had not been granted them, although at the time there were on the Board of Trustees members who were personally acquainted with the names of the officers of their society. Although they had sent in their application, and had fulfilled every requirement of the constitution, the statement was made that the charter was not granted, but was laid aside for further consideration. They felt that, as there were many here in the audience who could answer any question that might be asked, it could easily have been found out that first day, and then have the charter granted, but, unfortunately, the one member of the delegation then present seems to think the charter would not have been granted had it not been for the advice of a lawyer on that occasion, who said that there was no reason, and could be no reason, for refusing a charter. One of the delegates said it was the richest society in America, and some of the members felt the charter was granted simply because they had money that could be drawn on.

They are a body of Spiritualists who have been doing work for years and years, and are inclined to be sensitive, hence asked their delegates to call your attention to the matter. Was it an intentional slight on the part of the executive officers? They feel that they were not properly treated at the last Convention. I call upon the President of the Board of Trustees to explain this matter to the Convention.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question of a charter for the Woman's Progressive Union came before the last Board meeting, held prior to the opening of the Convention. It was laid over for further information. I, myself, did not know the nature of this especial society, and I so stated to Mrs. Kilgore, who was here at that time as a delegate. Dr. Fuller, another member of our Board, investigated the matter and reported that the society had been established many years, and represented many important interests. The matter was reopened upon his petition, a charter unanimously granted, and the delegate seated on the second day of the Convention. The application for charter was received some days before the opening of the Convention, but could not be acted upon until the last Board meeting held, as I have stated. These are the facts in the case.

MRS. CADWALLADER: Mr. Chairman, so far as we who have presented this petition are concerned, we accept this explanation. We, as delegates, now have nothing to do but report it to the Union. I want the delegates to understand that this, being given under sealed instructions, had to be

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presented on the floor of the Convention. I thank you all very much.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair disclaims any intent on the part of the Board to be unjust to any auxiliary society in regard to charters. He has received since coming to this city, a letter regarding the non-appearance of a charter. The society has refused to have anything to do with the N. S. A. on account of it, and I think the Secretary can bear out the statement that the charter was mailed more than a year ago. That was the Louisville, Ky., society.

MR. WOODBURY: That is a very unlucky society in regard to charters. I cannot explain how these charters became destroyed in the mails unless it is in piling heavy materials on them. I know that this charter was granted and delivered. We have delivered two charters there, a man taking one and going away with it, and never giving it over to the society. I know of two or three charters that are in the hands of individuals who are not on good terms with the society and refuse to give them up.

(At this time the Credentials Committee submitted an additional report, which was accepted.)

MRS. CADWALLADER: I wish to bring up an important matter in regard to charters. I was in Los Angeles, Cal., last winter, where a very thriving society existed. Its members were talking about the National, and unanimously voted to take a charter from it. They intrusted me with the money for it, and now wish to know (and I was very much surprised when I was approached about it) where their five dollars went to, as they have received no return for it. I hold a receipt from the President of the National Association showing that I gave the money to him. He has thus made an account of it, but what became of it?

A committee also waited upon me in Los Angeles, asking me to help them get a charter from the National. They represented no Spiritualist society, according to their statement, but said that their idea was to make Spiritualism a secondary matter. They wished to take up social problems, and claimed that many Spiritualists in Los Angeles would aid and encourage them if they could get a charter from the National. I called their attention to our objects, saying our National Association was for the consolidation of the various organized societies into one body, and it distinctly states that they must be spiritualistic societies. They replied: "Well, is not Spiritualism large enough to take in the labor movement, the political movement, the social movement, as well as the spiritualistic movement?" "Yes," I said, "but

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the National Association, in its by-laws, states it must be a spiritualistic Association." "Well," they said, "can't we get a charter?" I said, "I would advise you, in making an application, if you make it at all, to state the objects of your society." I warned them that it was not possible for the National, under its present constitution, to grant them a charter, and so I advised against a charter being granted, but now I find they claim to hold a charter. When shall we have some recognized interest in societies that we may be able to seat our delegates properly? Are we going to have a society that does not pay its dues allowed to seat a delegate here? Are we going to allow a society that is not in working order throughout the year to seat a delegate here? I know at least one society represented on this floor that is practically defunct. How are the delegates to know whether the other delegates are representing healthy societies, that support and pay their dues toward the National Association?

I move that some amendment be brought before this Convention whereby the delegates may know that every delegate is representing a society that has complied with every requirement of the Constitution and By-Laws, so that no society shall be entitled to representation on the floor of this Convention that has not paid its dues and contributed to the expenses of the Association.

MRS. RICHMOND: I rise to second this motion because I want to bring before the Convention a matter in direct connection with it. Our Constitution does state that this Association is a Spiritualists Association; but very recently I have had the question asked me by a society that wishes to join the National Association, whether, if a society has primarily some other objects in view, but is in sympathy with the spiritualistic cause, it can be granted a charter. Take, for instance, a society similar to the Young People's Union, or some of the charitable associations that are interested in the cause of Spiritualism, should wish to join the National, would it be compatible with the wishes of this Convention that that society, though not distinctly a spiritualistic body, but making Spiritualism an object or portion of that society, could join the National? We have had several communications from fraternal associations, and they wish to know if they could affiliate with us, and I hope this will be discussed in the Convention, with a view of settling this very point that has been raised.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved and seconded that the question of determining the exact status of all local auxiliary societies, and the relation of fraternal associations having

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some points in common with our National Association, be referred to the Committee on Amendments with instructions to bring in an amendment to the by-laws covering this important matter.

Carried.

MRS. CADWALLADER: It having been represented by several societies that applications for charters have been made, and the charters have not been received, and the Secretary having said that the charters were mailed and lost, I move that a committee shall be appointed by the Chair to visit the Dead Letter Office in this city to trace the lost charters, and, further, that hereafter all charters be sent to the societies by registered mail.

MR. HULL: I move a substitute. It would be a good deal of work to look up lost charters. I move that the Secretary be instructed to hereafter send charters either by express or registered mail.

SECRETARY WOODBURY: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the substitute offered by Mr. Hull and seconded by Secretary Woodbury.

MRS. CADWALLADER: I object to the substitute. The statement has been made that these charters have been lost. It is not very much work for either the Secretary to be instructed, or a committee to be appointed, to simply inquire at the Dead Letter Office. We have a just complaint, and it is our duty to send to the Dead Letter Office and ask them to trace the matter. Certainly either a committee could do this or a letter might be sent by this Convention, for we have a just cause of complaint against the mailing department if the charters have been lost.

SECRETARY WOODBURY: I am interested in this and would like to look this matter up.

MRS. RICHMOND: It would seem to me that in a certain sense this is somewhat of a reflection on the Secretary. The President himself has stated that he is aware of the loss of certain charters. It is also well known that there are sometimes local schisms, through which one party might have the charter and does not deliver it to the society. I think if we adopt Mr. Hull's substitute it would certainly provide against any loss of charters in the future, and it is perfectly clear that these charters have been lost in some way that is not only unaccountable to the Secretary, but one that is as unaccountable, possibly, to the mailing department.

MR. WALKER: I think that our Vice President has covered the point exactly. I feel that the substitute should be adopted.

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MR. HILL: I would like to ask the Secretary if he has any record in his office of sending the charters in question?

SECRETARY WOODBURY: The charter was sent immediately after the convention last fall.

MR. HILL: That is not answering my question.

No reply.

MR. HILL (continuing): I ask, Mr. President, if there is any record of that charter being sent? I know that the Secretary was required to keep a copy of everything that went out of his office. He has copy books and tools to do it with. When charters are sent to any society or association, a letter should be written enclosing the charter, the date should be there, and it should be on the copy book of the Secretary. If it is done as it should be the copy will be there now. That will settle the whole question.

No reply.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is on the substitute, that the Secretary be instructed to hereafter send all charters by express or registered mail. This substitute is offered for the motion to instruct the Chair to appoint a committee of three to wait upon the Dead Letter Office in Washington and see if they could trace the charters that are missing. The stenographer and Assistant Secretary will act as tellers. The substitute is adopted by a vote of 28 ayes to 13 nays.

MRS. CADWALLADER: I feel that by the adoption of this substitute we have put ourselves on record as objecting to the consideration of the transactions of our officers between conventions. We are the supreme body, and when our societies make a request to have a thing traced, it is a reflection on no one, but is simply a matter of business. We have been criticised for referring everything to the incoming Board. I simply want to know if you, in adopting this substitute, object to having the Secretary trace this thing. It was only such a simple request. We ask that it be traced, and I think if you will look at it in the proper light you hardly can oppose it.

MR. KATES: I move that the Secretary be directed to trace all charters that are missing.

Adopted.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair will now appoint the balance of the standing committees:

Committee on Finance, Ways and Means: Moses Hull, New York, Chairman; Mrs. May S. Pepper, Rhode Island; Mrs. Jennie B. Hagan-Jackson, Texas; Mr. E. W. Wallis, Ontario; Dr. A. A. Kimball, Massachusetts.

Committee on Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws: Frank Walker, New York, Chairman; Miss Lizzie

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Harlow, Rhode Island; Mrs. L. V. Moulton, Michigan; Mr. H. C. Dorn, New Jersey; Mrs. A. M. Glading, Pennsylvania.

Committee on Auditing Accounts and Treasurer's Report: Mrs. Carrie L. Hatch, Massachusetts, Chairman; Dr. Paul Gibier, New York; Hon. Thos. M. Locke, Pennsylvania; Mrs. A. M. Jaquess, District of Columbia; Mr. Andrew Kay, New Jersey.

Committee on Delegates' Reports: Mrs. M. E. Cadwallader, Pennsylvania, Chairman; Mr. B. M. Bradbury, Maine; Mrs. Carrie F. Loring, Massachusetts; Prof. C. P. Longley, California; Mrs. F. H. Spaulding, Connecticut.

It will be the duty of the delegates from each State, at their earliest convenience, to select one person from each delegation here represented as a member of the Committee on Nominations, to report to-morrow afternoon at half-past four. The next order of business is the reception of letters.

SECRETARY WOODBURY: I have several letters to be presented.

MR. LOCKE: I move that these communications be laid upon the table until all amendments to the By-Laws have been acted upon. This question can be acted upon in the proper order.

Adopted.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair has in hand a communication from Nebraska. Shall it be read at this time?

MRS. RICHMOND: I move it be referred to the Committee on Correspondence.

Carried.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair will appoint the following-named persons as the Committee on Correspondence: Dr. A. A. Kimball, Massachusetts, Chairman; Mrs. Carrie R. Chapman, District of Columbia; Mrs. Tillie U. Reynolds, New York.

MR. WALLIS: Representing the London, Ont., Society, I have been requested by the Spiritualists of Canada to ask the question as to how far the charter is valid in Canada, under Canadian laws. How far will it hold in a legal case? Does it give them any legal recognition in Canada, seeing that Canada is under British laws, not those of the United States? They are inclined to think that they obtain no protection by being associated with this body, and they asked me to question the matter for their satisfaction.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentleman from Canada has presented a very important matter. It has come up before. The Chair will state that, by virtue of a charter from the National Association, any society in the Dominion of Canada becomes one of the units of this Association. The National body is obli-

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gated to assist that local body to the extent of its power in sustaining its meetings and in protecting its speakers and mediums in case any trouble should arise, just the same as it would any society in the United States. It is just as much a part of this Association as if it were on this side of the Canadian line.

MRS. RICHMOND: I think Mr. Wallis' question is one that has arisen through mistaking a charter from this Association for a charter under the civil law in the locality where the society exists. A charter with this Association gives no local society any legal rights in any community where it may be located, even in the United States. They must charter under their respective State laws. It would not protect the society so far as the laws of Canada are concerned, excepting with reference to its relation to the National Association. A charter does not carry any legal rights with it, but societies are governed by the laws of the State or country in which they are located.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any orders to be assigned?

SECRETARY WOODBURY: With regard to the matter of charters, Section 2 of Article 4 of the By-Laws (page 19) states:

"The Board of Trustees shall, at its earliest convenience, pass upon said application, either by full Board or committee, and if said application is approved by a majority of the entire Board, a charter shall issue accordingly."

The average society, when it applies for a charter, expects that charter to be sent to them by the next mail. There have been a great many serious mistakes made about this, which reflected upon the National Association. It seems this matter should receive your consideration this year. We had no Board meeting from April until September. The President instructed me, I believe October 27, 1897:

"That charters will hereafter be signed only at our quarterly Board meeting, when they have been duly granted by the Board. When applications for charters are received you will please send receipts for the same, and a statement that they will be acted upon at our next meeting."

Now, the President and myself, I think, are entitled to a fair statement in regard to granting charters. This year we have been placed in a most unfortunate condition. Sometimes we have been unable to grant charters, but we have been held strictly liable to the advice of the majority of the Board. Is not that correct?

THE CHAIRMAN: It is correct.

SECRETARY WOODBURY (continuing): I would like to have this matter discussed by this Convention as to what shall be

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done in regard to granting charters. Shall the Executive Committee have full power to grant a charter immediately?

MRS. RICHMOND: It would be a waste of time. I know that the Board of Trustees has to act in accordance with the Constitution, hence it is unnecessary that this matter should be discussed further. I think the resolution which was adopted fully covered this ground.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair believes this matter is fully covered by the Constitution.

MRS. CADWALLADER: It says here, "If said application is approved by a majority of the entire Board, a charter shall issue accordingly." It seems to me that there is a rule the Secretary could act upon if need be, without having the society wait six months for its charter. Why could not the approval of the majority be obtained by correspondence? If this Convention would so instruct and empower the incoming Board the societies would feel better, for they do like to get their charter when they apply for it, and are not willing to wait six months for it; then they lose interest, and the Secretary is perfectly justified in saying he is put in an unpleasant position in this matter.

MR. LOCKE: I move this subject matter be referred to the Committee on Amendments with instructions to act.

Adopted.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any other new business to be introduced, or order to be assigned? Hearing none we will pass to the consideration of the next division of our work. That is the report of the Committee on the President's report and the Vice President's report. The Committee is not yet ready to make its report. What is the pleasure of the Convention?

If the delegates will rise the Sergeant-at-Arms will present each one of them with a copy of the *Banner of Light* containing the full report of the President.

MRS. CADWALLADER: May I make a resolution?

THE CHAIRMAN: The resolution will be received.

MRS. CADWALLADER: Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates, I wish to offer a resolution:

"WHEREAS, The reports of our officers bring much information into our Convention, and as the advantage of having all recommendations in our hands when called upon to act on the same, is apparent to us as delegates, be it therefore

"*Resolved*, That the incoming Board be instructed to see to it in future, about four weeks before the Convention assembles, to publish the Secretary's, Treasurer's, President's and Vice President's and other important reports, especially all

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recommendations in the Spiritual Press; that the Secretary be instructed to send a copy of these papers to each chartered society, asking the officers to bring them before their meetings, and instruct their delegates as to how they would like to have them act on this matter."

I wish to say in this connection, when in England at the Convention of the National Federation of Spiritualists, every delegate on the floor had in his possession a copy of the Secretary's report and financial statement, the Treasurer's report, the Organizer's report, and every prominent motion that was liable to be brought before the convention. It is their rule to send them out in advance to every society connected with them, and the delegates come prepared to vote on all matters. The society at home is thoroughly in touch with the work of the convention, and the delegates come prepared to act.

MRS. RICHMOND: I second the resolution and move that the matter be referred to the Committee on Resolutions, with power to act.

MR. LOCKE: It strikes me that one month would not give our officers an opportunity to say what had been done during the fiscal year. I don't see how we can refer this matter to a committee with instructions to act upon it. It would be illogical, and I think untenable. These reports should cover a period of one year, up to the time of the convention. I think it would be entirely too soon, and when these delegates assemble here in convention, they wish to know what the Board has done for the full year. It would be compelling the officers to do a thing that would be against their better judgment, if we were to thus rule.

SECRETARY WOODBURY: I do not understand how any such move can be made, because when we get ready for the convention every year, since I have been connected with the National Association, we have always been obliged to work nights, because the societies do not send in their reports until the last possible moment. How can you make any such statement to the public until information is received at the office upon which to base it?

MR. HATCH: I would like to say in relation to printing the reports four weeks in advance, that it would be impossible for us in Massachusetts to do so. Many of our societies do not meet until October, consequently the making of our reports four weeks in advance is impossible, as we would not know who the delegates are to be.

MRS. CADWALLADER: I rise to offer an amendment. We are not referring to the delegates' report, but to the President's

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report. The criticism has been made all over the country that we do not keep the chartered societies in touch with the work of the Association during the year. There have been no communications between the National Association and its societies excepting to notify them about the dues. My idea in presenting this is not to give the whole work of the year, but a brief statement thereof. The recommendations, or at least some of the recommendations, that the President has made could have been made last March, while others could have been made last June. I withdraw that part of the resolution regarding a full report, and amend the same as follows: That this Convention instruct the incoming President to send a succinct statement of the work of this Association quarterly to each chartered society, that they may know what our officers are doing.

MRS. BARRETT: I move to amend by instructing the incoming President to prepare a quarterly report and publish it in the spiritual press every quarter.

SECRETARY WOODBURY: The most successful times we had in the National Association was when the President gave to the country every three months, through the press, a brief report of the business that had been transacted. I do not believe, however, that we could ever reach the Spiritualists of this country in such a manner, because they do not take the Spiritualist papers. If these reports are printed in the Spiritualist papers, those Spiritualists who are Spiritualists enough to read them will then see what we are about.

MR. WALLIS: I notice that your Constitution says: "The annual dues of a chartered society shall be due and payable on or before the 1st day of October in each year." That would give time to prepare the balance sheet, and have it in the paper before the Convention met. It could then come before local societies, and the delegates would come to this Convention with some idea of what they ought to do, through consultation with their society in regard to the course they should take. We find that this plan works well. Mrs. Cadwallader is mistaken in saying a month before the Convention. It is printed within a few days before. We print our President's report, the Secretary's report and the balance sheet, so that each member has the facts before him. It saves the time of the Convention. Had we taken those reports as read we might have been acting upon them before now and discussing the various recommendations that have been made, but now the delegates have to act on their own initiative.

MR. DORN: I think the suggestion of our brother is all right

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but I am going to place the blame where the blame belongs, not upon the National Association, but upon the chartered societies. My society did not send in its dues until I came here myself. Now how can the National Association make up a report when it did not have the facts? I am not alone in this, I know, and my society is not the only one that does that kind of work. Some of our other organizations are also at fault, hence this Convention should not blame our officers for the neglect of the local societies.

MR. KATES: I have a motion to make, and wish to preface it with a little statement. It is necessary to save as much time as possible in our conventions. We know that our last day's work is always hastily run over, while the first day is devoted to preliminaries. I move the following substitute: "That the Board of Trustees, before the assembling of the Convention, have printed in pamphlet form the reports of its officers for distribution in the Convention and then refer officially to these without having them read before the Convention." The delegates would want these reports and not the societies. These reports could be distributed to the delegates upon assembling and referred to the proper committees, the same as we do now.

MRS. RUSSEGUE: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the substitute. Are there any remarks?

MRS. BARRETT: I do not think the delegates are the only ones who should know what has been done by our officers. They should come here instructed and have some idea as to what they are going to do. The substitute does not cover the point.

MRS. RICHMOND: I would object to having the reports published in the Spiritual press unless they published in every paper, for the reason that we have already been accused of favoring one publication. Other spiritualistic papers have a right to be considered in this matter. It should be sent to all the Spiritualist papers. I would favor that motion, but not in going to the expense of a special pamphlet of these reports.

MR. HATCH: I am in favor of the motion, with one exception, and that is in regard to sending the printing matter to the delegates. I think before we can do that the first thing we have got to do is to do away with the proxies. Two-thirds of our delegates could not have anything sent to them, for we don't know who they are, and I don't know how you can find out who they are going to be. If they were sent to the societies I believe it would be better than to send them to the delegates. I don't think the delegate has a right to judge.

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The society should judge. The State of Massachusetts sent me here to work for its interests and I am doing so, but when we have to allow proxies on the floor, though they may make as good officers as any we have, they cannot act as can the direct representatives.

MR. WALLIS: The motion was that the reports should be sent to the societies and not to the delegates.

MR. KATES: The substitute provides that the delegates on the floor be supplied with the printed reports.

MR. WALLIS: Then there are two motions before the house. Mr. Kates' motion is a substitute. I want to call your attention to this one fact, that by your own Constitution, the societies that do not pay their dues before the 1st day of October are not qualified to have representation here.

THE CHAIRMAN: They can have representation on behalf of their charter.

MR. WALLIS: You are entitled to representation under the charter, but your financial statement ends on the 1st day of October. All moneys coming in after that go into the next year's report.

MR. HATCH: If the reports are to be handed to the delegates on the floor, they would have to be published in all of the papers of the United States. You must have papers enough to distribute to the delegates when they come here, or print the reports in pamphlet form.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair would like to make one statement here. In 1896 the President's annual report was prepared at an early date and copies sent to all the Spiritualist papers in this country. The *Progressive Thinker* published it in full, while the other papers published brief extracts. Last year Mr. Francis telegraphed for a copy, and he again published it in full. This year he also received a copy, and will probably do the same thing.

The question is upon the adoption of the substitute of Mr. Kates, that the incoming Board be instructed to see that the reports of its officers are published in pamphlet form and distributed to the delegates on the floor of the convention, but not read before the convention.

Adopted.

MR. DORN: I move that no delegate be permitted to vote upon any question that comes before the Convention, unless the dues of his society are paid by the 1st of October previous.

MRS. CADWALLADER: It has already been ruled that they could have representation on behalf of their charter.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Dorn's motion changes the Constitution, hence it cannot be acted upon.

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MRS. RICHMOND: I rise to ask a question. I understand that there is an amendment pending to make the annual conventions of this Association movable. Is it true?

THE CHAIRMAN: That is true.

MRS. RICHMOND: On the fourth page, Article 4 of the Constitution, it says:

"The officers of this Association shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be Trustees, and with five others shall constitute a Board of nine Trustees, who shall be elected by ballot at a regular annual convention by the delegates assembled."

Now, if we change our place of meeting and have our annual Convention outside of the jurisdiction of the District of Columbia our action will not be legal unless this article is changed in the constitution, as well as in the by-laws. I submit this to any lawyer present.

MRS. CADWALLADER: Should not the election take place at the domicile of the Association? I understand that all incorporated bodies are obliged to hold their annual elections at the places where they are legally chartered.

THE CHAIRMAN: Article 9, page 12, of the Constitution, reads:

"The annual convention of this Association shall be held in the city of Washington, D. C., on the third Tuesday in October. The President of the National Association shall preside, and the Secretary of said Association shall be Secretary of the convention. The authorized voters shall be the duly elected delegates from the various chartered Associations. At this convention the regular election of the officers and Board of Trustees for the ensuing year shall take place, and all necessary business be transacted."

There is an amendment pending to have this article changed. The delegates can amend it as they see fit, because due notice has been given of the offered amendment. But no other portion of the Constitution can be amended, because no notice has been published thirty days in advance, as required. But if a delegate should arise here and offer an amendment to the Constitution he could do so, and would have a right to have his amendment entered upon the minutes of this Association, to be called up at the next convention, and there acted upon.

MRS. RICHMOND: If we make our conventions movable, will it be legal under our charter from the District of Columbia? I believe our business must be transacted in this District. As we have received bequests we might jeopardize our

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financial standing by making such a change. I hope there will be no alteration that will violate our legal standing.

MR. KATES: We have the right to the legal use of our constitution so long as we transact our official business at the place of incorporation. Our place of incorporation is in this city, hence it is the place where the business of the Board of Trustees must be transacted. Our convention is quite another matter. We can amend our constitution and hold our annual conventions where we please without legal process whatever.

MRS. RICHMOND: I would like to ask Mr. Locke if all corporations do not have to elect their officers at their place of domicile? I know they do it in Cassadaga, and I know the Woman's Suffrage Association selects its officers at Rochester.

SECRETARY WOODBURY: I believe Mr. T. J. Mayer has obtained legal advice in this matter.

MRS. ARMSTRONG: I rise to answer Mrs. Richmond, yet I am not a delegate.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any objection to the lady speaking to the subject? The Chair hears none.

MRS. ARMSTRONG: What called me to my feet is to speak of our Woman's Suffrage Association. I have been associated with our National Suffrage Association for many years. Our charter was granted in Washington, and we are a movable body. We are obliged every other year to return here to Washington. Our business can be transacted anywhere, and our officers can be elected anywhere, wherever our annual meeting is held.

MRS. RICHMOND: Have you a regular domicile for the transaction of business?

MRS. ARMSTRONG: No. It matters not where our charter has been taken out, our business does not have to be done in that city.

MR. HATCH: Does not our Constitution and By-Laws read different from theirs?

THE CHAIRMAN: If the history of the National Association down to date is on this floor, you will find the charter of this Association in full in that history.

MRS. ARMSTRONG: Our original charter read the same as yours. We were obliged to do as you do—we held every meeting in Washington. About four years ago we amended it in order to become a movable body. We are obliged every other year to hold it in Washington, but the next year we go elsewhere.

MR. MAYER: I would state that I saw our attorney, Mr. Bar-

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nard, in regard to our holding our conventions in another city, and he looked over our Constitution and By-Laws very carefully. He also looked over our District laws, and he says as long as we did not move our headquarters from Washington City, we might hold our conventions anywhere in the United States we pleased. He suggested that we amend our Constitution to read, instead of "that the Annual Convention should be held in the city of Washington," "At such other times and place as the Association may determine at any annual meeting." This is his suggestion and his advice. If we want to hold the convention any other place it can be done with perfect legality.

MRS. CADWALLADER: Are we not forgetting that there should be a time limit to the notice?

MR. MAYER: Providing we gave thirty days notice of that amendment to the Constitution, previous to the annual convention.

THE CHAIRMAN: This matter will have to come before the Convention again when the Committee on Amendments makes its report. Therefore further discussion is out of order.

MR. STANGLEN: Mr. President, sister and brother delegates, an injustice has been done one of the Spiritualist churches of Baltimore, and I feel it is my duty to speak of it at this time. Our church sent over our delegate's credentials by registered letter, together with our annual dues. Tne dues were received, but I suppose, during the hurry of the Convention, the credentials have been misplaced. I appeal to this Convention to seat Mr. Thomas J. Wheeler as delegate from the Third Spiritualist Church of Baltimore, Md.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is so ordered. Mr. Wheeler is declared duly seated.

MR. WALLIS: I move that the nominations of officers be sent from the societies to the Secretary at least thirty days before the Convention, and that all the names of those who are nominated be published in the Spiritual press at least a fortnight before the Convention.

MRS. SPALDING: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: This matter will have to be referred to the Committee on Amendments. It is so ordered.

The Convention is now adjourned.

AFTERNOON MEETING.

WEDNESDAY, October 19, 2.30 P. M.

President Barrett in the Chair.

Singing by the congregation.

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THE CHAIRMAN: The first order of business this afternoon was assigned to the National Young People's Spiritualist Union. Mr. I. C. I. Evans, its President, is now in order and has the floor.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, I am only a fraternal delegate to this Convention, and therefore am not entitled to the privileges of the floor, but I have been instructed by the Union of which I am President, to present to this Convention a summary of its work up to the present time, and to urge that action be taken by this body by which the Union can become an auxiliary to the N. S. A. I would like to submit my report to the Convention at this time, and also a report of the Secretary of the Union, Miss Anna M. Steinberg, of this city.

THE CHAIRMAN: The reports will be received and read by the Reading Clerk.

READING CLERK:

OCTOBER 19, 1898.

Mr. Chairman, delegates and friends:

The duties of official stenographer to this Convention having been delegated to me, it becomes necessary to present my report in writing for your official action thereon.

As may be seen on pages 81 to 83 of the report of the fifth Annual Convention of this body, a communication was presented, over the signatures of Mr. W. H. and Mrs. E. P. Bach, in their official capacity as a special committee of the Young People's Spiritualist Union of Lily Dale, N. Y., in which they outlined the success that body had attained and asked that authority be given the proper officers of the N. S. A. to issue a charter to a society to be organized in the interest of the young people among the Spiritualists, and to give their endorsement to an effort to organize such a Union at the proposed Jubilee. That communication was referred to a special committee, consisting of Mr. Frank Walker, New York, chairman; Mrs. M. Wheeler Brown, District of Columbia; Mr. George W. Kates, New York; Mrs. Nettie Holt-Harding, Massachusetts, and Dr. Mary J. Wright, Connecticut. In due season that committee presented its report, favorably agreeing with the recommendations of the Young People's Spiritualist Union of Lily Dale, which report was unanimously adopted by the Convention.

The proposition being thus endorsed, Mr. Walker, as manager of the Jubilee, took up the question with the Lily Dale Union, which body recommended that the management of this branch of the Jubilee—the formation of a National Young People's Union—be delegated to the undersigned. Mr. Walker

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tendered the position to the writer and finally persuading him to accept its responsibilities, he was duly appointed as Superintendent of the Young People's Department of the Jubilee.

The question of organizing such a department was promptly taken up; the various young people's societies communicated with, so far as possible; individual parties urged to assist, and every effort made, through the press and by personal correspondence, to secure the co-operation of as many of the young people as possible in the formation of a National Union, to consist of persons between the ages of 16 and 40.

During the Jubilee at Rochester a convention was held by the young people, of which the writer was chosen Chairman pro tem. The report submitted by myself as Superintendent showed a total of 120 charter members, of which 26 were present. The necessary committees were appointed, and the various suggestions which had previously been offered, as a basis for the formation of such an organization, were formally considered, and a constitution adopted.

A number of very important questions having arisen, upon which it was deemed advisable to consult a larger number of the young people, it was decided to have the constitution, as adopted at Rochester, printed, and copies sent to all the members. This was done and a number of amendments proposed for consideration at the first annual convention of the Union, which it had been determined to hold at Lily Dale, N. Y., August 8, 1898. These amendments were printed and copies sent to all the members.

August 8 to 13, 1898, the first annual convention was held at Lily Dale, N. Y., at which 51 young people entitled to its privileges were present. Formal reports were presented by the President, Secretary and Treasurer; the proposed amendments to the constitution considered, and finally a completed constitution and by-laws adopted. There were also adopted at this convention a model constitution and code of by-laws proposed for local Unions. The report of the President showed a total membership in the Union of 159 members, including those who joined during the convention. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports showed the total receipts since the starting of the Union to have been $57.72 and the disbursements, including debts outstanding, $51.97, leaving a net balance in the treasury of $5.75.

There are at the present time 160 active members in the Union, and in our treasury there is a balance of $60.71.

The objects and aims of this Union may be learned by a careful perusal of the constitution.

The question of this National Union becoming a part of the

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National Spiritualists Association was very carefully yet earnestly acted upon, and unanimously concurred in by the members present, and in order that the claims and present status of the Union might be clearly presented to you, the writer was selected as fraternal delegate, and a committee of four, consisting of Miss Anna M. Steinberg, Washington, D. C., Chairman; Mrs. W. H. Bach, Lily Dale, N. Y.; Mrs. Marguerite C. Barrett, Boston, Mass., and Mrs. M. E. Cadwallader, Philadelphia, Pa., chosen to assist in this presentation, and they were instructed to request such action be taken by this body as would recognize the National Young People's Spiritualist Union as a branch of the National Spiritualists Association. We therefore respectfully urge that this question be carefully considered, and that a committee be appointed to confer with the committee appointed by the N. Y. P. S. U., that they may consider and formulate for presentation to this body such a proposition of affiliation and co-operation as will give to us due recognition and support as the Young People's Department of the National Spiritualists Association.

We take pleasure in calling your attention to the constitution and by-laws of our Union, together with that proposed for local Unions, and ask your co-operation in making this department such a factor in Spiritualism as are the young people's societies of the orthodox churches.

The question of the lyceum is to come before you for action, and we certainly trust and believe it will receive the encouragement it deserves, as this will then make the National Spiritualists Association complete. The National Young People's Spiritualist Union will be the connecting link between the lyceum and the Spiritualist societies, and will also be a part of both. The meetings of the Union will be as a midweek lyceum meeting, to continue to interest and instruct its members in the cause of Spiritualism and to aid in their further advancement. Wherever young people's societies have been formed and carried out upon lines suitable to the people of such ages, they have proven to be most valuable adjuncts to the parent societies.

With this brief review and presentation of the National Young People's Spiritualist Union, which is again commended to your careful consideration, I have the honor to be,

Fraternally,

I. C. I. EVANS,

President of the N. Y. P. S. U. and fraternal delegate to the N. S. A.

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SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE N. S. A.

To the delegates assembled:

The National Young People's Union, in its first annual convention, voted that steps be taken immediately whereby it would be admitted into the National Association as an independent department. To this end a committee was appointed to present the matter before the Sixth Annual Convention of the N. S. A.

The N. Y. P. S. U. seeks the protection and co-operation of the N. S. A., not as a chartered society, but as an independently working department, being national in its character. If the constitution of the National Association does not provide for or admit of such action, we would respectfully suggest that an amendment be adopted by this Convention whereby such provision will be made.

The N. Y. P. S. U. is destined, if conducted on the principles outlined for it and already begun, to become in the near future the mainstay of the National Association. It is a preparatory school, as it were, for our young people before entering into the larger work of the N. S. A. The conventions of the younger body will prove a drill school for the conventions of the older, so when the time comes for the young people to step in the places vacated by our veterans they will be fully prepared by practical training and experience to fill with credit such places. Of the necessity of our union there is undoubtedly no question, and that it will receive the protection and encouragement of the mother association we do most earnestly request.

Trusting that this Convention will adopt a resolution recognizing our Union as an independent department of the National Association, and if necessary take further action in the matter, this request is most respectfully submitted for your consideration.

ANNA M. STEINBERG,
Sec'y N. Y. P. S. U.

MRS. RICHMOND: I move that these be referred to a special committee to confer with the committee of the Young People's Union, with the view of perfecting a thorough union between the two associations.

MRS. HAIRE: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the motion of our Vice President. Are there any remarks?

MRS. CADWALLADER: I move to amend by assigning a special hour to consider the reports of two committees.

MR. KATES: I wish to correct a slight error that I am sure

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my good brother did not intend to make. The committee appointed last year with reference to this matter brought in its report, not recommending the organization of Young People's Spiritualist Unions, but the organization of Young People's Associations. This is important, Mr. President, as was immediately seen, owing to the fact of the organization of the Young People's Spiritual Institute, another distinctive organization. In order to have no conflict, nor to cause any unpleasant feeling upon the part of the N. S. A. between the two, it was thus worded. Therefore I would respectfully ask the worthy President of the Y. P. S. U. to so change his report as to refer to the organization of Young People's Associations. By so doing, the committee to whom the matter may be referred will also make possible the chartering and affiliating of the Y. P. S. I.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question now is upon the motion to instruct the Chair to appoint a committee to confer with the committee of the Y. P. S. U.

It is adopted. The Chair wishes to have a little time before appointing this committee.

The report of the Committee on President's Report is now in order and will be received.

MR. WIGGIN: The report will be ready in about five minutes.

MR. HULL: The Committee on Finance, Ways and Means has its report ready.

THE CHAIRMAN: It will be received.

MR. HULL: Reads: Your committee suggests that public appeals be made at this Convention for financial support; that all societies be requested to hold at *least one* "social" during the coming season.

Mrs. Pepper will give a seance once a month in different towns. Mr. Hull, Mrs. Jennie Hagan-Jackson and Mr. Wallis will give one lecture per month, outside of their usual engagements, if societies will avail themselves of their services to help the N. S. A., and we suggest that other mediums and speakers should "go and do likewise," and regard it as a duty to assist the N. S. A. In this way, this committee will be pleased to receive and record their offers.

That "Home Circles" should be held by Spiritualists during the coming season, and, at the close of each circle, a small contribution from each sitter should be dropped into an "N. S. A. Missionary Box," which box should be opened and its contents forwarded to the Secretary a month before the next convention.

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We respectfully suggest that each speaker shall present the claims of the N. S. A. before the congregations they address as often as possible.

The members of your committee are individually prepared to take up contributions for the N. S. A. during the Convention.

We recommend the adoption of the suggestion that the office of President be in future a non-salaried one, the incumbent thereof to receive compensation for the time actually expended in the necessary service of the N. S. A.

Your committee recommends that Special Financial Agents be appointed under bonds, by the Trustees, to solicit funds for the N. S. A., and suggest that duplicate receipt books be printed; that the said agents shall give a receipt to every person from whom they shall receive donations, and that the N. S. A. Missionaries be provided with similar collecting books.

We appreciate the generosity of the President in offering to be one of one hundred persons to give or raise $50 during the coming year, and recommend that all who *can* do so, follow his example.

While the President is entitled to the salary voted to him last year we appreciate his kindly offer to rebate a portion of the same, but feel that it is a matter which rests entirely with himself.

We heartily endorse the suggestion that the expenses of the N. S. A. should be reduced and economy be practiced in every department, and recommend that the salary of the Secretary be limited to $900, and that a careful readjustment of the expenses of the National Headquarters be made as early as possible.

We also suggest that the stock of reports on hand should be sold at a reduced price, and speakers and others be requested to take copies to sell again.

We recommend that the issue of the Report of the Proceedings of this Convention be limited to 2,000 copies; that estimates for printing the same be obtained from various responsible firms, and the most reasonable bid be accepted, the price per volume to be fixed by the Trustees after ascertaining the cost of production.

We suggest that the arrangements for the entertainment of the officers of the N. S. A. at future conventions should be carried out with a strict regard to economy, and that local friends be requested to assist in this matter.

That in future conventions a special committee should be

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appointed to provide refreshments in an adjoining apartment where those attending the convention could be supplied at reasonable rates.

Repectfully submitted,

MOSES HULL, Chairman.
MRS. JENNIE HAGAN-JACKSON.
MRS. MAY S. PEPPER.
DR. A. A. KIMBALL.
E. W. WALLIS, Secretary.

MR. HULL: I would request that every medium and every speaker give their names to Mrs. Jackson, and I would also like to add that all individuals who will assist, would also give their names to Mrs. Jackson.

THE CHAIRMAN: This report will be brought up in regular order and considered at another session.

The report of the Committee on President's Report will now be read.

READING CLERK: Reads:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

Your committee appointed to examine the report of our President, finds it, as a whole, an able and conscientious summary of the work, attitude and mission of the N. S. A., as represented and actively expressed by our President during the year just passed, and recommends said report to the earnest attention of the Convention for its clearness, fairness and general usefulness.

1. The first recommendation of our President, in relation to vaccination, is endorsed by your committee, the matter of compulsory vaccination being one of repugnance to every intelligent mind that respects manly independence, and desires freedom to think and act for himself upon all subjects of importance to human welfare, individually and collectively.

2. Your committee indorses the President's recommendation concerning suitable action being taken by this Convention upon the medical question in the various States.

3. The allying of the N. S. A. with Prof. James and others of the Psychical Research Society, who champion our cause in their effort to demonstrate the truth of spiritualistic phenomena and the conscious existence of man after death, as recommended by our President, we endorse.

4. The recommendation in regard to a memorial being presented to President McKinley requesting him to recommend in his forthcoming message to Congress that an International Peace Congress be called to consider ways and

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means by which all nations of the earth may be placed upon a peace basis, is timely, and heartily approved by your committee.

5. The suggestion of your President that some steps be taken to remedy the unequal, and in many cases deficient, salaries paid to mediums and speakers upon the public platform, does not seem to your committee to be expedient, save in the general way that local societies be recommended to deal with the subject in a just and intelligent manner.

6. The settlement of speakers as recommended by the President to the attention of local societies as a progressive policy is endorsed.

7. The recommendation that the N. S. A. put itself on record as in favor of the protection of known-to-be-genuine mediums, and the suppression of well-proven frauds, is endorsed by your committee, as is also the recommendation that the N. S. A. put itself on record in this connection, as denouncing all speakers or mediums who may "pose as apologists for Oscar Wilde, H. B. Foulke and their satellites"; that we demand character from our exponents, as well as qualification in mediumship.

8. The recommendation that the N. S. A. take action in regard to the Dayton, O , and Marion, Ind., Soldiers' Homes at which spiritual speakers are not allowed to lecture to the inmates, is respectfully referred to the consideration of the incoming Board of Trustees.

9. The recommendation in regard to the legal and moral obligation of the N. S. A. to meet the deficit in the payment of the expenses of the Golden Jubilee at Rochester, N. Y., has been considered by your committee. In view of all the circumstances therein involved, your committee realizes neither a legal nor moral obligation on the part of the N. S. A. to Bro. Frank Walker, but that a personal obligation rests upon the individuals and societies making up the N. S. A. in the discharge of the debt.

10. We recommend that the section of the President's report entitled "The Babe Will" be adopted as expressing the sense of the Convention.

11. The recommendation by the President that mass meetings in the interest of the N. S. A. be held more frequently in the various cities of the country, such meetings having been proven helps to this National Association in its work and objects, is endorsed by your committee, as is also the recommendation that special N. S. A. days be secured upon the programmes of the various camp meetings of next year.

12. The President also recommends that resolutions of

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acknowledgment to the individuals mentioned by him in his report as having been instrumental in furthering the work and objects of the N. S. A. at the different camps of 1898, with directions to the Secretary to transmit the same, is endorsed by your committee, as is also the further recommendation of your President that the incoming Board of Trustees be instructed to have at least one direct representative, either of its own members or of its special agents, appointed for the purpose of looking out for its interests at every camp where special N. S. A. days are granted.

13. Recommendations in relation to ordinations and the securing of half-rate fares for speakers, etc., are considered by your committee as unnecessary in view of the fact that of necessity, according to the law of Nature, the questions of ordination and of half-rate fares will settle themselves in the decline of all such rights and privileges for the favored few.

14. Recommendations under the head of "Reform Work," "Schools," "History of Spiritualism" and "Psychical Research" are of importance, and endorsed by your committee.

15. We feel free to endorse the President's recommendation in regard to a "Psychic Quarterly," and respectfully suggest that a committee be appointed by the Chair to take immediate steps to carry the same into effect.

16. The President's recommendation to continue the Missionary Work is approved of by your committee, as is also his suggestions in regard to Lyceum Work and the N. Y. P. S. U.

17. Your committee, in support of the President's expressed ideas of the same, suggests that the question of movable conventions be considered by this Convention, and also his opinions relative to financial matters of the N. S. A. are referred to the consideration of the Convention.

18. The Declaration of Principles, as recommended by your President, is respectfully referred to the Committee on Resolutions, and the recommendation under head of "President's Work" is endorsed, and respectfully referred to a special committee to be appointed for that work.

19. The President's recommendation in regard to the nomination of officers being made from the floor—in the true spirit of democracy—instead of by a nominating committee, is warmly endorsed by your committee, and respectfully referred to the Committee on Amendments.

20. The recommendation in relation to the transition of several of our noted and noble workers in the Cause of Spiritualism, that special action should be taken thereon by

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this Convention is approved by your committee and referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

21. Your Committee on President's Report takes pleasure in putting on record its unqualified approval of the administration of the honored President of the N. S. A. in his fidelity to the cause of Spiritualism and to the duties and mission of his office as chief executive of the national affairs of the body spiritualistic of this great movement; therefore it becomes our pleasant duty to express our esteem for President Barrett, and our confidence in him as the presiding officer of the N. S. A. as a true Spiritualist, a worker in the cause of humanity, and an honest man.

Respectfully submitted,

F. A. WIGGIN, Chairman.
MARY A. HATCH.
CLARENCE D. PRUDEN.
MRS. M. T. LONGLEY.
LLOYD M. NORRIS.

Your committee appointed to report on Vice President's Report, having examined the same with conscientious fidelity, find it to be an eloquent and exhaustive account of her valuable labors in behalf of the N. S. A. at several of its mass meetings held in various cities of this country during the year, also in relation to the representation of the N. S. A. by our honored Vice President at the International Congress of Spiritualists held in London during the present year.

The same is recommended to the Convention for adoption, and respectfully submitted by your committee.

F. A. WIGGIN, Chairman.
MARY A. HATCH.
CLARENCE D. PRUDEN.
MRS. M. T. LONGLEY.
LLOYD M. NORRIS.

THE CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen: You have heard the report of your Committee on the President's and Vice President's report. If there is no objection these reports will be considered seriatim. They will be so considered. The Reading Clerk will kindly read the first paragraph of the committee's report on the President's Report.

Secs. 1 and 2 were adopted as read.

READING CLERK:

Sec. 3. The allying of the N. S. A. with Professor James, and others of the Psychical Research Society, who champion our cause in their effort to demonstrate the truth of spiritual-

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istic phenomena, and the conscious existence of man after death, as recommended by our President, we endorse.

MRS. RICHMOND: I would like to inquire what kind of alliance this means. Is it a fraternal recognition of their interest in Spiritualism?

THE CHAIRMAN: The President meant simple co-operation only.

MR. KATES: An alliance means to co-operate directly. I move to amend by striking out the word "allying" and substituting the word "fraternizing."

The amendment was seconded and adopted.

The section as amended was also adopted.

READING CLERK:

Sec. 4. The recommendation in regard to a memorial being presented to President McKinley requesting him to recommend, in his forthcoming message to Congress, that an international Peace Congress be called to consider ways and means by which all nations of the earth may be placed upon a peace basis, is timely, and heartily approved by your committee.

MR. KATES: I believe this Convention will not have time to properly formulate such a petition. I would move a substitute that a recommendation be adopted that the incoming Board draw up a petition and present it.

MR. BACON: I was about to make that suggestion, that the President and the Board prepare this memorial and present it to the President as the expression of the delegates present, therefore I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: The substitute is adopted.

Secs. 5 and 6 adopted as read.

READING CLERK:

Sec. 7. The recommendation that the N. S. A. take action in regard to the Dayton, O., and Marion, Ind., Soldiers' Homes, at which Spiritual speakers are not allowed to lecture to the inmates, is respectfully referred to the consideration of the incoming Board of Trustees.

MRS. RICHMOND: As one of the out-going Board I desire to protest against all action upon all subjects being referred to the incoming Board. Inasmuch as this has been two years years under consideration, and we have not been able to effect a meeting with the National Soldiers' Home Association, and inasmuch as it seems some resolution ought to be passed, protesting against this in general, and this enactment in particular, I respectfully move to refer this matter to the Committee on Resolutions with instructions to report something as the voice of this Convention.

MRS. BARRETT: I second the motion.

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THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the motion to refer this matter to the Committee on Resolutions, with instructions to report something to this Convention. Remarks are in order.

MR. HULL: I would like to have that committee to which this matter is to be referred, to have some understanding as to what it really is. I believe that it is lawful to suppress some individuals who make certain speeches in the name of Spiritualism.

I have spoken in the Soldiers' Home at Dayton, Ohio, and was well treated. But when an individual goes there, undertakes to overthrow everything and passes his whole time in abusing Christians, it seemed to the management of that Board that such things should be suppressed, and the only way they could suppress them was to suppress the man who was doing it.

I believe Mrs. Richmond could go to Dayton, Ohio, to-day, and I believe the chaplain would invite her right into the general lecture room to speak on Spiritualism. Some things, it seems to me, must be suppressed. I believe the freedom of one ends where the freedom of another begins.

Christians could not be expected to stay there and hear people abuse them simply because they have grown up to believe in Christianity, and I don't blame the Board for taking such action as it has.

MR. BOND: With all due respect to our worthy Vice President, we have, hitherto, at former conventions, left much to the Board of Trustees, and, as a member of the Committee on Resolutions, I wish to state that we have completed our report, hence I beg of you not to refer any further matter to it. I believe that either our President or Vice President could go to Dayton, Ohio, and speak at the Soldiers' Home. If any one has anything to say on this subject let him say it upon the floor of this Convention.

There may have been some mistakes made; but I am not prepared to ascertain the judgment of the Convention and report it in a resolution. I have sufficient faith in the incoming Board to believe that its members can settle this question wisely and well. I request the Vice President to withdraw her motion.

MRS. RICHMOND: Before I withdraw it, I wish to say something in regard to what Mr. Hull has said. I am in receipt of several communications several miles long from the individual who, I presume, has been suppressed, and if I was in the position of the Superintendent of that institution it would not make any difference what subject he would speak upon, his language is such that I would not allow him to speak upon

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any subject whatever. I still maintain the incoming Board should not be expected to do everything.

MRS. JACKSON: In a letter recently received from one of the oldest Spiritualists in Columbus, Ohio, I received the following:

"If you receive one of the chain letters that are passing around the country from the Soldiers' Home, for the good of Spiritualism, until you get the opportunity to have an explanation, do not send the letter on."

This was from one of our old Spiritualists who is very bitterly opposed to injustice.

MRS. LONGLEY: I have had some experience at the Soldiers' Home in California, where I was cordially welcomed and given an opportunity to say something for Spiritualism. I do not believe every Spiritualist speaker is worthy of the name, nor do I feel that all of them are able to present the truths of our philosophy in the Soldiers' Homes of this country.

MR. KATES: I am opposed to referring anything to the Board that we can do here. This matter is somewhat complicated; it has been investigated by the present Board and referred to time and again, so that it is now a very simple affair for us to decide upon. It is not impossible for us to present our truths at the Dayton Home. I also have spoken there, and I know I can do it again. I move to amend the report of the committee by adding, "We heartily denounce all public restriction of the presentation of Spiritualism wherever it may occur, and this Association will always disapprove of such public restriction."

MRS. CADWALLADER: I would like to suggest that some action be taken by the delegates here. Let a communication be addressed to the officials of the Soldiers' Home at Dayton, Ohio, asking them if it is their intention not to allow any further talk on this subject, and requesting that we be allowed to go there or send some one there to speak to the inmates.

THE CHAIRMAN: Will the Convention permit the Chair to make a statement at this point? When this matter came up, I wrote to Secretary Alger with regard to it, having received a letter from a man who, from his correspondence, I judged to be a scholar and of considerable mental ability, stating that the meetings had been suppressed. Secretary Alger referred the questions to the National Board of Managers of the Soldiers' Homes. After a time I received a reply from Gen. Wm. B. Franklin, President of the Board of Managers, saying that the Spiritualists at the Dayton Home had quarreled among themselves, hence, in the interest of peace and harmony among the inmates it had been seen fit to suppress all

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spiritualistic meetings in the Home at Dayton. Upon that statement I made this recommendation to you, not to defend any loud-mouthed person who has denounced Christianity, but because I believed a man has a right to free speech everywhere, with proper respect to the opinion of others. I agree with and endorse Bro. Hull's words, and if my action has been taken at the instigation of an unworthy person, I shall recall all I have said with regard to this matter.

MR. WALLIS: I suggest that the officers of this Association make a formal application to the managers of the Home for permission to send a speaker there. If permission is granted, one can be sent on at once. In any case, an official opinion will be obtained that will settle the question.

MR. HULL: I would suggest that the letter state very delicately that possibly the individuals suppressed there were not regular speakers for the Spiritualists.

MRS. LORING: A week ago last Sunday afternoon I was invited to speak at the Soldiers' Home at Chelsea, Mass., where I was received with great applause. I was invited to come again and I believe we would be admitted into every Soldiers' Home, provided we send representatives who do not disturb the peace but carry out the principles of true Spiritualism. (Applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN: The motion to refer to the incoming Board is withdrawn. The question now is upon the substitute, by adding to the report of the committee the words "We heartily denounce all public restriction of the presentation of Spiritualism wherever it may occur, and this Association will always disapprove of such public restriction."

The motion to adopt the substitute is lost.

A DELEGATE: I move the adoption of Mr. Wallis' suggestion.

MR. KATES: I ask that it be received in the proper form.

THE CHAIRMAN: Will Mr. Wallis kindly put his motion in writing?

MR. WALLIS: Certainly. Reads:

"That an application be made to the managers of the Soldiers' Homes in Dayton, Ohio, and Marion, Ind., for permission for speakers, sent by the N. S. A., to speak there upon Spiritualism, and, if permitted, that speakers be sent to those institutions by the Board of Trustees."

MR. HULL: I move to amend the motion of Mr. Wallis so that we can let the officers know that we think that there has been some misunderstanding in regard to the matter.

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The amendment was adopted, as was also the original motion, as amended.

Sections 8, 9 and 10 were adopted as read.

READING CLERK: Sec. 11. The President also recommends that resolutions of acknowledgment to the individuals mentioned by him in his report as having been instrumental in furthering the work and objects of the N. S. A. at the different camps of 1898, with directions to the Secretary to transmit the same, is endorsed by your committee, as is also the further recommendation of your President in this connection, that your incoming Board of Trustees be instructed to open correspondence with the officers of every camp in the United States, for the purpose of securing special days on their programmes, and that at least one direct representative, either of its own members or of its special agents, appointed for the purpose of looking out for its interests be present on those days at every camp where the same are granted.

MRS. RICHMOND: I move to amend by adding the names mentioned in the Vice President's report as having aided in camp meetings and other meetings that she has attended.

THE CHAIRMAN: The motion to amend prevails. The recommendation is adopted as amended.

READING CLERK:

Sec. 12. Recommendations in relation to ordinations and the securing of half-rate fares for speakers, etc., are considered by your committee as unnecessary in view of the fact that of necessity, according to the law of nature, the questions of ordination and of half-rate fares will settle themselves in the decline of all such rights and privileges for the favored few.

MR. HULL: I believe thoroughly in ordination, but not for the sake of getting half fares on the railroads or anything of that kind. I am an ordained minister, but I never ask the railroad for a half-fare ticket. I tell them that I am a Spiritualist, but I pay full fare. I tell them that I want to see the custom abolished, so that all regular fares thereby might come down a little from what they now are. I am a full believer in ordination. I believe that when a person goes before an audience to preach the true religion of the Spirit he should be prepared by some appropriate ceremony very much like the laying on of hands, accompanied by well-defined instructions. It not only helps the individual but is also a bond between the society ordaining the individual and the one ordained. When the society ordained me, I felt that its members had taken a kind of responsibility for my character. They said: "We have examined Moses Hull and find him capa-

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ble of presenting the truths of Spiritualism, therefore we send him out to voice our beliefs to the world. We have investigated his moral character and can stand by him as a moral teacher." When an individual receives this endorsement from a society he feels an obligation to that society, and strives to make himself worthy of the position his friends have given him. I do not believe in ordaining anybody and everybody, but I do believe in knowing that the individual who is to be ordained is worthy, intellectually, spiritually and morally, to fill the exalted position to which he aspires. This is what we should do with all platform aspirants before they are permitted to represent themselves as Spiritualist teachers before the world.

I believe in love. A man can take a child in his arms, the child being receptive, and do that child a great deal of good. He can lift it up in his mind and impart something that will be of benefit to it in the future life. I do not believe in takevery child into one's arms and kissing it, but I believe that you should entertain the same spirit a mother does when her child is first placed in her arms. But you must not afterwards go to spanking and abusing that child, nor should you scold that good out of the child. I do not object to those old ceremonies of the church, for I know what they are for. I believe there is something in these ceremonies of benefit to Spiritualism; the people should understand them and handle them with great care. (Applause.)

MRS. RICHMOND: I believe this Association has placed itself on record as refusing to interfere in the question of ordaining except to caution local societies to take great care in regard to the character of the individuals ordained. We should always leave this question of ordination in the hands of the local societies where it has always been. I believe we all have individual opinions on this subject and the National Association does not claim to interfere with them.

The simple ceremony of donating one's life work certainly does do good spiritually; it always invites the higher influences; it uplifts those who receive it and inspires those who witness it. There is nothing more gracious and sweet than the christening of a little child.

In our Lyceum we are trying to consecrate them and give them knowledge of Spiritualism. The naming of the baby is one of the sweetest events in family life. We do not know why it should not be the same in the society. We know that no Spiritualist attaches any theological importance to this service, but we do know that a baptism of the spirit in the person of a little child comprises the belief of the world.

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I therefore move an amendment that ordination be left entirely in the hands of the local societies.

MR. WIGGIN: I heartily agree with the suggestion of our honored Vice President. I think, however, she has misunderstood the wording of the recommendation. I believe our recommendation covers the suggestion of our Vice President; if it does, there is no necessity of any additional amendment to the report; it is fair to all as it is. Our good brother, Mr. Hull, seems to attach a great importance to taking a child in his arms. I like to take children in my arms, and I think the holiest christening ever given a child is given when the child is put into its mother's arms from the arms of its father, and receives its name. I have grown now to be quite an old man, and I have been a fairly good citizen, but I have never been christened and I don't think I will be, at least not in this existence. I have been ordained, in fact I have been ordained twice.

THE CHAIRMAN: Section twelve is adopted.

SEC. 13 was adopted as read.

SEC. 14. We feel to endorse the President's recommendation in regard to a "Psychic Quarterly," and respectfully suggest that a committee be appointed by the Chair to take immediate steps to carry the same into effect.

MR. HULL: That recommendation is all right, but we must all put our hands into our pockets and help it along. I for one would like to see such a thing started.

MRS. RICHMOND: I would like to know how a committee from this Convention, unless it reports something back to the Convention for action, can be utilized, as no committee of this Convention holds over to the next one.

MR. WIGGIN: If such a publication becomes a fact, it might become the property of private individuals, instead of the property of the N. S. A. It would be a sort of co-operative firm appointed for that purpose.

MRS. RICHMOND: I move to amend this report, that the N. S. A. approve of the establishing of such a quarterly when practicable, and that it lend it all possible aid. I don't see how we can appoint a committee to carry it into effect, unless we give them money with which to do it.

MR. HULL: If we had such an organ we ought to have some superintendency over it. I would like to have some association or some responsible person at the head of it.

DR. LYON: I don't see any necessity of going into debt for anything of that kind. The Spiritualists, you know as well as I do, and I have had fifty-two years experience, are—I don't want to say *mean*, but they are *not* what I should call *generous*

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in subscribing to or taking any kind of paper. I know a great many Spiritualists who take no paper whatever. For the National Spiritualists Association to publish anything of that kind this year, or next year, would be a losing game. The only way to make the people understand that these things would do them good is to instruct them through the spiritual papers, by inducing them to take the papers and to read what they find to read.

MR. KATES: It is evident the N. S. A. is unable at the present time to take such a responsibility, and I think we should not waste time on this question. I call for the question on the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is on the amendment. Are you ready for the question?

MRS. RICHMOND: I withdraw the amendment. I move the matter be referred to the incoming Board, with power to act. I think this is best.

Carried.

Sec. 15. Adopted as read.

Sec. 16. Passed over.

Sec. 17. The Declarations of Principles, as recommended by your President, is endorsed, and respectfully referred to the Committee on Resolutions, and the recommendation under head of "President's Work" is respectfully referred to a special committee, to be appointed for that work.

MRS. RICHMOND: Concerning the Declaration of Principles, your Vice President had the honor of being one of a committee at Rochester appointed to draw up the Declaration of Principles, which was informally adopted at the Jubilee. It was also ordered that the suggestions of that committee be handed to the Committee on Resolutions at this Convention for consideration. I do not think the President had it in his report. I do not know that any member of the Board or Convention has a copy of that Declaration here, but it seems to me if we are to have a Declaration of Principles, as we ought to have, it should be as broad as that which was adopted by the Jubilee, and, although that Declaration of Principles is not considered complete, I really believe that some Declaration of Principles would facilitate the work of the National Association.

THE CHAIRMAN: The first half of this recommendation will be referred to the Committee on Resolutions. The last half refers to the President's personal work to a special committee. What is your pleasure?

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MRS. RICHMOND: May I suggest as a matter of expedition that this matter be referred to the Auditing Committee?

Adopted.

Sec. 18. Passed over.

Sec. 19. Referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

The Vice President in the chair.

The question is on the adoption of Section 20.

It is adopted.

The question now is upon the adoption of the entire report, as amended.

The entire report as amended is adopted.

President Barrett in the Chair.

The Committee on Credentials at this time submitted an additional report, which was adopted.

THE CHAIRMAN: We will now consider the report of the Committee on the Vice President's Report.

READING CLERK: Your committee appointed to report on the Vice President's report, having examined the same with conscientious fidelity, find it to be an eloquent and exhaustive account of her valuable labors in behalf of the N. S. A. at several of its mass meetings held in various cities during the year; also in relation to the representation of the N. S. A. by our honored Vice President at the International Congress of Spiritualists held in London during the present year. The same is recommended to the Convention for adoption, and respectfully submitted by your committee.

Signed: F. A. WIGGIN, Chairman,
MARY A. HATCH,
CLARENCE D. PRUDEN,
MRS. M. T. LONGLEY,
LLOYD M. NORRIS.

Adopted.

THE CHAIRMAN: The next order of business is the reception of the report of the Committee on the Secretary's Report.

MR. KATES: I have a report signed by four members. Mr. Gould, the Chairman, is not in the hall and I have been unable to see him. Will you receive this report?

THE CHAIRMAN: It will be received.

MR. KATES. Reads:

Your committee to whom the Secretary's report was referred begs leave to say that Secretary Woodbury is esteemed by this committee, and its members desire to compliment his effi-

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ciency and generally approve of his suggestions, but find no specific items that require special action.

Signed: MARIE L. WHEELER-BROWN.
MARY M. HAIRE.
DAVID SHEPPARD.
G. W. KATES.

Adopted.

THE CHAIRMAN: The next in order is the report of the Committee on Auditing Accounts.

MR. LOCKE: I will state that the committee is not yet ready to report.

THE CHAIRMAN: The report of the Committee on Resolutions will now be received.

MR. BOND: In the outset, let me say I want to thank heartily all of my associates on this committee. Their duties have been onerous, and I want them to know that their work is appreciated.

I was not aware, although it has been hinted at, that a Declaration of Principles was formulated at the Jubilee. I knew nothing definite until Mrs. Richmond said what she did this afternoon. The Secretary does not have that Declaration with him, but if it can be found it might prove superior to the one proposed by our committee and adopted by this Convention.

PROPOSED DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

We, as Spiritualists, do not believe in a creed to be used as a test of fellowship, but the following is a Declaration of Principles most commonly accepted by us:

Resolved, That Spiritualism rests on science, and that it has scientifically demonstrated the following facts, viz:

1. That there is an objective spirit-world of varying grades enveloping the earth which is as tangible and real to those living in that world as the earth is to us.

2. That it is peopled with men, women and children who previously were inhabitants of this world.

3. That there are laws in nature which, when understood, enable those people to hold communion with those still in the flesh.

4. That so-called death marks no change whatever upon individual character, but that one enters the spirit-world in the spirit-body, as absolutely the same person in all respects that he was here.

5. That the full and most important consequences of earth-life are not and cannot be experienced on earth, hence with-

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out knowledge revealed from the future world one knows not and cannot know fully how he ought to live, nor the truths he ought to teach while here.

6. That in the spirit-world the way is open for each one to advance in the scale of life in proportion as he discovers and obeys the laws of soul-growth.

7. Spirits uniformly testify that their future condition would have been greatly improved had they investigated and understood before leaving earth the fact and principles of spirit-return.

8. That on the question of who, what or where God is, Spiritualism gives us no absolute, final and demonstrated knowledge, but leaves it for each one to determine, by the light of his own understanding. It is no part of Spiritualism to dogmatize or state theories, but simply to state demonstrated facts.

RESOLUTIONS.

9. *Resolved*, That Spiritualism, as a fact, does not depend on organized societies, ordained ministers or concert of action by its adherents, but is a fact in nature, and has been forced into recognition by the unfolding of the human race; and we recognize organization as only the directing and adjusting of the force of spirit-power along lines of human development and usefulness.

10. *Resolved*, That inasmuch as the Spiritual Philosophy covers all human action, we are in favor of all reforms along either temporal or spiritual lines, believing that a wrong done to one is an injury to all.

11. *Resolved*, That we are unqualifiedly opposed to the effort that has been made, all too successfully in some States, of enacting so-called medical laws at the dictation of the medical fraternity.

12. *Resolved*, That we will resist to the utmost all attempts of religious bigots, of whatever name, to engraft their God upon the Constitution of the United States.

13. *Resolved*, That we are opposed to all Sunday laws that are based on the idea that it is God's holy day; we are in favor of taxing church property.

14. *Resolved*, That we extend our cordial sympathy and co-operation to the struggling masses of other countries as well as our own, in their efforts to achieve larger liberty, a better chance to earn an honest living, thereby to better their condition socially, morally and physically.

15. *Resolved*, That we earnestly recommend the yearly engagement of speakers, together with the construction of

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fitting temples or edifices, to be used exclusively in connection with and for the benefit of Spiritualism.

16. Whereas we hail with joy the rising sentiment in favor of the spirit of peace and brotherhood between nations, as well as between individuals, and we welcome every sign pointing in that direction, therefore,

Resolved, That our Secretary be instructed to send the following to the Czar of all the Russias:

To His Majesty, Nicholas II, the Czar of all the Russias:

The National Association of Spiritualists of America and the Dominion of Canada in Convention assembled at Washington, D. C., U. S. A., extend to your Majesty their hearty gratitude and sympathy for proposing the gradual disarmament of the great military powers of the world. May it be acceptable to the people of earth as it is acceptable to those in the Higher Spheres.

17. *Resolved*, That we endorse the First Spiritualist Training School, incorporated July 4, 1897, under the laws of the State of Ohio, and all other efforts, wherever made, to encourage a higher standard of education in our ranks, and especially among our mediums, writers and speakers.

18. *Resolved*, That we earnestly recommend the establishment of Lyceums in all local societies.

19. *Resolved*, That we indorse the Veteran Spiritualists' Union, and all other similar and praiseworthy efforts to assist the aged, sick and worn-out workers who are needy.

20. *Resolved*, That we believe all Spiritualists throughout the country should organize into local societies; that all local societies should organize into State Associations, and that all State Associations should join the National Association.

21. *Resolved*, That we discountenance the use of tobacco, opium, and all similar articles which are deleterious to human welfare, and especially do condemn the use of strong drink as a beverage, and the saloon as a breeding-place of a swarm of evils, and that we support all feasible and practical movements for their suppression.

22. WHEREAS, The interests of Spiritualism are vitally connected with private family circles; and,

WHEREAS, The value and safety of such circles depend largely upon an intelligent understanding of the laws and principles of spirit-control and mediumistic development; therefore,

Resolved, That this National Association earnestly urge upon all Spiritualist families the organization of family circles in their own homes.

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23. *Resolved*, That we believe in the equality of man and woman in all departments of life without exception, social, educational, financial, political and religious.

24. *Resolved*, That we are in hearty sympathy with the objects and work of the Psychical Research Society, that we rejoice that through its instrumentality Dr. Richard Hodgsdon has become convinced of spirit-communion, and that we recommend a committee be appointed to consult with the President and Secretary of the Research Society, looking toward a closer union of the two bodies.

E. W. BOND, Chairman,
HELEN PALMER RUSSEGUE,
A. J. WEAVER,
ELIZABETH F. KURTH,
D. P. DEWEY,
} Committee.

THE CHAIRMAN: This report will be considered seriatim.

MRS. RICHMOND: I move that the Declaration of Principles go over until to-morrow.

Carried.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question now is upon Sec. 9, the first resolution.

READING CLERK:

SEC. 9. *Resolved*, That Spiritualism, as a fact, does not depend on organized societies, ordained ministers or concert of action by its adherents, but is a fact in nature and has been forced into recognition by the unfolding of the human race; and we recognize organization as only the directing and adjusting of the force of spirit-power along lines of human development and usefulness.

MR. RICHMOND: I move to amend by striking out the words "a fact in nature," and substituting the words "a fact in human society and human expression aside from humanity."

MR. HULL: I move to amend the amendment by striking out the entire phrase "but is a fact in nature."

Carried.

The resolution as amended was adopted.

Secs. 10 and 11 adopted as read.

READING CLERK:

12. *Resolved*, That we will resist to the utmost all attempts of religious bigots, of whatever name, to engraft their God upon the Constitution of the United States.

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MR. WALLIS: I move to amend by adding the words "their ideas of God."

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the amendment.

It is adopted.

The amended resolution was also adopted.

READING CLERK:

13. *Resolved*, That we are opposed to all Sunday laws that are based on the idea that it is God's holy day; we are in favor of taxing church property.

MR. STANGLEN: Mr. President and delegates. I have worked for five years in this direction. These reforms ought to start within our own ranks and we should set an example before we go outside of our organization. I know in the State of Maryland there is one Spiritualist Church exempt from taxation, and I am informed there are several States where Spiritualistic churches are also exempt. I believe we should pay a tax upon every church. We could then speak with authority.

MR. HULL: I believe the principle itself is right, but I feel that while others are released from taxation we should take advantage of that same law in order to help pay for our churches. There should be taxes on every bit of church property there is in the country, but if we pay the taxes on our churches we cannot so well pay for them.

MRS. JACKSON: We require courage ourselves to attempt to build churches. So long as other people have their large, splendid churches exempt from taxation, I think that we, as Spiritualists, are justified in taking the same grounds. We would become the laughing stock of every community were we to pay taxes on our churches before we are obliged to do so. I think that every one of the churches in the country should be taxed.

MRS. RICHMOND: According to the consideration of moral duty in this direction, it is just the same as it is with half rates. I don't believe in half rates for anybody, but just as long as our gigantic railroad corporations release the clergy I cannot see the necessity of our not being released also.

I do not believe in any property being exempt from taxation, but when a corporation, that is able to pay, is exempted from all charges, and while the three billions of dollars of property owned by the churches in this country escapes taxation I believe the Spiritualists should also escape it.

MR. WEAVER: In regard to our taxing church property, it is principle we need. It looks to me as though principle does not stand by us while we see a gain to ourselves. I believe it is principle with us in regard to this matter. I believe it

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is the same with church property—we think that every other church should be taxed. Then let us get into line and be taxed, and they will see we act according to our professions.

MR. NORRIS: It is well enough for Spiritualists in general to pay for what they get. We know, as a general rule, that Spiritualism is antagonized by all other denominations. We talk of taxing all church property, and what will be the consequence? It would bring the censure of all denominations upon us. It is well enough for us to pay for what we get, but why should we do more until we see that it would help us? Our society is exempt from taxation. We took this building on the members guarantee, and we paid $3,000 for it. We have been able to pay for it the sooner on account of being exempt from taxation. Do we lack in principle because we don't pay taxes? I am open to conviction.

MRS. RUSSEGUE: I consider the most important of all human needs is Spiritualism. The injustice which prevails, in exempting this church property of hundreds of thousands of dollars or more from taxation, while every poor man or woman who owns a hut has to pay taxes, is certainly injustice to the Spiritualists of the land.

MRS. SPAULDING: In Norwich we have a little church home which we are struggling to pay for and to work our way out of debt. Our church is untaxed, and we shall feel it very hard indeed to be taxed on our home while the other churches go untaxed.

The resolution was then adopted.

Resolution 14 adopted.

15. *Resolved*, That we earnestly recommend the yearly engagement of speakers, together with the construction of fitting temples or edifices, to be used exclusively in connection with and for the benefit of Spiritualism.

MR. LOCKE: I have no particular objection to the resolution, but I do think that matter ought to be left to the various auxiliary societies. While I am fully in favor of it, I do not believe in urging that point year after year, but feel that it ought to be referred to the local societies.

I think it would be a great hardship upon the societies to engage speakers yearly. There are very many Spiritualist societies that have a speaker only for one or two months in the year. I hope this matter will be given serious consideration. I do not think this National Association should recommend that particular thing. Those who know me at home know I am in favor of settled speakers, but I don't want this to go out as an edict of the National Association.

MR. WIGGIN: There is just a suggestion in connection

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with this matter that I would like to make. It would be, as has been said by the preceding speaker, very difficult for some societies to secure and maintain the services of a speaker for a year or more; but the recommendation nevertheless seems to me to be a good one, and one worthy of adoption. I don't know how many societies we have in America, already organized, but suppose there are three hundred and fifty. I wonder if we have three hundred and fifty speakers who could hold their audiences in these respective communities from week to week and increase them. It should be remembered that their intellectual and spiritual qualifications are not always the same. I don't believe we have three hundred and fifty speakers qualified for this work. My idea is this: to have this National Association pass whatever we regard as a suggestion as to the best plan that can be conveniently followed. It will have a tendency to incite our various speakers and mediums to a higher grade of scholarship and spiritual unfoldment. I have been called to assume the responsibility of a pastorate of one of the largest societies in New York for this year, and I confess to you, friends, that I feel that responsible trust beyond anything you can imagine. It is a position in which the pastor's duties will increase as time goes on. Almost any one can speak from place to place, a month here and a month there, a camp meeting here and a camp meeting there. But do the speakers grow under such a policy? I am satisfied that many of them are constantly repeating stereotyped lectures year after year. They have no incentive to prepare newer and better ones. They cannot do this if they are permanently settled. This idea of delivering stereotyped lectures is all right, provided the people never heard them before, but the effect of this practice upon the speaker is very bad. I know this from my own experience, and I also know that work with one society stimulates us to study that we may keep up with the times.

MR. HULL: Mr. President, Mr. Wiggin has hit the nail on the head. Mrs. Hull and I have worked for six months in the city of Buffalo. We undertook it with great trepidation, but we find that everything is working better every day, as time goes on. We find others getting in line with us. We don't, as a general thing, have a chance to get acquainted with the people. If the people cannot pay one speaker to come and stay there, in the name of common sense how are they going to pay a speaker every month, and then pay his railroad fare also?

I like to get a local interest in the place where I live. I like to get acquainted with my friends and get in with the society,

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and help in all of their business. I don't believe there is a church in Christendom that would stand six months if they changed their speakers every month. As Brother Wiggin has said, there is no stimulus for a speaker to go to work if he changes his location every few weeks. Let those who cannot maintain themselves before the people pull out, as they ought to do, and those who can, will go on and lead the people forward over the road of progress. If one society cannot settle a speaker by the year, let it take him half the time, or one-third of the time. We would thus save for the societies the money they pay out for railroad fares, thus stopping one of the great leaks they have had for the last fifty years.

MR. BOND: The plan of employing settled speakers has demonstrated its great worth wherever it has been tried, and the agitation of this question from year to year has resulted in the progress we have made. As Brother Hull has well said, there is not a church in the land that would sustain itself by the itinerant method for six months. A settled speaker feels his responsibility and he knows that he must grow. If we were numerous enough in the little village of Willoughby, Ohio, to employ a permanent speaker, I am positive that Spiritualism would soon have a larger following than all of the churches of the city taken together.

MR. KATES: This is merely a recommendation. There is no obligation attached to the resolution. It seems to me that the discussion of the question gives us an opportunity to agitate the question of settled speakers. I am settled for the present, and this is my third year in Rochester. My society, the First Spiritualist Church of Rochester, could not employ speakers from month to month. With settled speakers the expense is much less, and we can progress faster, do better work, make a better impression and establish a greater degree of harmony. I feel that this discussion is valuable to this Association.

MRS. LORING: Mr. President, I thoroughly endorse the resolution. I think great harm comes to societies, even the poor, local societies, by exchanging speakers every week. One speaker gives a most instructive lecture to-day, and next Sunday a speaker comes and denies everything that has been said on the previous Sunday. I am not desirous of any permanent position myself, but I do believe in the proposed plan and feel that the adoption of this resolution will do our local societies a great deal of good.

MR. WALLIS: I feel the Convention is profitably discussing a matter of procedure that interests the well-being of the cause.

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In England, at the present time, we are having an agitation in favor of permanent speakers. I don't think the speakers can take half an interest in a society when they are serving it for but a short time. It is an expense to take them there, and then they must be supported. It is just like a body without a head. Of course the adoption of settled speakers would make it difficult for visitors like myself to obtain an opportunity for work in some centers where we would like to deliver our messages, still I cannot but feel that it is the thing of the future. There are some speakers who had to build up a society around them. I have had some little experience in this matter. My wife and I were settled speakers in Glasgow, Scotland, for two years, and during that time our society grew steadily in numbers, and but for financial depression we should have stayed there longer. I can endorse all that has been said covering the responsibility that rests upon the speakers, especially so in regard to character. We deplore the fact that there are Spiritualists who enter upon their work with no interest in the affairs of the society. The responsibility of their work forces itself upon the speakers as soon as they are permanently located. The public understands that they are at the head of the movement in that district, and it will assist them to get a local standing. It will bring the members of the church together, and then the church and the pastor can take active interest in any local reform work. He should be represented in all the councils and missions of his church, and then the Spiritualists would be recognized in the social life of the town. They would take their place as a corporate body and be recognized as other bodies are. We cannot do better than to let this recommendation go out as the sense of this Convention.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the adoption of the resolution. It is adopted.

Resolutions 16, 17, 18 and 19 were adopted as read.

READING CLERK:

20. *Resolved*, That we discountenance the use of tobacco, opium, and all similar articles which are deleterious to human welfare, and especially do we condemn the use of strong drink as a beverage, and the saloon as a breeding-place of a swarm of evils, and that we support all feasible and practical movements for their suppression.

MR. NORRIS: I do not use tobacco in any form myself, as a matter of principle, but I do know there are many persons who get a certain kind of consolation from the use of tobacco.

MRS. RICHMOND: I move to amend by substituting the words "temperance in all things" for the recommendation as read.

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MR. HULL: I am sure people will think we don't mean anything. I am certainly down on the consolation that comes from chewing tobacco, drinking whisky or any other drink.

MRS. RICHMOND: I am opposed to gluttony and physical intemperance of all kinds, hence I think we ought to include everything of that sort.

DR. LYON: I think if the people would investigate the subject of tobacco alone as much as I have in the last fifty years, they would put it out of existence. The danger to people who use tobacco is enormous, and the only thing for us to do is to begin to instruct the people. I don't wish to be misunderstood, nor do I wish to be considered a crank on this subject, but I know that I can take a piece of tobacco about the size of the end of my thumb and kill a man in ten minutes without putting a single particle of it in his mouth.

MR. WIGGIN: It seems to me the amendment as offered by Mrs. Richmond is one that we should do well to consider. We should avoid intemperance in all things. We recognize the evils of overeating and other indulgences. These two or three evils mentioned in the recommendation do not cover the whole ground. Some of the best men of my acquaintance use tobacco, and there is no doubt of the evils of the saloons.

THE CHAIRMAN: The amendment is rejected.

MR. WALLIS: I move to amend by inserting the words "and gambling."

Adopted. The resolution as amended was then adopted.

Resolutions 21, 22, 23 and 24 were adopted as read.

25. *Resolved*, That the expenses of the N. S. A. be reduced to a point on a level with its resources; that no salary be allowed the President; that the Secretary's salary be limited to $900; that the expense for printing, as well as all other expenses, be made as light as possible, and that a radical change be made in the direction of strict economy.

MR. HULL: I move to amend by inserting the words, "but that the President be paid a reasonable sum for all actual services performed."

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the amendment.

MRS. LONGLEY: I feel in relation to the salary of the Secretary, that an amendment should be added to the effect that all assistance required by the Secretary in the discharge of his duties, except that which, of course, refers to the National Convention, be paid for out of the Secretary's salary.

MR. WEAVER: I would like to ask if any plan can be offered by which we can cut down our expenses other than the one proposed? We have raised during the past year about $3,000,

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and we are about $1,200 in debt. We must pay that debt. Can any one suggest the method?

MR. BOND: This is the most important resolution we have considered to-day. It comes down to the question of finance and it should be considered calmly and understandingly. We should do it without casting any reflections upon the past, yet our criticism must of necessity be based upon past experiences. I recognize the ability, the zeal, the worthiness of our officers in the years that have gone by, and I don't believe for one moment that they have made one movement that was not in their honest beliefs for the best interest of the Association. If we have made mistakes in the past let us profit by them that they may not be repeated in the future. They are liable to occur no matter who the officers are. If there is a man or woman in this broad land who has the interest of Spiritualism so deeply at heart as to be willing to act as President of this Association without any salary attached, not even his actual expenses to the Convention, or otherwise doing the business of the Association, let him come forward. There is not a camp-meeting President in the United States that gets one cent. On the contrary he goes down in his pocket to help sustain the work, and I undertake to say there is not a person in this country that gets one cent for what they do in that line. Can't we find somebody here who will take it without any salary? We want to cut down the expenses to the lowest possible limit. There must be retrenchment. Our debts must be paid. Another thing upon which an expression should be made upon this floor, that comes to my mind at this time, is in regard to the debt caused by the Jubilee. It is useless for us to look back into the past and say that mistakes have been made. Mr. Walker himself is perfectly willing to admit that fact, but I do think that he should be relieved from that financial burden, and I will do my share to help him, as I believe there is a moral obligation upon the part of this Association to help pay it.

I am opposed to the amendment of Brother Hull. The time may come in the near future when we can afford salaries, but I hope that you will let the matter stand as it is.

MR. STANGLEN: I move that the pending amendment and resolution be referred to the Finance Committee.

Adopted.

READING CLERK:

26. *Resolved*, That we extend our hearty thanks to the secular press of this city and the nation, also the spiritual press,

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which has so generously given its aid and encouragement in the work of organization, for reporting our meetings without prejudice or malice.

Signed: E. W. BOND, Chairman,
HELEN PALMER RUSSEGUE,
A. J. WEAVER,
ELIZABETH F. KURTH,
D. P. DEWEY,
} Committee.

MR. BOND: I ask the Convention to recommit this report to the Committee on Resolutions. We have just discovered that two of the most important questions, the questions of ordination and mediumship, have been excluded.

THE CHAIRMAN: The request is granted.

The Convention is now adjourned.

MORNING MEETING.

THURSDAY, October 20, 10.00 A. M.

President Barrett in the Chair.

Singing by the audience.

THE CHAIRMAN: The order of business will for the moment be set aside, and each State delegation as called upon will report the name of its member of the Committee on Nominations.

The following members were chosen from the several delegations to serve on the Committee on Nominations:

California, Mrs. M. T. Longley; Connecticut, Mrs. Helen Palmer Russegue; District of Columbia, Mrs. A. M. Jacquess; Florida, T. J. Mayer; Illinois, Mrs. M. M. Haire; Indiana, Mr. Arnold Van Ausdale; Louisiana, Mrs. S. M. Bond; Maine, B. M. Bradbury; Maryland, Lloyd M. Norris; Massachusetts, J. B. Hatch, Jr.; Michigan, D. P. Dewey; Minnesota, C. D. Pruden; Missouri, E. W. Gould; New Jersey, Andrew Kay; New York, F. A. Wiggin; Ohio, E. W. Bond; Ontario, Can., E. W. Wallis; Pennsylvania, Mrs. M. E. Cadwallader; Rhode Island, Mrs. May S. Pepper; Texas, Mrs. Jennie B. Hagan-Jackson; Wisconsin, Mrs. M. C. Barrett.

Mr. F. A. Wiggin, of New York, was chosen as Chairman of this Committee.

THE CHAIRMAN: This committee, as named, is requested to meet to confer at the earliest possible moment. The consideration of the report of the Committee on Resolutions is now in order.

MR. BOND: We have not yet received the Declaration of Principles adopted at the Jubilee, consequently we are not

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prepared to act upon it at all. We have failed to find it and our Secretary is not here. We have been handed the Declaration of Principles from California, and have gone hastily over it, and as far as the ideas are concerned, they are quite similar, although the language varies.

We submit the following resolution on Mediumship:

26. *Resolved*, That we hold that mediumship is the bedrock of our Spiritual Temple, and all attacks made upon our genuine mediums strike at the very foundation of our philosophy; at the same time we denounce, in the strongest terms possible, all attempts to deceive the public by simulating the various forms of genuine spirit manifestation, either by those who have more or less psychic power or by those who are simply fakirs, fortune-tellers, and persons lacking moral principle that ought to govern human actions, and we pledge ourselves to do all in our power to eliminate the fraudulent and pretended mediumship from our ranks.

Adopted.

27. *Resolved*, That the ordaining of ministers of the gospel of Spiritualism be left to the State organizations where they exist, and elsewhere to chartered societies of the N. S. A.; that extreme caution be used by such societies in granting ordination papers; and further, that on the proper proof that any persons who have already been ordained and registered in the N. S. A. headquarters, have, by their conduct, disgraced their high calling, such persons' ordination papers be revoked.

MR. WIGGIN: Has the N. S. A. the right to withdraw ordination papers that it never had any part in granting?

THE CHAIRMAN: It never has ordained, but it could recommend the cancellation of ordination papers.

MRS. RICHMOND: We have in the By-Laws seven sections (Article X) relating to this subject. The entire ground is covered by the Article, and it does not seem to me necessary that we should pass another resolution to carry out the By-Laws of the Association. Ordination is left to the societies, and suitable advice and restriction are recommended. It seems that this resolution is unnecessary.

MR. BOND: I would say, in reply to the Vice President, that while her remarks are true, there are a few people at large who have read our By-Laws. It is, perhaps, superfluous, but we thought that, in view of the fact that so few read it, and as the question of ordination is an important one, we thought best to report the resolution.

MRS. RICHMOND: I move to amend by striking out the words

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"such ordination papers be revoked," and inserting the words "and we recommend the recall of ordination papers."

MRS. JACKSON: I second the motion.

MR. KATES: I move to amend the amendment by substituting the word "cancellation" for the word "recall."

MR. STANGLEN: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the amendment to the amendment. It is adopted.

The question is now upon the amendment as amended. It is adopted.

The question is now upon the adoption of these resolutions, as a whole, as amended. Carried.

MR. BOND: The Chair has just handed me the resolutions passed at the Rochester Jubilee. The Committee on Resolutions has not time or disposition to enter into any further remarks on these Declarations of Principles, and I suggest that our Reading Clerk read all of these resolutions. First those that we passed at the Jubilee, then those that were recommended by the Committee on Resolutions, and let the Convention decide.

READING CLERK: Reads:

Declaration of Principles as adopted at the Jubilee:

1. We acknowledge an unlimited intelligence in the universe, of which we are all partakers.

2. The highest expressions of this unlimited intelligence we recognize in the reason and intuitions of the human soul.

3. We recognize Nature as one infinite whole, and her phenomena as the expression of life, energy and intelligence imminent in the constitution of things.

4. Spiritual phenomena throughout the ages have demonstrated that man is a spirit, and the change called death is one of the evolutionary steps in his progressive development.

5. We maintain the truth of spirit communion, and seek to aid in all possible ways its practical demonstration.

6. Intercourse between the living and so-called dead is the natural sequence of human relations on earth. It proves that death does not change the nature of man, but reveals to him new aspects of life and further opportunities for the unfoldment and exercise of the intellectual and moral faculties inherent in every human being.

We endorse the objects expressed in all noble reforms, as illustrated in the following:

1. In the efforts to secure equal justice for all races and classes and both sexes.

2. To protect innocent and helpless childhood by educating parents in the laws and duties of life and love, by which the

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home may become the center of purity, fidelity and mutual devotion and helpfulness.

3. By treating all sin and crime as a disease, and establishing schools and asylums for their proper treatment and permanent cure.

4. By encouraging temperance in all things, and relying on moral and social education as the remedy for all forms of abuses.

5. By co-operation and fraternization as the remedy for political and industrial evils.

6. By recognition of the brotherhood of man and loving toleration of all differences of faith and practice in religion.

7. By teaching and cultivating reverence for truth and a sacred regard for the interests, rights and well-being of every child of nature.

8. By persistent, orderly efforts to improve ourselves, and especially by cultivating a closer relation with the spiritual universe, and obtaining practical knowledge of the higher life by unfolding our own spiritual natures and seeking the helpful co-operation of the spiritual world.

9. By inspiring all men with faith in themselves and confidence in the eternal order of nature, as a perpetual incentive to courageous effort and success in well-doing.

Respectfully submitted as a synopsis.

Signed: CORA L. V. RICHMOND.
LYMAN C. HOWE.
MRS. ELIZABETH L. WATSON.
WILLIAM C. HODGE.
DR. FRED. L. H. WILLIS.

MRS. JACKSON: This was handed to me from Galveston, Texas:

"*To whom it may concern:*

"We believe the theory of organization suggests the development that the location demands; we believe that every soul forms its creed according to its degree of unfoldment, and we do oppose any creed or declaration of principles for Spiritualism.

"Respectfully,

"*Signed:* THE FIRST SPIRITUALIST SOCIETY."

MR. WALKER: I move the Rochester Jubilee report be referred to the Committee on Resolutions for consideration.

Adopted.

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MRS. LONGLEY: I received a Declaration of Principles as adopted at the California State Association in its Convention in last September. I had instructions from the President and officers of that body to present that Declaration of Principles to this Convention. I have handed a copy of it to Mr. Bond, in accordance with my instructions, and I would like to have it presented to this Convention.

THE CHAIRMAN: It will be handed to the Committee on Resolutions to report.

We will now receive the report of the Committee on Auditing Accounts.

REPORT OF AUDITING COMMITTEE.

1. After auditing the accounts of the Treasurer and Secretary we find them all correct.

2. We have also carefully examined the detailed financial account of our President and find everything all correct, showing a balance due him of $157.50.

3. We find in looking over the report that the President has assumed a debt in connection with the State Association of California, which seems to your committee very unjust. The substance of which is the California State Association promised to pay the N. S. A. the sum of $295.50 for dues of said Association and expenses of the President, but failed to do so, and the President, out of his love for the N. S. A. and his desire to have harmony prevail, gave his note for the same, and has paid it. We consider it unjust to throw this burden upon him. Therefore,

4. We recommend that this sum be eliminated from his expense account, and that the N. S. A. assume the debt.

5. We recommend that this matter in regard to the California State Association be brought before the Convention for discussion.

6. His account shows most forcibly his generosity and interest in the N. S. A., as we find he has rebated sixty-five dollars a month on his salary, and has only charged the sum of sixty dollars a month for labor.

7. We also note the fact that no stenographer's services have been engaged during the year, notwithstanding the fact that over nine hundred letters have been written in the interest of the N. S. A., and therefore this proves abundantly the absolute devotion of the President to the interest and welfare of the N. S. A., and any statement to the contrary which may have been made is completely unfounded and baseless.

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8. We recommend the thanks of this Convention be tendered to President Barrett for his untiring efforts in behalf of the N. S A.

Respectfully submitted,

CARRIE L. HATCH, Chairman.
ANNA M. JACQUESS.
THOMAS M. LOCKE.
ANDREW KAY.
PAUL GIBIER.

The Vice President in the chair:

Will you take up this report seriatim?

MR. STANGLEN: I move the adoption of the report as a whole by a rising vote.

Carried.

MR. WALLIS: The Committee on Finance, Ways and Means is ready to make its report.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: A report is always in order from the Committee on Finance, Ways and Means.

MR. WALLIS. Reads:

Your committee suggests that public appeals be made at this Convention for financial support.

That all societies be requested to hold at least one social during the coming season.

Mrs. Pepper will give a seance once a month in different towns. Mr. Hull, Mrs. Jennie Hagan-Jackson and Mr. Wallis will give one lecture per month, outside of their usual engagements, if societies will avail themselves of their services, to help the N. S. A., and we suggest that other mediums and speakers should "go and do likewise" and regard it as a duty to assist the N. S. A. In this way this committee will be pleased to receive and record their offers.

That a national fair should be held by the ladies in connection with the next convention, and that a committee should be appointed to solicit food and work from Spiritualists in all parts of the land.

That "Home Circles" should be held by Spiritualists during the coming season, and, at the close of each circle a small contribution from each sitter should be dropped into an "N. S. A. Missionary Box," which box should be opened and its contents forwarded to the Secretary a month before the next convention.

We respectfully suggest that each speaker shall present the claims of the N. S. A. before the congregations they address as often as possible.

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Your committee are individually prepared to take up contributions for the N. S. A. during the Convention.

We recommend the adoption of the suggestion that the office of the President be in future a non-salaried one, the incumbent thereof to receive compensation for the time actually expended in the necessary service of the N. S. A.

Your committee recommends that Special Financial Agents be appointed under bonds, by the Trustees, to solicit funds for the N. S. A., and suggest that duplicate receipt books be printed, that the said agents shall give a receipt to every person from whom they shall receive donations, and that the N. S. A. missionaries be provided with similar collecting books.

We appreciate the generosity of the President in offering to be one of one hundred persons to give or raise $50 during the coming year, and recommend that all who can do so follow his example.

While the President is entitled to the salary voted to him last year we appreciate his kindly offer to rebate a portion of the same, but feel that it is a matter which rests entirely with himself.

We heartily endorse the suggestion that the expenses of the N. S. A. should be reduced and economy practiced in every department, and recommend that the salary of the Secretary be limited to $900, and that a careful readjustment of the expenses of the National Headquarters be made as early as possible.

Further, we approve the suggestion that the Secretary should pay for all additional help that he may require, outside of the stenographer at the convention; and that the printing expenses be curtailed as far as can be compatible with necessities and efficiency.

We also suggest that the stock of reports on hand should be sold at a reduced price, and speakers and others requested to take copies to sell again.

We recommend that the issue of the Report of the Proceedings of this Convention be limited to 2,000 copies, that estimates for printing the same be obtained from various responsible firms and the most reasonable be accepted. The price of the volume to be fixed by the Trustees after ascertaining the cost of production.

We suggest that the arrangements for the entertainment of the officers of the N. S. A. at future conventions should be carried out with a strict regard to economy, and that local friends be requested to assist in this matter.

That in future conventions a special committee should be

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appointed to provide refreshments in an adjoining apartment where those attending the convention could be supplied at reasonable rates.

Respectfully submitted, by

MOSES HULL, Chairman.
MRS. JENNIE B. HAGAN-JACKSON.
MRS. MAY S. PEPPER.
DR. A. A. KIMBALL.
E. W. WALLIS, Secretary.

MR. WALLIS (continuing): I would say that we were not unanimous in regard to the last recommendation: "That in future conventions a special committee should be appointed to provide refreshments in an adjoining apartment where those attending the convention could be supplied at reasonable rates."

We have received this, addressed to the Finance Committe:

To the Finance Committee of the N. S. A.:

I have with me a supply of M. & J. Skirt Supporters, an article of ladies' wearing apparel. I will donate one-fourth of the gross sales of the same to the treasury, if permitted to offer the same for sale at the bookstall in the ante-room of the hall.

Signed: MRS. L. V. MOULTON.

Approved by

MOSES HULL.
MRS. M. S. PEPPER.
JENNIE B. HAGAN-JACKSON.
E. W. WALLIS.

President Barrett in the chair.

The motion to consider this report seriatim is adopted.

Sections 1, 2 and 3 were adopted as read.

MR. HULL: Let me say, we have spoken to several speakers and mediums, and several additional names have been given. Mrs. M. T. Longley will hold a thought exchange meeting, and hold circles frequently during the year at which contributions will be solicited for the N. S. A. Also Mr. Wiggin, Mrs. Loring and Mr. Wallis, one lecture per month. M. S. Pepper will give one seance a month; Mrs. Hattie C. Mason, one lecture, perhaps more; Miss Lizzie Harlow, two lectures, Mrs. A. M. Gladding one circle, Mr. D. P. Dewey and others.

MR. TISDALE: You may add the name of A. E. Tisdale.

MRS. JACKSON: I would like to say there are many more whose names I did not have an opportunity to secure. Un-

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fortunately we were on the platform and I could not see them; those to whom I have spoken I know will aid us, and I shall be glad to have others give me their names at the close of this session.

MR. WALKER: I move that offers of the lecturers, and others, as well as those to be received later, be accepted with the thanks of this Convention.

MR. HULL: I second the motion. I wish to thank Mrs. Jackson for her work in this direction. It is her due that our friends should know that she drew up all of these resolutions.

Carried.

Sec. 4. Rejected.

SECRETARY WOODBURY: I believe it will be in order for me to present to this Association a new twenty-dollar bill from Dr. W. A. Croffut.

DR. CROFFUT: I did not wish my contribution to be made public in any such way, but I want to state, now that it has been done, that it comes from a full heart, from a desire to co-operate with this Association as far as my ideas permit me to do so.

I am a fraternal delegate from the Free Thought Federation to this Association and as always, as long as I live I will co-operate with all those who labor for the extinction of that old crater, the theological hell, and for the extinction for all time the evangelistic heaven.

I have a petition from the Secular Union to this Association, and I was directed to ask this Association if they would kindly co-operate and reciprocate by appointing a fraternal delegate to attend the annual convention of the Secular Union and the Free Thought Federation that meets in Chicago next week. This is the substance of the request, and I trust it will be acted upon in the proper manner.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair returns the sincere thanks of the Convention to Dr. Croffut for his generous donation and his kind words at this hour.

READING CLERK:

Sec. 5. That "Home Circles" should be held by Spiritualists during the coming season, and at the close of each circle a small contribution from each sitter should be dropped into an "N. S. A. Missionary box," which box should be opened and its contents forwarded to the Secretary a month before the next convention.

MR. WIGGIN: I don't want to take up one moment of our valuable time if it is possible to avoid it, but I don't think that recommendation is consistent from the very fact that we, as mediums and speakers, are to give special meetings for the

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benefit of the N. S. A. It seems to me that that covers the ground and we ought not to vote to tax the people on everything. If we do the people will not take very kindly to us and will give the N. S. A. no support.

MR. WALLIS: I think there is a little misapprehension here. It is the home circles to which this resolution refers. We felt that the home circles would contribute a small donation, especially in those towns and cities where there are no local societies.

MRS. JACKSON: In a little town in Texas there are but ten or twelve Spiritualists. We asked them if they would not make a contribution at the home circles during the winter. They had a small box into which any one who wished to contribute put his offering. They soon collected $5.20. They now have a nice little working society, and as soon as they are strong enough they will apply for a charter and become one among us. Small beginnings sometimes are important. We want to do all that we can.

MR. KATES: I move to amend by inserting after "home circles" the words "where no regular society exists."

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the amendment to insert after the words "home circles" the words "where no local society exists."

MRS. LONGLEY: I don't see the necessity for such an amendment from the fact that there are many Spiritualists who do not go to the local societies at all. They would be very willing, I believe, if the matter were properly presented to them, to contribute to the N. S. A.

MR. HATCH: I object to the amendment on the same grounds as Mrs. Longley. Almost every large city holds a meeting of some kind, and this amendment would compel us to depend simply upon the smaller places where there are no societies.

THE CHAIRMAN: The amendment is lost. The question is now upon the resolution as read. The resolution is adopted.

Sections 6 and 7 adopted.

READING CLERK:

Sec. 8. Your committee recommends that special financial agents be appointed, under bonds, by the Trustees, to solicit funds for the N. S. A., and suggests that duplicate receipt books be printed, that the said agents shall give a receipt to every person from whom they shall receive donations, and that the N. S. A. missionaries be provided with similar collection books.

MR. HULL: They do this in the churches, and we want to learn all we can from our friends in other organizations. The little children often run in and ask if we cannot do some-

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thing to help out the church treasury. They send their children out, and I don't see why we should be relieved from begging when every one else sends beggars around. Your committee thought it a good plan to send out these people, and felt that they should give receipts. I want the resolution to pass.

MR. WALKER: I would like to ask how many agents you expect to get if they have to give bonds.

MR. HULL: I move to amend by saying "under such bonds as the Board of Directors shall require." There may be persons that don't need to give bonds, and there may be some solicitors who would like to have bonds.

MR. KATES: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the amendment to strike out the words "under bonds by the Trustees," and inserting the words "under such bonds as the Board of Trustees may require."

MR. HATCH: How about the receipt books? Are we to go to the expense of more printing by getting receipt books? I don't think it right to pay for a special receipt book.

MR. WALLIS: This was done to protect the financial agents from imputation of misappropriating funds. They should give a receipt and keep a stub in one end of the book, then when the money is given to the N. S. A. the agent could turn in his book as evidence of exactness.

MR. WALKER: In regard to receipt books and stubs, permit me to say that during the last year those I have used have been printed on very thin paper and were very small in size. I have given receipts in every instance. As for having the amount of money and number of the receipt put upon a stub, it is no protection to the agent unless you get the person receipting to sign the stub.

MRS. CADWALLADER: I wish to speak about this matter of receipts, because I think it is very unfortunate not to have these receipt books with stub. In regard to what the gentleman has said, that the stub is no protection, I beg leave to differ, because, in my experience, stub receipt books, in collecting money for the Mediums' Defense Fund, have been of great service. I gave a receipt to the person from whom I received money, and when I turned that money into the treasury of the Mediums' Defense Fund I demanded the signature of the treasurer, vouching for the receipt of the money from me. That receipt was the stub, hence I had at all times a receipt from the one that got the money. The stub protects the one who collects the money, and I think there is no other way by which accounts can be kept carefully. I have in my

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possession at the present time a receipt from the treasurer of the Mediums' Defense Fund for every single cent that has ever been received by me for the Mediums' Defense Fund.

If the agent who collects money for the National Association will also carry stub receipt books he will then have evidence at all times to protect him against any claim that can be made against him. As an illustration, let me refer to the settlement of an estate, where a stub book saved $1,700, because the treasurer had affixed his signature to the stubs and returned them to the collector, thus proving that he had received the money. The treasurer died very suddenly and there was nothing to prove that he had received the money outside of the stubs. The case was taken to the court and the court decided that the stubs showed the disposition of the funds, hence the collector was protected and the money saved to its rightful owners.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the amendment to insert the words "under such bonds as the Board of Trustees may require." It is carried.

MR. WALKER: I move to amend by striking out the words "duplicate receipt books be printed," and inserting the words "blank duplicate receipt books be purchased."

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the amendment. It is adopted. The question is now upon the adoption of the recommendation as amended. It is adopted.

READING CLERK:

Sec. 9. We recommend the adoption of the suggestion that the office of President be in future a non-salaried one, the incumbent thereof to receive compensation for the time actually expended in the necessary service of the N. S. A.

MR. WALKER: Does that include the President's expenses?

MR. WIGGIN: What is the opinion of the Convention as to the price of a day's wages of the President of the N. S. A.? Is that to be left to the Board of Directors?

MR. WALKER: I move to amend by adding the words "as well as his traveling expenses to and from conventions and Board meetings."

MRS. RUSSEGUE: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the amendment to add the words "as well as the traveling expenses of the President to and from conventions and Board meetings."

MR. LOCKE: I don't think the Convention understands the wording of that resolution.

MR. WALKER: I would also include in my amendment the words "that the President be also entitled to the expenses incident to his work for the N. S. A."

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MR. BOND: Mr. President and fellow delegates, I feel that we are establishing a precedent to quarrel over hereafter. Your incoming President may have a bill of $1,500 or $2,000 for expenses within another year. Last year we gave the President a salary of $1,500, and it is only through his generosity that he relinquished a part of that salary that we voted to pay him. Here you have no price stated, hence I think you have left the bars open. You have left it to the President's generosity; he may charge one dollar or ten dollars a day for his services if he desires.

I believe there are men in this Convention that you could not hire for ten dollars a day to do the work for this Association, therefore I move to amend by striking out all "compensation for the time actually expended in the service of the N. S. A.," and inserting the words "his traveling expenses and entertainment while attending the convention."

MRS. RICHMOND: I wish to refer to the President's traveling expenses. It seems to me that that matter will be considered when we take up the question of traveling expenses of the trustees and officers. For two years you have paid these expenses, and I think we ought not mix our business affairs in this way.

MR. HATCH: I move that the resolution and pending amendments be recommitted to the Committee on Finance.

DR. KIMBALL: I second the motion.

Adopted.

MR. BACON: I move to reconsider the vote whereby it was ordered to recommit the pending resolution and amendments thereto.

MR. RICHMOND: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the reconsideration of the vote whereby it was voted to recommit the pending resolution and amendments. The motion is lost, and the resolution and amendments stand recommitted.

Sections 10, 11 and 12 adopted.

READING CLERK:

Sec. 13. We recommend that the issue of the Report of the Proceedings of this Convention be limited to 2,000 copies, that estimates for printing the same be obtained from various responsible firms and the most reasonable be accepted. The price of the volume to be fixed by the Trustees after ascertaining the cost of production.

MR. MAYER: What does that mean? To print 2,000 copies of the proceedings of this Convention? I would vote against that, because the top floor of the National Association is loaded down with reports of former conventions. We only

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sold about 200 copies last year, the year before 250 and the year previous I think about 200. We should not go to the expense of doing the same thing over again and never profit by our experience. We waste money by throwing it away in printing, and I move to amend by making it 300 copies.

MR. WIGGIN: I think the number of copies recommended in the report is about what we should have. I move to amend by fixing the price per copy at ten cents instead of twenty-five cents. I offer this as the result of my own experience. I agreed at the last convention to take 25 copies of the report. The day I received them I was lecturing in the little city of Marlboro, Mass. I offered these copies for sale there at ten cents and had I had fifty copies there they would have all been sold. I paid the N. S. A. twenty-five cents a copy for them. I know that if the reports are sold for ten cents a copy 2,000 copies can be easily disposed of, and thereby the proceedings of this Convention would have greater circulation among the people.

MR. KATES: I would like to know the cost of the publication.

THE CHAIRMAN: In round numbers $250 per thousand copies.

MR. WALKER: I move to substitute for the pending resolution the following: "That a certain number of type-written copies of the proceedings be secured for use and kept on file at the National office."

Last year very nearly as much was spent in expressage in sending the reports back and forth as was realized from the sales. Last year we ordered 2,000 copies of the report. We did not sell more than 250 copies at the outside. In regard to the price, permit me to say that, if the Spiritualists are interested in the work and want to know what is going on at our conventions, they will be willing to pay twenty-five cents for a splendid report, instead of ten cents for a bad one. If not, they haven't the cause as much at heart as they ought to have.

MR. BACON: I second the substitute.

MR. PRUDEN: I think it is eminently important that a report of every convention should be in the hands of all chartered societies. There are several chartered societies in Minnesota, yet I have never seen a report of a single convention in that State. There is not a society there that has the reports of the past conventions. I move to amend by adding "and a similar copy sent to every society chartered by the National Association."

MR. BROWN: I second the motion.

MR. KATES: I think this is a practical amendment. We

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have heard the President say just now that it cost about $250 for one thousand copies of the report. It is all wrong for the National Association to foot the expense of publication, and the local societies ought to bear a portion of it. I feel that each local society ought to pay $1 for every type-written copy received.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the amendment. It is lost.

The question now is upon the substitute offered that a few type-written copies be kept on file for use at the headquarters.

MR. STANGLEN: I would like to say a few words to this Convention in reference to the printing of these reports. Had the matter been set up with a type-setting machine and then electrotyped, a great deal of the expense of printing could have been avoided in the past, yet all that was necessary would have been done. If four hundred copies are ordered, the expense will be as great as it would be for one thousand copies of the report.

It is no more trouble when the form is once made up to run off two thousand copies than four hundred, hence there is no additional cost. Therefore I think it is a useless expenditure of money to order less than a thousand copies of the report.

This Association can save money in the future in the matter of printing by awarding it to the lowest bidder, who could do it nicely. I will guarantee it will not cost $200 per thousand. (Applause.) If this Convention will increase the amount to ten thousand copies it can be printed and delivered in the District of Columbia for less than five cents a copy by a reliable house.

MR. BOND: I move that this whole matter be referred to the incoming Board, with full power to act, also to set the price per copy.

MRS. BARRETT: I second the motion. I think this is one of the most important questions that has come up for discussion. You could have no better missionary documents than these reports, and there should be several thousand of them to send all over the country.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the motion to refer this matter to the incoming Board. The motion is lost, 19 ayes, 33 noes.

MR. BOND: I move it be recommitted to the Committee on Finance.

MR. WALKER: I second the motion.

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The question now is upon the motion to recommit this question to the Committee on Finance.

It is adopted.

Sec. 14 adopted.

READING CLERK:

Sec. 15. We suggest that the arrangements for the entertainment of the officers of the N. S. A. at future conventions should be carried out with a strict regard to economy, and that local friends be requested to assist in this matter.

MR. HATCH: I do not understand what that resolution really means.

MR. HULL: It means that in every place where the Convention is held, the friends residing there are requested to entertain the officers, delegates and visitors.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is on the recommendation. It is rejected.

READING CLERK:

Sec. 16. That in future conventions a special committee should be appointed to provide refreshments in an adjoining apartment, where those attending the convention could be supplied at reasonable rates.

MR. WALKER: I move this section be laid on the table.

MR. BOND: I second the motion.

Adopted.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Committee on Finance is requested to retire and consider the matters recommitted to it.

MR. BOND: Mr. President and fellow delegates, your Committee on Resolutions has given the Declaration of Principles adopted at Rochester careful consideration, and has compared it with the one it presented to the Convention yesterday. Your Committee finds no reason whatever to change its views, for the ideas are very nearly the same. Your Committee now asks to have both of them read.

The Declaration reported by the Committee and the one adopted at the Rochester Jubilee were then read by the Reading Clerk.

MR. RICHMOND: I want it distinctly known my Spiritualism is not founded upon science, nor has it ever been scientifically demonstrated. It has been based upon something deeper and more eternal than science.

MRS. RICHMOND: I move the adoption of the Declaration of Principles given at Rochester.

MR. BACON: In comparing these two statements which have been read in our hearing, I feel that the latter should be substituted for the former. A motion to that effect has already been made by the Vice President.

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MRS. LONGLEY: I am instructed by the State Association of California to present a Statement of Principles adopted by the State Association in September last, and I request in behalf of the State of California that the same be read before any Declaration is adopted.

READING CLERK:

Declaration of Principles as Adopted by the State Association of California, September, 1898.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES.

WHEREAS, Spiritualists believe in liberty, and will not be bound by dogmatic creeds, which enslave the mind and destroy the spiritual nature,

Therefore, We present to the world, instead, a simple Statement of Principles, which are susceptible of differentiation and growth, until they satisfy the minds of all reasonable thinkers. This statement is a consensus of opinion and an expression of the collective mind of the Spiritualists of America; and the purpose of its adoption and publication is to serve as a basis for organization and propaganda; and for information to investigators and Spiritualists, and is subject to revision and change by the people—or their representatives—assembled in an orderly manner for that purpose.

1. DEFINITION.—Spiritualism is a scientific, philosophical religion, and embraces the science of life, the philosophy of existence and the religion of humanity.

2. LIFE.—Life is universal and eternal. Organic Life manifests itself as intellect, sensibilities and will. The unity of life involves that common sympathy among men which creates the desire for communion with our fellows, and enables decarnate spirits to communicate with those in the flesh.

3. MISSION.—The mission of Spiritualism in the world is, primarily, to establish a rational religion in the minds of men, founded upon the operation of Nature's laws; to wage an educational warfare upon Ignorance, Superstition and all forms of Supernaturalism; and, in consonance with Universal Brotherhood, to establish the solidarity of the human race through the dissemination of a knowledge of man's relation to his fellow man—to this end, being in active sympathy with all genuine reforms looking to the betterment of social conditions of humanity, including the elevation of the woman.

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4. DEITY.—Alexander Pope, the poet, gave expression to the most comprehensive definition of deity and man's relation thereto, in these words:

> "All are but parts of one stupendous whole,
> Whose body nature is, and God the soul."

5. CREATION.—There are two fundamental elements in nature which are immortal and indestructible. They are called "matter" and "spirit." The various phenomena of the universe are differentiations of these primary elements. Change, adaptation and evolution are the three great factors in the progressive economy of nature.

6. PROGRESSION.—The watchword of Spiritualism is "Eternal Progression." This is a progressive universe; this is a progressive world, and man is a progressive being. Speculations, opinions and theories, in regard to methods, are of secondary importance.

7. CONTINUITY OF LIFE.—Human experience affirms, the operation of Nature's laws confirms, and intelligent communication from those who have passed through the change called death proves, that man has a continued, intelligent existence after the dissolution of the physical body.

8. MAN'S INDIVIDUALITY.—The paramount tendency of evolutionary development is to the individualization of the human spirit as an immortal entity, and this individuality being attained, the soul must assume the responsibilities of eternal existence, and by taking advantage of opportunities will be enabled to rise to heights of great mental and spiritual unfoldment.

9. DEATH.—The physical body is the house in which man lives while passing through the experience of earth-life. When this is no longer habitable, he passes into another sphere of existence. This change—or transition—is called death, and the condition in which man finds himself after this change is called the spirit world.

10. SPIRIT WORLD.—The spirit world is a natural state of existence, originated and sustained by natural law; including many varied conditions or spheres corresponding to the variant intellectual, moral and spiritual planes of its inhabitants. At physical death each human soul passes into a condition in correspondence with its degree of unfoldment, ethical and spiritual; and, under the law of eternal progression, through continued aspiration and effort, it is destined to outgrow its imperfections, and ever increase in goodness, knowledge, wisdom and happiness as the endless ages roll.

11. MEDIUMS.—The agents through whom the spirit-world

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communicates are called mediums, and may be classified as follows: inspirational speakers and writers; test mediums, or those through whom direct personal messages come; mediums who heal the sick through spirit aid; physical mediums for the production of objective phenomena; and various other classes of mediums through whom are produced many other manifestations on the physical and mental planes.

12. ETHICS; OR, THE SCIENCE OF RIGHT-LIVING.—Man shall live right and do right because it is right, without hope of reward or fear of punishment. Temperance should be observed in all things, including speech and conduct.

13. ORGANIZATION.—Spiritual societies should be formed upon a spiritual basis. Character and usefulness should be the qualifications for membership, and financial considerations should be secondary.

MR. DEWEY: I do not rise to speak to this question to take up the time of this Convention. I have not spoken to a single question that has been raised since I have been in this hall. My only purpose is to transact our business for the best interests of all concerned. I wish to speak for a few moments on the adoption of the substitute offered by our Vice President. We are now where we expected to be when we came to this Convention. We have held aloof from this matter, knowing that when the crisis came, Mr. President, no declaration of principles would be adopted by this Convention.

Now, sir, in view of this fact as a member of that committee, I will say that we have been very careful and tried to be judicious in regard to everything our report contains.

I believe that the declaration of principles was approved that was given us by our worthy President, and while I feel that our committee did its work well, I believe that declaration was the best one this Convention could adopt. My reasons are many. We shall never rest upon any declaration of principles adopted at the first, second or third meeting of this Convention for all coming time. We must be brief, and we must be actuated more for what we don't say than for what we do say. I undertake to say that we cannot make any declaration that all can agree to, and I believe also that upon many of the most beautiful things that are incorporated in all the different declarations that have been read to us would antagonize somebody. We are a body of independent thinkers, else we would not be here. We have come from the odds and ends of the earth. Ladies and gentlemen, let us avoid any future conflict. There are a few points upon which we may

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all stand, and as time goes on, and as our tenets are proven scientifically those anxious to amend our declaration can do so. (Applause.)

Mr. President, the adoption of these resolutions does not mean that we have all there is concerning Spiritualism. We hope that another convention may add to them. I ask this Convention to adopt the resolutions offered by your committee. They have been carefully studied and, all things considered, embody all that is necessary, and perhaps more.

MISS HARLOW: The gentleman preceding me has voiced my sentiments exactly. I believe we should be as brief as possible. I regret to hear one of our oldest Spiritualists say that Spiritualism is not based upon science. (Applause.) What does demonstration mean? Has it not a scientific explanation? Let us now in all candor formulate as perfect a declaration as possible, so that when we are asked in regard to our belief we shall know how to reply. I believe in letting old phrases go and in taking up words that will meet the demands of the present hour. I suggest that the briefest declaration possible be made setting forth that the plain demonstrated facts of a philosophy based upon science is our proclamation to the world. (Loud applause.)

MRS. BARRETT: I think that the adoption of a lengthy declaration of principles is beyond the power of this Convention, in view of the fact that it was voted last year to obtain an expression from each chartered society before taking action upon so important a matter. As this was not done, I believe it is beyond the power of this Convention to adopt more than a basic axiomatic outline of what Spiritualism is.

MR. STANGLEN: I think the importance of the adoption of a declaration of principles for this Association is understood by but a very few of the delegates. I believe if those who have studied the question earnestly from a legal standpoint would bring together certain basic principles our whole object would be gained. In a majority of the States of the Union the laws are based upon the old statutes of England, in which were embodied many of the edicts of the Church of England. To accept these State laws requires the acceptation of a religion that shall give forth certain expressions of sentiment that shall be in harmony with these religious requirements and statutory regulations. In the States of Maryland, New York, Wisconsin and Louisiana the laws are practically the same and require the recognition of God as being the primal foundation of all things. Therefore, if we all believe in God let us say so. Let each one define that God according to the dic-

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tates of his conscience, be it a God of Wisdom, a God of Nature, or a God of Spirit, or an Eternal Energy.

Let us adopt simple words that shall meet all statutory requirements, and then this Convention will place itself in a position where it can enter into the courts whenever necessity so requires.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Convention is now adjourned.

AFTERNOON MEETING.

THURSDAY, October 20, 2.30 P. M.

President Barrett in the Chair.

Singing by the audience.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is on the adoption of the Declaration of Principles, formulated at Rochester, as a substitute for the one presented by the Committee on Resolutions.

MR. KATES: We cannot consider this matter of Declaration of Principles in less than two days time, therefore I move that this matter be laid over until the next convention.

MRS. RICHMOND: I move to amend by inserting the words "that the four declarations of principles presented to this Convention be printed in the columns of the Spiritualist press, and copies forwarded to all local societies for comparison and consideration, and then this whole matter" between the words "move" and the word "be."

MR. KATES: I accept the amendment.

Adopted.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Committee on Finance is ready to present a supplementary report, which will now be received.

READING CLERK:

We recommend the adoption of the suggestion that the office of the President be, in future, a non-salaried one, the incumbent thereof to receive compensation for the time actually expended in the necessary service of the N. S. A., at the rate of five dollars per day, also his actual traveling expenses and cost of entertainment.

We recommend that the issue of the report of the proceedings of this Convention be limited to 2,000 copies, that estimates for printing the same be obtained from various responsible firms and the most reasonable be accepted. The price of the volume to be fixed by the Trustees after ascertaining the cost of production.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the adoption of the report of the Committee on Finance, Ways and Means, as a whole, as amended. It is adopted.

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MR. LOCKE: I am requested by the society of which I have the honor to be President, to ask this Convention to take some action in reference to singing books. All over this land we find our local societies using different kinds of books. We ought to adopt something that would suit the people. Very many of our hymns have horrible tunes that are not adapted to progressive Spiritual societies. I ask this Convention to take up this question. We should adopt some music suited to our method of worship. Good music and good singing do much to spiritualize and uplift our people. I trust that a committee will be appointed to consider this matter. If there are neither hymns nor music adapted to our needs, let us find some parties who can supply this want.

MR. HULL: I move that a committee of five, who are sincere Spiritualists and musicians, be appointed by the Chair to take this matter in hand.

MR. LOCKE: I second the motion.

Adopted.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair will appoint Moses Hull, Prof. C. P. Longley, W. H. Bach, Prof. E. A. Whitelaw, and Prof. Joseph Singer as that committee.

MRS. RICHMOND: A matter was brought before the Convention last year, concerning the propriety of inviting speakers to take part in our evening exercises, to send the subjects upon which they wished to speak to the Board of Trustees at least thirty days prior to the Convention. This request was published several weeks before the Convention in the Spiritualistic papers, but when the time came to prepare our program only three answers to that request had been received. From the credentials sent, and information privately received, it was found that there were about thirty speakers and mediums expected to be present at the Convention. Some of the speakers thought that the Board ought to correspond with them and give them special invitations to be present, while others thought a division of time on the ten-minute plan was the proper one. I should like to have this Convention take some definite action. Of course it is but fair that those from a distance should be heard at the evening sessions. We divided the time among as many speakers and mediums from every part of the country as possible, but you can't crowd twenty or thirty speakers into the exercises of three evenings and do any one of them justice. I would like very much to know what position is to be taken by the National Association.

Shall we have a few speakers and have them present their best thoughts in good form, or shall we hear from as many as possible and run the risk of remaining in session until mid-

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night? It is but fair that the Convention decide this matter. It was left to the Board last year, but with only three responses from those who intended to be present, the Board could not act.

MR. HULL: It seems to me that we ought to adopt some plan to have our best talent on our platform each night, with plenty of time to say something. I believe there can be six failures made in one hour in ten-minute speeches. I believe there can be two pretty fair speeches made in one hour. The Board of Trustees should be instructed to invite talent of known ability to address the audiences each evening upon subjects announced beforehand.

MRS. RICHMOND: I move the incoming Board be instructed to form a committee within the Board to carry on this correspondence in accordance with the wishes of the Convention.

MR. HULL: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is open for discussion.

MR. WALKER: This is a subject to which I have given considerable thought, having had considerable work of that kind during the past summer. We have been making a mistake in putting on our platform so much talent and some of it so *little* talent. We should profit by the lessons set us by the churches. The speakers in church assemblies know enough to know their places, but among Spiritualists any one who wishes to speak must speak, and seldom has there been a program committee with sufficient courage to say them nay. We should place on our platform men and woman of ability to give us thoughts, and not mere verbiage. We want our best talent, something that will attract the attention of the world.

MR. WEAVER: I think that we shall make an impression very much stronger and better if the committee selects our very best talent in the United States. We should have that talent at our every convention, even if expenses have to be paid. The subjects should be known, and each evening's addresses should be centered around some thought that is vitally connected with Spiritualism. Select these men and women in order that the highest thoughts may be put before the world, and not take general questions that anybody can discuss. (Applause.)

MR. MOULTON: I have had the misfortune to be chairman of the Committee on Program for two conventions. If any speaker's name was not on the list we knew that he would be heard from at once, with the same old cry of persecution, and that we were discriminating against some one when we had no idea of doing so. Therefore we felt under the obligation of placing all speakers on the program. We were anxious, of course, that Spiritualism should be presented in its best light at

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the Convention of the National Association, but if we selected those we considered to be the best representatives and those we thought would do the best in placing us in the best light before the people of the world, we could not put the entire list on the program, and would be accused of unjust discrimination. Now this Convention should give that committee some positive authority or instructions for the next convention.

THE CHAIRMAN: The motion is adopted.

The report of the Committee on Delegates' Reports will now be received.

READING CLERK (reads):

Mr. President and Fellow Delegates: Your Committee reports that out of two hundred and fourteen societies chartered by the N. S. A., fifty have sent in reports.

Though many of these are sadly deficient in some of the items, there is a marked improvement over previous years. Your Committee recommends that the Secretary be instructed to call for full statistics, so that in future a more complete report of the strength of the Association can be given.

Besides the regular blanks this year many societies have sent letters concerning the condition of their affairs. These are very interesting, but in most cases reports are very discouraging.

Your Committee has carefully read all reports sent in by the societies, and all the letters accompanying the same, and from them has compiled the various recommendations presented in this report. In some cases letters have been received, but no financial statement. An interesting letter from Fall River, Mass., giving an account of the donations of the members of the Society to the National Relief Committee, the Committee thinks worthy especial comment, and notes with pleasure the donation of the Children's Progressive Lyceum to the "boys in blue."

Your Committee recommends that all societies be requested to forward their reports not later than ten days previous to the Convention, in order that the statistics of said reports may be compiled as far as possible in advance of the assembling of the same. Your Committee finds it almost impossible to do this properly in the time of the Convention.

Your Committee recommends, in order to expedite business, that all reports of delegates or money coming in after the close of the fiscal year, be given as a supplementary report at the convention and included in the report of the following year, it being deemed necessary to establish some system in regard to these reports.

Your Committee recommends that the reports of the dele-

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gates of each year be arranged systematically and filed separately for thebenefit of the Committee on Delegates' Reports. The reason for this recommendation is, owing to the lack of system in the arrangement of the reports this year the work of this Committee is very much increased.

Your Committee recommends that a complete list of the societies chartered by the N. S. A. be compiled and a copy of the same be sent to the Spiritual Press for publication, and that the Secretary send a circular letter on matters of interest pertaining to the work of the N. S. A. at least once a month to the Secretary of each chartered society, with the request that it be read at the meetings. We think that this method of communication will keep the chartered associations closely in touch with the interests of the National Body, and do away with the criticisms that have been made by the officers of those societies who claim that the N. S. A. never communicates with them except to plead for money.

The Ladies' Independent Aid Society, through their delegate, asks for the date of the granting of jurisdiction over California local societies to the California State Association by the N. S. A.

Your Committee recommends that this information be sent them and that some action be taken in regard to all charters granted by the N. S. A. before the formation of the California State Association.

Your Committee recommends that no society shall be represented unless it has applied for a charter at least thirty days before the Convention.

Your Committee desires to call attention once more to the very bad practice of voting by proxy, unless appointed by the society so represented. They do more to disorganize associations than all other internal dissensions. It seems to your Committee that where a society feels any interest in the annual convention, it should send a delegate. Your Committee stamps with its earnest disapproval the right of a delinquent society to cast a vote. Surely if a society feels so little interest in the welfare of the National Association as not to pay its dues, or at least send in an annual collection, it certainly should be debarred from participating in any way in the deliberations of the Convention.

So we believe this Association at this time should place unqualified disapproval upon proxies, which really mean so little, but which provoke such bad feeling.

Your Committee recommends the revoking of all charters of societies which have not contributed for two years to the funds of the Association. Such societies exist in name only,

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as far as the N. S. A. is concerned, and should have no representation in the annual deliberations of this body.

Your Committee recommends that another item be added to complete the statistics, that each society be required to report how much it has contributed to the N. S. A. the current year, and also that the word "incoming" be stricken from the present blank, as it is not possible to report who shall be the incoming officers.

Your Committee recommends that a greater effort be made to secure representation direct from each society. Unless this is done the societies cannot be held in touch with the National Body, and cannot see the necessity of financially supporting the N. S. A.

Repectfully submitted,

M. E. CADWALLADER.
B. M. BRADBURY.
C. P. LONGLEY.
CARRIE F. LORING.
FRANCES H. SPALDING.

THE CHAIRMAN: It will be considered seriatim.

READING CLERK:

Mr. President and Fellow Delegates: Your Committee reports that out of two hundred and fourteen societies chartered by the N. S. A., fifty have sent in reports.

Though many of these are sadly deficient in some of the items, there is a marked improvement over previous years. Your Committee recommends that the Secretary be instructed to call for full statistics, so that in future a more complete report of the strength of the Association can be given.

Besides the regular blanks, this year many societies have sent letters concerning the condition of their affairs. These are very interesting, but in most cases reports are very discouraging.

Your Committee has carefully read all reports sent in by the societies, and all the letters accompanying the same, and from them has compiled the various recommendations presented in this report. In some cases letters have been received, but no financial statement. An interesting letter from Fall River, Mass., giving an account of the donations of the members of the Society to the National Relief Committee, the committee thinks worthy especial comment, and note with pleasure the donation of the Children's Progressive Lyceum to the "boys in blue."

Your Committee recommends that all societies be requested to forward their reports not later than ten days previous to the

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Convention, in order that the statistics of said report may be compiled as far as possible in advance of the assembling of the same. Your Committee finds it almost impossible to do this properly in the time of the Convention.

Adopted.

Your Committee recommends, in order to expedite business, that all reports of delegates or money coming in after the close of the fiscal year, be given as a supplementary report at the Convention, and included in the report of the following year, it being deemed necessary to establish some system in regard to these reports.

Adopted.

Your committee recommends that the reports of the delegates of each year be arranged systematically and filed separately for the benefit of the Committee on Delegates' Reports. The reason for this recommendation is, owing to the lack of system of the arrangement of the reports this year we find the work of this Committee very much increased.

Adopted.

Your Committee recommends that a complete list of the societies chartered by the N. S. A. be compiled and a copy of the same be sent to the Spiritual Press for publication, and that the Secretary send a circular letter on matters of interest pertaining to the work of the N. S. A. at least once a month to the Secretary of each chartered Society, with the request that it be read at the meetings. We think that this method of communication will keep the chartered associations closely in touch with the interests of the National Body, and do away with the criticisms that have been made by the officers of those societies who claim that the N. S. A. never communicates with them except to plead for money.

MR. BOND: I move as an amendment to the recommendation of the committee that the words "once a quarter" be substituted for "once a month."

MRS. RUSSEGUE: I second the motion, and wish to ask for information. I want to know if the societies should not write to the Secretary of the National Association for information? Is it expected that the different societies should receive this information unsolicited?

THE CHAIRMAN: It is the duty of the Secretary to give information within reasonable limits.

MRS. RUSSEGUE: When a society receives such information and it is unsolicited, very little attention is paid to it. When the people want information, let them ask for it.

MRS. CADWALLADER: I simply wish to say that many societies do not seem to care enough about the National Associa-

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tion, and it is because I want to save these societies, I wish a gentle reminder sent to them. It does them good to get a letter from headquarters unsolicited. A letter sometimes means a great deal. After a society has paid its money for a charter the National Association should have more interest in it than simply to send to it when money is wanted. I want to bring the societies in touch with the National, then they will be willing to assist it.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the amendment to substitute the word "quarter" for the word "month."

It is adopted. The question is now upon the recommendation as amended.

MRS. RICHMOND: I move to amend by striking out the last clause, reading as follows: "And do away with the criticisms that have been made by the officers of those societies who claim that the N. S. A. never communicates with them except to plead for money."

MRS. HAIRE: I second the motion.

MRS. CADWALLADER: I wish to ask what advantage it will be to strike out that clause? The question is, "Is it not true?" Why should we fear to state that we have been criticised?

MR. STANGLEN: Mr. Chairman and delegates, shall we come here year after year as delegates and let matters continue as they are without raising our voice in favor of better methods? The Third Spiritualist Church, of Baltimore, has been chartered from its infancy with the National Association. Up to date it has only received three letters from the National Spiritualists Association, every one of them asking for money. When I attempted to raise our per capita dues, the members of the church asked me, "What good is the national organization? Every letter that you have read in public asks for a collection." I believe it is not asking too much of this Association to have its Secretary send us a line once a month so that we can know what is going on at headquarters.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the amendment to eliminate the last clause. It is lost—26 votes for and 32 votes against the amendment.

The question is now upon the adoption of the recommendation of your committee as previously amended. It is adopted.

READING CLERK:

The Ladies' Independent Aid Society, through their delegate, asks for the date of the granting of jurisdiction over California local societies to the California State Association by the N. S. A.

Your Committee recommends that this information be sent

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them and that some action be taken in regard to all charters granted by the N. S. A. before the formation of the California State Association.

MRS. LONGLEY: Before that question is put, I would like to have the reading clerk read this communication sent by the Ladies' Independent Aid Society of California.

READING CLERK:

The Ladies' Independent Aid Society of Spiritualists, of Los Angeles, Cal., a benevolent organization of Spiritualists, applied through Mrs. Cadwallader, in regular form, to the N. S. A. for a charter in April last. It is claimed by the Board of the N. S. A. that such a charter was not granted on the ground that previous to that time jurisdiction had been granted to the California State Association over all societies in that State, and that all applications to the N. S. A. for charters in California must be made through said State Association.

The Ladies' Independent Aid, of Los Angeles, question this decision, and through its representative at this Convention—Mr. C. P. Longley—demands positive proof of the N. S. A. that such jurisdiction over California societies was granted by the N. S. A. to the California State Association previous to April 1, 1898. Such proof can only be given by reference to the minutes of the N. S. A., from which the Los Angeles society demands the date of such jurisdiction having been granted.

Furthermore, the Ladies' Independent Aid of Los Angeles, having been kept out of its charter from the N. S. A. and thus been denied the privilege and right of seating a delegate at this Convention, demands information from the N. S. A. as to why the N. S. A. Secretary did not so acquaint the Ladies' Independent Aid Society with the facts, that steps might be at once taken to properly apply for its charter through the California State Association, that the same might have been received in time for the Ladies' Independent Aid to have a delegate at this Convention. Instead of this the money paid by said Ladies' Independent Aid Society for its charter to the N. S. A. has never been returned to the Los Angeles society nor its equivalent given.

Furthermore, at about the same time that the Ladies' Independent Aid Society, of Los Angeles, of which Mary T. Longley was President, applied to the N. S. A. for a charter, the First Spiritual Society of Los Angeles also applied to the N. S. A. for a charter, which was duly granted and received by the Secretary of that society, Mr. M. M. Lyon. This fact being brought to the notice of the Ladies' Independent Aid Society of Los Angeles by the statement of Dr. M. J. Gillette

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President of the First Spiritual Society of Los Angeles, the said Ladies' Independent Aid Society asks why its application was denied on the grounds that the California State Association alone has jurisdiction over California applications for charters, when a charter was granted to another California society by the N. S. A. at the same time.

Respectfully submitted to the Committee on Delegates' Reports.

MARY T. LONGLEY,
Southern California Missionary for the N. S. A.

The Vice President in the Chair.

MR. BARRETT: Permit me to explain as briefly as possible. The California State Spiritualist Association was formally organized in May, 1896, and was incorporated in the following July. About the first of September of the same year it held its first convention and applied for a charter from the N. S. A. In that application its officers asked for exclusive jurisdiction after the first day of January, 1897. They did not want it at once, for they wished to acquaint the local societies with the fact that a State Association had been formed in which they could all unite and through which they could all be connected with the N. S. A.

The application was brought before the Board in October, and because of the fact that the word "exclusive" was not to be applied until January it was laid over until the January meeting.

In respect to granting a charter to the Los Angeles society, I think it was done at our April Board meeting, and none of the members at the time recalled the fact that exclusive jurisdiction had been granted to the California State Association.

In regard to the Ladies' Independent Aid Society, the charter was withheld from that society, and I did not realize until I met Mrs. Longley that a charter had been granted and sent to another society in that city. It was illegally granted and, under Constitution, must be revoked. I accept my share of the blame for this mistake.

MRS. LONGLEY: In regard to the withholding of the charter from the Ladies' Independent Aid Society of Los Angeles, no fault is found with the N. S. A. for doing that, so long as it had granted jurisdiction to California State Association. This matter of complaint is, we did not have the matter so stated to us in Los Angeles.

The complaint is also made that money had been paid to the N. S. A. and no information given us with regard to it.

MR. KATES: Is there a rule in the National Association

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under which a State Association can be given full jurisdiction so far as granting any new local charters is concerned if that State Association is chartered with the N. S. A.? I know that the locals already chartered are not compelled to join a new State Association; but what I ask is, is full jurisdiction ever granted in any State?

SECRETARY WOODBURY: It seems to me that it would be better to refer this whole matter to the incoming Board. I have had many documents from the California State Association insisting that no more charters be granted in that State. I have asked the Secretary of the State Association to wait until I could get some instructions as to what was best to do, and have waited until we should have somebody with us from California from whom we might receive a statement upon which we could act wisely.

MRS. LONGLEY: I have received three letters from the Secretary of the National Association in regard to the question of our charter, but in none of these letters did he state that the N. S. A. had decided that exclusive jurisdiction had been given the State Association, and that we must apply to it for a charter. In every one of his letters the Secretary stated that he could not tell what to do until money enough was found on the part of the N. S. A. to get the Board together to decide the matter. The last letter I received was just about two or three weeks previous to my coming here, in which it was reiterated that unless money enough could be secured so that the N. S. A. could get its Board together the matter could not be decided. These letters are on file with the Secretary of the Ladies' Independent Aid Society of Los Angeles.

I wish to speak in regard to the California State Association and its demand, as I am here at the present time as its regular delegate. I wish to read this communication:

"SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *September* 22, 1898.

"MRS. M. T. LONGLEY.

"DEAR FRIEND: As representative of the California State Spiritualist Association to the National Convention your attention is directed to the following, which was adopted at our State Convention.

"Fraternally yours,

"THOS. G. NEWMAN."

WHEREAS, At the formation of the California State Spiritualist Association, the National Spiritualists Association, by its president, agreed to give to the State Association full control of all societies in the State of California; and

WHEREAS, To our knowledge there are societies in California

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holding charters from the National Spiritualists Association that have withdrawn from the State Association to the great detriment of our State organization; therefore be it

Resolved, By the California State Association in Convention assembled, we hereby instruct our delegate to the National Spiritualists Association to demand full and complete jurisdiction from that Association in the State of California at the hands of the N. S. A. The penalty of a refusal shall be the withdrawal of the California State Association from the National Spiritualists Association on January 1, 1899.

MRS. RICHMOND: Is it not true that societies chartered with the N. S. A. before the State Association was formed, cannot be compelled to either join the State Association or return their charters? We cannot withdraw our charters without cause and through due process of law. It would be unjust to those who are chartered with the National Association and do not wish to belong to both, or do not wish to belong to the State Association, for the National to withdraw its charters except as provided by the constitution.

MR. MOULTON: It is true that under our constitution this body has no power whatever to compel local societies to join a State association, if they first hold a charter from the N. S. A. We can simply decline to give any more charters, but we cannot repudiate those charters. In regard to refunding the money sent here by mistake in view of the State jurisdiction to the California State Association, if our Secretary has drawn an order for that money without the sanction of the Board he would have gotten into trouble at once, therefore the money could not be sent back.

If our Secretary had informed the society of the situation, that State jurisdiction had been granted, and that they could not get a charter from the National Association, that was all he had the power to do. Unfortunately, the Board did not have a meeting, hence there was no opportunity whatever on the part of the Board to pass upon the matter. Had there been, the application would have been refused.

As regards the condition of the charters granted local societies before the State Association was organized, they cannot be withdrawn as demanded by the California State Association. I hope the officers thereof will not carry their threat into execution, because this body does not do what it has no right to do.

MR. LOCKE: I move the whole matter be referred to the incoming Board with instructions to act in the matter.

MR. WALKER: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is adopted.

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READING CLERK: Your Committee recommends that no society shall be allowed representation in this Convention unless it has contributed at least a collection toward the expense of the N. S. A. It seems to your Committee that where a society feels so little interest in the N. S. A. that it neglects to contribute to the expenses, it certainly should be debarred from participating in the business of the convention.

MR. WALKER: That resolution is already embodied in a by-law that will be presented.

MRS. CADWALLADER: Mr. Chairman, I wish to withdraw that resolution from the report of the committee.

Withdrawn.

READING CLERK: Your Committee recommends that no society shall be represented unless it has applied for a charter at least thirty days before the convention.

Your Committee desires to call attention once more to the very bad practice of voting by proxy, unless appointed by the society so represented. They do more to disorganize associations than all other internal dissensions. It seems to your Committee that where a society feels any interest in the annual convention, it should send a delegate. Your Committee stamps with its earnest disapproval the right of a delinquent society to cast a vote. Surely if a society feels so little interest in the welfare of the National Association as not to pay its dues, or at least send in an annual collection, it certainly should be debarred from participating in any way in the deliberations of the convention.

So we believe this Association, at this time, should place unqualified disproval upon proxies, which really mean so little, but which provoke such bad feeling.

THE CHAIRMAN: One paragraph of this article is in conflict with the Constitution and By-laws, and for that reason would be out of order at this time, until the question is presented by the Committee on Amendments. The Chair will have to so rule. The second portion can be considered by this Convention.

MRS. RICHMOND: I would like to ask if the question of proxies legitimately comes under the head of reports on delegates' reports?

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair considers this would properly come under the report of the Committee on Amendments. It ought to have been made a special order during the introduction of business.

MRS. CADWALLADER: It is based upon a report from a delegate, and as such it came under the head of delegates' reports.

THE CHAIRMAN: Having been placed before the Convention by a delegate it is in order, and will now be considered.

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MRS. RICHMOND: I am most heartily in favor, at the earliest practicable moment, of abolishing representation by proxy. Many societies cannot be represented on this floor because they have not the means to send a delegate, and the individuals composing their societies have not the means to be here, and to accuse these people of lack of interest in the Association is certainly not fair, and I do not think that at the present time we ought to do away with proxies unless we can find some way in which these distant societies can send delegates. Of course, for one, if I belong to the National Association, or any society connected with it, I expect to be here and be a delegate here, but it is not possible for all to do so. It has been brought up at every convention, and in each convention we have decided that until we have possible representation from all the societies, the proxy system is necessary.

SECRETARY WOODBURY: I am opposed to the proxy system. Any secretary of this National Association has it in his power to conduct the business and control the nominating committee. I think that such a thing ought to be abolished, and I plead for some better way to conduct the National Spiritualists Association.

MR. BOND: I move as an amendment that our chartered societies, no matter where they are from, shall name the person whom they wish to represent them, without leaving it in the power of any secretary. I am in favor of proxies to that extent.

MR. LOCKE: I desire to enter my protest against the proxy system. I can very well see how this Convention may be controlled in the nominating committee by the proxy system. Brother Woodbury struck the key-note. This might do in some political convention, but just remember, the person who comes here as a proxy knows nothing about the wants of the society he represents. He can be used as a dupe of political demagogues for frustrating the ends of this Convention. I do hope to-day that this Convention will do away with all proxies in the future.

I am requested by the society over which I preside to enter my protest against the proxy system. They will send their delegate here and arrange in some way that they may be heard upon this floor.

MRS. HATCH: If we take action upon this matter will we not be obliged to have a constitutional amendment?

THE CHAIRMAN: It can be referred to the Committee on Amendments. The proxy system is provided by the by-laws.

MRS. LORING: Being a member of the committee, I reiterate Mr. Locke's suggestion. I am heartily in sympathy with the

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Northwest being represented, but I feel that it should not be represented except by a delegate from those places sent by that society. I am heartily in sympathy with Mr. Bond's motion, but I am not in sympathy with the idea of placing different people as proxies from places in which they are not interested. I would not be a good representative for Canada if I lived in Massachusetts, perhaps, as I ought to be. My local interest would not be the same up there. That is my reason for the recommendation.

MR. BOND: It seems to me that all we have to do is to apply it to our Constitution; I have one here in my hand and I will read it.

Sec. 3, Article VIII. Any delegate may appoint a proxy in event of inability to serve, and any society entitled to representation may supplement or substitute its credentials of delegates by sealed instructions to the Committee on Credentials, directing said committee concerning the appointment and instruction of proxies to represent said society.

THE CHAIRMAN: This section of the report is recommitted to the committee that presented it.

READING CLERK:

Your Committee recommends the revoking of all charters of societies which have not contributed for two years to the funds of the Association. Such societies exist in name only, as far as the N. S. A. is concerned, and should have no representation in the annual deliberations of this body.

THE CHAIRMAN: This matter will be referred to the Committee on Amendments.

READING CLERK:

Your Committee recommends that another item be added to complete the statistics, that each society be required to report how much it has contributed to the N. S. A. the current year, and also that the word "incoming" be stricken from the present blank, as it is not possible to report who shall be the incoming officers.

Adopted.

Your Committee recommends that a greater effort be made to secure representation direct from each society. Unless this is done the societies cannot be held in touch with the national body, and cannot see the necessity of financially supporting the N. S. A.

Respectfully submitted,

M. E. CADWALLADER, Chairman.
B. M. BRADBURY.
C. P. LONGLEY.
CARRIE F. LORING.
FRANCES H. SPALDING.

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THE CHAIRMAN: This report will be acted upon as a whole when the committee that presented it has completed its work. The report of the Committee on Amendments is now in order.

MR. WALKER reads:

Your Committee on Amendments have carefully considered the propositions brought before it, and recommend the adoption of the following as an amendment to the Constitution, as a substitute to the amendment proposed:

To insert in Art. 9 of the Constitution, after the words "Third Tuesday in October" the following, "or at such other time or other place as this Association may determine at any annual convention."

Also the following amendments to the By-Laws: In the proviso to Sec. 8, Art. 1, of the By-Laws, after "N. S. A." insert the following: "and also no delegate by proxy not a resident of the State, Territory, Province or District he or she represents shall"—

Add to Art. 4 of the By-Laws the following, to stand as Sec. 6;

"The Board of Trustees shall also have power to charter auxiliary young people's societies or other auxiliary societies, having local, State or national jurisdiction, at its discretion."

We also recommend and propose the following amendment to add to Sec. 2, Art. 5 of the By-Laws:

"Nor on behalf of its charter unless such society has made a contribution to the funds of this Association during the year."

Amend Sec. 8, Art. 1 of the By-Laws following the word "transacted," "and shall be by written secret ballot without open nominations."

THE CHAIRMAN: This report will be considered seriatim.

MR. WALKER: The first is a substitute to the amendment proposed.

To insert in Art. 9 of the Constitution, after the words "Third Tuesday in October," the following, "or at such other time or other place as this Association may determine at any annual convention."

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any remarks upon the question?

MR. WALKER: In favoring this amendment I wish to state that your committee has examined the law with regard to this matter, and has found that it is perfectly legal in all respects. It enables this Convention, in case there should be no action taken, to still have a place of meeting in the city of Washington.

MRS. RICHMOND: Would not every portion of the Constitution have to be changed, if we move our annual conventions?

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Has such legal advice been taken as to show whether we could change the place of our annual meeting without invalidating our charter, and thereby render our property liable to be jeopardized?

MR. WALKER: Such action has been taken, and it is perfectly legal. There is a law which enables any body meeting here to move its place of meeting anywhere in the United States annually, for that matter.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the amendment presented by the Committee as a substitute for the printed amendment now in the hands of the delegates. The vote will be taken by roll-call.

Every delegate present voted in the affirmative, as follows:

Misses Flagler, Harlow, Hatch, Walker. Mesdames Barrett, Bond, Brown, Burgess, Cadwallader, Chapman, Evans, French, Glading (A. M.), Glading (Mrs. H.), Haire, Hatch, Hill, Jackson, Jaquess, Jennings, Kurth, Locke, Longley, Loring, Moulton, Pepper, Pratt (C. P.), Pratt (Ada L.), Reeves, Reynolds, Richmond, Russegue, Spalding, Thrall, Walcott, Willis, Wheeler. Messrs. Bacon, Bond, Bradbury, Brown, Dewey, Dorn, Gibier, Hatch (E. W.), Hatch (J. B., Jr.), Hill, Hull, Kates, Kay, Kimball, Locke, Longley, Mayer, Moulton, Nobbe, Norris, Pruden, Richmond, Snow, Stanglen, Tisdale, Van Ausdale, Wallis, Walker, Weaver, Wheeler, Wiggin, Woodbury.

READING CLERK:

We recommend the following amendment to the By-Laws:

In the proviso to Sec. 8, Art. 1 of the By-Laws, after N. S. A. insert the following, "and also no delegate by proxy not a resident of the State, Territory, Province or District he or she represents, shall"—

It will then read:

ART. 1. SEC. 8. The election of officers shall take place after all other business of the Convention has been transacted. A Committee on Nominations shall be appointed, composed of one delegate from each State, Territory, Province, and District of Columbia represented, to be chosen by the members of each State, Territory, Province, or the District of Columbia delegation who are present: *Provided*, no officer of the N. S. A., and also no delegate by proxy not a resident of the State, Territory, Province or District he or she represents shall be eligible to serve upon this committee.

MR. KATES: This is the Convention Nominating Committee?

MR. WALKER: There has been in the conventions of our National Association much misunderstanding as to the pow-

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ers of the Nominating Committee. A great many have supposed, and we have seen it published in some of our Spiritual papers, that the report of the Nominating Committee is the final action of this Convention—that it gets together and fixes up the ticket, but such is not the fact. The Nominating Committee is merely organized for the purpose of carefully considering the names that may be brought before the Convention, thereby relieving the delegates of much hard work. Sometimes there are nominations made for the offices, of persons who are not fitted for the positions. The committee presents certain nominations to the Convention, but the Convention does not have to elect these nominees unless it wishes to.

MRS. CADWALLADER: Mr. Chairman, I wish to speak to and in favor of the adoption of this amendment to the By-Laws. It was suggested by the present speaker, because last year there were several residents of the city of Washington on the Nominating Committee. In order to prevent such a recurrence in the future it was suggested that we have this amendment. The Nominating Committee of the Conventions in the future shall have only one person on it from each State. No one can then say that the Nominating Committee was packed.

MR. HATCH: I am heartily in favor of open nominations, but I would like to say also, as a member of the Nominating Committee for the past two or three years, if any objection is made to the report of the committee, the State sending its delegate to the nominating room has no faith whatever in its delegate. All States have a right to rise and elect their members of the Nominating Committee. These people are supposed to be pledged. I know Massachusetts was pledged, and I imagine that every State was the same, and as that member is the only one to act for a State, he is believed to know whom you want him to vote for and whom you don't. He is sent to the committee room to nominate certain people, but not to elect certain people. In regard to what Mrs. Cadwallader says occurred last year, I wish to say as Chairman of the Committee on Credentials, that almost all of the delegates present this year are from States from where they live.

I move as an amendment to the amendment that all of Section 8, Article 2 of the By-Laws after the word "transacted" be stricken out, and the Committee on Amendments be instructed to report an amendment that will abolish the Nominating Committee through election in open Convention.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question before the house is upon the motion of Mr. Hatch.

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MR. LOCKE: I move as substitute to Bro. Hatch's motion, the following: Amend Section 8, Article I of the By-Laws, to read as follows:

"Section 8. After all other business of the Convention has been transacted, the Convention shall go into nomination for the election of officers in open convention."

MISS HARLOW: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the adoption of the substitute.

MR. MAYER: It strikes me that it is dangerous to make this change, because sometimes a whole convention may be stampeded like our Democratic Convention in Chicago, where everything was arranged in the interest of one man, who got up and made a little speech and carried the whole convention. I think we ought to insist upon having a Nominating Committee to present names to the Convention. The committee doesn't elect; it only proposes the names to the Convention.

MR. MOULTON: The Nominating Committee is like a great many other problems, very difficult to solve. You cannot make the people act as one in solving any problems that arise. It is utterly impossible to legislate to please everybody. This is the problem, Will we have this committee, or will we not? If the committee is wisely and well chosen, and gives us a good ticket, let us endorse its work, and it is all right. If, on the other hand, we make a mistake, the report of the committee can be tabled. You can move to table the report and proceed to elect from the floor. You do not delegate any power to this committee to elect anybody. But there is a danger to an assembly to elect in open convention. Take the United States Senate as an example: Do not our State Legislators, who are representatives of the people, elect these men? They are not elected by the people, and this rule applies in this case. If there is any such thing as a "shutting off" process, in the sentiment of the Convention, by having your committee it will intensify the will of the majority, and the minority is strangled, and you must accept the representation of the majority in your committee. That is undoubtedly the case to-day; it is inevitable, when we send but one to the committee, hence the minority has no representation from any State. Does not the majority of each State send its representative to act for that State in accordance with the wishes of the majority?

Now open nominations upon the floor of the Convention—an informal ballot—is democratic. I think we have tried the committee system long enough, while we have not tried the

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informal ballot and open nominations on the floor at all. It seems to me to be wise to try the other experiment a little while and see how it works. In any event you can prevent put-up jobs.

MR. BOND: I agree heartily with all that Brother Moulton has said, but if I wanted to put up a job I would do it on the open floor. I would guarantee I could do it with the assistance of some of my friends to make a few remarks, and we would put it through with a rush without giving the majority a chance to say a word. I know how these things work. I am in favor of the report of the committee. With the safeguards that we have thrown around it, I do not think there is any danger of the statement that the committee has been loaded. Its report does not bind a single individual on this floor, it does not prevent anybody from nominating any one he chooses. I agree heartily with all that Brother Moulton has said, still I think, taking all in all, the best thing for this Convention to do is to adopt the recommendation of the Committee on Amendments.

MRS. RICHMOND: I rise to inquire if the proposed amendment, having reference, as in the illustration, to those who are in the District of Columbia, would be as applicable to the District of Columbia as to other places. There are a great many people in the District of Columbia who reside in other States, but who are here temporarily or in the employment of the Government. Now, our honored President has voted in the State of New York, yet he resides a portion of the time and transacts business in Boston, while the headquarters of the N. S. A. are in Washington. A great many people vote in different States where they have interests, and yet they come to Washington to live, and, of course, if they are proxies, they would not seem from those States, they would all seem to represent the District of Columbia.

Then again, with reference to nominating in committee, I think as a rule all the delegates could have a voice in the nominating room if they are desirous of doing so. They are there, a special body of delegates from every State, and if it is, as has been said, all the names come up for nomination, where there must be a discussion and inquiry into the merits of the candidate. There might be some hesitancy in bringing out the merits and demerits of the candidates in open convention. There are objections attached to both systems. There are ways by which both systems can be entertained, but which will best facilitate business is the question before the Convention.

MRS. CADWALLADER: I rise to say something in regard to the informal ballot. Let us consider the merits of the case.

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You wish certain names presented, and, as has been suggested by the Chairman of this Committee, any member of the Convention could get up, make a little speech, giving the reason why certain candidates ought to be nominated, and ask us to endorse the nomination. We know that if any one objects to certain candidates he probably has reasons for it. Many delegates who come here do not keep in touch with the work of the N. S. A. during the year, and once here, on proceeding to an informal ballot, how are they to know which way they should vote? In previous years, after election, the people have said: "If we had known, we would not have voted as we did." How are the delegates to know of the competency or incompetency of the candidates? I object to the informal ballot as well as to a fixed caucus. An opportunity should be given to all to state fairly why they are opposed to a candidate.

MR. BACON: "Many men and many minds, all make parts of many kinds." I think that the dividing point of this question is between the Nominating Committee and nominations in open meeting. I think that the reasons in favor of a nominating committee are ten or twelve to one in favor of open nominations, and so for that reason I favor the recommendation of the committee. All that has been said on the other side does not invalidate a single principle. Every one knows, who has had any experience in open meeting, that when a person possesses psychological power and puts in nomination any particular friend, in a taking way, it is very apt to capture the assembly or convention. There is no fair opportunity for any one to express an opinion to the contrary; whereas, if we have a dozen, more or less, who will retire as a committee on nominations, we can then canvass the merits and demerits of all candidates before the members of the committee. We could choose from a long list of candidates those whom we want, and then we leave the question of election to the decision of the delegates on the floor.

MR. KATES: The consensus of opinion of a great many Spiritualists throughout the United States has been taken by observers, and it is everywhere in favor of the democratic style of open nominations. Spiritualists, as a whole, question the Nominating Committee as a sort of a star-chamber, and many of them would have sent recommendations here asking its abolition had they thought there was to have been any defense made of the old system. There should be better and freer conventions hereafter open to every delegate to nominate and elect proper officers. The delegates from any State can canvass this question, but as a rule they don't do it. They ap-

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point a member of the Nominating Committee, but say nothing with respect to candidates. When we can obtain suggestions from the delegates first hand we shall be in far better shape than we now are. This is the opinion of those who have suggested this change, through which the entire body of Spiritualists in the United States will be given better representation by means of the democratic method of free and open nominations.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the adoption of the substitute.

MR. LOCKE: As the mover of the substitute, I claim the right to close the debate. Mrs. Cadwallader said that the discussion of the fitness and merits of the candidates would be a delicate question. Will not that same argument apply to the Committee on Nominations? This is a democratic form of government, and is supposed to be ruled by the people. We should come into closer touch with the people with our constituents, hence should adopt this amendment. I know that the people throughout the country with whom I have talked are heartily in favor of it. I would be very sorry to see the tactics of politicians applied to a Spiritualist convention. The higher, the broader, the grander principle of right should be applied here.

THE CHAIRMAN: The original motion was to continue the Nominating Committee, but to make each member thereof a resident of the State that he or she represented. Mr. Locke's substitute strikes out that section of the by-laws referring to the Nominating Committee, and substitutes the following:

"After all other business of the Convention has been transacted, the Convention shall go into open nomination for the election of officers in open convention."

The question is upon the substitute.

Ayes—Misses Flagler, French, Harlow, Hatch. Mesdames Brown, Buchanan, Burgess, Cadwallader, Chapman, Evans, Glading (Mrs. H.), Haire, Hatch, Hill, Jackson, Jaquess, Jennings, Kurth, Locke, Longley, Loring, Moulton, Pratt, Reeves, Russegue, Richmond, Reynolds, Spalding, Thrall, Walcott, Willis.

Messrs. Bradbury, Brown, Hatch (E. W.), Hatch (J. B., Jr.), Hill, Hull, Kates, Kay, Kimball, Locke, Longley, Moulton, Nobbe, Richmond, Stanglen, Tisdale, Wallis, Weaver, Wheeler, Wiggin. Total, 51.

Noes—Miss Walker. Mesdames Barrett, Bond, Glading (Mrs. A. M.), Pepper, Pratt (Mrs. Ada L).

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Messrs. Bacon, Bigelow, Bond, Dewey, Dorn, Gibier, Mayer, Norris, Pruden, Snow, Walker. Total, 17.

THE CHAIRMAN. It is adopted.

MRS. RICHMOND: I move as a further amendment to Section 8 the following: That nominations shall be made by informal ballot.

MR. WALKER: I second the motion.

MRS. CADWALLADER: I am opposed to informal ballots. How are the strange delegates who come here to know anything about the fitness of candidates? They have not had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with all of them. We want efficient officers and should make every effort to elect such.

MR. LOCKE: You have already passed upon this amendment, and said that the nominations shall be made in open convention. This Convention, by a vote of 51 to 17, has decided that matter, and I contend that this discussion is out of order.

A DELEGATE: I move this matter be recommitted to the Committee on Amendments.

Carried.

MR. WALKER: Reads, continuing:

Add to Art. IV of the By-Laws the following, to stand as Sec. 6:

"The Board of Trustees shall also have power to charter auxiliary young people's societies or other auxiliary societies having local, State or national jurisdiction, at its discretion."

Adopted.

We also recommend and propose the following amendment to add to Sec. 2, Art. V, of the By-Laws:

"Nor on behalf of its charter, unless such society has made a contribution to the funds of the Association during the year."

This section would then read as follows:

"SEC. 2. In the event of failure to pay such dues, such defaulting society shall not be entitled to representation in the Convention on behalf of its membership, nor on behalf of its charter, unless such society has made a contribution to the funds of this Association during the year."

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is upon the adoption of the amendment requiring the societies to contribute to the funds of the N. S. A. It is adopted.

The report of the Committee on the National Young People's Spiritualist Union will now be received.

READING CLERK:

Your Committee to which was assigned the report of the President and Secretary of the National Young People's Spiritualist Union respectfully report:

We heartily agree with the recommendation of the National

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Young People's Spiritualist Union to join the National Spiritualists Association as an auxiliary body, and note with pride the progress that has been made by that Union in organizing the young people of Spiritualism in an active working body, and, in accord with its recommendations, offer the following By-Law for adoption by this Convention:

We recognize the National Young People's Spiritualist Union, as organized at Rochester, N. Y., May 28th, 1898, as an auxiliary body of the National Spiritualists Association, and pledge to that Union our hearty support and encouragement as the young people's branch of the N. S. A.

Signed: F. A. WIGGIN.
B. B. HILL.
LLOYD M. NORRIS.

MRS. RICHMOND: I move the report be referred to the Committee on Amendments.

THE CHAIRMAN: It will be referred to the Committee on Amendments.

The report of the Committee on the Children's Progressive Lyceum will now be received.

READING CLERK:

Mr. Chairman and Delegates assembled:

Your Committee, appointed by the Fifth Annual Convention, to devise ways and means to more effectually organize the Children's Progressive Lyceum throughout the country, begs leave to submit the following report:

First. Your committee finds the Children's Progressive Lyceum in a disorganized condition and lacking in uniformity of work.

Second. We believe it would be to the best interest of the Children's Progressive Lyceum and our Cause at large, to effect a National Lyceum Association, whose object should be the centralization of all interests and a uniform system of education.

Therefore, your Committee has provided for a special session of lyceum workers and those who are in sympathy with the lyceum movement, to be held Friday, October 21, at 10.00 A. M. and at 3.00 and 7.30 P. M.

Therefore we would respectfully recommend the organization of a National Spiritualist Lyceum Association, authorized by the Convention of the National Spiritualists Association, whose relation shall be fraternal and independent in operation.

Respectfully submitted by your committee.

J. B. HATCH, JR.
C. W. STANGLEN.
MARY J. STEPHENS.
MATTIE E. HULL.

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THE CHAIRMAN: This report is referred to the Committee on Amendments, with instructions to bring an amendment to the by-laws before this Convention in harmony with the recommendations of the committee.

The report of the Committee on Correspondence is now in order.

DR. KIMBALL:

Mr. President, and Delegates in Convention assembled:

The Committee on Correspondence would suggest that all letters relating to a place of holding the next annual convention be submitted to the Board of Trustees, which Board should be instructed to enter into correspondence with different localities, with a view to holding the next convention at the point most easy of access, and with whom we can make the best terms. The place of holding the next convention should be selected within the next three months.

We also suggest that Mr. Bonney's letter and argument be submitted to the Committee on Resolutions.

Signed: A. A. KIMBALL, Chairman.
CARRIE R. CHAPMAN.
TILLIE U. REYNOLDS.

A DELEGATE: I would like to ask if this matter of deciding the time and place of meeting can be left to the incoming Board. Does it not have to be decided here and now? If not, I move the matter be referred to the incoming Board.

THE CHAIRMAN: This Convention must decide the time and place of the next convention.

MR. BOND: I move that the last paragraph be referred to the Board of Trustees, as the Committee on Resolutions has completed its work and has been discharged, and the first paragraph be laid on the table.

Adopted.

THE CHAIRMAN: Under the head of new business, the Chair requests the Reading Clerk to read a communication to the Convention.

READING CLERK:

The Chair has received a most generous offer from a scientist, who is at the head of a scientific institute in this country, to the effect that a laboratory, comprising several rooms and a set of instruments, estimated at fifteen thousand dollars in value, will be put at the disposal of the N. S. A., together with the services of a competent experimenter familiar with laboratory work, physiology, biology and medicine. These services, as well as the laboratory, are offered absolutely free.

The purpose of this laboratory is to investigate psychical

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phenomena, and especially phenomena produced by the mediums. The expense of board and room of such mediums or psychics during their sojourn at the institution will be borne by the donator. It remains with the Association to decide whether it will use the laboratory, which would be practically its own, for the purpose of investigating the mediums, to whom a certificate would be delivered after their mediumistic qualities had been thoroughly investigated, and experiments made; and a report published in the *Psychic Quarterly*, which is being dreamed of. The donator does not wish his name known at present, as his object is not for personal aggrandizement, but to advance human interests.

MRS. RICHMOND: I move that the kind offer of the scientific gentleman be accepted with thanks, and that the incoming Board be instructed to appoint a committee to confer with the gentleman upon his offer.

MRS. BARRETT: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is unanimously adopted.

MR. BOND: I nominate Chicago as our next place of meeting, and suggest that the time be the same as provided in our by-laws.

MR. LOCKE: I am asked by the friends in Philadelphia to nominate Philadelphia as the place to hold our next annual meeting.

MR. WEAVER: Let us give the West a chance.

MR. HULL: I nominate Columbus, Ohio.

MR. MAYER: You must go West. You must go West if you want to hold the National Association together.

MRS. JACQUESS: I say Chicago first.

MRS. JACKSON: If we are going to leave Washington, let us go West.

MR. HATCH: Mr. President, I think New England has a right to suggest the place to go, but I am going to suggest a place in the West. I am going to nominate Cleveland, Ohio.

MR. KATES: Are there any distinctive offers from any of these cities? There were several communications read here. The question of the best offer from a locality should be considered, whether it be from Columbus, Cleveland or Chicago, before we decide to go anywhere.

MR. WIGGINS: Mr. President, we had better go West. I am heartily in favor of alternating these Conventions. I nominate Indianapolis, Ind.

MR. BACON: I move the nominations be closed.

MR. STANGLEN: I second the motion.

Carried.

THE CHAIRMAN: The stenographer will call the roll, and

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each delegate will rise and distinctly state the name of the city in which he desires the next Convention to be held.

The vote resulted as follows: Chicago, 58; Philadelphia, 8; Indianapolis, 1. Cast as follows:

Chicago — Misses Flagler, Harlow, Hatch, Walker. Mesdames Bond, Brown, Buchanan, Chapman, Evans, Glading (A. M.), Glading (Harriet), Haire, Hatch, Hill, Jackson, Jacquess, Jennings, Kurth, Longley, Loring, Moulton, Pepper, Pratt (Carrie P.), Pratt (Ada L.), Reeves, Russegue, Richmond, Reynolds, Spaulding, Thrall, Wallcott. Messrs. Bacon, Bigelow, Bond, Brown, Gibier, Hatch (E. W.), Hatch (J. B., Jr.), Hill, Hull, Kates, Kimball, Longley, Mayer, Moulton, Nobbe, Norris, Pruden, Richmond, Snow, Stanglen, Tisdale, Wallis, Walker, Weaver, Wheeler, Wiggin, Woodbury. Total, 58.

Philadelphia—Miss French. Mesdames Burgess, Cadwallader, Locke. Messrs. Bradbury, Dorn, Kay, Locke. Total, 8.

Indianapolis—Mrs. H. D. Barrett.

The vote was then made unanimous in favor of Chicago.

MR. LOCKE: I move this session be continued until 6.30 P. M.

Adopted.

MRS. CADWALLADER: The Committee on Delegates' Reports desires to substitute the following for the recommendations which were read previously:

"Your Committee desires to call attention once more to the very bad practice of voting by proxy, unless appointed under direct instructions from the society represented." This will in a measure regulate the proxy system.

MRS. RICHMOND: In moving the adoption of the report, I would suggest an amendment, and that is as the By-Laws have all been amended with relation to collections being made, I move as an amendment the words "unless a collection or donation of some sort has been made." The proposition is simply to have some collections taken. It may be the per capita dues, or simply a collection.

MRS. CADWALLADER: Then I wish to amend and substitute for the word "funds" "all collections."

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved to insert the word "all collections."

Carried.

MRS. RICHMOND: I have not objected to the proxy system heretofore, because the meetings were held in Washington, but now that we have movable conventions I don't see any reason why the societies cannot all be directly represented.

MR. KATES: If you adopt this as it goes it carries nothing

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by which the Association can appoint an alternate, and an alternate should be appointed for every delegate.

MRS. CADWALLADER: This says, "Unless appointed under direct instructions from the society." That is, every one that does not come directly from a society will be appointed directly from that society. Then they can be empowered to act.

THE CHAIRMAN: The recommendation is adopted as amended.

The question now is upon the adoption of the report as a whole as amended. Adopted.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hull, Chairman of the Committee on Finance, Ways and Means, is now in order and has the floor.

Mr. Hull at this time proceeded to ask for donations, pledges, etc., for the N. S. A. Collections and pledges procured at this time amounted to $2,500.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chairman of the Committee on Amendments is now ready to present a supplementary report. It will be received.

MR. WALKER: Your Committee offers the following:

Amend Sec. 8, Art. 1 of the By-Laws, following the word "transacted," "and shall be by written secret ballot without open nominations."

Adopted.

[As the Convention did not rescind the vote whereby the substitute offered by Hon. Thomas M. Locke was adopted by a vote of 51 to 17, the foregoing amendment becomes null and void. The Locke substitute stands as a part of the By-Laws.]

MR. WALKER: Your Committee on Amendments begs leave to state that the By-Laws are already sufficiently amended to permit the affiliation of the National Young People's Spiritualist Union and the National Spiritualist Lyceum Association with this Association, and hereby recommends the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, That we hereby recognize the National Young People's Spiritualist Union, organized at Rochester, N. Y., May 28, 1898, as a fraternal auxiliary of this Association, and pledge to that Union our hearty support and encouragement as the Young People's Branch of the National Spiritualists Association, and hereby direct the Board of Trustees to grant them a charter, with national jurisdiction, when applied for.

Resolved, That we hereby direct the Board of Trustees to recognize the National Spiritualists' Lyceum Association when organized, a meeting for which purpose is to be held Friday, October 21, 1898, in Masonic Temple, Washington, D. C., as a fraternal auxiliary of this Association, and pledge to said Lyceum Association our hearty support and encouragement

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as the Children's Lyceum Branch of the National Spiritualists' Association, and hereby direct the Board of Trustees to grant them a charter, with national jurisdiction, when applied for.

Signed: FRANK WALKER, Chairman.
LIZZIE HARLOW.
L. M. MOULTON.
H. C. DORN.
A. M. GLADING.

MR. KATES: When this matter was referred to this committee we asked that this amendment should be broad enough to cover any other young people's associations, especially the Y. P. S. I., and I would like to have it inserted. The Y. P. S. I. has already applied to the Secretary for permission to charter, but, according to that, it seems to me that we would be ruled out from affiliating with the National Association.

MR. WALKER: The amendment to the By-Laws as first passed recommended the granting of charters to any young people's societies.

MR. KATES: That's all right then.

THE CHAIRMAN: The report is unanimously adopted as a whole as amended.

All the business of the Convention having been transacted, we will now receive the report of the Committee on Nominations of Officers.

MR. WIGGIN: Your Committee on Nominations have instructed me to report the following nominations to this Convention:

For President, Harrison D. Barrett, Needham, Mass.
Vice President, Hon. A. H. Dailey, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Secretary, Mrs. M. T. Longley, Los Angeles, Cal.
Treasurer, Theo. J. Mayer, Washington, D. C.
Trustees, Allen F. Brown, San Antonio, Tex.; Hon. D. P. Dewey, Grand Blanc, Mich.; C. D. Pruden, Minneapolis, Minn.; Milton Barnard, Washington, D. C.; E. A. Rice, Chicago, Ill.

MR. WALKER: I move the nominations be considered seriatim.

Carried.

The Assistant Secretary was, on motion, instructed to cast the vote of the Convention for Harrison D. Barrett, of Needham, Mass., for President, there being no other nomination.

The Vice President in the Chair.

The Assistant Secretary has cast the vote of the Convention and Mr. Harrison D. Barrett has been unanimously elected President of this Association for the year next ensuing.

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MR. WIGGIN: Your Committee nominates Hon. A. H. Dailey, of Brooklyn, N. Y., for Vice President.

MR. WALKER: As representative of the State Association of New York, I place in nomination H. W. Richardson, of East Aurora, N. Y.

MR. BACON: I nominate Mrs. Cora L. V. Richmond for Vice President.

MRS. RICHMOND: I beg to say that I am not a candidate for the Vice Presidency of this Association.

Nominations were then declared closed, and the delegates instructed to prepare their votes for Vice President.

George A. Bacon, B. M. Bradbury and Hon. T. M. Locke were appointed tellers, who reported the whole number of votes cast 64; necessary to a choice 33. Hon. A. H. Dailey had 35, H. W. Richardson had 23, Mrs. Cora L. V. Richmond had 6.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair declares Hon. A. H. Dailey, of Brooklyn, N. Y., duly elected Vice President of this Association for the year next ensuing.

The names of Mrs. M. T. Longley and Francis B. Woodbury were nominated for the position of Secretary.

Frank Walker, A. A. Kimball and H. C. Dorn were appointed tellers.

THE CHAIRMAN: The total number of votes cast is 68; necessary for election 35. Francis B. Woodbury has received 32 votes, and Mrs. Mary T. Longley has received 36 votes, and is therefore declared elected Secretary of this Association.

All the remaining officers were chosen by acclamation, the Assistant Secretary in each instance casting the vote of the Convention.

The following officers were then declared duly and legally elected:

President, Harrison D. Barrett, Needham, Mass.

Vice President, Hon. A. H. Dailey, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Secretary, Mrs. M. T. Longley, Los Angeles, Cal.

Treasurer, Theo. J. Mayer, Washington, D. C.

Trustees, Allen F. Brown, San Antonio, Tex.; Hon. D. P. Dewey, Grand Blanc, Mich.; C. D. Pruden, Minneapolis, Minn.; Milton C. Barnard, Washington, D. C.; Ervin A. Rice, Chicago, Ill.

NOTE.—Mr. Milton C. Barnard declined to accept the position of Trustee, and the Board of Trustees unanimously elected Mr. I. C. I. Evans, of Washington, D. C., to fill the vacancy, Mr. Evans taking his seat on the Board October 21.

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MR. HULL: I move that a rising vote of thanks be tendered the members of the outgoing Board of Trustees.

The rising vote was unanimous.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair now declares the Sixth Annual Convention of the National Spiritualists Association adjourned *sine die*.

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ORDAINED SPIRITUALIST SPEAKERS REGISTERED AT N. S. A. OFFICE.

Akers, Mrs. E.....Bloomington, Ill
Allen, Lydia Wells.....Summerland, Cal
Allen, Mrs. M. Theresa.....Springfield, Mo
Armstrong, Mrs. S. Augusta.....Buffalo, N. Y
Baade, Mrs. Nellie F.....Detroit, Mich
Bowtelle, Edward J.....Binghamton, N. Y
Briggs, Mrs. Ruth Scott.....San Francisco, Cal
Brooks, Geo. H.....Wheaton, Ill
Brown, Allen Franklin.....San Antonio, Texas
Burnett, M. O.....Salt Lake City, Utah
Cadwallader, Mrs. Mary E.....Philadelphia, Pa
Carpender, Geo. W.....San Francisco, Cal
Carpenter, Mrs. Marion.....Detroit, Mich
Chesborough, Mrs. Maud.....Seattle, Wash
Colville, W. J.....Washington, D. C
Compton, Mrs. J. D.....Washington, D. C
Conant, Mrs. Clara Field.....Washington, D. C
Cooley, Fielding C.....Chicago, Ill
Cooley, Mrs. Georgia Gladys.....Chicago, Ill
Daniel, Mrs. O. E.....Chicago, Ill
Dewey, David P.....Grand Blanc, Mich
Drake, Hon. J. S.....Chicago, Ill
Drake, Mrs. Maud Lord.....Chicago, Ill
Drynan, Mrs. May.....Oakland, Cal
Eldridge, Dr. W. S.....Saginaw, Mich
Ellis, Mrs. Mary A.....San Francisco, Cal
Ford, Mrs. Edna M.....Wonewoc, Wis
George, Dr. P. S.....Lincoln, Neb
Gillespie, Mrs. Anna L. Robinson.....Pittsburg, Pa
Glading, Mrs. Adeline M.....Doylestown, Pa
Harvey, Mrs. J. M.....Maquoketa, Iowa
Hill, Mrs. India.....Decatur, Ill
Hodge, Will C.....40 Loomis St., Chicago, Ill
Hutchinson, Mrs. Mary R.....Leavenworth, Kan
Jackson, Mrs. Jennie B. Hagan.....Fort Worth, Texas
Jaquess, Mrs. A. M.....Washington, D. C
Johnston, John A.....St. Louis, Mo
Kates, Geo. W.....Rochester, N. Y
Kibbey, Mrs. Albina.....Cincinnati, O
Lillie, Mrs. R. S.....San Francisco, Cal
Lindsey, Mrs. Mary.....Grand Rapids, Mich
Logan, Mrs. F. A.....San Francisco, Cal
Longley, Mrs. M. T.....Washington, D. C

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Lowell, Mrs. S. M.....Anoka, Minn
Mabee, Mrs. L. A.....Lansing, Mich
Magoon, Dr. James.....Memphis, Tenn
Martin, Mrs. Annie.....San Antonio, Texas
McFarlin, Mrs. C. E.....Winona, Minn
Moore, Jennie.....Chicago, Ill
Morse, J. J.....26 Osnaburgh St., London, Eng
Newman, Thomas G.....San Francisco, Cal
Palmer, Mrs. Millie Renouf.....Germantown, Pa
Parker, Mrs. Margaret.....Summerland, California
Prior, Mrs. Loe F.....Atlanta, Ga
Randall, Dr. John H.....Chicago, Ill
Reynolds, Mrs. Tillie U.....Troy, N. Y
Rogers, Mrs. M. J. Hendee.....San Francisco, Cal
Root, Mrs. Martha E.....Bay City, Mich
Schermerhorn, Fred.....Grand Rapids, Mich
Seal, Mrs. Sarah.....San Francisco, Cal
Seeley, Emily.....San Francisco, Cal
Sheets, Mrs. Abbie E.....Grand Ledge, Mich
Sprague, Mrs. C. A.....Jamestown, N. Y
Sprague, Eli W.....Jamestown, N. Y
Summers, Mrs. Morean.....Chicago, Ill
Teed, Mrs. E. L.....Denver, Colo
Temple, Dr. J. M.....San Francisco, Cal
Thiebauld, Mrs. Lillie M.....Anderson, Indiana
Thompson, Thos. A.....Wichita, Kans
Walcott, Mrs. Rachel.....Baltimore, Md
Walton, Dr. Julia M.....Jackson, Mich
Whitney, Mrs. J. J.....San Francisco, Cal
Williams, Mrs. Ella Royal.....Salem, Oregon
Wood, Mrs. Levi.....Breedsville, Mich
Woodruff, Mrs. E. C.....South Havlem, Mich
Wrenn, Mrs. H. D.....San Francisco, Cal
Wyant, Mrs. Dr. H.....Toledo, Ohio

MISSIONARIES.

Allyn, Mrs. C. Fannie.....Stoneham, Mass
Armstrong, Mrs. S. Augusta.....Buffalo, N. Y
Barrett, Mrs. Virginie.....Toronto, Ont
Bowman, Rev. W. C.....Los Angeles, Cal
Brooks, Geo. H.....Wheaton, Ill
Claman, Mrs. L. N.....Chicago, Ill
Claman, W. R.....Chicago, Ill
De Vroey, Daniel.....Green Bay, Wis
Hill, Mrs. India.....Decatur, Ill
Kaynor, Mrs. Isa Wilson.....Chicago, Ill

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Kaynor, Theodore D.....Chicago, Ill
Magoon, Mrs. Ella G.....Memphis, Tenn
Magoon, Dr. J. A.....Memphis, Tenn
Mitchell, Julia Steelman.....Newport, Ky
Nickerson-Lincoln, Celia.....Buffalo, N. Y
Perkins, George F.....Dubuque, Iowa
Perkins, Mrs. Emaline F.....Dubuque, Iowa
Prior, Mrs. Loe F.....Atlanta, Ga
Pruden, Mrs. C. D.....Minneapolis, Minn
Reynolds, Mrs. Tillie U.....Troy, N. Y
Sprague, Mrs. C. A.....Jamestown, N. Y
Sprague, E. W.....Jamestown, N. Y
Twing, Mrs. Carrie E. S.....Westfield, N. Y
Weatherford, Mrs. Carrie Fuller.....Columbus, Ohio
Woodbury, F. B.....Boston, Mass

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STATE AGENTS N. S. A. 1898–1899, S. E. 51–52.

ALABAMA.

Ehrman, R.....Clanton
Hawkins, John W.....Birmingham

ARKANSAS.

Campbell, B. F.....Little Rock
Meek, Dr. J. A.....Jonesboro
Rea, J. L.....Van Buren

ARIZONA.

Tripp, Dr. R. B.....Ft. Thomas

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Campbell, George.....Nanaimo

CALIFORNIA.

Norton, M. S.....1429 Market St., San Francisco
Small, B. F.....3750 22d St., San Francisco
Wilcox, H. W.....San Diego

COLORADO.

Beatty, Harry S.....Pueblo
Van Dyke L. W.....Denver

CONNECTICUT.

Hale, Henry W.....Meriden
Hatch, Miss Mary.....So. Windham
Storrs, Mrs. J. D.....Hartford

FLORIDA.

Bond, Frank E.....De Land

GEORGIA.

Bryans, H. P.....Atlanta
Swan, D.....Tallapoosa
Welch, M. I.....Cordele

ILLINOIS.

Freeman, Col. J. A.....Bloomington

INDIANA.

Schmid, B. F.....Indianapolis
Snoke, S. E.....South Bend
Sweringen, Dr. H. V.....Fort Wayne

IOWA.

Adams, Dr. O. G. W.....Dubuque
Reynolds, Mrs. Emily T.....Marshalltown

KANSAS.

Crone, Mrs. Harriet T.....Topeka
Tucker, Hon. M. S.....Wichita

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KENTUCKY.

Gray, Samuel F.....Lexington
McAboy, Dr. Thomas.....Louisville

LOUISIANA.

Brodie, William.....381 Camp St., New Orleans
Lamoriere, J.....Shreveport

MAINE.

Blackington, A. H.....Rockland
Rand, Mrs. Viola A. B.....Hartland
Weaver, A. J.....Old Orchard

MARYLAND.

Gauss, H. Fred.....Baltimore
Schirm, Hon. C. R.....Baltimore

MASSACHUSETTS.

Fuller, Dr. Geo. A.....Greenwich
Hatch, J. B., Jr.....Dorchester
Jackson, John S.....Lowell

MICHIGAN.

Hutchison, John.....Jackson
Root, Mrs. Martha E.....Bay City
Sheets, Mrs. A. E.....Grand Ledge

MINNESOTA.

Dunn, Hon. A. C.....Winnebago City
Lepper, Mrs. Emily T.....Hamline
Maxwell, J. S.....St. Paul

MISSISSIPPI.

Ganong, Luther.....Jonestown
Horton, Robert.....Senatobia
Robinson, Jerry.....Swan Lake

MISSOURI.

Allen, J. Madison.....Springfield
Parkhurst, Dr. H. M.....Ballwin
Treat, C. A.....Hannibal

NEBRASKA.

Gillette, Paul S.....South Omaha
Thompson, Alonzo.....Fullerton

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Emerson, Edgar W.....Manchester
Ewer, Miss Elizabeth.....Exeter

NEW JERSEY.

Dorn, Henry C.....Newark
Fowler, N. L.....Vineland

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NEW MEXICO.

Dean, Mrs. M. J.....Clayton

NEW YORK.

Kurth, Mrs. Elizabeth F.....478 Grand Avenue, Brooklyn
Richardson, H. W.....East Aurora
Walker, Frank.....Hamburg

NORTH DAKOTA.

Barrett, Hon. W. W.....Lakota
Dennis, Miss Kate.....Grand Forks
Orvis, H. D.....Church's Ferry

OHIO.

Bond, Hon. E. W.....Willoughby
Curran, Mrs. Carrie F.....Toledo
Myers, W. H.....Hoaglin Twp. via Van Wert

OKLAHOMA.

Springer, Franklin.....Oklahoma City

ONTARIO.

MacRoberts, E. J.....London
Neelin, F. G.....Seaforth

OREGON.

Marshall, E. A.....Portland
McMillan, Capt. J. H.....Portland
Williams, Walter P.....Salem

PENNSYLVANIA.

Locke, Hon. Thos. M.....605 N. 7th St., Philadelphia
Stevens, C. L.....3 6th St., Pittsburg
Walton, I. P.....Tyrone

RHODE ISLAND.

Doe, S. K.....Pawtucket
Pepper, Mrs. May S.....Providence

SOUTH CAROLINA.

Niles, Mrs. W. D.....Beaufort

SOUTH DAKOTA.

Potter, Mrs. H. H.....Aberdeen

TENNESSEE.

Albert, Paul R.....Chattanooga
Rosenheim, S. J.....Memphis
Stockell, Col. C. H.....Nashville

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TEXAS.

Baird, Dr. W. T.....El Paso
Lang, George.....Rosenberg
Ring, John W.....Galveston

UTAH.

Barnett, Dr. W. I.....Salt Lake City
Jost, John A.....Ogden

VERMONT.

Hubbard, A. F.....Tyson
Smith, Dr. E. A.....Brandon

VIRGINIA.

Forney, David S.....Allisonia
Hurlburt, Mrs. F. M.....Cardinal

WASHINGTON.

Mills, Dr. P. C.....Edmunds
Thomas, Mrs. L.....Seattle

WEST VIRGINIA.

Davidson, T. T.....Parkersburg
Spates, Col. T. S.....Clarksburg

WISCONSIN.

Boardman, Silas.....La Crosse
Ray, Dr. C. F.....Milwaukee
Stewart, Mrs. Clara.....Stevens Point

WYOMING.

Crass, H. W.....Laramie
Davis, D. H.....Rock Springs
Wilcox, Samuel.....Cheyenne

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OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

OF THE

National Spiritualists Association of the United States of America and Dominion of Canada

FOR THE

Year Ending October 22, 1898, S. E. 51.

OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES.

Harrison D. Barrett, President.....Needham, Mass.
Cora L. V. Richmond, Vice President.....Washington, D. C.
Francis B. Woodbury, Secretary.....Washington, D. C.
George S. Clendaniel, Treasurer.....Washington, D. C.
Hon. Luther V. Moulton.....Grand Rapids, Mich.
Dr. George A. Fuller.....Worcester, Mass.
Allen Franklin Brown.....San Antonio, Tex.
Harvey W. Richardson.....East Aurora, N. Y.
Col. Charles H. Stockell.....Nashville, Tenn.

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DELEGATES

TO THE

Sixth Annual Convention of the National Spiritualists Association of the United States and Dominion of Canada,

WASHINGTON, D. C

Bacon, Geo. A.....Washington, D. C.
Barrett, Mrs. M. C.....Needham, Mass.
Bigelow, I. F.....Skowhegan, Me.
Bond, E. W.....Willoughby, Ohio.
Bond, Sophia.....Willoughby, Ohio.
Bradbury, B. M.....Fairfield, Me.
Brown, Mrs. M. L. Wheeler.....Washington, D. C.
Buchanan, Mrs. Amy.....Jacksonville, Fla.
Burgess, Mrs. E. L.....South Norridgewock, Me.
Cadwallader, Mrs. M E.....Philadelphia, Pa.
Chapman, Mrs. C. R.....Washington, D. C.
Dewey, D. P.....Grand Blanc, Mich.
Dorn, Henry C.....Newark, N. J.
Evans, Mrs. I. C. I.....St. Paul, Minn.
Flagler, Miss Mary.....Washington, D. C.
French, Miss M. H.....Skowhegan, Me.
Gibier, Dr. Paul.....New York City, N. Y.
Glading, Mrs. A. M.....Doylestown, Pa.
Glading, Mrs. Harriet.....Providence, R. I.
Gould, E. W.....St. Louis, Mo.
Haire, Mrs. M. M.....Chicago, Ill.
Harlow, Miss Lizzie.....Haydenville, Mass.
Hatch, Carrie L.....Boston, Mass.
Hatch, E. W.....Boston, Mass.
Hatch, J. B., Jr.....Boston, Mass.
Hatch, Mary A.....South Windham, Conn.
Hill, B. B.....Philadelphia, Pa.
Hill, Helen.....Philadelphia, Pa.
Hull, Moses.....Buffalo, N. Y.
Jackson, Mrs. Jennie H.....Fort Worth, Tex.
Jaquess, Mrs. Anna M.....Washington, D. C.
Jennings, Rebecca A.....Norwich, Conn.
Kates, Geo. W.....Rochester, N. Y.
Kay, Andrew.....Linwood, N. J.
Kimball, Dr. A. A.....Malden, Mass.
Kurth, Mrs. E. F.....Brooklyn, N. Y.

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Locke, Mrs. Julia.....605 No. 7th St., Philadelphia, Pa.
Locke, Hon. Thos. M.....Philadelphia, Pa.
Longley, C. P.....Los Angeles, Cal.
Longley, Mrs. M. T.....Los Angeles, Cal.
Loring, Mrs. Carrie F.....Braintree, Mass.
Mayer, Theo. J.....Washington, D. C.
Moulton, Mrs. L. M.....Grand Rapids, Mich.
Norris, Lloyd M.....Baltimore, Md.
Nobbe, Emile.....Washington, D. C.
Pepper, Mrs. May S.....Providence, R. I.
Pratt, Carrie P.....Boston, Mass.
Pratt, Ada L.....Boston, Mass.
Pruden, C. D.....Minneapolis, Minn.
Reeves, Mrs. Lucinda.....Los Angeles, Cal.
Reynolds, Mrs. T. U.....Troy, N. Y.
Richmond, Wm.....Chicago, Ill.
Russegue, Helen Palmer.....Hartford, Conn.
Sheppard, David.....Lynn, Mass.
Slater, Jno.....Summerland, Cal.
Snow, J. R.....Malden, Mass.
Spalding, Mrs. F. H.....Willimantic, Conn.
Stanglen, Chas. W.....Baltimore, Md.
Thrall, Mrs. Flavia A.....Poquonock, Conn.
Tisdale, Albert E.....New London, Conn.
Van Ausdale, Arnold.....Evansville, Ind.
Walcott, Mrs. Rachel.....Baltimore, Md.
Wallis, E. W.....London, Ontario.
Walker, Frank.....Hamburg, N. Y.
Walker, Miss E. J.....Hamburg, N. Y.
Weaver, A. J.....Old Orchard, Me.
Wheeler, Thos. J.....Baltimore, Md.
Wheeler, Mrs. J. W.....Orange, Mass.
Wiggin, F. A.....Brooklyn, N. Y.
Willis, Mrs. M. A.....Washington, D. C.

FRATERNAL DELEGATES.

Croffut, Dr. W. A. (Washington, D. C.),
Free Thought Federation.
Evans, I. C. I. (Washington, D. C.),
National Young People's Spiritualist Union.

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