

PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE
M O R T A L
A N D
I M M O R T A L



With a Rich Collection of Communications from
the Spirit Side of Life.

P E R T A I N I N G T O P H I L O S O P H Y .

Subjects of Antiquity and
Religious Thought.

Written Automatically and Under Inspiration
Through the Hand of

C L A R K E . B U L L
DENVER, COLO.

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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

In presenting to you for your consideration the following series of communications that I have received from the Spirit Side of life by a system of writing known under various names, some of which are "Automatic," "Spiritual," "Inspirational," "Inspired," etc., I desire that you read the entire writings with reverence and candor and consider with thoughtful mind.

CLARK E. BULL, *Author.*

PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE MORTAL AND IMMORTAL

SPIRITUAL PHILOSOPHY.

This series of articles are written and will be explained in the course of these writings, for it is proposed to furnish you with perhaps a better understanding of the Philosophy of So-Called Spiritualism, which is but the proper understanding of the natural laws of the universe, for all things in this universe are governed by some natural law and that law is often simple when once understood, as will be observed in the case of an apple that grows upon the tree. First the bud appears on the twig. It requires sufficient moisture, sunshine and proper temperature before the bud springs forth to unfold into the bloom, all of which are controlled by the laws of nature and by the continuation of these natural environments the bud develops into the full-grown apple. It is certain laws that control the fruit and other natural laws that control the development of a human being in all of its various phases of existence. Certain laws that influence the human mind in its diversified channels of thought and with the proper control of one's mind it is possible to become influenced by the minds of the "so-called dead," and by withholding one's own will power from his or her arm and hand that it can be and is controlled by the unseen forces of nature outside the human body, and in that

way these articles are being written with the hope that all who read them will in the future be benefited.

As these articles are to be written upon "Spiritual Philosophy" it will first be necessary to define Spirit.

Spirit is that which pervades all things, whether it be animal, vegetable or mineral. It is that which produces manifestation or life in all things. It is that which is universal. Thus we will refer to it as the universal Spirit and is known by various names, as "Great and Grand Architect," the "Almighty God" and many other names and from this universal Spirit comes the soul of man and takes as its abiding place the temple of clay and is known as a human being. It is placed there by the Universal Spirit, the same as the bud is placed upon the tree and for the same purpose, that of making development. Each under their own particular environments will develop as the All-Wise One has intended it should, for a higher purpose in the universe. And now as to when the soul enters the human form. We who are on the spirit side of life do not doubt that it is at the moment of conception. In fact, there could be no conception without this spirit life. And in this whole wide universe the human body is the only place where a human soul can achieve development. Neither is there any other place where the apple can grow except upon the apple tree.

The human soul thus implanted within this tiny species of humanity has its beginning as an individual or distinct spirit and develops as the child becomes more mature and makes a natural advance or development until the child has become matured sufficiently for its mind to become actively employed in the affairs of the material life and then while the mind is so engaged it

is very often the case that the Creator is nearly, if not quite, overlooked and under such environments the spiritual portion of this person's nature does not develop as readily as God intended; but as this person relaxes his or her mind and engeries from earthly strife through failure in health or reclining years, the soul nature usually develops more rapidly in making preparation for its departure from the temple of clay that has been furnished for a dwelling place for the soul. And at the time of "so-called death" this soul departs from the body and takes for its abiding place a spiritual body (also known as astral body) which is very similar to the mortal body, composed of very similar elements only of a much finer quality, so much so as to be invisible to the physical sight. And this spiritual being has its sense of sight and is often developed while yet in the mortal body sufficiently to observe spiritual objects, and it is also possible for the other spiritual senses to become developed in the mortal body so as to apply to the spiritual things, such as "Clairandient," which corresponds to hearing. Clairvoyant to correspond with seeing and psychrometics, which corresponds to touch. There are other psychic senses which develop later on, after the spirit has left the mortal plane, but while yet in the mortal body with these senses developed to at least a fair degree, and should the mortal exercise these senses through the mortal body, he or she would become what is known as a medium, that is one who is yet in the mortal body and is mortal and at the same time spiritual enough to communicate with those who have left the mortal body, or "so-called dead," and thus called a medium because of being developed to some extent on both sides of the river of life. All

persons are endowed with the gift of spirit to a greater or less extent. This gift is the soul nature. It is only a question of recognition and development that determines the manifestations produced by this spirit force within. As soon as this spirit force is recognized by the mortal as being a part of his or her own nature (in the same way that one's mental forces are recognized) the soul, or spirit, nature will make more rapid progress in its development. By some philosophers the sense of intuition is considered as a psychic sense, but I prefer to class it as a mortal sense, but that sense is much more active when the soul has become developed to a higher degree. Whenever a mortal is lead or influenced through intuition or impressions, unconsciously that mortal is acting under the influence of some spirit guide using its powers upon the mortal's mind. As some mediums perform difficult acts when blindfolded, such as finding hidden objects, the guide impresses the medium where to go for the hidden article.

It is often that a child tells its mother of seeing objects that the mother cannot see, and for lack of knowledge the mother tells the child not to lie. When, were the mother clairvoyant, or as the Bible calls it, seer, the mother would see the same object as the child. A child is born with its physical, mental and spiritual nature all about equally divided and all susceptible to growth and development, and after a few years the child is put in school to develop its mental powers and by the use of the hoop, ball and other forms of physical exercise the physical body is developed, but as these are cultivated often the spiritual portion of the child's nature is neglected, or perhaps ignored. Several times has the medium, through whom I am writing, seen children

of four to six years of age give evidence of clairvoyant sight but we cannot expect the child's spiritual nature to develop when neglected or ignored. Suppose the mental powers of the child were neglected or ignored, and the physical nature alone developed. We could expect only a weak mentality, but whether or not this spiritual nature is recognized it remains with the child throughout the mortal life and takes its departure in a less developed state and enters the spirit life in a lower state of development. About its condition from "so-called death" on we will describe in a future writing, for at this time we will consider the subject more from the mortal plane. This soul nature we will refer to as the astral body and is susceptible to a degree of development far beyond the expectations of those who have not given the subject a thoughtful consideration. It is possible, and sometimes is developed to such an extent and with a proper mental understanding of one's own astral powers that the astral body may be separated from the physical body almost entirely at the will of the mental powers, and while so separated is out in the spirit world the same as it is after "so-called death," except that it retains a tiny connection with the physical body by means of a spiritual cord, which is elastic without limit. While thus separated the mortal body is said to be in a trance, and with practice, both mental and astral development, the astral mind can convey its spiritual experiences to the mental mind and the mentality will be conscious of the astral's observations while separated from each other. And sometimes without very much development, or, I may say, accidentally, while in sleep (for sleep is produced by the astral body withdrawing from the mortal body), and upon awaken-

ing the mental mind, on receiving its astral's report of its outside experiences, will call this report a dream. All dreams are not astral reports, however. Another class of dreams are caused by too much blood playing upon the brain, brought about by various causes.

And now with regard to the effect the mental mind has upon the astral body and mind. It is the God-given nature of the astral body and mind to love harmony—peace and love, so it will be plainly seen that the mental mind that is constantly or frequently at discord with its environments will not be conducive to astral development and welfare for such mental conditions are out of harmony with God and His children, consequently not favorable to the welfare of the whole astral being. So it will be seen that when one is making an endeavor to develop the astral being, first of all, seek harmony in the mortal surroundings. Until this has been done little will be accomplished in soul development. This is true of the slightly developed astrals, but when the astral has become developed to considerable extent and has become sufficiently strong it can withstand a certain amount of discord and continue to progress in its development. And the more it is developed the increased spiritual powers thus produced attract harmonious surroundings to the mortal and thus the benefits are twofold.

When the astral body (or as St. Paul, the Biblical writer, calls it, the spiritual body, which means the same as astral body) takes its final departure from the temple of clay it retains no connection with the mortal body, which has then served its purpose as God intended, and kind friends dispose of it as best suits their ideas, and is left behind to return "earth to earth, dust to dust

and ashes to ashes," and the spirit to God, from whence it came, to go on "world without end," the better prepared to fulfill the will of God for having had its experiences while in the mortal body.

The soul of man is that which results from the individual spirit occupying the temple of clay. The soul is to the man what the seed of the apple is to the apple, or that which perpetuates the fruit, and the soul is what perpetuates the spirit of the man in the spiritual plane of existence, and should an individual soul become inoperative, so long as it remains in that state it would be extinct so far as manifestations are concerned, but so long as nothing ceases to exist this dormant soul simply suspends manifestations until some kind and sympathizing soul becomes interested in the dormant soul's welfare and arouses it to fields of activity when it again starts on its work of progression. And now as to the environments that produces the dangers of a soul becoming dormant. Whenever a mortal passes through the mortal life with little or no thought or reverence of his or her Creator and thinks of God only as one on whom to place the blame of the evils in earth life, or in other words, never or seldom thinks of God with His bounteous goodness and mercies, such thoughts are not conducive to soul development and for the soul to pass from the mortal life in such an undeveloped state it is more than likely to arrive in the spirit world in the dormant or dead condition. And the length of time it will remain in this condition is of great variation. Our divine Saviour was three days, while others have been thousands of years. Thus it will be seen the importance of nourishing soul development while the person is yet on the earth or mortal plane of existence. And in giv-

ing you instructions for soul development I know of nothing better than the ten commandments of Moses, as written in the Christian's Bible. These rules should be well memorized and practiced in all your lines of thought and actions, and the effect upon the mortal's mind will be favorable to soul development.

Man will continue as he has ever been doing in conforming to God's laws of evolution, which has been in operation since the world began. Man in his conformity to this law has evolved from the mineral kingdom, which receives its life forces from spirit, to the vegetable kingdom and has been many thousands or millions of years in arriving at the vegetable creation and then as much longer, or nearly as long, before he arrives at the animal stage of existence, and finally reaches the human plane, and soon after reaching this degree of perfection, then for the first time he becomes a conscious being and as he develops he becomes conscious according to the degree of development he has acquired, as in the case of man's advent into the world as a distinct being. At first he has not yet arrived at the stage of consciousness only to a slight degree, but as this child matures under natural laws, gradually he becomes more and more conscious of his surroundings and it is only in some instances where the individual becomes conscious of the fact that spirit is the source from which all things emanate.

And now we will consider man as a distinct spiritual being. First we will consider the case of the astral being that has been nourished and had at least fair environments that are conducive to the soul's welfare.

Such a soul as it has developed gains strength and power which greatly assists in overcoming discord and

inharmony. As one journeys along through the mortal life and at the same time gaining spiritual knowledge and strength, while another person of equal environments, except that the spiritual nature has been neglected and has not the same powers of overcoming discords and consequently the mortal is vexed and annoyed to a far greater extent than one where the spiritual nature has been nourished and developed.

THE ASTRAL OR SPIRITUAL BODY.

To the mortal who has not given this body a careful consideration realizes but little of its vast importance, but we who are in spirit life have it as our abiding place the same as a mortal has its temple of clay for its temporary home to occupy for an allotted time upon the earth plane. Perhaps you may ask as to the origin of this astral body. In reply I will say that all things originate from spirit and there are no exceptions. And there is only one place in the wide universe that furnishes a place for an astral body to form and develop and that is in the human body. And there it is evolved and passes on in its course of evolution, and this astral body is the real or eternal self which is immortal and survives the grave, and is ever present with the physical body, or at least a portion of it is present. This body grows and develops within the physical body and whenever the physical being is conscious of its astral its development is enhanced. But this has become such a busy world for the mental mind that the astral is little thought of, or perhaps ignored altogether, consequently its development is seriously retarded. Much is said and being written about the conscious and

subconscious mind, which are two very important factors in connection with both the mortal and astral bodies, each having its own and distinct mind and each having its own distinct functions. The conscious mind is that which recognizes its mortal surroundings and is susceptible to its material influences and usually strives to influence its material welfare. While the subconscious mind belongs to the astral body and controls, to a certain extent, the actions of the physical body, it has control over the heart action and respiratory organs and several other minor functionaries of the physical body. The subconscious mind receives communications from the conscious mind, relating its experiences, but the conscious mind does not receive communication from the subconscious mind only to a very limited extent until the subconscious or astral mind is recognized and developed and as development has progressed just in proportion to its advancement will its influence be manifested through the conscious mind and mortal body. The powers of the subconscious mind are many fold greater than that of the conscious mind and its advantages in gaining knowledge and experiences are far greater also, for the subconscious mind is ever active—always at work—never wearies—never rests, and whenever the mortal body becomes weary it requires sleep, and slumber is but the withdrawal of the astral body from the mortal, but this withdrawal is not entire, for enough of the astral remains to maintain pulsation and respiration and thus the physical is freed from its activities and relaxes from its energies and is recuperated in preparation for its future energies, and while this body is in a state of repose the astral, with its subconscious mind, are ever continuing its activities, and the distance

it will go from its mortal body depends upon its degree of development. When but slightly developed it seldom leaves the sleeping room and with a greater development may go hundreds of miles, and so on, even to the visitation of other planets and in gathering its experiences those experiences may be along the line of material thoughts and subjects, and with other material astrals, or if more highly developed its experiences may be with disembodied spirits, or those who have taken their final departure from the mortal body, which has returned "earth to earth," and as the accustomed time arrives for the mortal body to resume its accustomed duties the astral repossesses it and the awakening of the mortal is said to have taken place.

And now I will call your attention to the eternal progression of the soul. The soul as it starts on its journey of progression is in its infancy and gains its spiritual knowledge little by little, according as favorable or unfavorable conditions are furnished and whether favorable or not it will arrive at the spiritual plane at "so-called death," and will continue to progress. With a developed soul its stage of inactivity or dormant stage will be of a few days, while the undeveloped soul may be dormant for centuries, thus it will be seen the vast importance in the development of the astral body while on the earth plane of existence for upon its first entrance upon the spirit plane is wherein the danger lies of becoming dormant and therefore useless for perhaps almost an indefinite length of time.—*Written by the Spirit of Dr. H. M. Hill, who passed to Spirit Life in 1828.*

EARLY EARTH LIFE.

As one is brought into the world by a law of nature that is as old as nature itself, I will not go back of the time of birth, for if I should it would be going back to the mineral kingdom and go through a long course of evolution before it had finished the mineral existence and arrived at the vegetable creation and then continue in its evolutionary process until it arrives at the animal stage of existence. So, as I said before, I will commence at the birth of a human being. Possessed of spirit, which is the source of all life, whether it be mineral, vegetable or animal, and as you very well understand the infant is very small, helpless and weak on its arrival to the human stage of existence, but nevertheless the substance therein contained is sufficient to grow under natural laws and develop into all the various phases of human existence. Some develop into one sort of a person while another develops into one entirely different, and still a third will under different environments develop into another phase of usefulness, and a fourth one will also develop into still another field of usefulness, and so on.

And each child that is borne has its field of usefulness until all have become useful in carrying out God's great plans, which are too vast for human beings to comprehend or even spirits until they are well advanced in their line of progress through their various spiritual spheres. As you understand, the child at birth is very helpless, more so, perhaps, than any other animal. Thus the mother's mind has a great influence upon it, and as thought force is one of the great forces of the universe it is the ruling influence that starts the child right or

wrong, as the case may be. Thus the vast importance of good—pure—loving—noble thoughts on the part of the parents, after as well as before birth, for as those thoughts are so it starts the child on the right or wrong road of the journey of earth life, and as the earth life is it has a very great influence upon the spiritual life. So you will understand the importance of the kind of thought the parents hold in the early infancy, for the child at that time is so very tender that the slightest impression makes its lasting mark on the child's memory, which may not be noticeable until after life in maturity. These are ideas that are not usually recognized on the earth plane, but true nevertheless. If all mothers understood such laws of God and would profit thereby a great improvement would be plainly noticeable in the first generation after this additional wisdom, but after the child has gained a little strength and is able to notice its surroundings it is not quite so tender and impressions are not so easily made as at first, but thought force always will have its effect on the finer mind. Some call it the subconscious mind, but it is really the soul mind, for it is the mind that gathers the spiritual knowledge. But as the child grows older and its mentality is being schooled this soul mind is gradually neglected until the mental mind is well developed. Of course I am not considering the physical body, for the soul and mental mind are really the reality which we consider, as the physical part is only for the welfare of the higher portion of our being, which is *all* that is lasting into eternity. The intellectual faculties should be cultivated for that raises one to a higher plane in earthly existence, for with this cultivation one comprehends more and is able to be of greater usefulness in earth

life. And then when earth life draws to a close such a one will not be so apt in spirit life to be on so low a plane and progression is more satisfactory to all concerned. Material progression is more for your social, financial and other standings among your fellow men and society in general, but I consider that most people on earth think too little of God and His great works. Should you people think more of the plans as arranged by the great Creator and less of the accumulation of wealth much more happiness would prevail and more spiritual advancement be made.

Yes, the people of earth think of almost any other subject before the great subject of the Creator, which is the greatest of all subjects. Then again we all think too much of our own selves and thus become selfish to a greater or less extent, which is not God-like, for His mind seems to be constantly on the lookout for the welfare of His children. The child is taught to believe and think as its parents or guardian would have it. Their influence over it by their very thoughts, even though unspoken, is great. So you will understand those thoughts are to the child what the rudder is to a ship, to a great extent, for they guide it on its course in the voyage of life, until as the child gets older and, so to speak, has a mind of its own and to a greater extent handles its own mental rudder, but is affected by the mental winds of public opinion, which often drifts the child out of its natural course, and this condition of affairs is effected to a greater or less extent according to firmness or self-reliance of the child in question. So I hope you will gather from this lesson this remark: **BE STEADFAST** in your purpose in life and not allow yourself to be drifted out of your true or self-selected

course across the sea of earth life. And again, one should always be watchful for those with whom you are closely associated, for you should not encroach upon the God-given rights of others.

Then one should not become too strongly engaged in any line of work or thought as to forget the All-Wise One for you and all of us are entirely dependent upon Him for even our existence, to say nothing of our welfare or best interests, so if one lives in accordance with the laws of God all will be well and end to your satisfaction.—*Written by the Spirit of a Great Great Grandmother.*

ETERNAL PROGRESSION.

First it will be of interest to you to know something of the author of this article.

While in earth life I was known as *Paul*, but not the Paul who was so closely associated with the Saviour, for I was on the earth plane many years prior to his existence, and that part of the earth where I lived has long since been submerged. And now that I am asked to give you my views upon the subject of "Eternal Progression," I will proceed to comply with your wish, and as to the length of this article will depend largely upon where I commence for my starting point, whether it be with spirit, from which all things emanate, or from the physical body. Perhaps it will be too lengthy for one article for me to include all in one article, so I will make it a continued article and make it more complete.

As I just said, all things emanate from spirit, and not from a supposedly personal God, which is quite apt

to lead your minds astray. When I say spirit you will understand that I refer to the Universal Spirit, which includes all spirit and this universal spirit is that from which all things emanate. Take, for example, the mineral creation, which forms the substance of our planet and gives us our foundation, from which to base our philosophy, and from this mineral substance comes forth the vegetable creation, and from this vegetable kingdom comes the lower forms of animal's existence, and from the lower forms of animal life comes, through the evolutionary process, the higher forms of life, or human existence. Of course you will understand that these various changes require a long course of time to produce their effects upon the next plane of existence, but as many of God's plans are slow, from the mortal standpoint, this is no exception, and after all these various changes have come to pass the human plane of existence has been reached and as this is the plane which you are now living you naturally will be more deeply interested in more of the various details.

The human plane of existence as you, no doubt, understand is brought about through the law of attraction of one particle towards another. Perhaps I best explain more fully as to the matter of attraction. All things have an attraction for all other substances of a like nature and things of a different nature are to a greater or less degree repulsive, but the things that are repulsive to a given substance will be attractive to substances of its own nature, as you no doubt have observed that mortals are not attractive to all mortals, but only to those of about the same degree of development and refinement. Thus we account for the various stages of society. What one enjoys and is improved by

is not so pleasing to all mortals. Thus you see the effect of this law of attraction and repulsion, and the same law holds good among the lower animals, as well as in the mineral kingdom and between the mineral kingdom and human life, as well as with the vegetable creation, and the human, as you will see upon second thought, that you are attracted to some of the vegetable productions, such as flowers. You are attracted to them by their beautiful colors and sweet and fragrant perfumes, and mortals are attracted to them just in proportion to the degree of the mortal's refinement, while there are other forms of vegetable growth that are proportionally repulsive to you. I refer you to those plants that are known to you as poisonous, or having thorns, which are all vegetable in a different stage of development. And those that are attractive to you are for your use and benefit in the upbuilding of your physical bodies, and your bodies are built of these substances that the great Spirit, in Its divine wisdom, has so accurately supplied for your use.

Your minds are provided with the proper substance for its nourishment and development, and as your mind is developed that will determine largely your course in earth life, and as your earth life is utilized it has its influence to your advantage, or otherwise, upon your next stage of existence—the spiritual plane. And thus you will see the importance of utilizing your natural forces upon the question of your connection with the vegetable growth that your bodies may become as God intended. So that the mind may be the gainer in preparation for the next, or spiritual, stage.

And now I think I have led your minds up to the time you should direct your thoughts into the future,

or subjects pertaining to what *you* class as Eternal. Do not draw the conclusion that nothing is eternal but your future life, for all is eternal in the past as well as the future. Only at your present stage of existence is the first plane of which you are conscious, but you, each of you, existed long before you reached the stage of consciousness, but, of course, in a different form of life. And as you pass from your present stage of existence you will take on another and higher condition of life, retaining only the best or most God-like portions of your accumulations from nature, such as your intelligence and spiritual aspirations, whether they be of the highest and most God-like or otherwise, and your progress in spirit life will not far surpass your desires or aspirations, for the same advantages for progress are offered to all alike. And now that I have outlined the Philosophy of Progression, perhaps it will be of benefit to you for me to offer a few suggestions for your spiritual welfare. First—*Do unto others as you would have others do unto you, for as such as you give out (under the law of attraction) the same is attracted to you,* whether it be good or bad. So ever be watchful over your thoughts, words and deeds and send out such as you would be pleased to receive in return, and with this suggestion constantly before you perhaps will be of as much value as anything that I could say in the same number of words; also remember that God sends out His love to you to attract you to Him.

And now in closing I will say that this is written by the spirit of one—Paul—who lived in earth life about 1,500 years before Christ.

It must be understood that I have written upon

this subject for you recently but confining my remarks more especially to the physical part of the subject, and now I will try and bring before your mind that invisible portion of your nature, known as Spirit.

As I said before, all things emanate from spirit, and as this article is to be upon the subject of Spirit, it will be well for me to explain more particularly.

With regard to the Universal Spirit, as all things emanate from spirit, you perhaps will wonder how spirit can emanate from itself. It is explained in this way. Bear in mind the Universal Spirit is that all pervading that invades all things, and the spirit or soul of man is but a product of the Universal Spirit, and is the outcome of the physical body of man and thus becomes an individual spirit or soul spirit, and has its own individuality in the spirit life, which has its own characteristics and peculiarities similar to different mortals having *their* different peculiarities. And this individual spirit is susceptible of improvement by way of development in all the various ways not so widely different from the human intellect, as you understand that the human mind may be trained along the various lines of intelligence so with the soul mind. One may be attracted towards one branch of psychical work while another will be attracted to something widely different, the same as all mortal minds do not work along the same lines of thought. Yet *all* work for the greatest good to all. Some to teach and others to be taught and to show to others what to avoid being or becoming, but each individual spirit has its own choice as to its thought vocations. Thus you will see and understand that there are many varieties of individual spirits as you no doubt have noticed that all spirits with which you communi-

cate have their own ways of expressing themselves, as do mortals one with another, and with these individual spirits the whole field of opportunities are open to all, and as one in spirit progresses from a small beginning their future field is limitless. And thus you will see the word *Eternal* is well applied in spirit life.

The field of usefulness of an individual spirit has no bounds for in the spirit world there are innumerable spirits to be taught as well as the spirits who are yet in the physical body gaining their earthly experiences from which it will become the better prepared to do spiritual work in the various planes of life.

Then again, when the mortal has gained its allotted share of experiences it will separate from the spirit and the physical portion will return to the earth and become a part of it. And the spirit will become a part of the Universal Spirit and still have the power of retaining its individuality and be able to concentrate its spiritual forces so as to manifest to mankind through a medium, as I am doing at this time by the use of this medium and his arm and pencil, and thus become useful to mankind, which I trust may benefit someone in their search for an understanding of spiritual things while yet numbered with mortals.

These few ideas are given to you by One Paul, now on the spirit side of life.

In continuing this, my third article, along the thought of Eternal Progression, I will discuss the matter of progression of the soul of man.

The soul of man is, as I said before, the outcome of the physical body and a product from the Universal Spirit and it requires both the body and the Universal

Spirit to produce the soul of man, just the same as it requires the soil and moisture to germinate the seeds of grain before the crop can be obtained. And the soul of man will grow and mature under the proper conditions and when not under the proper conditions it will remain partially dormant, as does the germinating qualities of seeds when not placed under *its* proper conditions, namely, soil, moisture and temperature. When these environments are procured under the natural laws of attraction the seed goes through its various stages of growth and becomes a full product.

So with the soul of man. When the growth or development once takes root the growth will follow, but it may be promoted or retarded according to its favorable or unfavorable surroundings, as the case may be.

And now as to those environments. What produces them and how you can know the favorable from those that are to be avoided. First you should think kindly of everybody and everything, whether it be in the mineral, vegetable or animal kingdom, for each and all, including yourself, are a product of this Universal Spirit, and each is absolutely necessary for the welfare of all concerned.

And through these various evolutionary changes it seems to have for its great object the perfection of the soul of man for the soul is on its journey perfecting itself for its return to the great Universal Spirit to assist in carrying out the universal plans of progression.

Yours for the Welfare of Your Individual Soul,

ONE PAUL.

THE WORLD ETERNAL.

In giving you this article I express the hope that all will be benefited. I will take for our subject "*The World Eternal.*" This is a subject that admits of a wide field of thought and in considering so vast a subject it will answer our purpose if I treat it in a general way. When we say world we usually mean this, the earth planet, and I will so consider the subject at this time. The earth has existed for thousands of centuries and spirit has existed through the periods of many worlds and will exist long after this earth shall have passed away. And during the existence of this planet the souls of humanity will continue to inhabit mortal bodies, progress, depart and return to God again the better for having lived in the temple of clay.

And when we consider the matter from the standpoint of God it is quite similar to a mortal parent sending out one of its children to gain knowledge in the affairs of mortal life. The child goes out, we will say, to attend school or to gain the knowledge to be obtained at such a place and returns the better fitted for the affairs of earth life for having obtained the knowledge so gained. So with the soul of a mortal after it has attained to the spiritual plane of life. It is permitted to take for its abiding place the mortal body for the same general purpose as the mortal child—that is to gain certain knowledge by experience that it can gain in no other way. And after gaining this kind of experience or partially gained it, as the case may be, or when the temple of clay becomes unfit for its occupancy for a longer time, it departs and returns to God, from whence

it came, the better prepared for God's work upon a higher plane of usefulness.

And when I call your attention to the innumerable individual souls that exist upon the earth plane, and as these are returning to God in very large numbers each and every time the earth revolves on its axis, and this has been going on for many thousands of centuries, you will comprehend to some degree the magnitude of the spirit world.

So when we consider the individual soul of one mortal it is but a very small fraction of the whole. Though small it is, it is the plan of God to watch over and care for it with the tender mercies of a loving Father.

So should mortals strive to comprehend and understand this subject of spiritual life much is to their advantage in the way of spiritual development, for whatever is gained while in the mortal body is that much to your advantage in leaving the temple of clay, and also in arriving upon the spiritual plane, or I might say, the immortal life, but to say the immortal life might lead you to think that the spiritual life was immortal life, for all life is immortal whether it be in a mortal body or an astral one. Yes, I may also say to include the mineral and vegetable life as well, for all is eternal and immortal for all has always existed, does exist and will continue to exist as long as spirit exists, which is eternal.

*The above was written by the spirit of Dr. Halli-
burn, who is in the thirty-fourth sphere of spiritual ex-
istence.*

IMMORTALITY.

As I have viewed immortality from the earth plane throughout the length of time that mortals usually study that subject and think perhaps that I obtained as much accurate knowledge as mortals do upon that subject, and I also have an experience of about 4,000 or 5,000 years of actual existence in the immortal life, perhaps I may prove competent to write you an article that will at least interest if not instruct you. Immortality as seen from, or rather understood, upon the earth plane has in all ages of the world been a perplexing subject. Many mortals of various creeds and denominations have spent long and active lives in their research for a definite solution to this problem and yet there remains an unsettled question as to what becomes of a mortal after the digestive and respiratory organs cease their activity. And in nearly all of those different theories there is more or less of the real truth visible to a greater or less extent, and for want of a broader understanding of the subject much of the eternal truth is still lacking.

The learned men of the present age rely upon the holy writings as their only guide to knowledge upon this subject. When the All-Wise One has endowed His children with a sense of intuition which is capable of development to so high a degree that with such a one this faculty will always lead them to the truth.

And as I attempt to put before you the facts as I have thus far found them, I will not attempt or claim to give you only an outline of what I now consider to be eternal truth with regard to the subject under consideration, for should I attempt to go into details with

so vast a subject I am sure your patience would weary. To begin at the beginning of this subject would be to commence with the universe itself, for in the broad sense all things are immortal, but the word immortality as commonly understood, applies from the ending of the physical body, thus terminating the earth plane of existence. So I will use "so-called death" as the starting point for this subject.

As the spirit whose abiding place has been in your mortal body has developed to such a degree that the body is no longer a desirable home for it, it ceases to occupy the temple of clay any longer, and kind friends dispose of the old, useless body as best suits their purpose, and the spirit returns to God, who gave it. And many mortal minds do not follow it on its evolutionary course through its progression in its course to the throne of God. It ascends little by little, step by step in its upward march to the realms of divinity, and as this upward course is accomplished by earnest and constant effort and the reward is gained in the thought that you are doing God's will and thus it becomes a pleasure.

There are so many phases of spiritual development that I find it hard to decide which will prove most useful to the readers of this article. Probably if I take as an example, to illustrate, a soul who has and is devoting its energies to the advancement of humanity it will best serve our purpose. It is in spirit life, as you no doubt have observed on the earth plane, one general law of God that like attracts like in both thoughts and deeds. So as one devotes his energies to the welfare of mankind, so will mankind in return devote its energies for your advancement along your line of work. This

same law holds true in spirit life. So one in this life chooses his or her line of thought to follow whether it be for the benefit of some individual mortal or for the welfare of the masses. And whenever one has put forth his energies for any particular object to accomplish the higher forces will come to his assistance when needed. First, one must have a desire to accomplish certain achievements and the greater the desire the more force will gather to reinforce one's energies. Of course we have obstacles along our pathway, as do mortals, but those must be overcome as best we can. And as each obstacle is overcome our work is made easier and more successful. And now as one's vocation has proved both useful and pleasant such conditions are helpful in attracting the higher forces to one's assistance. So in choosing one's vocation, it is very beneficial to choose such lines of thought as one is best suited to. This also holds true in the immortal as well as in mortal life.

Now when we come to consider a mortal as only an instrument of God, to do His will, we find that the more the mortal is willing to do for God the more the higher forces will do for this mortal, but one's efforts must be put forth with an earnest, honest and conscientious mentality, and the higher forces will return to you the same kind of assistance for like attracts like between mortals and immortals, as it does between one mortal and another mortal. So with your aim in earth life constantly to do as is pleasing to God, will attract the highest and best forces of the universe to your assistance.

This is written by one who feels a deep interest for the welfare of humanity, and will sign myself as

“GREAT SPIRIT.”

SPIRIT RETURN.

Spirit return has for all ages been recognized as a truth by people of profound thought. Should they turn their attention to spiritual subjects with a desire to inform themselves with the subject of immortality there are many co-instances occurring frequently that furnishes proof of the truth of spirit return for those who observe and give the matter close attention and profound thought. Matters pertaining to immortality and spirit return require something more than a casual thought. The most profound minds of all ages have always found some proof of spirit return, but not enough to be conclusive testimony to all who investigate. But to those who have a certain amount of faith in the fact that *all* comes from spirit will usually gain enough proof to satisfy their inquiring minds. And it is often the case that the mortal mind is so attentively engaged in the material affairs of life that thoughts of spiritual affairs can find little or no room in so active a mind, consequently are neglected, or, perhaps, I may say ignored.

Whenever a few persons are gathered together and will devote their attention to subjects of a spiritual nature matters pertaining to the spirit life are attracted to them and their own spirit nature will increase and develop and will soon be recognized as a power with them for our Great Teacher, "Jesus," once said that "when two or three are gathered together in My Name I will be there also."

Remember that your mortal lives and nature did not develop instantly, neither will your spiritual, but by cultivation one will become stronger spiritually and

more and more proof furnished you of the truth of spirit return.

Your spirit friend,

SOCRATES,

Of old, about 400 years B. C.

SPIRIT RETURN.

Back in the early pages of the history of humanity spirit return was quite generally accepted as true, although not so well understood in its details as at the present time. The Christian's Bible affords several records as evidence of this sublime truth, as when the hand writing was seen upon the wall, and at other times when voices were heard saying certain things as warnings and encouragements. The best that was understood at that time was that it was a voice from heaven, or that the writing was written by the hand of God, while now, with a more advanced understanding of this subject it is accepted as true that the voice of one certain spirit of a "so-called dead" friend is recognized and conversations held and definite knowledge obtained from this spirit for the benefit of humanity, or rather for those mortals who have arrived at the proper stage of consciousness to accept spirit return as a divine or sacred truth. You may ask why some mortals recognize this fact while others of seemingly equal intelligence do not. That is explained by the different degrees of consciousness in different persons. For instance, one person may have his or her faculties of perception developed only to recognize a portion of the material objects and ideas connected therewith, while an-

other's perceptive faculties will discern and comprehend those objects that are invisible to the human sight, and still another will recognize as truth certain facts that reach the seat of consciousness by impressions only. So it will be seen that this subject is seen as or according to one's own mental and spiritual nature is developed. Occasionally a person may at one time seem inclined to comprehend spirit return as a truth and after a little time disregard the truth entirely. This is because the mortal mind has been diverted more strongly to material subjects and the mind has relaxed from spiritual subjects.

Your Spiritual Friend and Philosopher,

ARISTOTTLE,

About 400 years B. C.

ETERNAL LIFE.

At this, my first writing for you, I will introduce myself as one who has never written for you before, and in fact never have written but once before with another medium. I have been in the spirit life for several thousand years and am much pleased for this opportunity of writing and expressing my views with regard to "Eternal Life."

The word eternal means much as applied to human life. As you upon the earth plane are journeying along in your various vocations little does the average mortal comprehend of what lies in store for you, even yet in the earth life, for little do you realize what will be your experiences a week, month or year in the future, but you are all passing along through the various avenues

of life, guided by an All-Wise One who will lead you not astray, and when your earth life shall have drawn to a close and all that is mortal has returned "earth to earth and ashes to ashes" your real or spiritual self has not ceased its activity, but taken on immortality and journeys among those who have made the change called death prior to yourself. And as I look back to my earth life I comprehend that it was only a preparatory stage for the higher or spiritual life and may you all so live and develop your spiritual selves that when you pass over God will say that your earth lives have been well spent. That you may enjoy eternal bliss is the wish of

Your Spirit Friend,

MOAB,

Of Old, About 1,000 Years B. C.

ETERNAL PROGRESSION.

If you will each of you take a review of your past life upon earth I think you cannot fail to recognize one great fact and that is that you are not the same as you were at birth and this change has been brought about by the natural laws of evolution. Of course these changes have been somewhat slow in their process, as all things are, as viewed from the earth plane standpoint, but nevertheless the change has been constantly going on and the result is that you are *as* you are today. Were it not for this eternal change you would have remained as you formerly were and this change that I have called to your mind is only a portion of the changes that are going on in the general course of eternal progression,

for as your earth life draws to a close it is but a continuation of this change and as your soul arrives in the spirit world and is freed from the mortal body, the body continues to change and goes back to mother earth from whence it came and the spirit returns to God, who gave it, and *there* still goes on in its regular course of eternal progression. So you will observe that while you are yet living in the mortal body your minds are investigating into the future fields for still further investigations you are paving the course to continue in the line of progression.

So may you continue to progress is the desire of
CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS IN SPIRIT.

UNIVERSAL SPIRIT.

When we come to consider this subject it is a vast one, for when I call your attention to the fact that spirit is the source from which all things come or originate, whether it be mineral, vegetable or animal in its nature it matters not. Spirit is the source of its origin and to take a broader view of the subject and consider the universe, all the various planets of this universe in all their numerous details, also come from this one great source—spirit. Were it not for spirit this universe would be a blank space. When I explain that this universal spirit is known by various names in various portions of the peopled parts of this planet, the more common names by which it is called among so-called English-speaking people are: “The Almighty,” “All-Wise One,” “Great Ruler,” “Supreme Father,” “Grand Architect” and many more names which leads the mind of an individual to

think of this Universal Spirit as a personality or personal God, which often leads one's mind astray when striving to obtain a correct understanding of the Creator. When this one point is correctly understood it usually lifts the veil of mystery and greatly assists in forming a correct idea of this important fact.

Your Spirit Friend,

ALEXANDER THE GREAT,

About 300 Years B. C.

IMMORTALITY.

As I am asked to write for you upon a subject that was closely associated with my earth life I will state that it affords me more than the usual amount of pleasure to do so, with the hope that you may gain the correct knowledge of that important subject of immortality that has for so long a time puzzled the most profound minds of mortals. This subject has throughout all ages been one of the deepest interest to thinking people and from the variety of conclusions that have been drawn one can readily see that all of them cannot be correct, neither do I think that the mortal mind ever did or ever will obtain the correct solution to this great problem without the aid of the higher powers of divine intellect. Probably few ever gave this subject as much meditation and thought as myself and my corps of assistants while we were all on the mortal side of life. But now that I have passed through the valley of death (so-called) I feel that I can now communicate to you with a higher degree of intelligence than ever before. Immortality is that which is everlasting and the soul

of man being of spirit and is spirit and spirit is the all that is everlasting and the all that is indestructible, consequently has no ending and is immortal. Man is the highest form of animal life, being possessed of a higher soul or spiritual power and is therefore susceptible to a more God-like development. It is only a question of when this higher development is accomplished when one becomes God-like. It is possible and often is done while the soul is yet occupying the mortal body. All should strive to develop their soul nature as much as possible at all times. True the average mortal has much to contend with that retards the growth of the soul power, but these obstacles are conducive to stability of character, which I think God is pleased with. So ever lead onward in your efforts to do God's will and the subject of immortality will be unfolded to your vision as your minds are prepared for it.

(SIGNED) THE SPIRIT OF LEO,
*The Former Pope of the Holy Catholic Church,
Through the Hand of Mr. Bull.*

PROGRESSION.

Perhaps I may say something to you that will be of benefit regarding Progression. Progression in its earlier stages is somewhat slow, as the *mortal view* of the spiritual things are to be contended with, and are often somewhat of a fixed matter in one's mind, having in the past been of the opinion that the mortal life was all there was of life, or rather to it, and as one slowly becomes aware of the fact that there is really another life after "so-called death," these, then advanced ideas, are

generally met with great doubt, and perhaps in many instances seemingly positive knowledge that the advance thought of a new life is only the lively action of imagination, but as one continues to investigate the matter, step by step and little by little knowledge of the future life is gained, just as the child gains mortal knowledge, but as the mortal becomes more convinced of the truth of immortality, he or she will place less importance upon the mortal life and consider it in its true sense, that it is comparatively of short duration and regarded as a preparatory stage in preparation for the life immortal, which has no end, and as one has progressed beyond the mortal lines of thought progression is more rapid, should one so choose, but the greatest good does not always come from rapid progression, for as one should to accomplish the most think of the welfare of others and work for their good as well as for self exclusively, for the Master says: "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you." He also said: "Help ye one another," and in this way your accomplishments will be more pleasing to the loving Father.

THE SPIRIT OF AMOND THE ANCIENT.

PROGRESSION.

As all mortals and spirits are, or should be, interested in Progression, I am pleased to write upon that subject.

Progression is one continuous round of evolution and to write exhaustively upon that subject would be to start from the Universal Spirit and go through the thousands of evolutionary stages and finally return to

spirit again, from whence it came and at a certain stage in this line of progression we will be closely related to the earthly body and known as man, at which stage mortals are most interested, for at this stage it is that the stage of consciousness is reached and at present all mortals are made entirely conscious of a spiritual nature within their own self. Some mortals are mindful of this fact while others are not. Some do not comprehend this fact until the spirit plane is reached, but this great fact remains, that the soul of man exists in man whether recognized or not. While not recognized its progress is practically dormant and requires association in gaining recognition and when once recognized its progression has commenced and will proceed as favorable environments are furnished, but when once progression is commenced it will proceed either slowly or otherwise, according to conditions furnished.

Your Spirit Assistant.

ARISTOTTLE,
About 400 Years B. C.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOD AND MAN.

As has already been explained that God is Spirit and Spirit is God and man emanates from Spirit and returns to Spirit, it will readily be seen that the relationship between God and man is inseparable, but is not always so recognized by man, but true nevertheless; but would, I think, be so recognized were all mortals' minds developed both mentally and spiritually to comprehend this sublime truth. But mortal mind, in many

instances, is entertained in the various vocations of mortal life to such an extent that little or no attention is given to things pertaining to the Holy Spirit, without which we would not exist.

Written by the Spirit of

ARISTOTTLE.

PROGRESSION AS SEEN BY A SPIRIT.

In writing for you at this, my first time, I will attempt to tell you of Progression as I see it.

You who are yet upon the earth plane no doubt have observed mortal progression to a greater or less extent as viewed from the mortal viewpoint. You have of course observed mortals at many of the various stages of advancements and noticed those of your older acquaintances as they have changed, as life has advanced with them, as for instance, while in your earlier experiences you will remember your schoolmates *as* schoolmates, and then as time goes on you see those same ones as young people and then as young married people, then as fathers and mothers, and then as the workers in the various vocations of life, and then, should your years permit, you will see those same acquaintances on the retrograde side of life and finally pass to old age, and gradually disappear from the view of active life, and at last pass from earth life altogether. Now as we observe these friends as they pass from stage to stage the change is so slow that it is not noticeable from day to day, but as day by day in course of time constitutes a lifetime, there are changes that occur day by day. This is what I class as mortal progression. Of course.

as I have outlined for you, is considering humanity in general. Were I to describe the progression of an individual I could go into minute details, differing with each individual, that would lead into an almost endless amount of discussions and all differing as one person differeth from another. This that I have already described applies to humanity chiefly from the physically considered understanding. Then there is the mental progression, which you will observe in the children as they progress from one grade to the next higher in your graded schools. Here the progression is characterized as being about the same with all pupils. Of course this is as could be expected, being each in the same grade, working under the same instruction, the most variation being accounted for by the pupil's receptivity, and this, I think, will illustrate to you the child's mental progression, and after the school period is past with those who are more mentally inclined their mental progression becomes more noticeable to those who observe the older persons. After the time the pupil says adieu to the school house they no longer all work under the same teacher and then the former classmates' minds become scattered among the various lines of mental activity. Some devote their attention to justice, others to medicine; instruction to others, mechanics, agriculture, art, music, literature or any other of the various vocations of life, and each finds its line for progression, which is all good and according to God's law of progression, and in connection with this mental progression there is the spiritual progression, which, I am sorry to say, is too much overlooked by humanity in general; and is in this condition, perhaps, from want of attention and instruction, for if it was better understood and

its importance appreciated, at least a larger portion of the thinking class of humanity would, I think, at least give the subject a careful consideration. And the subject of spiritual progression is an important one and its effects upon the soul will be eternal. The spiritual progression in very many instances takes its permanent start in early earth life and a little later is crowded out of the person's attention by the material affairs of life, but not always. But this spiritual nature which is endowed into all mortals should be cultivated and progressed. And as this progression goes on the mortal will gradually learn to rely more upon God as the source of all things, which is the only source upon which one can rely with a perfect reliance that all will be done for your best spiritual welfare.

Written by the Spirit of

JONAS WELDEN,

Passed Over in 1822.

SPIRITUAL EXISTENCE.

Your earth life, or physical life, is but a preparatory existence that you may eventually enter the higher, or spiritual life. All persons will enter upon this plane in some form or another, depending almost entirely upon their earth life for the determination as to one's condition, upon arrival on the spiritual plane. Should the person in question live their entire earth life on the lower planes of mortal life, such as is lived by the animals of the lower order, where one's animal nature predominates, with little or no attention devoted to the heeding of the Ten Commandments, as given to the

world in the Christian's Bible, or devoting one's mind exclusively to the world of business and seldom, if ever devoting his or her attention to God, who permits them to exist, or having little or no veneration for the higher forces, then you will readily see that the soul nature is forgotten and neglected and consequently enters spirit life almost entirely undeveloped and is consequently put to a great disadvantage, for the soul nature is entitled to retain all of its accumulations of intelligence while in the physical body, but while the soul is in the first sphere on its arrival here it lies dormant and is unconscious of its change, consequently is dead, as that word is mortally understood. And again, to consider the mortal who is living a life of love for God and all that is good and frequently meditates upon spiritual topics, such a mind is more pleasing to God and will naturally attain to Godly things, or thoughts, which will be conducive to spiritual growth and development. You will please understand that all mortals are threefold in their natural possibilities at birth—the physical body, the mental or intellectual and spiritual or astral nature—and each is necessary for the welfare of the others, for without the physical the others would have no abiding place and without the intellectual the body would not be cared for, and without the spiritual all would end at the grave. Now to become a perfect mortal all three should be fostered and developed. The first is for the mortal life almost exclusively; the second is for use on both sides of the life line, provided the astral reaches a stage of consciousness in its development. It may seem from these remarks that some never arouse to consciousness, but such is not the case, but the time required to arrive at consciousness does not depend upon

time so much as upon conditions concerning soul development. When once advanced to consciousness and with the proper desires the soul advances quite rapidly and its advancement is limitless. So you will readily see that the critical and all important period is at the time of making the change called death. Should the soul be well developed while in the physical body no fears need be entertained as to the welfare of the soul upon its departure from the mortal body.

ONE PAUL IN SPIRIT.

LIFE BEYOND THE GRAVE.

To My Dear Friends of Earth :

As all inquiring minds are seeking knowledge as to whether all human existence ends at the grave or not, perhaps if I give you my views upon that subject it may throw some light before you. In the many thousands of years gone by I once had a material existence quite similar to what you are now passing through. Of course at that time the conditions in earth life were somewhat different from now, but our earth lives accomplished their purpose then as now (that is the preparing of a soul for the eternal spirit life,) but as a lifetime then was of a much longer duration than now, perhaps the soul may have been more highly developed while yet in the mortal body, but I seem to be going astray from our subject. Yes, to a large number of mortals who have not yet advanced beyond mortal views the belief seems to be prevalent that the grave ends all, and many seem quite content with that belief, and have no desire for the absolute truth regarding a future life. To all

such I extend my sympathy, for God knows they deserve it. If such ones were only physical and physical only the grave would end all so far as consciousness is concerned, but such is not the case, for God wisely commanded that man should be prepared for a future life, consequently is endowed with a soul which will survive the mortal body. And this soul exists in all mortals whether the mortal is conscious of it or not. When one becomes conscious of this great fact and directs his or her attention to its welfare the soul will develop much more rapidly and will progress as our Father wisely intended. So the grave is simply the final resting place of all that is physical, but by no means the end of it, but is the end of mortal consciousness. But the soul that has left this body continues its conscious journey. But the soul that has laid dormant in its mortal body to its death is quite apt to still remain dormant in its astral body on the spirit side of life until the proper assistance is rendered to arouse a conscious feeling of its existence and then it is possible for such a soul to progress, but its progress has been greatly retarded from lack of recognition while in the mortal body. So the grave is the place for the final separation of soul and body—the mortal body to return “earth to earth, ashes to ashes” and the soul to ascend to the higher realms of existence, there to enjoy eternal life by doing the work that has been assigned by the All-Wise One that God’s eternal plans may be carried out according to His supreme rulings.

Yours for a better understanding of the journey through the valley of death.

AMOND IN SPIRIT.

LIFE AS VIEWED BY SOCRATES.

“Life” may be classed as eternal, for it has no beginning or ending, it is one continuous round of life. I can best illustrate the continuation of life by holding before your mind a ring, or large hoop, as representing life, and with this ring of life there exists all forms of manifestations from life. The entire mineral creation has its form of life, which is continuous, while the mineral itself changes as the ages pass by but the life is the same and invisible. The manifestation of life through the mineral kingdom is of the longest duration, as compared with the vegetable or animal manifestations. The mineral is much more slowly formed and less destructible and in greater abundance, and without the mineral the vegetable could not exist. The vegetable kingdom is another stage in the evolution of the universe, thus making possible the animal creation, which includes all forms of animal life, including the human family, which is the highest form and most Godly of animal life, which is another stage in evolutionary process and this stage makes it possible for the existence of the human soul, which is in closer touch with God than any of the former stages of evolution and is susceptible of cultivation and refinement superior to the previous stages of existence, but all have their power of manifestation from this same circle of life, and, as you will observe, that the activity of manifestation increases as the evolution advances and continues to do so on into the spiritual plane, where seemingly time and distance are entirely overcome and vision is without limit. I have used the word life, which may be confused with the word God. God is, of course, the

source of all things, whether visible or invisible, but each life's manifestation has its effects upon other manifestations and the lower forms of manifestation are influenced less than the higher forms and in the higher forms being evolved nearer to the Spirit (which is God), are more susceptible to the influence of the higher forces. Perhaps I will make this point clearer to you by saying that I use the word spirit in connection with the higher forms of manifestation and the word life with the lower forms.

Yours for a Correct Understanding,

SOCRATES.

THE INNER MAN.

Whenever I refer to the inner man I refer to the part known as the soul, sometimes called spirit of man, and again the astral man.

This inner man is the true, or real, man as seen by God and it is this inner man that is referred to in your Bible, where it speaks of man as created in the image of God, for our Spiritual God is not of the flesh and blood and if He was He would not be everlasting and eternal as the same book describes Him as being, consequently the physical man could not have been referred to. A lack of knowledge on this particular point has led to much confusion in all ages among the Christian people and now if I have corrected this one misleading thought I have done much to lead the minds of humanity to a correct understanding of the soul of man.

CONFUCIUS.

OPPORTUNITIES.

When we consider the opportunities that lie before us for improvement while on the earth plane mortals are quite apt to think that the end comes at the grave, but when properly understood it will be readily understood that the mortal life has drawn to a close and the real self has passed to a higher habitation, where still greater opportunities are before us for assisting in carrying out God's plans.

Your Spirit Friend,
MOHAMMED THE PROPHET.

SPIRITUAL LIFE ON EARTH.

In response to this kind invitation to furnish you with a bit of information from the spirit side of life I will take for our subject what constitutes a spiritual life upon the earth plane of existence. Mortals are born with the three phases of life all about equal. By the three phases of life I mean the intellectual, physical and spiritual divisions pertaining to and constituting a mortal, for with any one of these divisions entirely wanting such a person would not be a complete mortal. For instance, should a child by constant efforts on the part of parents or the persons in charge of the child intentionally or otherwise make special effort to develop only the muscular or physical portion of the child and leave the mental and spiritual portions in its infancy as at birth little, or perhaps, almost nothing could be expected of the man or woman that had grown from such a child except muscular power, and should the

mental faculties, only, become developed then more brilliancy of mind would result, and should the spiritual nature alone be developed the person would hardly be suited to a mortal life for one should to live a suitable mortal life possess sufficient development in the mental and physical divisions to overcome the battles of mortal life when so much strife to satisfy one's selfishness is so frequently noticeable.

Now, as our subject indicates, I should confine these remarks to a spiritual life on the mortal plane. What to my mind would constitute a spiritual earth life would be one who would leave out all of the human self-interest possible. Of course I would not expect the person to deprive themselves of the comforts of mortal existence for the mortal's life should not be made up of denials and sacrifices. Neither would I say have no limit to earth pleasures, but be temperate in all things and at the same time devote a portion of your thoughts and energies to things pertaining to your Creator, who has so kindly permitted you to exist, and work for His interests with fervent zeal and do so with good cheer and gratitude.

Your Spirit Friend,

HENRY WARD BEECHER.

MANHOOD AND WOMANHOOD.

To My Dear Friends of Earth:

Manhood and womanhood in the general sense are the same. Man has his part in life's work to perform and woman also has her's, and when their life's work is properly laid out one can scarcely obtain the best re-

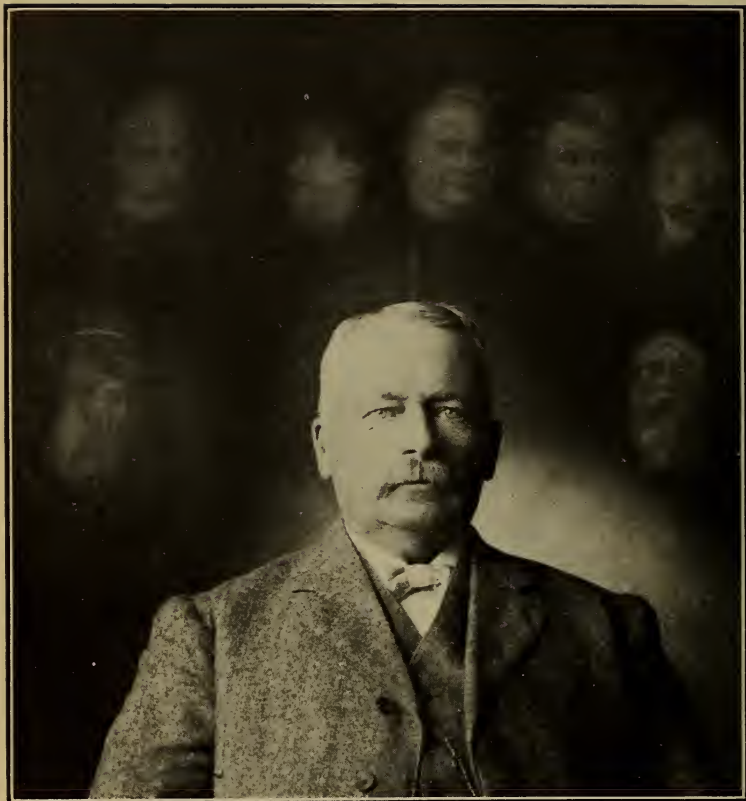
sults alone, and so God, in His wisdom, proclaimed one as a helpmate and as they start out in life as man and wife little do either realize what the future has in store for them, for they do not see very far into the future, and it is well that it is so, for were it otherwise the discouragements would appear as well as the joyous side of life. So they move along in their pathway looking into the dim future with bright hopes and overcome the obstacles one by one as they appear to them and each day brings its joys and happiness with enough sorrows from time to time for them to draw their comparisons and appreciate the blessings that God is continually showering down upon them. And as one experience follows another each has its lesson for them and all of these various experiences are as God intended for their good in moulding their character, for without a varied experience their characters would not be well tried and formed and as their minds are developed with these experiences each trial or obstacle overcome makes them just a little stronger and another still stronger, until finally God will say well done and your reward shall be according to your works. So let me encourage all to be steadfast in character and never fear to do God's will.

HENRY WARD BEECHER IN SPIRIT.

SPIRIT PHOTOGRAPHY.

To Those Interested in Spirit Photography, or the Art of Photographing the "So-Called Dead":

At the present time the masses of humanity know absolutely nothing of spirit return and when that sub-



THE AUTHOR

Lower Left—Christ.

Lower Right—Amond.

Upper Left—Albert, brother of the author and passed to spirit life in infancy in 1842.

Second—Mrs. Hattie Graves, a dear friend of the author's wife and both in spirit life.

Third—William McKinley.

Fourth—Abraham Lincoln.

Last—George Washington.

ject is brought to their attention they seem bewildered and often look upon one who understands something of the philosophy of spirit return with pity and associates them with the insane asylum. When, should that person come to a *full understanding* of this subject and also of their own limited knowledge their own ignorance would be a better explanation.

There are many spiritual demonstrations that they cannot explain or understand, still they are not inclined to accept the philosophy of spirit return. As an explanation: Take, for instance, full form materialization when the spirit form often vanishes in full view and sometimes returns with their view unobstructed. Often mortals will be satisfied with some hypnotic explanation in preference to the divine truth of spirit return. But when the photographer arranges his camera and negatives in the usual way, as was done to obtain the photo from which this half-tone plate was made, which is according to natural laws, which are well understood by mortal scientists, and all that is accomplished with the camera are well explained to their satisfaction until the face of some departed friend appears in the photograph. This seems to perplex the mortal minds and will continue to do so until they accept the truth of spirit return. True, some demonstrations can be explained to skeptics with the belief in hypnotism and at the same time they know as little about hypnotism as spirit return. When it comes to photographing spirits it is an indisputable fact that no hypnotist ever hypnotized a camera or a negative plate. The main thing in procuring photos of your departed friends is to produce the right magnetism surrounding the photographer and the sitter such as the spirits can

use in gathering strength so they will be able to etherealize their forms and the camera will do the rest.

Your Spirit Brother.

ALBERT BULL.

P. S.—This brother passed to spirit life in infancy in 1842.—*The Author.*

SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE.

When we come to consider the power of spirit we find that we have the foundation, or fundamental principle, of all power, influence and creative force, for to consider spiritual influence as being other than God's power would be to consider it as a fool considers.

Spirit influence is seen at any point where we observe, for without spirit influence nothing would exist, not even this universe. Yet with all this great power which governs and controls universes it also controls even the grain of sand or the leaf upon a bush, it controls all life and all things have life. So it controls all things without limit, whether it be upon land or sea, in the earth or above it, it matters not what it is or where it is, the matter or object in question is influenced by spirit. All comes from spirit and will return to spirit after its due course of evolution. And now as to the soul of man, which is the spiritual nature of a mortal and is a part of the Great, or Universal Spirit, and this soul is susceptible to the influence of the Universal Spirit to a high degree, and this influence should be encouraged for the benefits are great and eternal.

Mortals of their own physical nature are almost helpless until the spirit manifests itself. This law of

spirit should be better understood by mortals and is the
wish of

Your Spirit Friend,

JOAB THE GREAT.

SPIRITUAL TALK.

Whenever I am offered an opportunity to write for my mortal friends it is a question in my mind what to select for a subject, for subjects are almost without number. Perhaps if I select "Spiritual Talk" it may be as well for all concerned.

When we consider the vastness of spirit life with all of its various phases it is at first thought bewildering to one's mind. But as we centralize our minds upon a given line of thought and follow that thought to a conclusion we for the time being lose sight of nearly all else except the subject under consideration, and again at another time we select another subject and the former one is temporarily gone from our minds. This is materially no different from the mortal mind. Were I to select a chosen line of thought to follow out I naturally would choose one similar to what my mind was familiar with before I made the change, miscalled "death," that of justice, while I was practicing at my profession on the earth plane, that of a legal adviser, and later as an official upon the bench of justice. Little did I realize that I was working in such close accord with the will of God. At that time I considered that I was working for justice between man and man, but now I comprehend that I also was working for justice between man and God. And again, when my decisions did not meet the approval of all men (and seldom they did)

perhaps they did meet the approval of Him who sits in a higher court of justice than I did. But whether or not my decisions were just they were but transitory conclusions at best, for the Great God of Justice, whose decisions overrule all former rulings and are final.

So when mortals are adjusting their differences, if they understood the immortal life as I now see it, they would not put so much importance to their material affairs in life as at present, but as God does all things well no doubt such things are as God intended.

Your Spirit Friend,

ROBERT EARL.

MISFORTUNES IN LIFE.

As one journeys along upon the earth plane of life, engaging his or her mind upon any of the various avenues of thought and applying their physical energies in connection with the choice of their vocation, one must not expect that at all times their actions will result in accordance with their desires and it is best that it should not, for should one's actions always be pleasing life would become monotonous and one would become less energetic in their aspirations. To be sure, when one has recently met with a great misfortune of any kind, until the grievous shock shall have passed away (which always does in a greater or less length of time) one naturally becomes discouraged, but such discouragement usually is the preparatory stage for still greater efforts in the future, and it also warns the person to use proper caution in future ventures, and I think that for a young person to meet with reverses in

the long run it proves beneficial in several ways. First, it makes him or her more considerate and also induces one to be more thoughtful of others who are not so fortunate as one's self. I think that the majority of the successful men engaged in commerce have at some time in their life met with financial reverses which proved beneficial to them in after years of active life.

Your Spirit Friend,

ROBERT EARL.

APPRECIATION.

I will try at this time to give you some idea of how the spirit individuals appreciate the opportunity of communicating with the mortals upon the earth plane of existence. Perhaps, first, if I give you a brief history of my own experience in such privileges it may be interesting and instructive to you. As I passed from the temple of clay in the year 1828, A. D., it may seem a long time to you, but not to us, for time is extinct in spirit life. For many, many years I was trying to be recognized from the earth plane without success. Sometimes, but not frequently, did I succeed in attracting attention and my friends were aroused to some extent, but not knowing of this philosophy of spirit return little did they realize that their attention was aroused by one whom they supposed had ceased to exist, and at the same time I saw them and knew of their actions, words and even their very thoughts, and still for many years they were unconscious of my presence. Still I persevered and at last, after nearly a century of time, I gained my long-cherished hope that I should be recognized from

the mortal plane and make myself known and impart to you some of the divine truths gained by our experience that you so earnestly are seeking. When we think of the thousands of unsuccessful attempts to communicate, think of the joy it affords us to know of a medium with whom we can communicate. Mortals often use the word *appreciate* with the full *mortal* sense of the word, but I think there is a divine meaning to the word, also which is understood only in spirit life.

Your Spirit Friend,

DR. H. M. HILL.

PATIENCE.

To Our Earth Friends:

In writing for you at this, my first time, I would like to call your attention to the importance of one feature in one's character, that of "Patience." As one journeys along through the various avenues of life, as all do, each and every one comes in contact with a great variety of circumstances over which one has little or, perhaps, no control whatever. Sometimes these surroundings are harmonious and sometimes otherwise. When harmonious and pleasing patience is not known, then all is joyous, harmony and little is thought of patience, for it is not needed and has no place in our thoughts for the time being, but when our pains, woes, troubles and tribulations approach us then patience becomes a great virtue, for as one worries about their troubles the law of attraction is operative and attracts more troubles to our already overloaded minds and continues until we finally conclude that patience is the

greatest of virtues and submit to the will of God for He knows best what His children should bear. So be patient in carrying your burdens and all will end well for your eternal welfare.

JOB OF OLD.

SYSTEMATIC EDUCATION.

In the matter of all education, whether it be mortal or immortal, you will no doubt see the importance of working systematically. You have all had the advantage of observing the system of your schools, from the kindergarten on through the various grades in the more advanced schools, and each school and grade has its part to perform in bringing about the amount of knowledge to entitle one to be known as a scholarly person. Think of the hours, days, weeks and years that are required to complete a fair education and you no doubt comprehend the importance of taking your studies step by step and each step or grade prepares the mind for the next higher grade. And now think of the chaotic condition of mind that would be produced were the steps reversed and you were required to study the higher sciences first instead of the kindergarten exercises. In the mortal line of studies systematic work is well understood, while with some mortals, when they desire spiritual education, they do not seem to comprehend the importance of following the instructions of a competent teacher who is well versed in the future lessons and understands just what the pupil is prepared to receive to produce the best results. So do not weary in your search for the eternal truth for I assure you

that with each experience your soul nature is being prepared for something higher and better and the results will be everlasting.

Your Spirit Friend,

AMOND.

HOLY GHOST.

As suggested, I will explain the relationship of spirit, soul and Holy Ghost. As you no doubt understand the magnitude and power of spirit that pervades all things and is the source from which the soul of man emanates and through this connection man in his physical form comes under the influence of the Most High. When man's spiritual nature predominates over the physical and under such conditions God can and does manifest to the earth plane of human observations in such ways as are convincing to intelligent minds that some supernatural power is the cause of such manifestation and may be known to mortals as the workings of the Holy Ghost.

AMOND THE ANCIENT.

GOD'S MYSTERIOUS WAYS.

Among mortals of all nations, tribes and intellects each and all have their distinct characteristics, peculiar to themselves and this great variety of peculiarities is caused by the various environments which each are sub-

jected to in their different distinct localities, and are influenced by the character of the soil upon which they live and the atmosphere they breathe (for it is not just the same at all parts of the planet), and the water also differs, and also the food they eat. With some of the conditions the influence is such that it produces a strong physical structure and lower order of intellect, and some are dark-skinned while others are red, and with the usual amount of schooling and mental training some of those minds will improve to a limited extent, but in the whole the improvement will be quite limited, while should that same race of people be removed to a more favorable locality where the environments are such as to produce a higher degree of receptivity the same amount of brain culture would be much more noticeable. And again, in some other locality (the temperate zone), where the conditions are more favorable to the development of the nerve centers, there we find oftentimes quite superior intellects with but little mental training, and in this locality we always find a greater mental activity. And as we go to still another locality, farther north, there we find a decline in the mental activity, and a less prolific race of people, and with all of these wide variations in characteristics we find in all of them the soul nature. With a given number of those mortals thinking and investigating as to the probabilities and possibilities of a future life beyond the grave, showing that God in His infinite wisdom has endowed all of His children wherever located with an intuitive perception that there is a future life that is worthy of the attention of mortals, and all classes of intellects seem to find proof of the Supreme Ruler, suited to his or her ability to comprehend this

sublime and eternal truth. Surely God moves in mysterious ways His knowledge to extend.

Written by the Spirit of

SOCRATES.

DIVINE INTELLECT.

Man has been so organized that within the brain is the seat of consciousness and around this center are located the various faculties of the brain and each of these faculties are susceptible of development, each according to its functionary duties that it is required to perform. As these faculties are being developed the person is said to be gaining knowledge when in reality the brain is being the better fitted for the use of the divine powers to act upon it in conveying the divine intelligence to the mortal world, for knowledge, like all other things, originates in spirit and the mortal brain is the instrument through which the divine mind communicates its intelligence to mortals.

THE SPIRIT OF SOCRATES.

VALUE OF HARMONY.

When we come to consider the subject of harmony, first, we should broaden our minds sufficiently to comprehend the absolute harmony that exists in the divine ruling of the universe. Each and every planet in the solar universe has its part to perform in maintaining harmony with each and every other planet in this universe, and when we come to consider the vast number

of planets and understand the harmony that exists between each of them and also the universe as a whole we see harmony as it is intended by our Great Ruler in offering this as an example for His children to profit by. And now that this harmony is so perfect that the universe has existed for so long a time. Were not this harmony so perfect many a catastrophe would have taken place before the present time. Harmony is favorable to perpetuation in all things and when discord prevails it means destruction sooner or later. With discord predominating little or no success can be expected in any of the walks of life, whether it be in business, domestic or public life. As discord in music destroys the music, so does discord in friendship destroy the friendship, while harmonious friendship becomes stronger and firmer as the harmony continues. Harmonious friendships are jewels to be treasured highly. Harmony with your fellow beings, harmony with God and all is well, whether it be on the earth plane or the higher planes of existence. Harmony with all your surroundings means Health, Happiness and Success.

Your Spirit Helper,

SOCRATES OF OLD.

LINCOLN'S ANNIVERSARY.

To the Friends of America:

As I am asked to write upon this occasion, "The One Hundredth Anniversary" of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, I wish to state that while I was in earth life I was always a great admirer of Mr. Lincoln, from his first appearance upon the public arena of his life to his

departure from the mortal body, and it now affords me much pleasure to express my admiration for so noble a man. Mr. Lincoln was a man for the occasion and the occasion was for just such a man. It was a very critical time in the history of the nation, which had struggled for its independence dating from just prior to the Revolutionary war, and was striving to establish a form of government under which her people could all have a fair chance to become a prosperous and happy nation, and for the length of time their efforts had been effectual had accomplished much. But the time had arrived when a struggle was at hand, or *all* of her people could not be freed from the bondage of ownership. And as it appeared to a majority of the citizens, justice did not prevail regarding the dark-skinned race which formed a portion of America's humanity. This was perhaps the greatest injustice prevalent in this land, and to stamp this wrong out would raise the standard of justice for the United States of America, and the conflict arose. Like all other conflicts there was a difference in opinions as to what constituted justice. The slave owners considered it an injustice to deprive them of their slave property, but the true Americans, with Abraham Lincoln as their leader, viewed the matter from a more humanitarian standpoint than as a matter of cash value of a colored man or woman as an instrument of labor. Abraham Lincoln was the man for the time, for a crisis was at hand, blood was to be shed freely, human lives to be sacrificed, to say nothing of the devastation of property. In times like this a *leader* was needed who had most prominent in his nature JUSTICE, and the ability to decide what constituted justice to all and malice to none. It must be one with

keen foresight and the best of apprehension, and one who commanded the highest respect and confidence of his people. Mr. Lincoln knew from experience adversity and hard work, both physical and mental. He was familiar with the conditions of a wide range of people, which enabled him to realize the strength and weakness of the nation. And after long years of war, brother against brother, Mr. Lincoln's great managing ability so planned the Civil war that it was carried to a successful end, even though his life was cowardly taken before the final struggle was ended. And now, after nearly half a century has passed, it is exceedingly fitting that the American people show their devotion to and admiration for this man who was born of a noble woman one hundred years ago today.—*Written by the Spirit of Robert Earl with the hand of My Friend, C. E. Bull.*

LINCOLN'S ANNIVERSARY.

To My Friends on Earth:

For one to eulogize his own name and to hold up his old and almost forgotten deeds as worthy of emulation would, to us who are in spirit life, seem almost folly, but so long as it furnishes entertainment for mortals with the hope of demonstrating to the rising young man that he is or should be doing something that his fellow man may appreciate as being more than the average man is likely to do, that his life and deeds will not be forgotten when he has disappeared from the public platform of life, but to us on this side of life such celebrations are for mortals only, for here we are ever striving to accomplish some good deed that hu-

manity may be made better and more Godly. And now that I am given credit for the emancipation of those colored people while I was on earth, there are still greater achievements to strive for in this plane of life, for many are the souls of those dark-skinned people who are now in spirit life, but still groping along in darkness for the want of an intelligent understanding of the laws of Progression, and as this work proceeds slowly all will be accomplished in time. But in this life we do not look back to past achievements to claim honor or credit for the past, but look at the work before us and apply ourselves as best we can, so that when our work is done we will hear these words, which hold true with spirits as well as mortals: "Well done My faithful servant, thou shalt progress."—*Written by the Spirit of A. Lincoln.*

LINCOLN'S ANNIVERSARY.

To My Dear Friends:

As I have been in spirit life longer than the former writers, I may view the life of Abraham Lincoln differently from them, for the first one seems to consider Mr. Lincoln almost exclusively from the mortal standing, but my having been in spirit for several thousands of years I have viewed other mortals who have been great benefactors to humanity and no two of them had the same environments to contend with, but all of them have been guided by the Divine Power to a successful termination, and Mr. Lincoln was no exception to this rule. Because these powerful facts are not recognized by the masses of mortals makes them none the less true.

Mr. Lincoln was the *Grand and Great and Sublime Medium* through which the Divine Power accomplished the will of God, and thus a multitude of colored people were placed in a better line of progression, both mortally and spiritually, which was God's sublime object.—
Written by the Spirit of Amond of Old.

A SPIRIT'S DESCRIPTION OF THE NORTH POLE.

In giving my description of the North Pole, it may be well to first state that a spirit's mode of travel is far superior to a mortal's, especially when we visit such uninhabitable regions as the extreme arctic portions of this planet called the North Pole. As you all no doubt will understand that in spirit we possess far superior advantages in making such journeys that mortals do not comprehend.

For instance: Time and distance being annihilated in spirit life and temperature is unknown, or at least does not affect us, as we can stand on fire or on ice with the same sense of feeling, and in making trips to the Arctic regions we are not burdened with ships or supplies that mortals cannot dispense with. Perhaps you will see the main features in the advantages we possess over mortals in taking observations that are beyond the reach of mortal man. And now as I am asked to give a description of the North Pole as seen in spirit life, I will first state that the North Pole is but an imaginary place, similar to looking for the Equator or the Arctic Circle, which are very easy to find when marked off upon the common school room globe, which

has been produced for the purpose of training the pupil's mind. And when we consider that those lines only illustrate an imaginary line upon the earth's surface, you will see the absurdity of finding the so-called North Pole. When spirits explore the Arctic regions we view that as we go farther and farther north we find less and less of vegetable and animal life and more and more of snow and ice, and for me to attempt to describe the beauties of ice and snow, pure white, crystal-like covered portion of the earth, when I describe it as the highest type of pure whiteness the description is told in a few words, for there is nothing more to describe, but when mortal man has exhausted his powers of travel, I will assure you that the most successful explorer will meet with complete success when he travels as spirit, and not until then, or at least that is my opinion.

Your Spirit Brother,

ALBERT BULL.

NORTH POLE.

Whenever the mind of mortal man creates a desire to make explorations of any kind that man will usually investigate regions or subjects about which little or nothing is known or understood, and perhaps about the Arctic regions as little is known as any portion of this planet, consequently from time to time parties have been formed for the purpose of making investigations with the hope that they may discover something that will surprise the thinking people of the world, but thus far the most that has been discovered in the various searches for the so-called North Pole is that some men

have more courage than others, for it certainly requires courage to make those long and tedious travels into uninhabitable portions of the earth. Should one of these parties be successful in crossing across the northern portion of the earth, little or nothing would be gained by way of knowledge concerning the Pole they are looking for. So, to use a homely expression, "looking for the North Pole is a wild goose chase."

Your Spirit Friend,
MITCHEL THE ASTRONOMER.

SUCCESS.

Among mortals, when the word success is mentioned or thought of, it is almost instantly associated with the acquirement of earthly riches, such as valuable lands, cattle or other animals that have a commercial value, manufacturing establishments or other property having a recognized and established money value. True, this is success from one standpoint, but it is only temporal and of short duration, for when the possessor of this sort of wealth has arrived at the change called death it is all left on the mortal plane and its owner ascends to a higher plane of existence and is often retarded in his or her progression by the strong attachments for mortal wealth, and when one arrives in spirit life without undue attachments for money and its acquirements they have the advantage of a more rapid progression. I would not ask that you ignore earthly possessions by any means, for at the present time the mortal world has become commercialized to such an extent that it has become necessary that one should devote

more or less of mortal energy to the gathering of that medium of exchange called money, thereby to be the better enabled to secure the comforts of mortal life, but in addition to those comforts spiritual wealth should be gained also. By spiritual wealth I mean a recognition of God, a knowledge of His laws and obedience to His will, for this wealth is not left behind when one takes on immortality. So strive to accumulate spiritual wealth in abundance and you will receive your reward at the hands of your Father, who is in heaven.

Your Friend in Spirit,

ONE PAUL.

SPIRIT UNDERSTANDING.

To Those Who Seek An Understanding of Spirit Vocation in the Future Life:

As my earth life was spent almost exclusively in the ministry, I will confine this article very closely to the vocation of such a mortal after he has passed through the new birth and is borne of the spirit.

On the mortal plane of life many conclusions are arrived at regarding the new birth and what follows, and several of those conclusions have more or less divine truth therein contained, but as I have now passed through that change it is no longer a question of speculation or faith, for I now have the advantage gained by experience and I will here state that it is quite possible to quite an extent for this new birth to partially occur while the soul yet remains with the mortal body. By "partially" I will explain that I mean that the spiritual portion of a mortal may be so developed that the men-

tal powers may be said to be reborn while yet dwelling in the temple of clay. But the complete rebirth will not occur until the mortal body is cast off and at that time the soul and mentality of the mortal will occupy its spiritual, or "astral" body, as it is often called, and as I have said before, I have been blessed with this exchange of bodies and can now state my views from the spirit side of life. And as my mind while on earth was actively employed in advocating for the welfare of the souls of mortals with more or less of good results, I now find myself employed in a very similar vocation, while now the opportunity is open for me to use my efforts for the welfare of both mortals and spirits also, and as all life is a life of continuous progression (if one so chooses) there is no end to the work for an ambitious soul, either in mortal life or in spirit.

Your Servant,

HENRY WARD BEECHER IN SPIRIT.

ARCHITECTURAL BEAUTY.

As we on the spirit side of life have and enjoy our homes, I will try and give you a brief description of the way they are frequently ornamented in various ways. Your homes on the mortal plane are but plans handed down from the astral plane, consequently are very similar in architecture to our astral homes. The chief differences are that yours are constructed of material substances while ours are of etherealized substance, which is not visible to your physical sight, but frequently our homes are seen by mortals who are possessed of clairvoyant sight, and are usually spoken of as "man-

sions in the skies." While our homes are constructed not by mortal hands or any physical labor as yours are, our plans come from still higher realms of existence and from these plans mortal plans receive their origin, and as to the ornamentations that adorn our homes, they are very profuse and it is a constant effort with architectural spirits to impress upon mortals the source of joy and happiness to be derived from elaborate decorations and ornamentations, for it is something to study and appreciate, and such study and observations are always uplifting to humanity. It attracts the mind upwards to refinement and culture which is Godward. But one of the chief obstructions to these more refining influences is a misconception of wealth. These more refining influences and their results are treasures laid up in heaven, while material wealth vanishes with the last breath of human existence, while the heavenly treasures are eternal. While the architect may be very elaborate in his display of architectural beauty it is of very little avail to the occupant of such a mansion unless viewed with a desire to mould one's character with a similar line of beauty that will influence the mind to more heavenly aspirations, but to us who are in the spirit world it is sad to behold how often it occurs and so frequently the object of so much of this great display of architectural beauty is more for the display of material wealth and is not studied and appreciated as we would be pleased to see, but we are much gratified when we observe that often others besides the owners of such homes are benefited with the refining influences brought to bear upon their character.

Your Spirit Guide,

DR. H. M. HILL.

JUSTICE.

In selecting the subject for this article it may be well for me to state that the greater part of my earth life was employed in deciding upon points of justice as considered from the standpoint of the legal profession and as considered by points of legislative law, and in writing upon the subject of *Justice* from my present viewpoint, I will first state that in many instances my decisions would be at variance with my former opinions. Take, for instance, in my former, or earlier, practice at law, where my cases were matters, in many instances, of minor importance, but to the parties involved they considered their grievances worthy to hold the attention of a court of justice, when oftentimes their differences arose from some petty affair which would not be noticed by broader-minded persons, and in such cases the court's decisions were not considered altogether from a point of justice and the court was applauded by the friends of the successful litigant simply because their friend had won his case, and the principle of justice was not taken into account to any great extent, while at that time it was called a court of justice, many other matters were taken into account aside from justice. But as my practice became more extended those petty cases were left behind, so far as I was concerned, and my decisions grew to be more and more from the standpoint of justice to all and favors to none. So what passes for justice is often contaminated with spite as well as friendship, but such is not true justice, and as time went on and I was called upon to hold positions of higher responsibilities, and as I now look back over my past earth life I can observe many of my early decisions upon so-

called justice as being far from justice as I now consider the word Justice, although for the last twenty or thirty years of my legal work (I may seem egotistical, but in justice to myself) I will say that I consider my work superior to some holding similar positions and I think that a majority of my observers considered my decisions were based upon what I believed to be justice pure and simple and uncontaminated, but perhaps I am giving you too much concerning myself and wandering from the subject of *Justice*.

Justice is that which one deals out that does not wrong anyone, oneself included. Usually an average mortal establishes a certain standard of justice to be guided by in his or her transactions. Of course that standard is from one personal standpoint and as all persons are of a different mental caliber this standard of justice will differ accordingly. So what seems justice to one will not seem the same to all persons. Thus you will see the many perplexities a judge has to contend with as a court of justice, but as I now view the subject, the only true justice comes from that Supreme One that is the only Judge who does not err in judgment and deals out justice to all and in all cases that falls to Him to decide.

Yours that you may give and receive justice patterned after the All-Wise One.

Your Friend,
ROBERT EARL IN SPIRIT.

INTEGRITY.

As I am asked to write upon a very important subject, one that was very closely allied with my mortal life, I am pleased to write upon the subject of "Integrity."

Probably from the earliest history of mankind mortal man has been prone to a weakness as to forming the highest ideals in his mind regarding his integrity. Integrity means justice in your affairs of life. Just to all, yourself included. Oftentimes it is difficult to determine just what is exact justice, but the more one studies the subject the easier it is to decide next time, and the more likely one is to be more correct than formerly. Whosoever never centers his mind upon justice is more often unjust than just, and to begin with, there are people who never consider this subject much more than do some of the lower animals. To those, they usually think and believe everybody is unjust towards them, not being competent to judge either for or against them, and it being natural for such people to be selfish, they are quite as apt to feel wronged as otherwise in their dealings with their fellow man, while others who have a more kindly feeling for others are less apt to feel offended and will and do bear with the faults of others without complaint, but this is unjust for the patient one, but such is life on the mortal plane. Whenever one is patient and looks for justice, in the long run justice will prevail and will in time be the better enabled to decide between justice and injustice, and will be known as one who has established a reputation based on integrity and I know of no better standard upon which to live than that of integrity. Integrity

we find inculcated within the characteristics of nearly all the nations of the earth and in the various stages of development. The higher degrees should be earnestly and steadily kept in mind as objects to strive for through life and to those who succeed the reward is and will be great.

Yours for the Betterment of Humanity,

ROBERT EARL IN SPIRIT.

CHRISTMAS.

Whenever friends are gathered together upon or at Christmas time all hearts are, or should be, filled with joy and gladness with the thought that God in His infinite goodness and mercy did send into the world a Son so capable and willing to show to humanity the way to eternal life. He done the will of the Father with no hope of personal reward that the children of man might follow His example that they might be saved from the lost condition upon arrival in spirit life after the "so-called death." The life of this blessed Saviour seems to have had but one object to perform on the earth plane, and that was to do the will of our Heavenly Father that humanity should be rewarded for His having lived on the earth plane. He suffered mortal pain more than is usual for mortals to do that His faith in God might be proven, and He never faltered but continued to demonstrate to the world that God is the All-Supreme Power that carries one along when all other help has vanished. But in the later years material matters have to quite an extent overcome the spiritual thoughts that should occupy the minds of mortals at this great festival day. As Christ was ever on the alert

for the souls of humanity and their spiritual welfare, so should the minds of mortals be at the present time, ever seeking the higher planes of spiritual life, ever seeking knowledge pertaining to the soul's betterment, for by so doing eternal happiness is secured and without so doing happiness is quite limited. And when one is in harmony with the will of God and at peace with mankind any happiness is limitless. So at this Christmas we should all look to Christ as our Leader and Teacher and follow His teachings that we also may set an example for others to follow that will direct their minds towards higher spiritual aspirations.

Your Spirit Friend,

MYRON W. REED.

EASTER.

To All Lovers of Easter Sunday:

While I was upon the earth plane and living as you are today in a mortal body, I little appreciated Easter from the higher view of that subject. I had supposed that Easter was observed only by mortals, but such is not the case, for I assure you that the origin of all earthly Easter joys is in the spirit world, for here all spirits who are past the darkened spheres enter into the joys of Easter day and the Easter joys of mortals is but an echo from the spirit world and the joys here cannot be fully described, but I will try and give my mortal friends a faint idea of Easter in the spirit world.

First, Easter day is looked forward to with bright anticipation for a long time and as the day approaches us we are so enthused with joy that all thoughts of

anything but joy are crowded from our minds and it seems that the songs of the birds are sweeter and more in harmony with nature than at any other time, and all musical instruments seem to produce more harmonious melodies than usual, and the angels' voices send forth their best strains of harmony and soul-inspiring vigor and when we consider the vast number of souls who have been passing to the spirit life for the past ages and compare that vast number with those comparatively few who are yet on the earth plane, you will also consider that of all the mortals who recognize Easter it is only a small portion of the whole who are on the earth plane, and in spirit all are united in singing praises to God in the highest in honor of His Holy Name.

Your Spirit Well-Wisher,

MYRON W. REED.

EASTER SUNDAY.

As this is the day that all nations living under the teachings of the Christian religions hold as the day above all others for the refreshing of their memories regarding Him whom all spiritualists consider the Great Teacher of principles by which one may enter into the joys of eternal life, perhaps for me to write for you upon the subject of "*Easter*" will be more appropriate than any other subject as today is known as Easter Sunday.

Easter Sunday, as it is observed by the people in general, I fear is more for the display of worldly riches than Jesus would approve of were He on the earth plane of existence today, for when He was living His material

life little did He care for property riches, for the riches that He was most interested in were those that "moth and rust doth not corrupt, nor thieves break through and steal," meaning an understanding of God's laws pertaining to the higher or spiritual life, which is within the reach of all mortals. When Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me," and again, when he said, "Ye must become as little children before you can enter the Kingdom of Heaven," He referred to the real self and not to the physical body as being young in years; for again, when He said that "As one dies as a mortal body he is raised up a spiritual body." And thus the mortal body has served its purpose and returns "earth to earth and ashes to ashes," and the resurrection of the spiritual body takes place and ascends to the higher life to dwell in mansions in the skies, not made with hands, but eternal in the heavens. And as Jesus made this change called death so will you all in due course of time and each will have a resurrection day as the soul passes or frees itself from the mortal body. And should your soul nature be so developed that it will not remain in the darkened spheres of spirit life, God will say "well done my good and faithful servant."

Your Spirit Friend and Brother,

ALBERT BULL.

HUMAN LIFE.

The mortal, or human, being is placed upon the earth plane by our Heavenly Father for a high purpose and all should so consider it for there is no higher object conceivable upon the earth plane than the growth

and development of a mortal soul, and in the *human* body is the only place in this great universe where the soul can be nourished in its earlier stages as an individual entity. The body is the feeding ground for the soul in these years of earlier growth. There is no other place to establish a distinct soul entity and the development of the soul while yet living in the human form depends largely upon the mentality of the mortal, not necessarily a great mentality, but one that recognizes God as the author of all things. To illustrate: You have no doubt known persons who very nearly disregard their Creator and scarce if ever think of Him with reverence. The soul that inhabits such a body does not make as rapid progress on the earth plane as does one who frequently recognizes that there is a higher power than human power, and whenever the mortal recognizes the fact that there is an individual soul within him or herself and is placed there by God Himself, from this time onward the soul will develop more rapidly and more satisfactorily than before this fact is observed. God has planned His great work with wonderful skill and the human being has its part in the universal program to perform. While the body is but a temporary place of habitation for a comparatively few years much in the way of soul development can be accomplished.

Some mortals are successful in developing their souls past the darkened spheres before the spirit leaves the body, and others do not. All should strive to so live and develop their soul natures that the darkened spiritual spheres will be for only a short while and spiritual progression will be more rapid and satisfactory.—*Written by the Spirit of Myron W. Reed.*

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

As this day is another one of those days that mortals are pleased to designate as "Washington's birthday" in reverence for his noble mortal name, it is but fitting that your spiritual associates should join with you in doing honor to so great a man as George Washington, and it affords me much pleasure to have this opportunity of writing for you from this side of life to assure you that the immortal ones also appreciate this noble spirit who done so much for his country while he was active in the mortal form, and I would like to impress upon you that his usefulness did not end when he passed from the mortal sphere, for he continues with his energies for the welfare of the country he done so much in establishing more than a century ago, for he is ever watchful in caring for his nation's best interests, that his fellow men may have a bright and prosperous country in which to live. And as he views this nation from on high at the present time so may all mortals in the great future look back and behold your earthly works and (I hope) appreciate all the noble deeds done while in the body. And may you all so live and act that your deeds may be looked back upon in future lives as being worthy of your admiration and be considered as seeds sown upon good ground that they may bear good fruit by being emulated by future generations as are the deeds of him whose name this day commemorates. And as Mrs. Martha Washington was his true helpmate on earth so she still continues to be, and all due reverence should be bestowed upon this noble woman, for as a wife thinketh of her husband so is he. And the same is true when reversed. And as the world goes on from

time to time other men and women have and will become leaders of affairs and prove to be benefactors of their countrymen and humanity, and whose names will become great before God and men. And may you all strive to become a benefactor to a greater or less extent as opportunities may arise before you and thus assist our Good Father in carrying out His divine plans that surpasseth mortal understanding.—*Written by the Spirit of Mohammed the Prophet.*

ANTIQUITY OF SPIRIT THOUGHT.

As it has been many centuries since I have communicated direct with the mortal world it will, no doubt, save many inquiries if I state something concerning myself. I cannot state how long it has been since I was living the life of a mortal, as we in spirit know no time, but will say that it was many thousands of years ago, prior to the Christian era. Yes, before Confucius or Zoroaster were recognized as a saviour. In earth life my mind was much employed in the soul's welfare of men. My native land was one of the chief islands in the group known as the Isle of Atalantas and long since become extinct from the surface of the sea. For many years I was the chief ruler of that land and in those times the ruler was in duty bound to administer to the soul's welfare and development as much as to guard over the people's material interests, consequently my mind was well directed towards spiritual subjects, so perhaps I may be able to interest mortals if I tell you something about the "antiquity of spiritual thought."

So far back as I was or am able to gain any knowledge pertaining to spiritual thought, the thinking portion of humanity has had its mind engaged upon thoughts leading to the desire to know more of truth pertaining to a future life or an existence after the mortal body was cast off. And as each mind was searching for this understanding many conclusions were reached, and usually all had found a portion of the truth as he or she was able to comprehend and as each truth was conveyed to another mortal, and should that mortal not comprehend or understand it, it was not accepted as a truth. And I think this has been the condition through all ages of the world, thus such a conflict upon religious thought in its details. But there seems to be one sublime truth that all profound thinkers obtain the same conclusion upon, and that is that there is a future existence of some kind, but the diversity of opinions arise with regard to the details of that life. Much harm has been done by the common saying that is still being quoted by mortals, that "No one ever came back to tell us about the future life." And that saying is so impressed upon the minds of most mortals that they do not believe that it is erroneous, for your spirit friends do hover around their friends, but are not recognized only by the few.

The ancients were much more given to spiritual thoughts than at present and when a person had proven to him or herself a certain fact that fact was recognized as such by this one person and was of little or no use to another, and in this way each one must think out and prove his or her own knowledge concerning their God, and in this way each became intelligent according to his own ability to search for the truth, and the re-

ward was given according to the exact truth found.—
Written by the Ancient Spirit, by Name Abut.

NEW YEAR.

To Our Mortal Friends:

As the new year approaches it behooves all, both mortals and spirits, to renew our energies for higher and nobler undertakings, as God sees our deeds.

Should all mortals hold steadfast in their minds this thought, "That *God* is the All-Wise Ruler and outlines our destiny," and remember that we are His children and should do His will, and whenever we go astray from God's plans our true happiness suffers.

Your Spirit Friend,

A. LINCOLN.

NEW YEAR.

Upon so close an approach to the new year it is but fitting that our minds should be in meditation upon the past year with thoughts and anticipations of the new year, so close at hand.

As the years roll by, to the mortal mind it is but a matter of calculation with regard to material affairs, while in spirit life the years of time do not concern us except as we direct our minds to the earth plane for our mutual welfare, for in spirit life when we accomplish a good purpose it matters not at what date it was done, the all important part is that the good deed was done, that God's eternal plans had been assisted and

some soul had been uplifted and shown the way to eternal progression, and when your material year has ended you should review your deeds and with the desire to improve your lives so as to live in the new year with renewed energy and aspiration to do God's will that still greater achievements may be recorded. And to all who have lived good and faithful lives during the past year true material happiness will follow and such will enter the new year with good cheer and hope for a still more useful life in the approaching new year. And to those whose lives have not proven satisfactory in the old year those should meditate and create a desire for more Godly acts and deeds, and I assure such that your reward will be commensurate with your deeds, and if such will hold prominent in their thoughts an earnest desire for better thoughts, better deeds will surely follow, for every deed is the product of a thought and thoughts are products of desires.

Your Spirit Friend,

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS.

It is with great gratification that I respond to your kind and thoughtful invitation to express my views upon the political situation that confronts this great nation at the present time.

To say that this vast nation is the home of millions of happy and prosperous people of nearly all nationalities goes without contradiction from the more enlightened class of our citizens. Of course there are in this nation, as in all other nations, many people who

are less favored in their gifts than others, who, as a rule, look upon national affairs from their own personal standpoint, which does not comprehend so vast a subject in its entirety. So when one becomes aware of the importance that is attached to the leadership of a nation then that person comprehends the necessity of selecting the man for a leader who is known to possess true patriotism, and has the courage to assert the rights of the masses as against the few who use their talents and energies solely for the benefit of their class, which is usually for the one purpose, that of financial gain, for it must be understood that it is only a portion of humanity that get their happiness from financial gain. Think for a moment of the happiness people derive from the following lines of thought, whether it be their vocation or not: Take music, art, literature, mechanics, floral gardening, or any other vocation where finance is not the leading ambition, all of these are sources of happiness to the ones so employed, I think, to a higher degree than where one's thoughts are confined almost entirely to financial gain. True, under the present system of living it is very important that one should derive a reasonable amount of financial income, which most people can and do succeed in gaining, but like most other vocations, it is good up to a certain limit and when one gets beyond this limit the most of the good is overbalanced by the evils attached to their undertakings.

And again, when we look for the welfare of the masses the government to do its full duty should guard well the interests of the medium and so-called lower classes, for it is with these classes that the greatest of true happiness is found. Therefore cultivate that which

is best and increase this class of humanity and hold in check as much as possible the classes which are encouraging that which is not promoting true happiness, true manhood and womanhood, true prosperity and all that is leading up to the principles of Godhood, that all may end well in the presence of our Heavenly Father

Is the Hope of Your Spirit Friend,

WM. MCKINLEY.

THESE UNITED STATES.

These United States as viewed from the spirit side of life by one like myself who has had a deep interest in the nation's welfare from its earliest inception, appears to be an exceptionally bright and happy country in which to live, from various standpoints. From the climatic point it is considerably varied. It does not have the extreme frigid temperature enough to render a portion of its territory uninhabitable, neither is its southern portions too torrid for light-skinned races to thrive, and a larger portion is the agreeable medium that is well adapted to the uses to which its inhabitants desire to produce the necessary requirements for health and happiness.

And from the standpoint of wealth it is as a nation difficult to find its equal. It produces of the staple grain products enough for its people and to share with the less fortunate sister nations, and nearly all of her people have fruit in abundance, and among the metals it produces for all requirements and to spare. And with a constant and increasing population the nation's resources will continue in abundance and from these

products from fields and mines great trade relations thrive with other nations, thus furnishing traffic across both land and sea that transportation may be maintained.—*As seen by the Spirit of Geo. Washington.*

SPIRITUAL WAR.

In attempting to enlighten you in this way I will choose for the subject "Spiritual War."

This may seem somewhat absurd to you at first, but when you bear with me a few moments perhaps you will reconcile your minds to the truth pertaining to the subject. It is a fact very well understood that one's mind in the spirit world is quite apt to follow in about the same vocation as it did while on the mortal sphere, so you will see that those who were defenders of their fellow man's welfare on the mortal plane of life will naturally follow in a similar line of usefulness when in the spiritual plane. While we do not actually muster great armies of soldiers, as is done on the mortal plane, we do marshal our mental forces and send forth our psychic force for the welfare of our fellow beings, whether they be on the mortal or spiritual plane of existence. So should all of God's spiritual children see from the same standpoint there would either be all war or no war as the case might be. True our property rights do not enter into our strifes as is often the case with mortals, but our wars are for or against God's laws. Those who are acting to please God are battling continuously that God's will shall be accomplished with the hope that at some future time our victory will be recognized and we will hear our Heavenly Father say:

“Well done my faithful servant.” So may you mortals join in this warfare that God may be glorified, is the wish of your former defender,

U. S. GRANT IN SPIRIT.

SPIRIT FINANCIERING.

You may perhaps think somewhat strange of spiritual financiering, but it is a fact, nevertheless, that spirits who were financiers while in mortal life continue in a similar line of mental efforts after leaving the mortal body. Such spirits hover around mortals who are employed in such mental work and influence them as best we can and our success depends largely upon the mortal's susceptibility to receive impressions. Whenever we can and do make our influence felt by the mortal we usually succeed in our object, but the results are unsatisfactory to the mortal. Quite often the reason for this is that the mortal's object is usually based upon too selfish motives, while we consider the matter from a broader view. So when we consider the matter in the interests of all concerned we think we are entitled to call it Success. Even the chief actor in the transaction is a little dissatisfied at the time, but quite often this mortal takes a different view of it in after life. So if such ones would study and apply the Golden Rule more closely their lives and actions would more nearly comply with God's desires and such a one would be doing more to carry out God's plans that all would end to the glory of God, which is the highest of all objects to be accomplished by either mortal or a spirit.

Your Spirit Friend,

GEO. WASHINGTON.

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS AS SEEN FROM SPIRIT LIFE.

It has been the custom of the people of this nation to observe holidays since this nation gained its independence from its mother country, and by acts of Congress, from time to time, another holiday has been added and almost each year ends with a new holiday, with some object in view for this new holiday, and there are some days observed as holidays that are not legal holidays, but to those who observe such holidays to them their object is gained the same as though it were authorized by law. I observed not many days ago that many people observed what they are pleased to term "McKinley Day," in honor of the mortal works of him whose spirit is now writing. While I was living the mortal life little did I think that my deeds would be regarded as worthy of emulation by setting apart a day as "McKinley Day," but perhaps my deeds were more noble than I thought at the time. Were I at that time told that such would be the case I would at least have had great doubts about it, but were I then told that I would still live to witness such an affair I would have still greater doubts, but as we journey along through life little do we realize concerning our future. General Washington is here by my side. He says our minds seem to run parallel on this subject. So may you all so live and act that your lives and deeds may be worthy of emulation by future generations, is the wish of

WM. MCKINLEY IN SPIRIT.

OUR COUNTRY.

As it is only very seldom that a spirit is offered an opportunity to write a message from the spirit side of life back to the mortal world, where I once lived and was known as a mortal, you may judge of the pleasure it affords when an opportunity is offered. And as my mortal self was and still is known as the "Father of Our Country," it is but appropriate that I write of "Our Country."

As the seventeenth century was drawing to a close what few people had adopted this land as their home became inspired to establish a form of government of their own, and as the years rolled by this sentiment gained in favor and the people became united in their demand for a separation from Briton's rule, with the result that the people's desire should be gratified. Much blood was shed, lives lost and many sacrifices made, but as God considered these demands were but just the nation, known as the United States of America, gained its independence, and in a comparatively small way established its own government. It was formed so as to be much better suited to the needs of our people than the rule that had formerly been exercised over them, and in the earlier years of our history my name was closely associated with the affairs of our government, and I will say that I took a deep interest in the affairs of our young nation and it made an eternal impression upon my mind that stays with me even to this day on the spirit side of life. The thoughts of our country were uppermost in my mind until I ceased to exist as a mortal and since I have been in spirit life my mind has

not relaxed in its energies to assist in keeping the government apace with the ever-increasing population, and I will also state that I am well pleased with the growth and prosperity of our earlier work, which has been productive of happiness and contentment. Of course evils have crept in and have been subdued, some of which have caused great alarm, especially the question of slavery, about the middle of the eighteenth century, which caused one of the most cruel wars of history, but in the end millions of human slaves were made free, and thus God's will was carried out for the welfare of humanity, and the nation prospered and has enjoyed a season of commercialism never before equaled by any nation and I think will continue in its onward march of continuous prosperity, contentment and happiness. So now I think that we who held the reins of our young government guided the ship of state better than we thought at the time we were assuming our official duties. We on this side of the river of life look upon the nation and look to the welfare of all of the people and not to the welfare of any political party.

Political parties are essential to the welfare of the nation, but in some instances I think the welfare of party is more prominent in the minds of some politicians than true patriotism, but such conditions to a slight degree always have existed and perhaps always will so long as selfish mortals exist. But whenever matters of vital importance arise and the entire mind of the populace becomes aroused sufficient to take an enthusiastic interest then God-given justice will predominate. So follow the motto that is upon some of your coin—*"In God We Trust"*—and so live and act that the whole world will recognize that that motto was not put

before the eyes of the people in vain.—*Written by the Spirit of George Washington.*

THE CIVIL WAR.

As I am offered this opportunity to express my views from the spirit side of life to the mortal world, it affords me much pleasure and gratification to write upon the subject that brought my mortal self so prominently before the minds of my fellow mortals, namely, *The Civil War.*

About the years 1845 to 1850 a feeling of injustice began to be noticeable in the minds of some of the leading minds of our nation concerning the question of slavery in some sections of the land. It was reasoned by the advanced thinkers that as all mankind were created equal in the sight of God, mortals, or at least some mortals, were obstructing the will of God by keeping some of God's children in the bonds of slavery to spend their lives for the commercial welfare of their owners seriously to the detriment of the mental and spiritual welfare of the dark-skinned race, whose life's energies were used for personal gain. Those advanced thinkers advocated their convictions to their fellow men and their principles met with favor in one section of the country and with opposition in another section, but the opposition had for its principle chiefly the defense of their property rights to hold and own their colored servants at a fixed cash value. As will be observed in the first instance, the principles advocated was *justice* to the greatest numbers, which is recognized by the Great Ruler over all justice. And in the next in-

stance their principles had their origin in mortal man that their own selfish motives should prevail.

The struggle for supremacy was long and severe. A very large number of lives were taken from the mortal body, many cripples left and disease followed in the trail of this war and when viewed solely from the mortal standpoint one is quite apt to think most of the loss of human life and blood and the devastation of property, but as God was and is the All-Wise Ruler, He considered the soul's welfare of the dark-skinned race from a mental and spiritual standing and He desired that their souls should be put upon an equal standing with the rest of humanity, for God is not particular about the color of the skin of a mortal.

And when I consider this phase of the Civil War I am well pleased with the final results, for we should consider that those who passed out of their mortal bodies in that conflict their lives did not end when their breath stopped, for "so-called death" does not end all at the grave, for their souls go marching on to victory in the sight of God. And at the same time the souls of those colored people are given the same opportunity to progress also, which I consider of sufficient reward for all that the war cost in blood, mortal life and financial expense.—*Written by the Spirit of A. Lincoln for the Consideration of Humanity.*

OUR COUNTRY IN PROSPERITY.

In presenting this, my first article written through this medium, I wish to express my gratitude for this opportunity of offering to the mortal world my views from the spirit side of life upon a subject that was close to

my heart while I occupied the Presidential chair of this country, and for years previous to my election to that high office my aspirations were to see this nation upon a higher plane of prosperity than any other nation on the planet, but as a brother mortal saw fit to cause the separation of my self from my mortal body while I was yet striving to lay the nation's foundation for a still higher wave of prosperity than the nation had ever enjoyed, my plans were thwarted to some extent, but as my plans were well under way at the time of my assassination and were receiving the approval of the spiritual powers, the nation has continued in its onward march to victorious prosperity as a nation, and we on this, the spirit side of life, observe with satisfaction the commercial achievements that are so essential to prosperity in a commercialized nation. We who were once so deeply interested in the welfare of our nation still retain that interest for the well-being of our fellow mortals and are all using our spiritual forces to lead the way for our mortal brothers and sisters to peace, plenty and prosperity, as God views such matters, for God in His infinite wisdom does not consider prosperity solely from a financial view, for from that standpoint the success that may be obtained is solely from the material view, and as God's chief object is the prosperity of man's spiritual self so I think this remark will show you that success in mortal things is not the highest form of success. So a nation should not confine its prosperity alone to the material prosperity, but at the same time direct its attention to the spiritual prosperity for that is the prosperity that survives the grave and is eternal. Material prosperity is an essential to material happiness, and as the nation is prosperous it sets the example for the in-

dividuals comprising the nation and the prosperity of the individual and the prosperity of the nation go hand in hand but the spiritual prosperity should not be neglected.—*Written by the Spirit of James A. Garfield.*

ASSASSINATIONS.

Allow me, in introducing myself, to express my gratitude for this opportunity to communicate with the mortal world from this, the spiritual world, and as I was one of the assassinated Presidents of the United States I will express my views of such occurrences.

The assassination of a mortal, from the mortal viewpoint, is looked upon as one of the highest forms of crime, but from the Godly standpoint it does not look so serious, for whenever an official is thus removed from official power there is always another to take his place in the affairs of the nation or state, as the case may be, and so the governmental affairs go on about the same, but mortals consider the crime uppermost, and so far as the life of the one who has left the mortal plane is concerned that is an individual matter, and if his life has been in accordance with the laws of God all is well with him. And as the welfare of only one soul has passed from the mortal to the immortal life and still lives the matter is not so serious as mortals usually think. The welfare of the nation is by far the greater in importance for the destiny of a people depends much upon the form of government under which they live, and as the successor cannot make any radical changes in the governmental affairs the nation goes on about the same as before, but mortals are prone to express their

grief, both publicly and in private and thus keep the affair in mind and do not consider the matter as God sees it. Of course all precaution should be taken to prevent such occurrences, not so much to avoid any imaginary calamity to the nation, for such will not occur from such a cause, but to discourage crime in general. Such occurrences are usually brought about by some mortal who has not in the past had his thoughts well directed. Any mortal who considers him or herself a child of God and strives to do His will, would never have committed such a deed, but such deeds are brought about by a mortal whose mind is lead astray in the beginning by some other uncontrolled mind and is allowed to continue in its thoughts of evil doings and sooner or later one's actions will indicate the past workings of the mind. So I trust that a lesson may be drawn from this remark and mortals will comprehend the importance of guarding well their thoughts and keeping them well in the vibrations of virtue, that your actions later in life may be for the glory of God.—*Written by the Spirit of William McKinley.*

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ISLE OF ATLANTAS.

In the modern years of the world's history much speculation is discussed with regard to those islands which are now extinct so far as mortal vision is concerned, but as nothing in God's universe ceases to exist these former islands are no exception. They, like all other changes, have simply passed a certain stage of evolution and so far as mortal life is concerned have

ceased to exist, and as this article is upon a given subject I will not digress. Those islands once were the center of the world's habitation, but many centuries ago. In fact, at a time so remote that there seems to be no mortal record that is very definite that such islands ever did exist, but as my earth life was spent upon the chief island in that group, perhaps few if any are capable of giving you as good a description and history of that once important portion of this planet. This group of islands were located in a northerly direction from Honolulu, in the Pacific ocean, but of course Honolulu did not exist then, neither did the island upon which it is built. The Atlantas group extended well towards the North Pole and was composed of a large number of islands, probably never numbered or named, and only a few of them were inhabited by more than sea animals. Those islands existed for many thousands of years and with the slow but sure process of evolution they one by one disappeared from the surface of the sea and finally were what mortals call extinct. The soil of those islands (the larger ones) was much more fertile than can be found at the present time, not excepting the famous valley of the Nile river in Egypt. This is not true of all of those islands, for some were composed of barren rocks and consequently of little importance so far as man was concerned. I will speak now exclusively of the Island of Atlanta, upon which I passed my mortal days, or years. This was perhaps the largest in the group and supported the greatest number of people of any island in the group. Various kinds of food vegetation were abundant and the earth produced it almost without cultivation. Chiefly of the products were fruit and corn, wheat and rice, similar to those grown at the

present time. The people were much larger, both taller and heavier than most people of the present day, for I myself was eight feet four inches tall, in the present way of measurement, and I was but little taller than the average, and as for knowledge, but little of what we then called knowledge would be considered as such at this time from the standpoint of mortals, but as God views the subject of knowledge, we, I think, were far superior to mortals of the past few centuries. Our knowledge was more, or almost, exclusively confined to divine law, through which all knowledge reaches mortals, and by relying almost entirely upon the Divine One to guide and control us, it was unnecessary to cultivate our intellectual faculties as is done in later centuries, which is a result of the influence upon mankind in substituting faith for knowledge concerning one's God.

As we in spirit do not take time into account, were I to say how long since these islands existed it would be at the best a mere guess. I can only say that I feel certain of having been in spirit life from 4,000 to 5,000 years or more. I will say adieu and sign myself as the spirit of

COMOE THE GREAT.

USES OF THE SEA.

In writing for you at this time I will take for our subject the seas, their uses, etc.

As this planet was being produced by the process of evolution certain chemical elements were necessary and as water contains a great variety of these elements

our Heavenly Father wisely produced water in abundance. I think about two-thirds of the earth's surface is water, but as the seas do not extend to the center of the planet or as near to the center as does the mineral substances, the earth is much more than one-third mineral formation. True, in most portions of our planet much water is distributed. The object of the seas is, I think, for an immense storage, with larger surface exposure, to produce evaporation that moisture would be abundant for all its various uses, such as to form clouds to furnish rain for the production of vegetation and for the use of the animal creation or neither could exist. Were water to become extinct I doubt that this planet would exist very long. With the moisture constantly rising from the seas and other bodies of water and transported in various portions of the earth with the air currents the moisture is carried to points quite remote from the sea and thus the moisture is placed where it is needed to carry on God's great work of evolution that man may thrive and develop and become the dwelling place of an eternal spirit.—*Written by the Spirit of Mitchel the Astronomer.*

OCEAN TIDE.

When writing upon so vast a subject as the ocean and its various actions it necessarily requires considerable preliminary explanation to make the subject comprehensible, as the writer intends it to be understood. As I wish to explain with regard to the ebb and flow of the ocean's tide, I must call your attention to some of the other planets which go to compose this great uni-

verse, and as you no doubt understand this universe is supporting many, many other planets, and each and all have their own sphere in which to perform their part in making this universe a perfect one, each have their own powers of attraction and repulsion with the various other planets, and as each is revolving on its axis and has its revolutionary orbit in which it has its own true course to follow, and when we consider the great number of these planets and the various attractions that each planet has for the other planets, just stop and think of the complexity of this great universe, and one of the more prominent effects these other planets have upon earth will be seen as one stands by the ocean's side and observes the ebb and flow of the tide, which is but one of the constant and regular effects that the other planets have upon the waters of the earth.

Your Spirit Friend,

MITCHEL THE ASTRONOMER.

MONSOONS AND TYPHOONS.

In giving you this writing I will take for our subject "Monsoons, Typhoons and Sand Storms."

First, I will call your attention to the fact that all these are brought about by the natural workings of the various planets, either primarily or as a secondary result of some other mighty force in the universe. First, I will explain some of the many wonderful workings of the planets aside from the one upon which you now live. Of all of the planets the earth is among the lesser ones as regards its size and influences among the general whole number, or in other words, it is affected more

by the influence of other planets than its influence is felt by the other planets. As the earth passes around in its orbit at some times of the year it comes nearer to other planets than at other times, thus affecting and being affected by this closer proximity in various ways, and as each planet has its own peculiar influences to act upon other planets, as well as in receiving the influences from the other planets, it will be seen that with all the many planets these influences are quite complex. At certain times the atmospheric pressure becomes greater or lesser in its effects upon the earth's surface, producing a certain electrified condition in one portion of the earth and a reverse condition at some other part of the earth, and as the atmosphere in its efforts to equalize the conditions produces these tremendous winds until they reach the proportions of a monsoon at sea, or typhoon on land, and when on land and over a dry and sandy surface the sands are carried at a high velocity for long distances, and as those storms usually cover about the same area at intervals the effect upon the soil is to extract the fertility and that part of the earth's surface is commonly known as a desert, such as is known as the Sahara, in the northern portion of Africa. There are islands in the sea that are just as barren from the same cause. How long these influences have or will exist is beyond my means of knowledge, but I will venture to speculate upon this problem. As the planets each must have had a beginning and will have an end, it is but natural to suppose that all did not begin nor will end at the same time. As one planet gradually ceases to exist its influence will be changed and in course of time, perhaps millions or billions of years, the disappearing of planets will change these influences.

should the earth last longer than the other planets that produce these influences. And again, perhaps this planet may increase or decrease in its powers so as to change the condition that now exists. And as to cyclones, with which you are more familiar. These are produced in the same way only to a lesser degree.

These few ideas are expressed by Mitchel the Astronomer, hoping that mortals will be enlightened upon the workings of God's universe.

THE RISE AND FALL OF CONTINENTS.

First it will be well for me to call your attention to the wonderful workings of God's great universe, that you may the better understand the subject in hand.

As the earth (as you no doubt understand) revolves upon its axis and at the same time moves around in its orbit once in about 365 days, you will readily see that the earth has two separate and distinct motions of itself and the other planets of *this* universe (I say *this* universe, for there are *other* universes) also have their parts to perform in carrying out of God's plans, some of which are positively charged with electricity, while other planets are charged negatively, some being attractive to earth while others are repulsive to a greater or less degree, and the earth is only one of the many planets being affected by these attractions and repulsions. It makes the effects upon this planet, as you will see, quite complex, yet all work with great exactness, so that when the earth comes to be under the exact same influences it may be centuries before the same influences are exactly the same again, and as the influ-

ences are very slow and gradual in producing their results the same influences are just as slow and gradual in disappearing. The effects upon our planet are just as slow and gradual in producing the changes upon the earth's surface, and as the earth's surface is about two-thirds water and one-third land these waters are performing their part to produce the rise and fall of a continent, and as the waters in the various streams, both large and small, are all helping to bring about these changes by carrying the particles of sand and rocks to what is now a lower portion of the earth's surface, the large bodies of water are slowly but surely being filled, thus sending the waters to the dry land. And thus you will see that what is now dry land will in time become submerged and the volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, etc., will and do elevate certain portions of the earth's surface little by little, so that the earth's surface will continue to remain about one-third land and two-thirds water. This is my explanation of the rise and fall of continents, and now I will speculate upon this subject as to the final outcome of this great piece of phenomena which has been going on since a time that I dare not attempt to state, but I will venture a prophesy that in an almost unnumberable term of centuries the land, or dry portions of the earth, will gradually become less and less and the waters will also become less and less until the earth fails to resist and attract the various influences that I have already mentioned and finally be absorbed by the other planets.—*This is the Philosophy of Mitchel the Astronomer.*

Question by the Medium—What becomes of animal and vegetable life with this change?

Answer—That is another matter and I refer you to Plato the Philosopher.

As Mitchel the Astronomer has referred you to me to answer your inquiry that comes more in my line of work than his, it affords me pleasure to express my views upon so profound a subject.

I quite agree with Mitchell in his explanation and would say that from experience I cannot answer at all, but will state what I would expect in a philosophical question like this, that as these slow but gradual changes that are going on constantly with the earth, and as life is first manifest in the mineral kingdom and then advanced to the vegetable and then to the animal, and from animal to the soul of man, and as the earth would be gradually diminishing its forces, eventually life would cease to manifest in the animal and later with a still greater diminution in the earth life would fail to manifest in the vegetable kingdom, and with a still greater deterioration of the planet life would fail to manifest in the mineral and by this stage of evolution I think the mineral substance (and that would be all that is left) would gradually be absorbed by the other planets of the universe.—*The above explanation is given by Plato in Spirit.*

The Medium—In this evolution what becomes of the souls of men?

For an answer to that question I will refer you to a spirit named Nero.

In giving you my views as desired by Plato, I wish first to explain that many, many thousands of years ago, when I was on the earth plane, my mind was largely

employed upon subjects pertaining to the souls of men, but while on the mortal plane I was no exception to other mortals with regard to material contaminations of thought, which is quite apt to influence one's conclusions in searching for the truth regarding so profound a subject, but, as on earth, I am still much interested in the more advanced study regarding the eternal progression of the souls of mankind, and in answering your question to Plato, who refers you to me, I will say that as the soul of man is a product from the highest form of animal life it would be impossible for this product to be brought forth without the animal as one of the producing elements. As a comparison: The wheat is a product from soil, water, temperature and sunshine and with any one of these elements missing the wheat would not be produced.

Signed by the Spirit of

NERO OF OLD.

VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS AND EARTHQUAKES; THEIR CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES.

Before commencing this article I wish to make a few statements with regard to myself. While I was on the earth plane of existence I was known as Mitchel the Astronomer and spent many years in the study of astronomy and kindred subjects, and as one's mind finds employment on the earth plane it is quite apt to follow in a similar vocation on the other side of the grave, or "so-called death," and in my case it is no exception to the general rule, yet while in the spirit life one has very superior advantages for investigation along this line as

compared with mortals, as you will readily comprehend when you know that time and distance are annihilated in the spirit world and we can also penetrate any and all solid substances, which is of great value to us in our geological investigations.

Now as I have promised to write for you upon the subject of "earthquakes, volcanic eruption," etc., with their causes and consequences, I wish to impress you with the mighty magnitude of the subject in hand at this time.

In the first place it will be well for me to call your attention to the exactness with which God demands in the workings of this mighty universe, for each and every planet has its own world by itself, subject to its own peculiar environments, and with all these thousands of planets included in this universe, for each to keep up its regular and constant motions and not to come in conflict with any other planet and to keep in its own sphere of usefulness is to my mind a most astounding piece of phenomena, far past the comprehension of any human mind; yes, or the minds of the immortal ones, for this subject is one that only the few comparatively devote but little attention, but as this was my favorite subject in earth life and is still deep in my aspirations, I am, as in earth life, practically, or nearly so, alone in my investigations upon this subject. Still my heart and soul are deeply interested in these thoughts and I assure you of my gratitude in offering me this opportunity of giving the world the results of my much cherished investigations.

Now as to volcanic eruptions. I will use for my special one, to explain, upon the one which occurred a few years ago at Mount Pelee, in the Atlantic ocean.

This mountain was high above the water line of the surrounding island. At various places on this high elevation were many lakes and streams of various sizes, and this was a mountain of nearly solid rock and granite, with some few crevices that went down deep enough to reach far below the level of the ocean and down deep into the bowels of this planet. There are many caverns of various sizes, a few of which extend to the earth's surface and make themselves known to mortals by an opening which leads the way for mortals to explore the inward portion of mother earth. I will sight you to what is known as the "Mammoth cave of Kentucky," and well-known caverns in Colorado and many other less advertised curiosities of this nature in various portions of the earth, and I assure you it is only the very few of these caverns that come to the earth's surface, so mortals do not know of the others that are entirely hidden from mortal view. Now as I said Mount Pelee furnished an inlet into some of these mighty caverns, and from those lakes water found its way down through these crevices, though in very small quantities at first, but with constant washing its way for perhaps many thousands of years this tiny waterway gradually became larger and larger and this water found its way into one of these caverns, and as the earth is gradually becoming warmer as it reaches great depths it is but natural that this water is converted into steam and this moisture thus produced creates a change of conditions, and with the water continually coming in and the steam still increasing until the cavern becomes like the boiler of a locomotive, only of so much greater power that no mathematician could calculate the power thus engendered, and with this mighty force confined for

many years and constantly increasing it would find its easiest escape in the weaker walls surrounding the cavern, and as these crevices leading down from the earth's surface to the cavern weakened the walls and this immense pressure found its escape and the eruption of Mount Pelee was so great that it startled the whole world with its consequences, as you will remember. It belched forth ashes that went for miles up into the air and the winds carried those ashes many miles in sufficient quantities to be noticeable on distant islands, as well as on the decks of ships that happened to be within the radius of this shower of ashes.

And now as I have, I think, shown you as to the causes of these disturbances, I will call your attention to some of the consequences following eruptions of this kind. First I will call your attention to the large number of mortals that passed to the immortal sphere almost instantly and without warning. Homes were destroyed, families separated, property wasted, after years of toil in collecting, animals were killed and even fish in the ocean also died from the shock. Telegraph, telephone, the printing presses, the lecture platforms and the pulpits were furnished with work to inform the world of what had happened and many and varied explanations were given by scientific mortals as to the cause of this catastrophe, but of them all none are as satisfactory (at least to my mind) as the one I have just given.

This mighty explosion was with sufficient force to disturb this entire universe, but more particularly this planet, as you no doubt already know how this planet revolves on its axis every twenty-four hours and makes its course around the earth's orbit in about 365 days,

thus producing the seasons. And I wish here to emphasize the wonderful precision and exactness with which God's plans are carried on. It is so exact that the earth at a given time in the year is in the exact space that it occupied at each previous year at that time, but with the Mount Pelee explosion as great as it was it swayed this planet out of its true path and so exact is the course of the other planets that the influences of the other planets were exercised to put the earth into its true course again, with this effort to get the universe into its normal state again it set the earth to oscillating back and forth and with each oscillation becoming less and less, finally the earth attained to its own true path, but with this swinging of the earth the waters became moved irregularly and what is known as tidal waves were produced that encircled the planet and many small islands were washed away from sight, but those that were not inhabited little or nothing was known to mortals, but the damage became greater as the waves reached the peopled lands and did its greatest harm at Galveston, Texas, where vast areas of territory were washed over and many more mortals were hurried away from their earthly homes.

And now as to earthquakes. As I said before, those caverns are many and varied in size and distances apart with solid stone walls separating one from another and the pressure of steam and gases are caused, as I have already described, but the pressure finds its escape without coming to the earth's surface by forcing the walls that separate the various caverns and thus the earth receives the shock.—*This article is given by the Spirit of Mitchel the Astronomer.*

VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS CONTINUED.

And now after many months from my former article upon volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, etc., I will continue, for the benefit of interested ones.

As to earthquakes there are many, yes, very many, that little or perhaps nothing is known to the mortal world as they do not affect the inhabited portions of the planet. For instance: An island at sea that has no people upon it, or perhaps only unintelligent persons. Such islands are sometimes entirely obliterated from the surface of the sea and nothing is known to the intelligent portion of the earth that such a catastrophe has taken place, when, perhaps, thousands of animals and humans have left the mortal plane of existence. And when the quake occurred in Southern Italy, it being quite well populated and with mortals' keen desire to spread the information, the world was again startled when the great calamity became known, but I fail to find any better explanation as to the cause than the one formerly given. True, as some scientific mortals venture to state as a cause, that of the sands from the mountains and hills are constantly being carried into the sea thus changing the pressure upon the earth's crust. I will not say that it does not have its influence, but I hardly think is the chief cause of these disturbances. As to the frequency and magnitude of these calamities it is difficult to state whether they are on the increase or decrease from the fact that they seem to have no fixed regularity, and to determine that question it would be necessary to review many, many thousands of years and as it is only within the past few years that an authentic record has been kept we have

no way of knowing very much about the matter beyond the fact that quakes have taken place. While mortals will judge the enormity of each quake by the loss of lives and of property, when, perhaps, a still greater disturbance has taken place and no such loss has occurred.

Your Spirit Friend for Our Mutual Satisfaction,

MITCHEL THE ASTRONOMER.

BRAIN CULTURE.

Were it not for the brain of man little would be comprehended upon the earth plane, as you will see that the lower animals are all that would be left to comprehend were the brain of man stricken out. So it will readily be seen that the brain of man is a very important factor in the universe, for without this important factor I doubt if the souls of mortals would exist. And now that I have shown the importance of the brain of man, and so long as it lies within the power of man to cultivate this wonderful portion of the human structure called the brain at will, if he so chooses, it is very important that one proceeds along the proper lines to work upon to produce the desired results.

To begin with, the brain is a very plastic substance, and susceptible to exceedingly delicate impressions, and is perhaps capable of almost any form of changes, both desirable and undesirable. As one should observe whenever you meet a person with only a slight development of his mental powers, and then compare this person with one whose mentality has been cultivated, until in many instances one man's brain power has changed the mental operations of thousands of people.

I desire to impress upon your mind the importance of brain culture, for it rests largely with your own desires as to what results your brain power will bring about. The brain is affected favorably, or unfavorably, by the condition of the physical system. A healthy brain is found only with a healthy system, and to get the best results from the brain the body should be well cared for, and the care of the body is a subject of itself; so I will only touch it briefly.

It is said that "cleanliness is next to Godliness," but I will say that cleanliness is Godly, or Godlike. The body should be properly fed, but not overfed, which retards the action of many a person's brain, and thus many great possibilities are wasted, or greatly diminished. Each class of food has its peculiar action or effect upon the body, and from the body to the brain. Animal foods, i. e., meat, blood, etc., stimulate an animal nature and animal thoughts, creating animal magnetism, which is detrimental to the higher forms of intellectual work and usefulness; as will be seen that the pugilist is always a heavy meat eater, while the angelic class of mortals eat little or no meat. The cereals are good for the body building, which is very essential with the young who have not yet arrived at maturity, but vegetables, fruits and nuts are best for the development of the brain.

Now that I have defined the care and nourishment of the body I will assume that all are students for their improvement, both physically and mentally. To keep the physical body at its best working condition one should take a fair amount of muscular exercise, but not enough to become weary, for more will tend to overdevelop the muscular system, to the detriment of the

brain, and as this subject is brain culture I will not advise over-exercise; and to assist you as to what lines of development you wish to cultivate, just hold in mind a fervent desire to improve in a given direction and the higher forces will assist you to obtain the desired results. Were it possible for you to know the secret desires of men who have achieved greater results, you would readily understand the force of *desire*.

The brain is the mortal's means of obtaining knowledge, but you may ask Where does knowledge originate? As it is very well known that all things come from Spirit, or God (which is the same), and knowledge is no exception, and the human brain is the means by which this knowledge is conveyed to the mortal world for the benefit of humanity, and the more highly the brain is cultivated the more useful it will become.

In mental philosophy, both ancient and modern, man has, to a great extent, dwelt in limitations on the vast expansion of the mind. In the early years in my time of life, we were to a great extent spiritually educated. Our intellectual faculties and instructions were based on intrinsic principles, which I followed through divine instructions. I find my teachings in life have proven to be of great import, and indelible on the minds of men. My great study was to encourage all humanity to live on an elevating basis of mentality. The great intellect, soul or mind should be enthused with all the requirements of heaven and earth. The mind should be capable of evolving all things. The capabilities and influences of the mind are manifested through all creation. God created man an intelligent being, a thought-producer, a thinking manufacturer and inventor. These thoughts and calculations are put into execution and

become materialized in their various vicissitudes, and have accomplished what becomes the wonders of the world.

Now let me ask the mental philosopher by whom have you received this knowledge which you are giving to the world? The answer is usually, his quickness of brain power, but not admitting that these thoughts, these intuitions, which pass through the mind voluntarily, to calculate, estimate and explain the whys and wherefores are emanating from an unseen force.

The inventor who has a difficult problem to solve will close the doors from annoyance and interruption, to accomplish some ideal work of which the world knows not, and does not understand. We are helping all the inventors and manufacturers in producing their new inventions which are being used on the earth plane. All the manufacturers which have been produced have been directed, and their merits tested and proved in spirit life. All the wonderful productions are an emanation from divine intellect; therefore, the brain is likened to the keyboard of a piano; it is receptive to the touch of Deity, and it responds to the different notes which are vibrated by the hand of Divinity. Man responds to these impressions and completes his work. To the world he becomes famous, and his fame is heralded throughout the universe.

Man, in his own intellect, is capable of consummating great productions from his own mentality, but they are guided, aided and directed by an invisible force. When the mind is in a receptive state it is surprised at the wonderful involuntary impressions it receives.

I wish to express a few ideas upon brain culture and its technicalities to show how different sections of

the brain are more developed than others. One section may be diseased, the other sections assume their normal condition. The section affected may be inactive and the retention of memory entirely lost, never to be regained. The brain is very sensitive in its organization, and dependent upon the nourishment it receives through the body, and responds quickly to the physical condition of the body, not less the body to the brain. The less animal magnetism your system is environed with, the more refined the intellect. A vegetable and fruit diet produce a refined nature and active and receptive mind. Where there is an active brain, is a well-centered mind. The person is slow and firm in conclusions and usually correct. With an unequally developed brain, nervousness, irritability and self-conceit are leading characteristics. The fullness over the top of the head shows a reverential development, very receptive to impressions and inspirations of spiritual enfoldment. In study, train the mind to become active and retentive; that will produce brilliancy of mind and fluency of language. It is the mind that makes the man. The mind shines forth from those little orbs, the eyes; they express to you the purity and strength of intellect which lies encased in their background.

The mind is innate. It is subservient to the divine intellect. Therefore let us strive to cultivate our mental faculties in obedience to His divine will.—*Written by the Spirit of Plato of Old.*

CULTURE OF THE BRAIN AND TONGUE.

The human brain is that portion of the body by which all intelligence reaches the seat of consciousness. It has a nerve connection with every other part of the body and is the fountain head of the entire nervous system. The brain is developed in sections and each section has its particular functionary object to perform. For instance, one section looks after the matter of food, another the physical energy, another the sounds, and so on, and each is susceptible of development distinctly from the others, and for the best results the physical system should be kept in as nearly perfect condition as possible for some portion of the brain will be affected to its detriment upon any inactivity of the body. So it will be seen that the body plays a very important part in its effect upon the brain. So first in cultivating the brain look well to the welfare of the body. And as the body is a very important factor I will first discuss the welfare of the physical system. First, God has ordained that the body shall under normal conditions be of perfect form and size, and when it is not so formed it is because of some abnormal condition closely related to the person in question. And of these conditions there are a large number and of great variety that will have their influence upon the formation and growth of the body and many are not noticed at all, while others are observed and attract but little attention and Nature's warnings go unheeded and the results of these unheeded warnings are noticeable in after years. And as a rule to produce a perfectly formed body a parent should hold a steadfast desire for a perfectly formed offspring and when the child becomes old enough to

think with a fair degree of firmness the same line of desire should be inculcated into the child's mind. And with this desire held to steadfastly while the body is maturing the body will mature in accordance with this predominating desire.

And now I will consider in the question of brain culture that you hold in mind the brain that belongs with the well-formed and healthy body for this is the body as God has intended all should possess. And that all are not such is because someone has transgressed some one or more of God's all-wise laws. And now we will consider that we have the brain to cultivate that is a portion of this normal physical structure. In the culture or development of the brain the same principle holds true as with the body, that of a steadfast desire. Should this desire be for the development of the animal portion of the brain such a development will follow, and should the desire be for the higher form of the spiritual portion then spiritual advancement may be expected as the result. And for the advancement for the intellectual faculties hold your desire in that direction, but it is very desirable that all divisions of the brain should be developed proportionately, with the spiritual division somewhat in the lead. Whenever the intellectual portion is in the lead or the predominating section it requires more of the body's vitality to support this portion of the brain than either of the other divisions. So should this condition arise my advice is to such a person, look well to the cultivation of the animal division and thus be able to create more of the vital force to supply the increased demand upon it.

The body should have proper nourishment; not a large quantity at a time, but good, fresh, wholesome

food in small quantities at frequent intervals and never eat to excess or enough to cause the least discomfort. The food one eats determines to considerable extent the line of thought to which one's mind will be most readily attracted. For instance, the flesh of animals will influence the thoughts toward the animal portion of the brain while cereal and vegetable foods are more for the upbuilding of the body. The various fruits and nuts eaten in their natural state are best for the intellectual portion of the brain and the spiritual portion is so closely related with the intellectual that the same foods are desirable, but when the mind is occupied with spiritual thoughts the least food is required and the most food is required to support the body when the animal portion of the brain predominates. And as you no doubt see that in the matter of brain culture one will accomplish most by first selecting the food that Nature has provided each for its special purpose. And again, the air one breathes also has its influence, for one breathing impure air will contaminate the body to a certain extent, more or less, according to the condition of the air's contamination, and thus consuming the life's forces which will detract from the brain functions and place brain culture to a disadvantage. And again, in brain culture one should, by practice, daily accustom themselves to a more active use of the upper lobes of the lungs as it is this portion of the lungs that support the brain power with its nerve force. So with the proper selection of food, with proper attention to the breath and an earnest, fervent desire to cultivate the brain one will soon observe the results of his or her efforts.

And with regard to "*Tongue Culture.*" The tongue

as now considered is for the purpose of making known to others the results of our mental activities and in most instances should be at rest until the mind has arrived at a conclusion upon a given subject. But humanity in general has acquired the habit of talking too much in advance of the mental conclusions, consequently quite apt to advance ideas and a little later reverse what had been previously said, and as a result a confusion of ideas and much misunderstanding and discord is the result, and for best results harmony must prevail. So as a rule advice to most mortals should be to think more considerately and talk less until definite conclusions are arrived at. And again, the tongue should be cultured to express only such thoughts as will be comprehended by those who are the receivers of the thoughts sent out by the tongue, for otherwise misconceptions arise and discord follows. Whenever the tongue cannot be used to promote harmony it is best that it remain idle, or at rest, for discords or inharmony are always detrimental to all concerned and should be avoided at all times.—*Written by the Spirit of Socrates of Old.*

EASTER.

To My Dear Earth Friends:

As the date of this article falls between Good Friday and Easter I will express my views of the value of observing these holy thought days.

When we consider Good Friday as the day that all Christians in the land observe in commemoration of that greatest of all demonstrators to humanity that with the soul development one is well-armed against

the evil desires and actions of those whose minds have not yet found the fruits of God's higher teachings. And living in full confidence that our Heavenly Father provides for His children under all conditions, particularly at the time of "so-called death." I use the word "particularly" in this instance as God's care was so beautifully exemplified on Good Friday at the crucifixion of our Great Teacher, who bore His suffering of the mortal body with such true Christian fortitude, as a lasting example before humanity that God is ever ready and willing to assist His children. And when the mortal form of our Christ had become lifeless upon the cross God and the angels were still in guardianship over the immortal Saviour and their influence was sufficient that Christ aroused from His season of spiritual sleep on the third day and He is said to have arisen from the dead and made His appearance in a spiritual body to His friends in the mortal part of life. And now in commemoration of that eventful day mortals are pleased to know it as Easter Day. And as each year passes and is gone I am pleased to see that thinking mortals who are spiritual minded observe this day with noble thoughts of Him who passed to the spirit world, that other mortals might (if they will) follow His example and teachings and thereby enter the heavenly realms of bliss, usefulness and happiness.—*Written by the Spirit of Leo, the former Pope of the Holy Catholic Church.*

RELIGION.

In offering you this article I am asked to select a subject and will take "Religion" as our topic.

From the earliest history of the human race and with all the various stages of mental development some conception of God has existed, and there always has been (and upon the earth plane there probably always will be) a confusion of beliefs with regard to what is, where is and who is God, each according to his or her own belief have satisfied their own mind with regard to their own investigations, while another will entertain other ideas even though they conflict. Each claims to have the truth and are willing to live and die in that faith. If these various minds were possessed with exactly the same degree of knowledge their beliefs would not be so dissimilar, but as one advances in their own individual spirituality he or she obtains spiritual knowledge which is eternal. And religion is but a word to denote one's understanding of who, what and where God is and a knowledge of the relationship existing between mortals and their Ruler and Creator. So one's religion is determined by the amount of spiritual knowledge one has attained to.

Yours for Spiritual Attainment,

MOHAMMED THE PROPHET.

THE USEFULNESS OF MAN.

In writing for you this, my first time, I would like to preface my remarks by stating that I feel very grateful for this opportunity as I have been desiring to write

for some medium for many years and this is my first privilege to do so, and I will take for our subject one that was close to my heart while on the earth plane. It is "The Usefulness of Man."

Man as he is developed at this time is far superior in some respects and just as far inferior in other respects as compared with man at the time I was considered a man in human form, which was many centuries ago, or prior to the beginning of the Christian era. Man is ever changing when considered as an individual, as well as when considered from a general standpoint, or as a whole. Man has existed from time immemorial in some form or another and is undergoing a series of changes known as evolution. These changes in some respects may seem detrimental and in other respects beneficial, but it was truly said that "God moves in mysterious ways His wonders to perform," and this applies to man as well as to many other matters pertaining to our universe. With the usual time that elapses in one's earth lifetime this change is scarce noticeable, but as each generation comes and goes, from material view it can be observed that changes occur in the family characteristics. True, many traits of character follow from one generation to another, but still the changes are going on gradually, slowly and surely, and always for the betterment of mankind. Perhaps this statement may not seem correct from the mortal view of the matter, but I think is true from the sight of God. God has His ideal standard for man and so do mortals, but the two ideals are not always the same. So from the higher standard these changes always lead upward towards the higher standard and whenever mankind forms the Godly standard for man then and not until then will these

changes appear to man as they really are (that is), ever leading the way to a higher life. You may have in your mind a person whose life may for a time appear to be degenerating, but that degeneration is only temporary in the sight of God.

One of Your Ancient Spirit Writers,

ANGELO BY NAME.

AS A MAN THINKETH SO IS HE.

In writing for you at this, my first time, it may be of interest to you to know something of the writer. My earth life was spent in the southern portion of Egypt about 300 years before Christ, and my vocation was that of a mechanic, but devoting much of my attention to spiritual subjects and at this time I will take for our subject "*The Egyptian Race From a Spiritual Point of View.*" The Egyptians of ancient ages were well developed in their spiritual minds, much more so than at the present time, but as far as the mental mind is concerned they would not be considered the equal of an average person at the present time, but when we contemplate upon their spiritual nature we find them far superior to the most of the race of later centuries, for as the world has advanced with time civilization to a large extent has been substituted for spiritual education. The first is conducive to a higher form of life from a material point, but it is done to the sacrifice of the soul nature, and as happiness is or should be the chief object of earth life so should the welfare of the soul be the chief object in the preparation for the spiritual or future life—after "so-called death."

So "as a man thinketh so is he." To illustrate: The person whose thoughts are chiefly upon material things will be a material man in his nature and he who devotes his mental work to spiritual things will cultivate his Godly nature and will be more inclined to do God's will. So it will be seen that as one directs his or her thoughts so will that person become.

Your Spirit Friend,

MORSE THE GREAT.

SPIRIT LIFE.

I will give you a brief, yes, I will say, very brief, account of spirit life.

In spirit life we who are now upon that plane and have been for several centuries, our experiences have to quite an extent led our minds away from the earth plane, or rather from the lines of thought usually followed by mortals.

As one ascends from the mortal to the spiritual plane of life there is but slight change of thought at first, or, perhaps, for a few weeks, months or years, as the individual case may be, owing to the variations in the individual mortal minds, some quite spiritual-minded and others otherwise, but as the spirit gains its experiences on this side of life he or she will naturally lose interest in the mortal life and as this change of mind takes place the spirit's aspirations soar to more and more Godly lines of thought and as we gather around you mortals it is for the purpose of uplifting you spiritually. Although we consider it well and proper for us to assist you in your mortal undertakings,

we fully realize that you have your mortal life to live and it is for your welfare that you live a successful life, and by your gradually learning to rely less upon your mortal ability and more upon your spiritual strength you will soon understand that your greatest strength lies in the higher forces that surround you and are ever ready and willing to assist you in all your noble undertakings. So you should learn to rely upon the divine spirit to guide and aid you. I would not ask you to cast aside your own individuality, but exercise your own mental powers to the fullest extent, but work in harmony with the will of God and all will end well. And may you continue in your search for the divine truth as it is offered to you, is the wish of your brother in spirit.

ELIJAH THE PROFIT.

OBEDIENCE TO THE HIGHER FORCES.

At this time I will explain the matter of obedience to the divine will of the higher forces.

Whenever mortals are at discord with the higher forces little or no progress will be made in spiritual development, consequently such a mortal will be controlled principally from the physical plane with material objects in view to be accomplished, and often acquire material wealth in abundance and usually form the practice of worshiping material things of commercial value and how often, when such a one has met with what mortals call misfortune, this person is discouraged with his or her efforts and sometimes to such an extent that from their own material standpoint feel justified in taking their own life, which is very hazardous to the

welfare of their soul nature. When, should this same person have had a better understanding of God's laws pertaining to the life immortal, he or she would have understood that the soul would have been by far in better condition to have lived the natural mortal life, but when a mortal confines its mind exclusively to mortal lines of thought it cannot be expected to make any advance spiritually. So you will see, I think, that while you are developing your astral nature, while yet in the mortal body, you are laying up for yourselves treasures in heaven that will prove to be everlasting and your reward will be great. So be not weary in well doing for all will end well and be pleasing to our Heavenly Father.

Your Ancient Writer,

AMOND.

POWERS OF INVESTIGATION.

Humanity has through all the past ages been searching for an understanding of the philosophy of life, both the mortal and the immortal. And as will be seen by a casual observation that a very great variety of conclusions have been arrived at and many of those conclusions are decidedly conflicting with each other. Some of the conclusions arrived at are that death ends all, while others are directly the opposite. Of course both cannot be the truth. Some other investigators conclude that there are many phases in this philosophy that are past mortal understanding, which, I think, is true, but the amount of knowledge that is past mortal understanding depends upon the mental capacity of the

investigator. What one comprehends and understands another cannot. But the All-Wise One has so ordered that when an investigator has reached the limit of his or her mental capacity that mental capacity is susceptible to mental expansion and thus be able to investigate the subject with greater powers of comprehension and will become the better enabled to arrive more nearly to the eternal truth.

Yours for a More Advanced Understanding,
SOCRATES IN SPIRIT.

A SAVIOUR.

As I was known to a portion of mankind as their Saviour perhaps it may be beneficial if I explain what God considers a Saviour.

A Saviour is one who shows to mortals the path that leads to the Heavenly Kingdom, and that path is found by a constant desire to follow God's plans along the line of eternal truth. Many may be lead astray in various ways, but when one is on the correct path it is more accurately followed than any other path. So to be a Saviour is to assist others in finding the eternal path, and when once found the angel world will use their powers that God has given them to show the way to eternal bliss and usefulness. So do not think that one to be a Saviour must suffer upon a cross, for all who assist a straggler from truth in finding the true lines to follow he or she is a Saviour.

Your Eternal Spirit Friend,
CONFUCIUS THE SAVIOUR OF MANY PEOPLE.

SAINT CECELIA'S ACCOUNT OF HERSELF.

Question by the Medium—Referring to Page 44, Vol. 4 of Chambers' Encyclopedia, will you read and state which Saint Cecial you were, of which the following is a copy?

"Saint Cecelia, the Patroness of Music, is said to have suffered martyrdom in 230 A. D. Her heathen parents, as we are told, belonged to a noble Roman family and betrothed their daughter, who had been converted to Christianity, to a heathen youth named Valerian. This youth and his brother, Tiberous, became Christian converts and suffered martyrdom. Cecelia, when commanded to sacrifice to idols, firmly refused and was condemned to death. Her persecutors, it is said, first threw her into a boiling bath, but on the following day found her unhurt. The executioner next attempted to cut off her head but found it impossible. Three days later she died—rather a lame conclusion to such miraculous inferences.

"As early as the fifth century there is mention of a church dedicated to her in Rome. In 821, by order of Pope Paschal, her bones were deposited there. Saint Cecelia is regarded as the inventor of the organ and in the Roman Catholic church her festival day, November 22, is celebrated with splendid music.

"Chauncer, Dryden and Pope have celebrated Saint Cecelia and the painters, Raphael, Domenischno, Dolce and others have represented her in fine pictures.

"Another Saint Cecelia was born in Africa and suffered martyrdom by starvation under Diocletian.

"The Roman Catholic church celebrates her festival day the 11th of February."

Yes, the first one mentioned.

Question by the Medium—Will you state to us something of your life and spiritual career?

It is with pleasure that I comply with your wish. This mortal record is not quite correct, the date of my passing from the mortal body I think is correct, but my trial and conviction is not stated, but nevertheless it is true that I was tried and convicted as a witch, as such

mortals were then called, but in later years called mediums. We, or rather I, was a medium through whom demonstrations were performed by the higher forces, but at that time little did I understand how these marvellous demonstrations were produced and it is not strange that mortals considered my actions dangerous to the welfare of mortals. Yes, I was tried before the highest mortal judges of that time and proven to be a witch and the death sentence placed upon me, which meant that my head should be severed from my body and was considered that I was annihilated and could do no more possible harm, as such things were considered at that time, but at that time certain other demonstrations were performed by others and were considered good and sacred and worthy to be considered holy, such as the handwriting on the wall and voices from heaven were heard. But mine were physical demonstrations and were considered bad and very harmful, consequently my physical body was deprived of its life, or spirit, and was consigned to the earth, but the soul spirit that once occupied it still lives and is very pleased to notice that a portion of humanity has become more intelligent upon such subjects, until now the most severe punishment that is dealt out to such mediums is scorn from people who have not yet investigated the subject of spirit return and spirit communications and spirit manifestations of various kinds.

I thank you for attracting me and hope to write for you again in the near future.

Your Spirit Servant,

SAINT CECELIA.

THE DOVE AND THE CROSS.

In writing for you at this, my first, time, it may interest you to know something of the writer. My life on the earth plane ceased to exist three or four centuries ago (I cannot be more definite) and the greater portion was devoted to the sick as a sister of charity nurse. So, of course, my life outside of my work was not an eventful one, although I considered that I was working for our Heavenly Father in assisting others who could not well assist themselves. And now that I have been long in spirit I find myself still assisting those who are in need of any assistance that I am able to give.

And now as you no doubt have seen the spiritual emblem of the Dove of Peace carrying the Cross of the Crucifix, I consider it my duty as well as pleasure to explain that beautiful emblem. The white dove is selected from all the other birds because the dove is the most peaceful of all creatures. Always at peace even though other birds of prey may seek its life that its flesh may be devoured and still the dove's peace remains tranquil. No matter how much the dove is transgressed upon its loving peace is still in evidence, and a *white* dove is chosen on account of white signifying purity, originating from the fact that as souls while dwelling in the mortal body are clothed in garments of various colors, and as those souls ascend to the more advanced spheres in the world of spirit they are always clothed in white garments and never yet has white been contaminated with the baser forms of thought and magnetism.

And the cross is taken in connection with the white dove on account of its being the form or frame upon which Jesus' soul took its final departure from the mor-

tal body while His mortal self maintained that dove-like peace and love, showing to humanity that the Christ nature within a mortal, when sufficiently developed, is equal to any and all occasions. And this is an emblem entirely suited to all who believe in our Heavenly Father and His Son who gave His life that others may know that His example is worthy of followers who wish to enter the haven of eternal bliss.

SISTER CECELIA.

EARTHLY PEOPLE OF ANCIENT PERIODS.

In writing this article for you it may be desirable for me to make a few statements regarding myself before approaching our subject proper.

I will say that my earth life was spent many centuries before Christ entered spirit life. As we in spirit do not consider time except as we return to the earth plane, I cannot be more definite, but to write for you I will take for our topic "Earthly People of Ancient Periods." I will attempt to describe them from a physical point first. At that period in the earth's history people lived much nearer to the plans of nature than at present, and as a result of such living, physically speaking, the people were much more muscular and of greater stature than at the present time and I may say, to the credit of my ancient brethren, that at that time few if any ill-formed children were born and nearly all births lived to mature years, and at that time maturity meant centuries instead of scores of years. Then the physical bodies were not subjected to such extreme labor endurances. True, the mental strain was also less than now,

which also would preserve the body. Still, under a test of endurance the ancients were far superior to the more modern races. At that time the female portion of our race were considered and were slaves.

Now that I have given you a brief idea of the physical ancient, we will consider from the mental or intellectual ability.

In the ancient periods of the world's history your present system of educating the young by means of graded schools and colleges, to say nothing of specialty schools, as law, medical and theological institutions, were entirely unknown or thought of. So it will be seen that what is now known as an education was unknown at that period. What learning was obtained then was done chiefly by observation or imitation, consequently quite limited as compared with more modern ages.

But when we come to acquaint ourselves with the ancients from the spiritual point, I think, as a whole, we were far superior to the present average spiritual development. Of course all ancients were not highly developed, neither are the modern races, but as a whole the ancients were far the superior. So when we come to consider the changes in developments as the ages have passed and gone great changes have taken place and it seems that as gradual as these changes have been two points rise into prominence. First, the minds have, as the world advances in age, become more and more inclined towards the material life and wordly happiness, and at the same time people's minds and thoughts drift away from the spiritual portion of their existence, consequently eventually loose interest in what modern times call immortality. This, I think, is due to the teachings

of theology, where theories and faith are substituted for knowledge or correct understanding of the ancients who devoted their attention to the welfare of their future or spiritual life. Nearly all accomplished their object, that is of gaining a good understanding in regard to the spiritual life while yet living in their earthly abodes. And when we consider life's problem as a whole, we find that the earth life continues but comparatively a few years while the spiritual life continues without end. So it will be plainly seen that the ancients were superior from the spiritual standpoint, but I am pleased to observe that of recent years more attention is directed to thoughts concerning God's laws as applied to life after the "so-called death."

With bright hopes of your success in gaining a correct understanding of your future existence, I will sign myself as

Your Spiritual Well-Wisher,
ALEXANDER THE GREAT.

DOES DEATH END ALL?

In discussing this all-important subject it is of greater importance to those who are yet on the earth plane of existence in human form than to those who like myself have passed through the change mortals call death. And it is at this stage of existence that this subject is debatable. There once was a day or year when every intelligent and thoughtful boy and girl was debating the question of whether or not he or she would ever become a man or a woman, but as God's process of evolution was constantly at work and almost uncon-

sciously the stage of manhood and womanhood was reached and whether or not those children thought out the correct line of reasoning, it made but little difference for God's universal plans were not disturbed. And now, when children have arrived at advanced years, their minds are still looking into their future for subjects to investigate. And all thinking people realize that their earthly habitation is drawing to a close, and it is but natural that the mind should be employed in investigating with regard to "so-called death." One usually has a strong desire to understand whether death ends all or is there a future life beyond the grave. This, I think, is a matter that perhaps cannot be proven with material evidence. One may state his or her belief one way or the other, but that is not proof. When one arrives at a certain stage of spiritual development and attempts to prove the truth with spiritual evidence to those mortals who will accept this kind of evidence, the proof is undeniable that death ends only the physical body and that the spiritual body still lives and moves and enjoys the intelligence it had acquired while in the mortal body. But so long as one does not accept spiritual evidence as proof, I think, just so long will the individual be in doubt as to whether or not "death ends all."

The greatest of all Spiritual Teachers said: "Blessed are those who believe and have not yet seen." That saying is as true today as it was when the Nazarene uttered those words, so I would offer as a suggestion to all who are still in doubt: Search for spiritual evidence and not for theoretical proof. Christ also said: "Search and ye shall find," and this also is as true as when those words were first spoken.

These few words are written with the hope that some perplexed mind will seek and find the great truth that God is offering to all.—*Written by the Spirit of Henry Ward Beecher.*

MORMONISM COMPARED.

Modern and ancient religions as observed by a spirit whose mind was occupied in earth life, chiefly for the welfare of mortals, both from a spiritual and material standpoint.

While I was spending my life's forces in the church known as the Morman church by a large portion of humanity, I had in view the welfare of its followers from the standpoint of both the spiritual and material as well, for while one is living their material life material environments must be encountered. And as the mortal body subsists upon material food and raiment then material preparation must be considered. And as our arrangements were so ordered that all of its followers were provided for both materially and spiritually, believing that at the mortal stage of human advancement both are necessary for the welfare of each other. And now that I have passed to the spirit life exclusively the more important such a plan appears to be. True, in most other religions each mortal follower uses his or her own individual energies and mentality to provide themselves with their necessary supplies, and as a general rule are successful in their efforts, but not quite always so. But my objections to their plan is that it too often generates strife through competition, and strife leads to enmity, hatred and malice and often to crimes

of various kinds. While, should the church or religion provide a plan whereby this strife is obviated, a more harmonious feeling would exist among the mortals concerned, thus producing a more Godly condition for harmonious thoughts are directed more to the welfare of their spiritual enfoldment than which now predominates among those whose minds are, so to speak, forced to use their entire energies to material affairs to the detriment of their eternal nature, which should be nourished that their souls may enjoy to a higher degree the life that is to follow their present or mortal life, for I believed then, and still am firmly convinced, that some form of religion should be advanced whereby the minds of its followers can be the more firmly applied to the thoughts pertaining to the mortal's future life that they may the more intelligently comprehend its meanings. And to make this change the mortal mind should not be required to be so actively engaged in the affairs pertaining to the material life and by so doing would give an advanced advantage for silent meditation and devotion to God and thereby cultivate one's spiritual nature.
—*Written by the Departed Spirit of Brigham Young.*

SPIRITUAL WORK.

To Mr. Bull:

As I am informed that you intend to publish a book largely composed of communications from the spirit side of life for the purpose of conveying spiritual knowledge to the earth plane, I am pleased to contribute my share in spreading such knowledge for the greater portion of my earth life was spent in work of this char-

acter, and in such work I based my efforts upon the fact that the "Holy Bible" was filled with knowledge pertaining to the subject of spirit return and many are the passages that should lead the minds of mortals in the path of perfect vision in this matter, but for one reason or another it is only the minority of the Bible's readers that comprehend the truths therein contained from a spiritual standpoint. But I think the world is improving fast with regard to a spiritual understanding of matters pertaining to the life immortal. And as I spent a large portion of my earth life in what I thought at the time was for the welfare of the souls of humanity. I can now look down upon my past life and see what I could have done to interest still another class of mortals for there are a large class of mortals who have a desire to look into this subject from a philosophical standpoint and as a rule this class of profound thinkers seldom have an opportunity to listen to or read about the subject of the future life from the standpoint of a philosopher, and to a large extent this book will be appreciated on account of its many articles written by the ancient philosophers. To this class of mortals philosophy will appeal to their reasoning mind even more strongly than the Bible will. So what line of thought will appeal to one the more strongly will not interest all, but others can be reached by another line of thought. My past life's work appealed to those who most firmly believed the "Holy Bible." That divine book was written under the influence of the higher forces in a similar way that divine writings are passed to the mortal world in this the twentieth century (that is) by the use of some medium in the various ways of communicating with the mortal world. And as all true knowledge em-

anates from the spirit world and is transmitted to mortals, that law of God has not changed since all former knowledge commenced to be recognized on the earth plane in the ancient periods of the earth's existence. But in the last half century mortals have come to recognize the fact of spirit return more intelligently than ever before on account of so many of the world's recognized scientists having directed their attention to what they term "unaccountable phenomena." True, it is much that is unaccountable from the mortal or mental way of reasoning, and as they are yet somewhat aloof to acknowledge spirit return publicly the question in the public mind is still largely a debatable one for all persons are not so constituted as to investigate and decide so profound a question within themselves. Still, eventually each and every mortal will be called upon to do so for as the Good Book says every man must work out his own salvation. And I will say that each will be rewarded for his or her own efforts. And to all who will can find abundant authority in the Christian's Bible as proof of spirit return and spirit manifestation to mortals. I will call your attention to a very few of the many passages that it seems strange are overlooked by most Bible students. I will first call your attention to those passages referring to spirit writings, for that is what you are now reading:

II Chronicles xxi-12: "And there came a writing to him from Elijah, saying," etc., etc.

From Daniel v-5: "In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaster of the wall of the king's palace and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote."

In Deut. v-22 we find the following: "And He (the Lord) wrote them in two tablets of stone and delivered them unto me."

And in Exodus xxxiv-1 is recorded: "And the Lord

said unto Moses: 'Hew thee two tablets of stone like unto the first and I will write upon these tablets the words that were in the first tablet which thou breakest.'

We also find the following records of trumpet communications which are in use at the present time by trumpet mediums:

Exodus xix-19: "When the voice of the trumpet sounded long and waxed louder and louder Moses spake and God answered him by a voice."

Revelations i-10: "I was in the spirit on the Lord's day and heard behind me a great voice as of a trumpet."

In regard to a trance we find the following:

Acts xxii-17: "And it came to pass that when I was to come again to Jerusalem even while I prayed in the temple I was in a deep sleep."

Daniel viii-18: "Now as He was speaking with me I was in a deep sleep on my face toward the ground, but He touched me and set me upright."

In reference to materialization will quote the following:

Ezekiel ii-9: "And when I looked, behold a hand was sent unto me and lo; a roll of a book was therein."

Genesis xviii-1: "And the Lord appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre and He sat in the tent door in the heat of the day."

Genesis xxxii-24: "And Jacob was left alone and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day."

St. Luke xxiv-15: "And it came to pass that while they commenced together and reasoned, Jesus Himself drew near and went with them."

Sixteenth verse: "But their eyes were holden that they should not know Him."

Twenty-ninth verse: "But they constrained Him saying: 'Abide with us for it is towards evening and the day is far spent,' and He went in to tarry with them."

Thirtieth verse: "And it came to pass as He sat at meat with them He took bread and blessed it and broke and gave it to them and their eyes were opened and they knew Him and He vanished out of their sight."

And hundreds of other references could be given to show that in ages long gone by there were the same means of communication between the two planes of life

that are recognized today by nearly all who have given the subject of spirit return an earnest and spiritual investigation.

And I am sorry to observe that this good and divine work is so often hampered in one way and another to retard its progress, which is wrong and should be encouraged instead of discouraged. The reasons for this are varied but mortals have much to contend with. Often it is done for the purpose of making some person mortal gain. Whenever a legislative body enacts laws imposing a license upon a medium it is done through the greater attraction towards material welfares than spiritual. True, there is occasionally some mortal posing as a medium who receives little or no knowledge to guide the tongue from the spirit side of life, but happily their number is small, and true mediumship is as noble a calling as a mortal can attain to. But as the world advances I look for more enlightenment to follow upon subjects pertaining to immortality. Great strides have been made in the last half century and this divine truth is spreading rapidly among the thinking class of mortals. And now that so many scientists in the past few years have devoted their attention to this subject to such an extent that it attracts other minds also and in this way this divine truth will spread and the people will have a more intelligent understanding of immortality.

—*Written by the Spirit of Rev. Moses Hull.*

IMMORTALITY.

While many may or may not be familiar with the phases of immortality as expounded by me on the earth plane those of you who knew of my teachings will remember that my views met with very bitter opposition from the ministry and priesthood alike. And as all of us were then but mortal and quite susceptible to error, those of us who have passed to the higher life now see our errors and make a new review of our opinions then formed. And as we all correct our erroneous conclusions we find ourselves not so widely different in our later conclusions regarding immortality or rather our life in spirit, for here we all agree that death does not end all. In fact it only ends the physical body which has fulfilled its mission when it has developed a soul ready for the higher life, much the same as the straw has done when it has served its purpose in the development of the full and plump kernel of wheat. The wheat is the real object and with man the soul is the real object and both the physical body and the straw soon will return "earth to earth, dust to dust, ashes to ashes," and the wheat and the soul go on for future usefulness, but as regards myself and the priesthood in this, the spirit life, we vibrate on the same plane and co-mingle our ideas with benefit to both of us and both are pleased to correct our mistaken teachings as best we can. And now let me say that by a continuation of your search for the eternal truth you will establish a higher standard of happiness and usefulness while on earth and your reward will be suitable to your works.

Your Spiritual Helper,

ROBERT G. INGERSOLL.

DESIRES.

Desire is the root thought from which a large part of mortal achievements receive their origin so far as a mortal is concerned. Of course all of mortals' achievements and possibilities are stored up in the spirit world for the use of those for whom they are intended, as all things known to mortals originate in the higher planes of life and are all worked out, tested and proved correct before being offered to the earth plane and all these future achievements, whether it be in the way of mechanical inventions, plans for navigation or land transportation, the works of art, literature or music, all have their origin with the higher forces and for a mortal to receive the benefit of those gigantic forces one must first create for themselves a *desire* for certain accomplishments and their desire to quite an extent will attract to the desirous one those higher influences that work for good that these advance thoughts may be offered to humanity for their use and benefits. And to the power or intensity of that desire the successful influences will be attracted in proportion to the earnestness of that desire, and this is true whether this desire be for good or for evil purposes. Thus the importance of holding desires for good and noble purposes. Whenever one expresses a desire, even though it be only with thoughts, the higher forces observe that thought desire and respond to the call even when the mortal is unconscious of the force that the desire has attracted to it. And should that desire be for an ungodly purpose there are spirits who will respond to the opportunity just as readily as those who are so deeply interested in the carrying on of God's divine work. That the souls of humanity may be

developed in a higher, purer, nobler and more Godly direction I desire to impress upon you this thought principle of safeguarding your desires that your desires may be only such as will be uplifting to yourselves and to humanity. And again, desire has its influence upon those with whom you converse and express your desires by assisting in the creating of a similar desire in their mind also. And in this way the effect of your desire has been multiplied and I can but warn you in regard to expressing your desires except that such desires are for the uplifting of all concerned. One should always hold in mind the principle of eternal progression and ever strive to so desire, think, speak and act that your mental energies will assist in this progression. Desire also can and is used both consciously and unconsciously in its influence upon others aside from oneself. For instance, one may create a desire with reference to another and the second person receive the influence derived from that desire. And in this way one can exercise a strong influence upon the thoughts, words, actions and deeds of another. So I trust it is apparent to you how important it is to hold desires and thoughts towards others that will be recognized by the Ruler over all destinies as being for a good and noble purpose. And also remember that the desires of others have their influence upon yourself to just as great an extent as yours do upon others. So I think I have shown you the importance of entertaining desires that tend towards the uplifting of the minds of all concerned towards the All-Wise One from whom all blessings come.

And as God in His infinite wisdom sends out His love to His entire creation so may all humanity do likewise.

AMOND OF OLD.

THE WORLD AS I SEE IT.

In giving you this, my first writing in this way, I will take for my subject "*The World As It Is, or As I See It.*"

The world is a vast affair and should be so considered when we attempt to write about it for a subject. When mortals speak of the world it is generally understood that the planet earth is referred to, and consequently I will confine my remarks upon the subject in the same way.

This world is too vast for any human mind to comprehend it all, even though one does not go into any details in any branch of its various phases. Take for our present object lesson and consider the world from a geological standpoint, and consider the many solid formations, many of which man has as yet not placed any valuation upon, while others the valuation is great and is of great value and use to man and his welfare. To mention all of the various uses that the many varieties of stones are used for would require much time to just hint at their uses. Some for building fences for the protection of stock, while another may be worked into fine and elaborate ornaments for decoration purposes and thus become a thing of beauty, and thus serving an entirely different purpose, yet both for the use of man or womanhood. And then take the earth, or soil, and think of the different qualities, some rich in nutrition to the vegetable kingdom and some perfectly barren and so far as vegetation goes is worthless. And take also the water that composes so large a portion of this planet, and some is so strongly impregnated with salt that it is not well for one to drink it, only in very small

quantities, while other water, usually coming from springs, is very useful for persons suffering with disease on account of its medical properties, and often prolongs life in the mortal form. And water of other ingredients being so well adapted to the normal use of man and beast and enters so largely into the construction of the physical body. Were it not for water nothing in the world would exist, not even the world itself. So with the world, with all of its mineral formations taken in conjunction with the water so abundantly supplied, the vegetable creation is brought forth. And think of the multitudinous varieties in the vegetable kingdom; the forests of all kinds of timber for the use of man and beast, then the various kinds of grass, and each has its use.

Then comes the fruit-bearing trees—vines of many classes, some of which bring forth fruit, others flowers, others beautiful foliage, etc. And then comes your garden vegetables for your food, also what you know as weeds, which are also useful when you find their proper use, some as a medicine, while others are susceptible of being improved to a higher plane of usefulness through proper cultivation. And now, in conclusion, I will say that with all these useful things as they are, and it seems to me they are all for a high purpose, and the purpose is to produce the conditions which make it possible that the soul of man may be produced, developed and perfected to a greater or less degree that it may be the better prepared to meet its God, from whence it came.

Your Friend in Spirit,

REV. J. H. THOMAS.

UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD.

In giving you this, my second writing, I will take for my subject "*Universal Brotherhood.*"

When we take the subject of Spiritualism in its true sense it is indeed a broad subject, for it includes all, for all comes from spirit and Spiritualism is the understanding of the laws pertaining to the workings of spirit in its various phases, or the understanding of the harmony of the universe. When harmony does not exist with the individual it is not that the universe is out of true harmony but the discord is occasioned by the individual him or herself. So whenever one feels at discord with their surroundings you should always look first to yourself for the cause, and as soon as you become in tune with the natural or spiritual laws all will be well. So should all humanity become in tune with this universal spirit. You would then have a universal Brotherhood Humanity, but just so long as a large portion of humanity is at discord with the natural laws of God, just so long will those persons be in discord with their surroundings, be they what they may. This may not be quite what you may call Spiritualism, but we who have studied Spiritualism from the higher standpoint consider that any subject pertaining to the laws of God is Spiritualism.

And now as I took for my subject "Universal Brotherhood" I would like to bring out a point or two from your standpoint. Many mortals consider brotherhood as signifying that one belongs to some lodge where one is called "Brother," or perhaps, in some unions, where the members are known as "Brother," but I call your attention to the fact that such associations are

usually good in the place for which they are intended. There is a Brotherhood of which God Himself holds the high office of Ruler and all humanity are as members unto Him, and all members of this Universal Brotherhood are expected to conform to the laws of this Almighty Ruler, but is unlike the lodges I referred to, for they will expel an unruly member and cast him out, but God does not. But on the contrary He holds them accountable and in various ways He gives him or her their instructions as to the laws of this Universal Brotherhood that they may overcome their faults and attain to a higher life which will eventually follow, where all may see their errors and praise God for His patience with us, though *often, yes, very often*, these instructions go unheeded, but sooner or later they will be kindly and intelligently received and then the person will recognize this fact, that all ends well with God.

Yours for Universal Brotherhood,

REV. J. H. THOMAS.

MORTAL LIFE AS SEEN FROM SPIRIT.

As we who are on the spirit side of life look back to the past life and observe our mortal friends doing about the same as we ourselves did, it is curious to observe the mortals making the same mistakes we once made ourselves. Yet, while in earth life, we thought our actions well deserved respect, as you no doubt think at the present time of your recent acts and deeds. Take, for instance, the average mortal's ideas and convictions upon the subject of future life after the change called "death." Think of all the various religions in their

various phases, and the followers of each and all are usually earnest and sincere in his or her belief and oft-times in almost direct conflict with all other religions, and all from want of a more extended knowledge think and believe that his or her religion is the only correct one. But as one widens their knowledge upon a given subject the more comprehensive their mind becomes and it naturally follows that the more *liberal* that person becomes with regard to other people's views upon the subject under consideration. And when one arrives at the sphere of comprehension, or third sphere, in spirit life, then, for the first time, can one look back over their past life and see it as God sees it. And at this stage of existence one begins to *comprehend* in the *fullness* of that word what vast opportunities have been cast down for want of a fuller understanding of God and His true principles. And again, when we as spirits look back and observe man as a mortal we cannot avoid noticing his weakness in depending almost entirely upon his own mentality for his success in life. When, should man know more of God's universal laws, he would observe more of his errors and by keeping his actions and deeds more in accord with God his life would be much more satisfactory to himself and God as well. But man in his vain glory in himself passes on, thinking he is *IT* (to use such a phrase) and seems to be very well satisfied with himself. But the Great Teacher said that "Ye must become as a child before you can enter into the fullness of life and enter into the kingdom of bliss." But such men pass on and pass through their various experiences in earth life and gradually get the rough edges smoothed down so that eventually they do not rely so much on their mortal ability and then they usually

see the importance of recognizing God and His all-wise power. And the more they realize God and His laws the more freely they acknowledge His supremacy over their own mortal self and soon observe that more true happiness and true prosperity, and true success, and true goodness (as judged by the All-Wise One) they are permitted to enjoy. And then again, at this stage of one's progression, God being recognized, His lessons are the more readily observed and comprehended, consequently his true progress is the more satisfactory to all concerned.

And to still further illustrate this matter of what I will call "conceit," there are persons who pass to the spiritual existence and have still very little knowledge of God and His influence over mortals, but the mortal life has drawn to a close and as the spirit has returned to God, who gave it, these mortal errors are easily observed and the process of drawing new conclusions upon old subjects will usually be quite rapid and spiritual progression is more satisfactory to both God and the mortal.—*Written by the Spirit of Rev. J. H. Thomas.*

MARRIAGE.

In responding to Albert's request to write upon a subject that he selected, it may be well for me to state that the subject of "*Marriage*" is a very familiar one to me, for while in earth life I performed a very large number of marriages and in the years that followed I still retained the acquaintance of many of those couples, so I think that my observations may be of value now in writing upon the subject of "*Marriage*."

Marriage is a very exalted subject, for upon marriage and its relations so much depend. First, the social happiness that is or should be produced by the union of man and woman. In some instances marriage is not productive of happiness, from various causes, but in most cases marriage does produce a twofold purpose, that of producing domestic happiness, which is the foundation for the heart of earthly happiness in all the varied forms. But without domestic happiness, I think very little happiness will follow. So to insure true happiness the man and woman should so understand each other that the utmost confidence is reposed in each other. And when this confidence is imperfect the imperfections are quite apt to increase unless carefully guarded against, which, in such a case, both should consider that this matter should receive their most careful consideration, so that what God has joined together in love may continue through their earth life and then they will naturally attract towards each other in the world of spirit and thus perfect marriage relations will be eternal. And now to consider those marriages which are unfortunate to the extent of being at discord with God's laws. My advice is for them to make their very best efforts to cultivate that true love and respect for each other that God intended should exist between man and wife and in most instances, with their best endeavors, their object will be accomplished. And as for those who do not succeed in establishing this full confidence and affection it is only a question when a separation will be made, which may come while on the mortal plane or not until the spiritual plane is reached. So I hope that I have shown to you the importance of an earnest, honest and steadfast effort to make the mar-

riage relations what God has intended. It is truly said that the marriage relations are sacred before God and should be so considered by man and wife that their earth life may prepare them both for eternal bliss, which is pleasing to our Heavenly Father. And now may the blessings of God rest upon all married couples is the wish of

REV. J. H. THOMAS.

UNHAPPY MARRIAGES.

As I have already written upon the subject of "*Marriage*," dwelling more especially upon happy marriages, I will take for the topic "*Unhappy Marriages*."

Whenever a marriage takes place it is seldom that unhappiness is looked for or expected, and if the contracting ones are joined together by God, or according to God's laws little but true happiness will result. It often follows that one command was not considered as closely as it should have been. "Love thy neighbor as thyself" is often looked upon too lightly, or, I fear in some cases, overlooked entirely.

Whenever unhappiness results it is from an oversight of some one of God's laws, such as not giving due consideration to the command that I just quoted, for on this law hangs nearly all that constitutes true happiness for it contains the underlying principles for all true happiness, for to guard this law constantly excludes a very large share of the world's unhappiness, whether applied to marriage or otherwise. So I will more impressingly quote the law again: "*Love thy neighbor as thyself*."

Yours for Happiness in Marriage,

REV. J. H. THOMAS.

DOES DEATH END ALL?

This is a subject that has perplexed the minds of mortals from time immemorial, up to and including the present week. And to mortals with only a material mind it is as little understood as it was 2,000 years ago, at the time of Jesus' advent upon the earth plane. With few exceptions, little was known at that time of the spiritual or soul mind, and it was His mission on earth to demonstrate to the world the existence of a soul or spiritual mind (which is of a higher form of intellect than the mortal or material mind) and to prove that the spiritual mind had superior advantages for obtaining knowledge in regard to spiritual matters which He demonstrated to all who would accept spiritual evidence as proof, but to those whose faith was and is bound to material proofs they are today as they were centuries ago, still discussing the subject with more or less doubt in their minds, and will continue to do so until their spiritual nature has developed to a degree where it will accept spiritual evidence as proof.—*Written by the Spirit of Rev. J. H. Thomas.*

THAT WHICH CONSTITUTES SPIRIT.

Spirit is that which pervades all things and constitutes what is known as life in all things, whether it be in the animal, vegetable or mineral kingdom. Without this life nothing would exist, not even the earth or any other planet, consequently there would be no universe. But as the Universal Spirit is the source from which all things emanate after due course of time all will (after

passing through its evolutionary process) return to spirit again. And as for that portion of spirit known as the soul of man it has passed through its various experiences and has been fitted for a higher and nobler place in the Kingdom of God, and as to how much improvement has been acquired from its experiences gained in a physical body depends largely upon the mental attitude of the mentality of the person under consideration. Should this person, from his or her own choice, see fit to live a purely material mental life, of course it will naturally follow that the soul of such a one would not develop as rapidly as one who devotes more of his or her mental energy in the seeking after spiritual things. You may ask, how about a case where the person devotes his energies exclusively to spiritual things and neglects their mental powers? In reply I will explain that as the mortal's life and energies consists of, or rather is, the result of spirit, you no doubt will see that your mental powers rely upon spirit for its intelligence, and by relying upon the All-Wise Spirit you will derive your intelligence from the true source of all knowledge, which is Spirit, but known by other names, such as the "All-Wise One," "Eternal Father," "Great Architect," "God" and various other names, too numerous to mention. And upon a careful thought it will be seen that one receives intelligence from the spirit source through spiritual channels as well as by their own mental efforts, which is on the material plane of existence. Things to be acquired on the material plane which are of the material life are acquired from or by the mental source, which is material. So by relying upon the spiritual source of information one has a double source with which to gather the desired knowledge and thus is not

so apt to get a confusion of ideas upon subjects pertaining to either the material or spiritual plane. And that which you gain pertaining to the spiritual is eternal and therefore well worth your attention.—*Written by the Spirit of Rev. J. H. Thomas.*

THAT WHICH SPIRIT PASSES THROUGH.

Spirit as we know it in the main is the Universal Spirit and it is constantly passing through a change by way of progression. As a small portion of the Universal Spirit takes up its abiding place in a material body it is for the purpose of improving itself by the material experiences it gains in the mortal body and it always gains experiences that it can get in no other way. And when the physical body has served its usefulness in furnishing the abiding place for this spirit, the spirit departs from it and passes to the Universal Spirit, from whence it came, and the body goes back to the elements of earth. And all of this evolutionary change is for the benefit of spirit and not for the benefit of the mortal body, as many materialists suppose. When mortals recognize these facts much is gained for their spiritual welfare.—*Written by the Spirit of Rev. J. H. Thomas.*

SOUL LIFE.

The soul of man, as you all know by this time, is the real self, or personality, of one being, or existing, for without the soul life the mortal body would in a short time cease to exist in its present form of matter. The body exists for one purpose only—that of making an

abiding place for the soul in its early stages of development as a distinct entity, and after the soul has reached a certain stage of development the body ceases to be of value to the soul any longer as an abiding place, consequently returns to earth, or earthly substance, and the soul ascends to the spiritual spheres, there to continue in its line of progression. Without a mortal body the spirit would not become a distinct soul.

It is for the welfare of the soul upon leaving the body to be left in peace and quietness for a time that it may be nourished with spiritual nourishment and as soon as it is sufficiently nourished it will begin its progression.

Your Friend in Spirit,

REV. J. H. THOMAS.

PRIESTHOOD IN SPIRIT.

In writing for you from the spirit side of life I feel that having passed the most of my earth life in the priesthood of the Roman Catholic church, and now having passed to the world eternal and cleared away the most of the misty ideas I entertained in the mortal body, that I may be the better enabled to hold your minds more closely in the path of eternal truth. I am pleased to announce as our subject *'The Priesthood In Line of Progression.'*

You may not be aware of the fact that most Catholic priests commune with the angel world before they leave the mortal body. In fact the large part of their good work is due to assistance received from the "so-called dead." And well that it is so, for all true knowledge passes from the angel world to the earth plane and

whenever God sets out to use His influence over mortals you will at once observe that *all-resisting* influence that is brought into use that *all* things will be done according to God's will. When a priest enters his silent study for prayers and meditation he then and there asks God's assistance and God's angels respond to the call as workers in the vineyard of God's great field. So in this way all priests may be considered a medium between God, the angels and the mortal plane of existence. *Blessed* be the priest and all other true mediums. As will be seen upon a slight meditation of thought that as the priest at the time of "so-called death" has already become more or less familiar with the laws of progression he is prepared to progress on the spirit side of life and almost at once passes to fields of usefulness.

When a mortal is schooling himself for the priesthood it is of the least of his thoughts that he has chosen a vocation that will continue after "so-called death." Such a mortal, or at least I considered that my only work, was to advance the condition of the souls of humanity to prepare them for the spiritual life. But now having passed beyond the activities of the mortal plane I find that God in His infinite wisdom was preparing my mind for larger fields of usefulness, and now that I am on the spiritual side of life I find myself still working for the welfare and advancement of the souls of humanity after they have left the mortal plane. And it is well that it is so. And now as I understand I am to continue in this line of work throughout eternity and I am pleased that it is so, for it is my own self-chosen work.

Yours for Our Mutual Benefit,

FATHER LENIHAN.

EGYPT AND HER ANTIQUITIES.

It is several centuries since I have attempted to communicate with the earth plane, but I still am offered an opportunity to do so, which affords pleasure to me at this time and especially so when I am asked to write and impart information upon a subject so remote as the interesting topics of an ancient land like Egypt.

First, it no doubt will be interesting to the earth plane if I give you a very brief history of myself, so I will state that my earth life was spent in the land now known as Egypt, but how many years have since elapsed it will be impossible for me to state as time does not exist only on earth plane. And as regards the ancient marks of antiquity that still are standing the test of endurance against time along the valley of the river Nile I hope to be able to throw some light for your benefit.

The river Nile was and still is the only source of water for a vast expanse of land, consequently all animal life congregated along its course, for there was and is the only vegetable growth, and without vegetable growth animal life can not exist, and at that time, with little or no knowledge of the earth's existence, beyond this river, it was thought that this stream and its results constituted the planet. And as this water was—to them—the source of all growth and life, these waters were considered holy and were worshiped by the spiritual-minded as the most devote persons worship their God at this time. And as a result arising from this worship many lasting works of art were constructed in various ways in honor of this holy water, without which all life would perish. Some of these ideas have been

perpetuated through the centuries down to the present time, as we find when a barren country is becoming inhabitable by being supplied with water it is not very long before some recognition of God is noticeable in that land, as seen by the people making sacrifices that a suitable place is provided for the worship of God. So in the more ancient periods greater sacrifices were made than now for humanity lived nearer to God's laws at that time than now and thus many structures were erected in honor of this—then—holy water, including the regularly formed and substantially built pyramids that have stood since the earlier conception of holiness. These huge pyramids were constructed with great precision and exactness, as you who have made a study of this subject no doubt have learned that these pyramids were erected with respect to the North Star and from thence at right angles in all directions. This was done for this reason: It was then believed that this star was the source of all true light and came from heaven, or some other place unknown to them and each block of rock had the same regular shape and size for an example for all souls to become of equal sameness and should ever strive to ascend higher and higher in the course of perfection.

And now these huge master sphinx that still are preserved were made as a representation of the holy waters for various tribes of people to worship according to their individual ideas of worship. You must bear in mind that in those ancient times those persons who did worship did so to a much higher degree than the most devout at the present time. The different sphinx were worshiped by the different tribes, or families, and as the world has become more enlightened with regard to

material things the people take less and less interest in their spiritual God and consequently those ancient objects of worship are less thought of than originally until now they are more objects of curiosity than objects of worship, and in the more modern centuries some of the forms of worship are fully as far from the truth as ever, but as God considers their intentions and not their intelligence all is well.

When one attempts to write of those marks of antiquity, there being so many of them, it is perplexing to say what to describe for you, for no doubt any of them would be valuable knowledge for you, but for this article I will tell you more about these sphinx. As I said before, they were objects of worship for certain tribes or families. Some of them will be found to face north, others south, west and east. Each faces in its own direction for a purpose peculiar to itself. For instance, one faces north in honor of the North Star and those who worshiped this one believed that all true light and truth has its origin from that planet, and the one facing the south is opposed to the faith of the last described one and thought that all knowledge was found within some human mortal. The one facing the east believed all good and perfects gifts came from this direction, because the ever-shining sun always came from the east. And the ones facing the west were worshiped by those who were opposed to those who looked to the east for their source of truth and made no claim for any belief. In those ancient periods all persons worshiped some object, or graven image and continued to do so up to within a few centuries of the Christian era, when a new light appeared to their mind and humanity has gradually been seeking for (to them) a new truth, and when

Jesus appeared first as a mortal He opened the road for more advanced ideas, for He was born of God, with His spiritual self so developed, or rather lived and had His being in the spirit world and the earth plane at the same time and was useful simultaneously in both fields of usefulness. To be sure there were others of a similar nature to Him born both before and after Him, but He proved to be the greatest of all teachers upon spiritual topics and His teachings and examples are followed with greater intelligence than the others.

In continuing my discourse upon the antiquities of Egypt I will describe more fully those pyramids.

Those immense structures, as viewed by mortals, at first appear of such vastness that at the present time were they to be duplicated would be considered as a vast achievement, for a fair-sized army of workmen is required to accomplish in the given time usually required to erect even the largest buildings of the present century. But those pyramids were not constructed in any one generation and a generation at the time these were built was a much longer period than now. And at that time mortals did not have the modern means of construction as at present, consequently much more time was required to complete such works and the workmen who were spending their time and energies in erecting the structures considered that they were working for their Creator, whatever or whoever that might be. Each stone represented the work of perfecting a human soul, that when perfected it might be a fit soul to be applied in the work of God, or at that time called Jehosophaat. And the whole structure when completed illustrates the human soul in its ascent to the higher realms of spiritual life—(that is)—the ascension is made step by step

and requires patience and toil to make the progress necessary to accomplish God's holy will. But this work is always found pleasing and the reward more and more satisfactory as one progresses in this eternal work of spiritual ascension. And may you all continue to progress as God has intended is my wish.

That ancient land and river were to humanity then as the whole planet is at this time (that is), the fertile lands along this stream was as far as their knowledge extended regarding the earth's surface, while since that time continents have been discovered and bounded and by the aid of the mariner's compass ships traverse the ocean and reach a given port and return again. As the mind of man has expanded more and more has been discovered for the benefit of humanity, and as this country is the oldest about which we have any knowledge we will consider it the starting point of the human soul, so far as the knowledge of man can comprehend, and consequently those pyramids and sphinx are the most ancient objects of worship of any that exist at the present time. So it will be seen that from the earliest conception of man humanity has always had some object of worship. So far as I know the two objects already mentioned were the only objects of worship at that time and as man has advanced other objects have been substituted with various other forms and ideas too numerous to mention. And now down to and since that period in the world's existence man has adopted many creeds, ceremonies and customs of worship, almost without number, but all hold to one central idea, that there is something to worship and that it is good for humanity to do so.

In the days while these objects were being built

humanity did not have their minds so strongly attracted away from nature as at present, for at that time nearly all persons tilled the soil and produced his or her own food and necessaries of comfort and little or no attention was given to commercialism, manufacturing, transportation, or the hoarding of wealth, consequently thinking people could and did devote more of their time and attention to their Creator. But as the material world has progressed with its material object in view it is but natural that their reverence for their Creator is thought less of and perhaps in some instances forgotten or nearly so, thus leaving an open field for the mind of *man* to introduce his forms of worship and from *unthinking* persons gain his followers, even though his theories were seriously erroneous. But when the Great Saviour of mankind was presented to the world with His extremely well-developed psychical powers more rapid progress was made in the world's spiritual welfare, but His teachings have gradually been contaminated with the mind of mortal man until *his* original teachings are frequently lost from view. But enough is still inculcated in the minds of humanity to induce thinking people to continue their search and investigation after the eternal truth, which will be found, as Jesus said: "Seek and ye shall find," and the reward shall be great.

Should the winds remove the sands from some portions of Egypt along the region of the Nile valley many and interesting objects of antiquity would be brought to the attention of the world that to mortals of today, perhaps, little or nothing is known, some of which are many scores of feet below the surface of the soil. And you may ask me to explain why these are so far below the surface while the pyramids are on the surface. It

is accounted for in this way: That as time and winds have moved along the soil or sand has changed places and in fact the great waters of the Nile do not flow to the sea over the same track of country as was done many thousands of years ago, neither is the sea shore in the same place as it once was. These ancient antiquities were constructed many thousands of years prior to the pyramids. So should the course of evolution continue in due course of time those gigantic pyramids will be hidden from view also. These objects that are hidden from mortal view are of various sizes, shapes and forms in their construction and were built as objects of worship suited to the various conceptions of what was or is the Creator of all things. Then, as at present, there were many conflicting beliefs concerning the Creator. One of the most popular conceptions of the Creator being that the Great Giver of all good gifts was contained in water, as they considered that nothing could exist without water and nothing was visible in water that should produce vegetation. Therein was a mystery that surpassed human understanding. And then, as now, there was much that surpassed human knowledge and these objects of worship were as reminders of the real object to be worshiped, the same as in the later centuries the cross is but a reminder of the real object of worship.

I will now explain for you the philosophy of the early Egyptians in so treating the bodies that have been deserted by the spirit as to put them in a state of preservation for supposedly future use by the same soul that had formerly occupied it. In those ages long since past and gone their understanding of immortality taught them to believe that the soul would in the future return

to earth and on its return would require its old body for its second life, not knowing anything about the spiritual or astral body. So their mortal bodies were put in a state of preservation and the more modern ages are pleased to call them "mummies," but as those spirits returned to earth the Good Father had provided them with a spiritual body which far surpasseth their old mortal body, which is additional evidence that the Father doeth all things well for His children.

As I have been writing pertaining to Egyptian antiquities, going somewhat into details, at this time, perhaps a few words upon the evolution of Egypt will prove beneficial.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth and it was done for an all-wise object, too vast, sublime and magnificent for human understanding. In the earlier ages of the world's existence all environments of man were in a crude condition as compared with the present time. For instance, as the Christian's Bible tells you the clothing of man and woman consisted of a leaf from a tree. Now just compare humanity's wearing apparel at that time with the present and notice the changes that have occurred with the work of mortals to keep pace with mortals' ideas of mortals' needs, while God provided the leaf, which was sufficient for the spiritual needs. The land of the present Egypt was originally barren and fruitless, but for the purpose of supplying mortals with mortal necessities man has from time to time gained knowledge of the laws of nature and has, by the assistance of the waters of the Nile river, made the soil along that great valley so productive that it has long been known as the most bounteous of any section of this planet.

And with this changed condition in view, what has been the effect upon mankind?

In the earlier periods the soul, or spiritual portion of a mortal, was given more attention and cultivation, and the consequence was that *then* man lived closer in accord with nature, or God and the welfare of the soul was constantly in mind, but as time has moved along mortal mind has decreed that mortals will enjoy mortal life to a higher degree, even though it be to the detriment of their own soul's welfare.

But as the thoughtful minds turn their attention to the will of God they discover that whenever one turns his mind to mortal things it is to the detriment of the spiritual being, and the same is true when reversed, but remember the mortal life is but a few years and the immortal life is without end and eternal.

As I said formerly, there are other subjects regarding Egyptian antiquities about which practically nothing has been known to the mortal world for many centuries, having been hidden from their view by being buried far beneath the surface by the drifting sands of the desert, which are ever changing. There are other objects of worship that are anterior to the pyramids and sphinx. Of course these objects are very ancient as compared with the present objects of worship but when we consider the time that this planet has existed it antedates by far those pyramids and sphinx. And from the beginning of mortal life we find evidences that mankind in all stages of his development has had some object of worship. Man seems to be so constituted that his happiness is increased by having some object of worship and what that object shall be seems to vary with one's powers of observation. Those whose vision is deficient or but

slightly developed may consider (unconsciously) a dog, or a horse, or a stone worthy of his highest forms of worship, while another may worship his wife and children, or material wealth as his highest forms of worship. And still others have ascended to higher planes and worship the church or their pastor, or priest, and this satisfies their aspirations for worship. And still others seek a closer communion with their Creator and by following the example and teachings of the world's highest Teacher, "Jesus," one will by faithful devotion to *His teachings* and the ever-ready angels' assistance, reach higher planes of spiritual existence than any of the other forms of worship and thus become more Godly and Christlike, consequently a more useful servant in carrying on God's great work in purifying the souls of humanity.—*Written by your Ancient Historical Guide, Amond in Spirit Life, About 5,500 Years.*

THE SUB-CONSCIOUS MIND.

That there is some unseen source and also misunderstood power by which the mortal mind can and often does gain knowledge from some unseen source there is to the close observer and profound thinker no doubt. And for one to investigate and hope to understand the philosophy of this phenomena requires much study. And several other subjects should be well understood to lay the foundation for this philosophy to make it the better understandable. However, I will give you my views of this unseen power and I may be pardoned for stating that in my earth life I was given the credit and honor of being the first mortal to advocate publicly that the

entire mortal life was but the preparatory stage for a higher, purer, nobler and more Godly life after the mortal body ceased to exist with any attempt to explain philosophically of the future life (bear in mind I say with a philosophical explanation of the same), and as long as my investigations continued on the earth plane I did not discover an explanation for the continuation of life after it had left the mortal body, nor did I until I had passed the mortal stage and continued my investigations on the spirit side of life. Neither did I wholly understand the spiritual body while I was in the mortal life. But after I arrived in the spirit world I found superior advantages for investigation of this and kindred subjects, for what is unseen to mortals has become visible to a spirit. And I find that each and every mortal has been furnished with another body, or duplicate of the temple of clay, except that it is composed of a finer and more delicate extraction of the chemical elements and is invisible to mortal sight. Its dwelling place is within the temple of clay and has, with the assistance of other forces, the power to vacate the mortal body at will and does whenever the process of sleep takes place. And at its own will it can repossess the temple of clay and the mortal body has quickened. This spiritual body (or as in later years is called "astral body") has its senses with a much keener sense of observation than the physical senses, so much so as to observe those finer objects that correspond to its own finer organic structure. And now if you will comprehend this astral body as having all the attributes of the physical and in addition has other powers of making its investigations, and is a distinct entity from the mortal, but using the mortal as its place of abode in its earlier stages of develop-

ment (and in the human body is the only place where it can gain its nourishment for its development), then you will have gained much that will assist you in obtaining a correct understanding of the life immortal. As I said before, this astral body has its senses and these senses produce a mind of its own that seeks after the things that are spiritual and mortals are pleased to call it the "Sub-Conscious Mind." By a certain class of mortals this sub-conscious mind and senses are developed sufficiently to be recognized by the mortal mind. The sub-conscious mind is cognizant of all of the mortal mind's activities and the stronger of the two minds will predominate in the mortal's life and control its actions, lines of thought and deeds, and this astral body is so near spirit that it is indestructible and survives after the mortal body has ceased its activities, but in an undeveloped state the sub-conscious mind and mentality may become dormant on its final separation from the mortal body and to avoid this state of lethargy in your future life in the spirit existence it behooves all intelligent minds to inform themselves and create a desire for spiritual advancement while yet on the mortal plane of life.—*Written for the benefit of thinking humanity by the Spirit of Plato, the Ancient Philosopher.*

THE BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT.

The body is that accumulation of chemical elements so formed and constructed that it becomes a suitable structure for the habitation of a man made in the image of God. This structure is one of the most wonderfully constructed works of the Creator, even past the com-

plete understanding of mortal man. It baffles the understanding of any one mortal mind. The physiologist gains a nearly complete understanding of man from his standpoint, and the mental scientist takes another branch of this structure and finds that he cannot completely master his subject. And beyond this point the spiritologist finds still more that the first two investigators had overlooked, or nearly so. I know of no other work of the Creator that is so intricate. And it is so finely organized as to surpass complete mortal understanding. And when we consider the mind much, or nearly all, depends upon the body for the most delicate discord in the body will manifest itself in the mind in one way or another, therefore great importance should be given to the proper care and use of the body for upon this so much depends. With the body preserved in its highest standard of perfection the mind is well supported and will (if well directed) mature to vast fields of usefulness in any of the varied channels of thought. Some to philosophy, art, music, architecture, instruction, physiology, agriculture, geology, it matters not to which one devotes his or her attention a limitless field is found for their mental operations. And now when we consider that this physical structure with its product, the mind, is an instrument through which the spiritual powers can and do act whereby God is continually demonstrating the power of spirit to the mortal world it is truly said that "the greatest study for man is man himself," for there is no line of thought that demands such close attention or becomes so interesting to such a student and the results so far-reaching, for the study of the body and its welfare is the laying of the foundation upon which to develop the mental and spiritual struc-

ture according as the mind is directed and in each their fields for investigations are limitless. For the time being this may seem untrue, but remember that the powers of the mind will expanded (provided the body is normal) and thus enlarge its scope of observation and understanding and will then behold unthought of fields for mental operations as well as spiritual investigations. And thus it will be seen that the mind is automatic with the outside environment, provided it is supported by a well-formed and healthy body that is properly cared for. Therefore, I consider that the highest gift of God to man is a perfect body, for with this all else is susceptible to a higher and higher degree of development in the mental and spiritual planes of usefulness, which are the portions of the products of the body that are lasting unto eternity, therefore is immortal. But whenever one is not favored with a body that is not well nigh unto perfect then that which is to follow will suffer to a degree, but not in general for the physical ailments do not seriously affect the entire structure. One ailment affects one portion of the mind while another ailment will affect some other portion of the mental or spiritual activities of thought. But as the mental mind becomes weakened from a diseased body the mind will of itself direct itself more actively towards the next higher or more advanced fields of investigation pertaining to the subject of immortality, and in this the spiritual mind, which is of the spiritual body, becomes more active and having a perfect body (the astral body) the life's interest gradually transfer to this more advanced plane of life, which has for its place of habitation the spiritual body. There is a period of time when the mental and spiritual mind are about equally divided,

similar to the time when in earlier life the physical and mental powers are about equally balanced, and as the mental powers increase with maturity so will the spiritual powers increase as they become developed, which is but an action of nature in its course of evolution.—
Written by the Spirit of Aristotle of Old.

THE TRANSFER.

While the spirit who is writing was living in the mortal body, I, Frederick W. H. Myers, considered that in making the transfer of the real self from the mortal body to the spiritual body that all was left behind for the mortal world and that the spirit in its new surroundings commenced anew at the very beginning of this new existence, but I find from experience in making this transfer that all that a mortal has acquired in the mortal life and stored up for future use is sifted, or separated, and that which is of the material is left with the material world with the material body. And of that accumulation that which is spiritual in its nature remains with the mortal's real, or substantial, self which survives the grave and is indestructible, while all that is material is destructible, or at least returns to earth and remains material, while that which is spiritual still lives and continues in its fields of usefulness. While I was making my investigations upon the subject of psychical research upon the mortal plane I considered that the mortal mind was comprehensive enough to understand all with which a mortal comes in contact, but now I find that such is not the case, but that God in His infinite wisdom, endowed man with a deeper and

more comprehensive mind than the mental mind, known as the "Sub-Conscious Mind," and is susceptible of recognition and training that will, by its activities reinforce the mental mind to such an extent that much deeper problems are solved by the mental, or conscious, mind than ever before and is of untold benefit to the mortal in making investigations along the line of psychical research. And as a suggestion to those who desire the underlying truth to recognize the sub-conscious mind and nourish and cultivate it and you will be rewarded for your energies.—*Written by the Spirit of Frederick W. H. Myers.*

A SPIRIT'S VIEWS OF PSYCHIC PHENOMENA.

"Psychic Phenomena," from the mortal side of life, is a subject that has been and still is much discussed, and as I, while on the mortal plane, took a deep interest in that profound subject, and after much study and investigation, I published the results of my mental efforts and the work was known as "*Hudson's Law of Psychic Phenomena.*" And as my investigations were purely from a mental and mortal standpoint I was seriously handicapped for the want of the spiritual assistance and guidance in my mental efforts, for as I have since passed through the ordeal called "death" and consequently gained access to the storehouse of universal intelligence, from which all true knowledge is supplied to the mortal world, I find that in several instances my mortal views were not quite correct for they lacked the spiritual touch of truth. In many instances, had I have recognized the spiritual powers more fully and not

ascribed so much to human mentality, I would have furnished the world with a work that would have not left so many misty ideas to perplex the minds of those who read the book.

And now as I understand the subject I should have given the psychic forces credit for the unaccountable phenomena, or such as could not be explained by mortal reasoning, for now, as I am in spirit life and am still studying the subject, I find the spirit force working under the influence of the All-Wise One in ways that are not usually observed by mortals the subject is more nearly understood, for when we recognize the fact that mortal man is but an instrument through which the higher forces and intelligence communicate the workings of the spirit world to the earth plane, then, and not until then, will mortal man be able to understand how psychic phenomenal demonstrations are produced, for without the recognition of spirit force and intelligence such demonstrations cannot be fully explained to a profound mind. Much credit is given to the sub-conscious mind, but when I explain that the sub-conscious mind of a mortal is the spirit mind in man and is the connecting link with the spirit forces and when recognized and developed is the source through which the mortal, or conscious, mind has access to divine truth, which is the universal storehouse of knowledge for all things come from spirit, including wisdom.

Were I to write another work upon the "*Law of Psychic Phenomena*" I would give credit to the higher forces of nature (that is), those forces that are superior to and usually unobserved by mortals. And I would consider mortals as the children of our Creator and the psychic phenomena is offered to these children for their

study the same as the school teacher uses the black-board as an object lesson to her pupils.—*Written by the Spirit of Thomson Jay Hudson.*

CONTINUED LIFE.

For the benefit of mortals who have a desire to study the eternal truth as I have found it, this article is written through the hand of Mr. Bull, with the object in view that perplexed minds upon so broad a subject may be lead in the path of truth as I understand it after having spent a lifetime as a mortal in the study along philosophical lines of thought, and in addition, I have had the advantage of several centuries of investigation as a spirit in the higher realms of existence. And now as much of our work in the higher spheres is useful to the mortal world, it affords me much gratification to be afforded this opportunity to give to the mortal world the conclusions that I have arrived at upon the subject under consideration.

Life and its workings is a subject that has been much discussed and many conclusions arrived at. It is often a perplexing subject with mortals as it is an invisible quantity and only its manifestations can be seen. And as some mortals care but little, or take but little interest in the unseen, I cannot expect to interest all classes of mortals. As is very generally accepted by profound thinkers, all things originate from spirit, it matters not what the thing or object is, and life is no exception. Life is, perhaps, the first emanation from spirit and has its various phases of manifestation. In the first manifestation the universe was created and in it

life was manifest through the mineral kingdom, and in this class of manifestation life is less active than in its various other phases of making itself manifest. Though the mineral itself changes in its course of evolution the life that supports it is the same life continued. And in this course of evolutionary process the vegetable creation has its origin. Were it not for the mineral creation the vegetable kingdom would not exist. But as we have now shown how the mineral and vegetable kingdoms have their origin, the life itself is a continuation and the vegetable growth is susceptible to its laws of evolution, as will be observed when we recognize this fact that all vegetation now made use of by man has been evolved from some lower form of vegetation and some of the cereals and fruits are still being improved upon to bring it to a higher state of usefulness for man, as will be seen in the case of the apple that has its varieties that have been so cultivated that it retains its desirable qualities for the use of man for several months from the time it has completed its growth and maturity upon the tree. And I will predict that in a few years more some of the quickly perishable fruits will be so improved upon as to contain similar keeping qualities, thus becoming more useful for the use of man, and all brought about by this same plan of evolution. And through this evolutionary process the life is continued and with the use of the vegetable creation it becomes possible for the animal kingdom to exist, which would be impossible were it not for the vegetable growth. And now that I have lead your mind up to the animal kingdom, I will endeavor to explain more fully regarding it, for it is at this stage in this continuation of life that the stage of consciousness is reached. You may naturally ask,

Where does animal life originate? As I said before, all things came from spirit and animal substance is no exception. As the planet was created from spirit so was the animal form and when created the spirit takes possession and it becomes a living being, whether it be the smallest living creature or the more refined structure we call man or woman. And each and every creature was wisely created for an all-wise purpose. Much of which is not understood by mortals, neither is all made known to the lower developments in spirit life, but for the purpose of this article I will only discuss animal life as it applies to man directly.

Man was created threefold. First, the physical form. Were it not so it would be impossible for any other developments to follow, the same as if this planet were not created no mineral or vegetable creation could exist. So with man. First, the physical form, or structure, to support what follows, and we find a variation in different forms, owing to environments, which differ quite widely, but with all this variation each and all hold to one condition and that is that the body is a suitable abiding place for a brain and a spiritual soul, making or constituting the threefold nature, and each of these three divisions of this structure is susceptible to development and each and every structure is created equal and has the same opportunity from God for its improvement, but it is only a few that do not meet with some mortal environment that is to the disadvantage of some one or more of the three divisions. In some the body suffers, others the brain, which constitutes the mental, but most of all that suffers is the soul nature. But as the subject is "*Continued Life*" I will confine myself more closely to that subject.

By the combination of these three distinct natures in man the soul has the necessary elements for the growth and development of an astral body and this body also has its functionary elements quite similar to the mortal body, and each has its part to perform that this same life may be continued on to a higher plane of existence. To begin with, at about this stage of mortal existence the minds are most perplexed as to whether or not "death ends all," but allow me to give peace to the mortal mind by stating that death, as usually understood, is a delusion, for were it not the life would not continue in its rounds of evolution back to spirit again. As all things will sooner or later return back to spirit, from whence it came. And I will say that the reason for this debatable question in answering the question "Are the dead alive?" comes from a lack of understanding from a broader view of the subject. When all is understood it ceases to be a subject of inquiry, and then the question arises with regard to the development of the astral body.

The astral body is the product of this threefold combination of the human being which furnish the suitable conditions for its early growth, as compared with soil, moisture and temperature to produce the proper conditions for the growth of the corn and wheat. Although each has its own distinct objects to obtain and each will mature more readily under the most favorable environments. I will digress somewhat from my subject for at this stage in the "Continued Life" the minds of the profound thinking mortals seem to be somewhat perplexed. One of the chief elements in the growth of the astral body is, first, *Peace and Harmony in the mortal mind*, and, second, *a positive recognition*

of one's Creator and a fervent devotion to the Eternal Ruler. When these two divine principles are complied with and all of mortal life's rulings are in compliance, the underlying principle is gained and for your further assistance I know of no better rules for your guidance than the Commandments as laid down in the Christian's Bible. And now to return to our subject, "*Continued Life.*" This astral and mortal body in the early stages of development are so closely interwoven that it is hard to say at just what point a distinction is observed, but it is noticeable as one is developing what are usually known as mediumistic, or psychic, powers, for these manifestations are none other than the expression of this astral body, and often the mortal is given credit for performing miracles, but when the powers of the astral body are understood it is found that all "so-called" miracles are brought about by some natural law of the All-Wise One. As I said recently, the two bodies are incorporated very closely in their earlier stages and under at least fair conditions the astral will develop, and as the mortal body is subject to wear and decay and the astral is not, the life that is to continue gradually transfers to the astral and finally the mortal body has ceased to be attractive to the astral and a final separation takes place and the body of flesh and blood is consigned to earth and continues its life in another form and has lost its consciousness, and the astral has ascended to the higher planes of its existence and is no longer contaminated with the lower planes of life, for this continued life has survived the grave and is at first in the lower realms of spirit life and has retained its consciousness and intelligence that it has developed in earth life and its spiritual growth from now on is much

more rapid than at any previous time. And you may ask what about the astral body that has been hampered by unfavorable environments. In reply I will say that all astrals will sooner or later develop if not in the mortal life. Then there is the danger of many years or thousands of centuries, perhaps, before this astral, or spiritual, body will again attain to a stage of consciousness, but during this lapse of time its life continues but is dormant. Thus it will be seen the importance of astral development while in the mortal body. And now, for the purpose of explanation, I will call your attention to the fact that in this article, while referring to the lower forms of life I use the word Life, and with the higher forms I use the word Spirit, which represents the same life only in its higher or more advanced forms of manifestation, and I will call your attention to another universal law, that in the lower forms of manifestations the manifestations are on a lower vibration and the vibration increases as the life advances to its next form of manifestation and continues to do so on past the mortal plane of existence, where, in the purely spiritual world, time and distance are obliterated, and I will say that in spirit life the soul continues to advance in its search for a still higher truth, which knowledge is made known to the inquiring mind as soon as such a mind is prepared to comprehend the sublime truths as taught in the more advanced stages of mental evolution.—*Written by the Spirit of Plato of Old.*

SPIRITUALISM AS A RELIGION.

To Our Dear Friends:

It is planned to call upon several spirit friends to express their views upon a given subject—“*Spiritualism As a Religion*”—and as I am asked to write the first article I will define the word “Religion” by saying it is the relationship between mortals and their Creator, and “*Spiritualism*” is the learning of God’s natural laws as applied to the higher or unseen forces. Therefore, “*Spiritualism As a Religion*” is the obtaining of a correct understanding of the laws and relations existing between God and His children and in these articles we will consider His children only from the mortal standpoint, so that in the study of Spiritualism is in itself “*prima facie*” evidence that the pupil recognizes God as the Creator and is desirous to learn the psychic laws that he or she may be the better enabled to serve the Master and fulfill His Commandments.

And when the pupil has arrived at a stage of development where he or she is able to receive communication from the spirit side of life you will get the benefit of receiving instruction from those who have had the usual mortal experience and in addition the experiences gained upon the immortal side of life also, which will be uncontaminated with Theology or mortal-made religion but will closely adhere to the principles as taught by the Saviour, “Christ Jesus.” Therefore it appears to us on this side of life to be the correct religion. While all the other forms of religion have their good teachings the most of them apply almost exclusively to the material life, while Spiritualism, I think, the

better prepares the mortal to make the change called "death."

Therefore, this subject "Spiritualism" is the proper understanding of God's laws whether it pertain to immortality of the soul or the laws governing mortal progression. A mortal in his investigations into such laws concerning the general workings of the visible things of the universe is commonly called "science," when it really is the understanding of spiritual laws, and as religion in the generally accepted meaning of the word is based upon faith without this knowledge of God's laws, so religion is the substitute for actual knowledge.

Your Spirit Brother,

ALBERT BULL.

SPIRITUALISM AS A RELIGION.

"*Spiritualism As a Religion*" is a subject of much importance and in complying with the request to write something upon that subject I will say that while in earth life I devoted much attention to the subject of religion and justice, in fact my greatest energies were spent along those two lines. While I found much satisfaction in my devotions to the church I always felt that there was something deficient regarding my true relationship to God. Were I to return to the earth as a mortal I would be much benefited in a religious way by my having had the experience called "death," which shows me that the orthodox church has in many instances wandered from the teachings of our Great Teacher, "Jesus," and as I now understand Spiritual-

ism its teachings adhere more closely to those of Christ than any other form of religion.

Your Spirit Friend,

ROBERT EARL.

P. S.—This writer lived about 20 years as a judge in the Court of Appeals in New York state.

SPIRITUALISM AS A RELIGION.

Religion has in all ages gone by been a topic that has occupied the minds of profound thinkers and many and varied have been the theories accepted as the truth regarding immortality. As a minister of the Gospel in earth life for many years I was firm in the doctrine of the orthodox church, but in the last few years of my earth life I wandered somewhat. I knew not why, except that I felt strongly impressed that there was a higher truth to be obtained, but I did not gain the desired truth until I passed from the mortal body. Had I have understood the philosophy of Spiritualism my ministry would have done more for the souls of men. It now seems strange to me that I should study the Bible and not see more of the spiritual influence that now is so plain to me.

Your Spirit Friend,

REV. MYRON W. REED.

SPIRITUALISM AS A RELIGION.

Spiritualism is a philosophy for the study of mortals that they may understand their relationship towards their God. Each person comprehends just in accordance with his or her powers of comprehension. Some comprehend more, some less when the opportunities to comprehend are equal and each one will comprehend only what it can make use of or what the mind is prepared to receive. Spiritualism in the true sense is comprehended only by those who desire divine truth and will accept the sublime truth of spirit return. I often think that many of the man-made religions are but stepping stones to the truths contained in the philosophy of Spiritualism, which will lead the minds of mortals to higher realms of thought which will associate them more closely with their God than other forms of religion.

Your Spirit Friend,

REV. J. H. THOMAS.

SPIRITUALISM AS A RELIGION.

In Spiritualism one comes in contact under direct influence with the higher or spirit forces which draws more closely with the will of God and these forces are always ready and willing to supply just what is needed for the welfare of the soul of man while most other forms of religion are forced to entertain the mortal mind to a great extent or preach to empty chairs. But with Spiritualism the soul craves its teachings and finds satisfaction and soul development. By so doing one is

the better fitting the soul in preparation for the change called "death," which is the goal to which all mortals should strive. So I think that Spiritualism is susceptible of accomplishing the desires of the soul more satisfactorily than Theology of any school or sect.

Your Spirit Helper,

HENRY WARD BEECHER.

SPIRITUALISM AS A RELIGION.

"*Spiritualism As a Religion*" is a broad subject. Indeed, so broad that it could not be properly dealt with in a single article of this kind, so I will deal with it somewhat briefly as others are to write upon the same subject. When we consider a religion of any kind or belief each mortal thinks out a philosophy that is suited to his or her ability to comprehend. With some who are satisfied with faith without knowledge much depends upon the inquiring nature of their mind. It is often the case that a religion resting on faith serves its purpose for a time or until that mind seeks a better understanding and starts out to investigate for itself for the purpose of arriving at conclusions that will be more satisfactory to oneself, and upon an intelligent investigation little by little will the mind catch fragments of the real truth as it was taught by our Divine Teacher, "Jesus," and when convinced of the sublime truth that the dead still live then, and not until then, will the philosophy of Spiritualism appeal to the candid, sober thought conclusion as being true and when this condition of mind has been reached and one is still craving more knowledge one soon recognizes that God is the

source of all things, including one's self. And as religion is the understanding of the relationship existing between oneself and God this brings us in very close communion with God Himself. So I think that Spiritualism in the deeper sense should be considered as a religion as Christ taught it and as His plan of teaching has proved a success mortals can safely adhere to it as the most beneficial.

Yours for a Successful Voyage Through the Sea of Life,

ONE PAUL OF OLD.

SPIRITUALISM AS A RELIGION.

It affords me very great pleasure to respond to your call for an expression of my views upon the subject of "*Immortality, or Spiritualism As a Religion.*"

As you perhaps all know that this and kindred subjects occupied much of my attention while in the earth life and at that time I could only speak from the material standpoint, but now, having passed through the gates of "so-called death," I am permitted to express myself from the spirit side of life.

The subject of immortality has been one of much thought and many conclusions arrived at by mortals in the past ages, but as it is comparatively the few mortals that are aware of the fact that there is a means of communication between the spirit and mortal planes of life the large majority of the reasoning upon this subject is done only with mortal reasoning, consequently lacking in the highest source of gaining knowledge. When we come to consider the philosophy of spirit return and

consider it as a religion it differs so widely from most mortals' conception of what religion really is, it perhaps would not be accepted as a religion, but such it really is, for it deals more thoroughly with facts, not theories, than any so-called religion. Were the minds of all mortals directed to this philosophy many would be too skeptical to accept what they could not disprove. So with such time and experience alone will demonstrate to them that the dead still live, and to those who would accept spiritual proof and will be lead by their higher nature to investigate for themselves will surely satisfy their inquiring minds that the philosophy of spirit return is true. All humanity seems to have been endowed with an instinct that there is a future existence in some form, which should of itself be conclusive of this great fact that there is no death. As for *Religion*. I do not like the word, for to the intelligent mind knowledge, or an intelligent, understanding is much more satisfactory, for man is also endowed with an intellect for the purpose of knowing and understanding that with which he comes in contact and now why exclude this intellect and substitute faith when it comes to so important a matter as the question of immortality? Yes, so-called Religion is susceptible to much improvement and that improvement will be made when mortals obtain an intelligent understanding of the laws of Almighty God. Most thinking mortals accept God's laws pertaining to the material existence, such as the laws pertaining to the growth of all plant creation. First the seed, the twig, the tree, the fruit, the food, the nourishment, the man, the soul and then stop and some stop at the man but fortunately God's laws do not stop there. In fact the procedure has only just become fairly started

for this progression goes on and on throughout eternity and has no ending.

Yours for the Good of Humanity,
ROBERT G. INGERSOL IN SPIRIT.

SPIRITUALISM AS A RELIGION.

Whenever one's mind is attracted to the word Religion most people associate it with a church or large building with a tall spire and to quite an extent many persons have come to worship such a building and their minds do not reach beyond, and within only to the man (just human), who occupies the speaker's desk. This, of course, is all well and good so far as it goes, but to such, for one reason or another, do not aspire to knowledge of their own regarding their own personal relations that exist between themselves and their God.

The subject that is before us is a subject that is susceptible of many interpretations, for the word Spiritualism is distinctly an English word and is understood as applied to spirit return. While Spiritualism when taken in the full sense of the word applies to all forms of demonstrations, whether it be full form materialization of your "so-called dead" friends or what is demonstrated as magic upon the platform. So for the purpose of this article I will consider the subject from the highest standpoint, that of the welfare of the souls of humanity, for as one ascends to the spiritual planes of existence provided with a spiritual body such is the will of God for the welfare of His children. And as a religion one should seek the desires of God with reference to oneself and strive to so live and act that when the change called "death" takes place the soul will come in

closer communion with the Father and be the better prepared to do His will. The understanding of God's laws may be classed as Spiritualism.

Yours for the Welfare of Your Souls,

AMOND, AN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN.

SPIRITUALISM AS A RELIGION.

To My Dear Friends On the Earth Plane :

It is with much gratitude that I am offered this, my first opportunity to communicate with the dear ones of the earth plane through this instrument, and no doubt it will be both interesting and beneficial should I discuss religion from the spiritual side of life. People of all ages of the world have had a desire to know more of God and a diligent search has been made by all classes of humanity with greater or less success in obtaining knowledge in this direction, but with each degree of intellect the much-desired object has been gained to some extent according to each one's ability to comprehend. Some depend upon their pastor or priest, others chiefly upon their prayers, others upon what they can learn from the reading and study of the Holy Bible, and still others upon their meditations in their lonely silence, all of which are good and conducive of soul development in the better preparation to ascend to the higher planes of usefulness. But to the few who have devoted their attention to close spiritual communion and have the proper qualities of both mind and body to be favored with communication with those who have passed to the more advanced planes of life, they, and they alone, have the true source of obtaining the eternal truth—the

truth as it was understood and taught by our Blessed Lord and Saviour. But when this class, or source, from which an understanding is obtained is classed as a *Religion* it differs so widely from the world's conception of that word that it would hardly be accepted as a religion, but I would class it as a more advanced stage of spiritual thought, for our Blessed Saviour acquired this line of work without the use of the church or any form of the present-day religion, and after a few centuries the church was organized in a crude way and has since been developed to its present stage of usefulness and continues to attract the minds of mortals away from worldly objects and towards God. And in the present age many have become enlightened through the church in preparation to comprehend the spiritual truth individually. So I would class the philosophy of *Spiritualism* as too advanced to be called a religion for its faithful followers are seeking a better understanding of God's laws than is obtainable through the teachings of religion in the church, which is based upon *Faith*, which is good for those who have not advanced beyond that stage of development. It would be well and just were Spiritualism and its philosophy be renamed and called "Advanced Spiritual Thought."

The subject of religion requires much thought before the soul itself becomes aroused in the mortal body and is developed sufficiently to move onward in its march in search for eternal wisdom, and this line of work should always be encouraged for there is no higher and more Godly field for mental operations. And may our loving Father ever keep guard over you, is my wish. —Signed *Leo*, the Former Pope of the Holy Catholic Church.