

SERMONETTES

**AN INTERPRETATION OF
SPIRITUALISM**

Joseph P. Whitwell

DISTRIBUTED BY
NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION
OF CHURCHES
P. O. Box 128
Cassadaga, Florida 32706

FOREWORD

In tribute to *JOSEPH P. WHITWELL*, my friend and associate of many years, these *SERMONETTES*, an interpretation of Spiritualism, have been compiled and arranged as a memorial to him. May the many excellent editorials written by Mr. Whitwell clearly defining, presenting and evaluating Spiritualism as a Science, Philosophy, Religion and an Organization, be a continued source of help to the many interested truth seekers and members of Spiritualist organizations.

These booklets will be published in four parts,—Booklet I, Booklet II, Booklet III, Booklet IV. Several Sermonettes are included in each one, with biographical sketch and contents for your convenience. May they prove to be helpful in study classes, as well as a part of the regular church service, to be used as desired and needed.

With this thought in mind, knowing his intense and loving interest in Spiritualism, his knowledge and analytical mind, we lovingly dedicate this volume.

Verna K. Kuhlig.

These *SERMONETTES*, originally in four booklets, now appear in one volume.

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BIOGRAPHY

Joseph P. Whitwell, third President of the National Spiritualist Association of the U.S.A., was born in the city of Stourbridge, England, June 23, 1860. He was educated at "Cotton Hall," and Radcliffe College, both located in Staffordshire, England.

Mr. Whitwell came to America in the spring of 1880 and purchased two hundred acres of prairie land in Lyon County, Minnesota, but later sold it and located at St. Paul, Minnesota, during the year 1881. In November, 1885, he married Miss Ellen Kilshaw, who had arrived, with her parents from England, during the summer of 1881. Five children blest this home, three sons and two daughters.

For forty-three years Mr. Whitwell was a successful business man in St. Paul. He was known as a "*tobacconist*" and was the owner of the North Star Tobacco Company. In the "*Cigar and Tobacco Journal*," April, 1930, a beautiful tribute was paid on his retirement from the business world. Acknowledgement was made of the success in his work, and his interest and continued work in the field of Spiritualism where full time would henceforth be given. Quoting from the Journal, "*this loss will be felt more keenly as time goes on, because in his retirement, a pillar of strength is removed from the ranks that presented itself in a solid front whenever problems affecting the industry came up. He has this to take with him along Life's highways; the esteem and respect of every individual that has come to know and admire him during that long career as a tobacconist.*"

Mr. Whitwell's introduction to Spiritualism was in home circles, held in his own home, commencing about the year 1894, and continuing for more than twenty years. It was at these circles that Mrs. Whitwell unfolded a very beautiful mediumship of trance, for lecture and public work, and clairvoyance and clairsaudience,—for spirit communication. Mr. Whitwell received his knowledge and understanding of the philosophy and religion of Spiritualism, by instruction from the spirit Teachers through the mediumship of Mrs. Whitwell.

About the year 1894, Mr. Whitwell joined the Spiritual-

in The National Spiritualist. A pamphlet entitled "*Inexcusable Attacks on the Religion of Spiritualism*," was published in 1945. His work as a missionary has been outstanding, for he traveled from coast to coast in the interest of the National Spiritualist Association, visiting churches, camps, counseling state associations and members when needed. His encouragement to mediums and young people was a great service.

Long will the name of Joseph P. Whitwell linger in the hearts and memory of friends who knew and loved him. Early on Sunday morning, June 10, 1956, the doors of heaven were opened and quietly he slipped away.

COMMEMORATION

1848 - 1893 - 1948

Once again a child has been born.
 A New Ideal has been realized.
 A New Revelation given to the world.
 To faith has been added knowledge.
 To worship has been added service.
 To prayer is added personal responsibility.
 Supernatural is superseded by Natural Law.
 Superstition is replaced by reason.
 Darkness replaced by light.
 Man has come into his own with realization,
 Realization that he is a part of the Infinite Whole,
Whose Body Nature is, and God the Soul.

As we commemorate an event which occurred one hundred years ago, we do so with a realization that we celebrate an event which will be revered more and more fully as the years go by and all of its implications and possibilities become more fully understood and its requirements complied with.

The fact that *Spirit Raps* were heard, *manifestations witnessed*, *coming events* correctly foretold, *hidden things* revealed, *mysteries* made plain in the cottage at Hydesville, in the year 1848, now one hundred years ago, is not in any way an assertion that these manifestations were unique, nor that such had not been witnessed in earlier ages of the world.

Rather, as they came, they were a confirmation, and in a measure a proof, or evidence of the possibility of communication from the Spirit World to man on earth, records of which may be found in all of the Bibles of all ages of the world. Records upon which all of the religions of the world have been builded, and to which all Religionists will refer when questioned as to the basis of their belief.

Whether we refer back to the Book of Genesis, and the story of the Garden of Eden, or the story of Moses and the Ten Commandments, or to the Life of Jesus, the Christ, the annunciation, the conception, the birth, the resurrection, materialization, ascension, always, we are told, in those stories, that from the Spirit World came

