

PROSPECTUS OF A NEW SPIRITUAL NEWSPAPER.

It has become necessary for Spiritualism to reveal itself to man by all the appliances and agencies that can operate upon the human mind. The Mediums do their work; but, in the main, they influence only the individual who in each instance is addressed, and other agencies are wanted whereby the minds and souls of the millions can be reached at once, and they be induced to consider the great revelation which is now being made to the world.

This being the case, it is deemed expedient and important, to establish a Newspaper, which shall, in point of character, ability, and typographical appearance, commend itself to all, and satisfy the want that is now experienced. The Spiritual Manifestations now being developed, demand a vehicle of communication which all will respect; and the faster that good organs are multiplied, the better will it be for man and truth. While the world has sheets innumerable, advocating schemes of darkness, and the perishing interests of Time, it is important, nay, indispensable, that Truth should have its journals also, equal in point of mental and typographical merit to any,—which shall plead and set forth the demands and developments of Eternity.

Entertaining these views, it is proposed to publish, at an early day, in the city of Boston, a new *Weekly Paper*, to be called

“THE BANNER OF LIGHT.”

As the name partially indicates, it will be the object of the paper to set forth the marvels, mysteries, and immortal truths of Spiritualism; to make known to all by whom it shall be read, the great things which are now being done in the Spirit Land, for the education, development, and progress of man; and to open to him so much of the future as is expedient for his welfare and happiness. After ages of spiritual blindness and degradation, the race have reached a point where old opinions, tenets and dogmas do not satisfy the cravings of the immortal soul; and the brilliant lights which science now kindles in the heavens, and the caverns of earth, themselves illumine and verify the facts and developments of Spiritualism. Religion and Philosophy, long divorced, must be married on earth, as they have always been married in heaven; and “THE BANNER OF LIGHT” will lend its aid, whatever it may be, in effecting the holy espousals.

The paper which it is proposed to publish, will be of a character to interest all classes, and claim the approbation both of the learned and simple. Instead of devoting itself, exclusively, to the discussion of spiritual themes, its columns will be opened for the consideration of various worldly topics; and literature, finance, politics, the arts and sciences, and all the current events and news of the day, will be discussed and set forth therein. But the great burden of all that “THE BANNER” will say, and do, will be the advancement of the cause of Spiritualism. It will be shown how the new dispensation adapts itself to the temporal, as well as eternal, wants of man; how it renders his earth-home happier and dearer than it ever was before; how he carries with him to the marts of business, to the workshop, the factory, the bar, the forum, the pulpit, and the study, the hearts and prayers of those whom he has loved on earth, but who have passed from sight, and that all his actions and thoughts are known to ten thousand witnesses who are anxious for his welfare. He will be encouraged, therefore, to dedicate his heart, his faculties and opportunities, even on earth, to the service of truth,—remembering that earth itself is but the gate of heaven.

But the doubts and difficulties which envelop Spiritualism, to the minds of many, will receive special and pointed attention. Zealous attempts will be made to remove the stumbling blocks which stand in the way of belief, and show that the manner in which Spiritualism is now commended to man, is the same which has attended every development of truth, for she always enters the Courts of Earth wearing a garb of mystery and a veil of doubt.

One pressing theme which will be constantly urged in the columns of “THE BANNER OF LIGHT,” will be the immense support which Spiritualism brings to the citadel of all truth, THE BIBLE. The skeptic utters slanders when he proclaims that the new manifestation utterly subverts what has been taught by Patriarchs, Prophets, Evangelists, Apostles, and by Him “who spake as never man spake.” For Spiritualism comes to build up, not to tear down: It comes to strengthen, not to weaken: It comes to tell a doubting, dreaming, and madly philosophic world, that the Bible is, what has always been claimed for it, *the word of God*. All that Spiritualism does, is to cast out the false offerings and idolatrous pictures which have been brought to the Cathedral of Truth. To prove that the doctrines of the Aristotelian schoolmen are not the divine principles which the Bible would inculcate; and to divest religion of the dogmatical vestments and forms, borrowed from Pagan Creeds, which have too long disfigured and caricatured revealed truth. Man must be told to look for spiritual truth, not in the logical syllogisms of creeds, nor in the cold maxims of a cruel theology, but in the Word of God alone; and Spiritualism but throws that light across the pages of the Bible, as will enable it to be read understandingly. It will be no fault of the conductors of “THE BANNER OF LIGHT,” if Spiritualism is not relieved of one of the most false and grievous charges that is made against it by worldliness and skepticism.

To the friends and proselytes, therefore, of Spiritualism, scattered through the land, (and they are now numbered by millions,) the projectors of “THE BANNER OF LIGHT” appeal for encouragement and support. It is hoped and believed that they will respond in a manner worthy of the great interests which it is proposed to advocate, and the important truths that are to be expounded. Let them aid in giving Light as good a journal as the many that now belong to Darkness.

The day-star has arisen for man. On all sides it is evident that a Spiritual Revolution is at hand; and it is the duty of man to carry out the wishes and views of higher intelligences, when they seek his advancement. Doubt, error, superstition, and infidelity, must be met with weapons of light, and the attempt, at least, be made to render earth the mirror of heaven.

“THE BANNER OF LIGHT” has not been started without careful thought and preparation. It is in obedience to voices, nay, commands from on high, that its publication has been determined upon, and every confidence is experienced that great support will be extended, from regions of light, to render it an instrument of good to man. WE KNOW THAT THIS MUST BE THE CASE, FOR THE CREDENTIALS THAT HAVE BEEN EXTENDED ADMIT OF NO DOUBT OR QUESTION. In obedience, therefore, to a company on high, “THE BANNER OF LIGHT” is to be unfurled.

Those wishing to subscribe to the paper, will please address

BIGELOW, COLBY & CO., Room No. 7 Niles' Block,

33 SCHOOL STREET, BOSTON, Mass.

Letters of advice from individuals interested in the cause, are desired. The subscription price will be *two dollars* a year. Single copies, *five cents*. The paper will be published in a few weeks. Due notice will be given of the time. Certainly on or before the first day of June.

Give us, friends, your aid. “THE BANNER” which we bear you, will be unfurled in the cause of Truth, and we hope to bear it on to a glorious victory. Our motto is, TRUTH AND PROGRESS. And, in the spirit of the words which fable says, were written on the cross which blazed in the skies before the eyes of Constantine, *in hoc signo vinces*,—so we say, under this signal we will conquer.