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KATIE MALVOURNEY

IRISH CHARACTER AND ILLUSTRATIONS FROM LIFE.

BY HENRY T. CHILD, M. D., OF PHILADELPHIA.

The simplest incidents of life assume an importance and interest, when connected with certain individuals. The great law of attraction is not confined to the individual, but extends to their actions, and we learn to link the one to the other.

CHAPTER XXIV.

Essay on Magnetism by Dr. Kenrick.—Critical upon the same by Katie.

Not many days after the Doctor's arrival at the home of his betrothed, he produced his manuscript upon Magnetism. It read thus: The question of relieving and curing diseases is as old as man himself. The rudest and most ignorant of nations have had their peculiar ideas in reference to it. The silent and insidious workings of disease could not long escape the notice of our primitive fathers, and there can be no doubt that among the earliest and most effectual means for relieving pain was the practice of laying on of hands, thus using the subtle and mysterious powers which are found within and around our systems. In the traditions and records of profane history, reference is frequently made to these things, and in sacred writ there are numerous instances in illustration of this point.

The case of Naaman, the Syrian, when he was advised by the prophet to go and wash seven times in the Jordan and be cleansed, is followed by a very significant remark, when he says, "I thought that he would have come out and laid his hand upon the part, and called upon the name of his God." Why should Naaman think this, if it had not been a common practice at that time? But, though it might be interesting to trace the history of this, as found in the occult records of the past, yet it is not our intention to dwell upon this position of the subject.

Here Katie remarked: "I have been impressed with the idea that many of the religious rites and ceremonies have had their origin in this source. It would seem that the laying on of hands was for this purpose, and the baptismal rite is very intimately connected with it, and especially upon this plane were the wonderful cures made by our Saviour."

"Thank you for that suggestion," rejoined the Doctor, as he proceeded to read on: There are emanations passing from all substances in the universe, peculiar in their character, and not always recognized by our senses. The term Magnetism was originally applied to the emanations from certain minerals, as magnetic iron ore, and has recently been extended to include other emanations, as, for instance, those from the human family. If you will not infer that these influences are the same, we can use one term for both. It would be well, however, to call that emanation from animals, animal magnetism, and that from man, human magnetism. The term Mesmerism, given in respect to Anthony Mesmer, who made some discoveries in reference to this, is not an expressive one. A variety of other terms, such as Biology, Psychology, &c., are applicable rather to the phenomena than to the general principle. The emanations from every object partake of the nature and character of that object, and often give an exact impression of their source to sensitive and impressive persons.

In order to arrive at the truth in regard to this influence upon man, we must consider him in the light of a threefold being—physical, mental and spiritual. Man has a large number of faculties, and each faculty results from the action of an organ from whence arises a peculiar influence, according to the intensity of the action of the organ. Hence, on this plane mankind are attracted to, and influence each other in a great diversity of ways. If an organ be healthy and natural in its action, its magnetism will be of a like character, and in this condition there is an abundance of life-force generated, which must be given off and gathered into a frame which needs it. This I consider the entire scope of legitimate magnetism, and both persons are blessed by the action. Thus in no instance is the Scriptural language, "It is more blessed to give than to receive," more applicable than in this. There are certain positive and negative relations—which experience alone can clearly indicate—in which there is a strong, mutual attraction, and when any portion of the human system feels the want of the living magnetism of another person, and that one can approach them with a supply for this want, a curative influence of a very important nature is the result. But there are very many instances in which impure and diseased emanations are communicated, and hence it becomes a serious question whether it is best to wander forth into this great field, where poisonous flowers bud and bloom, as well as the healthful, life-giving plant; and though we may conclude that the abuse of a good thing is not a sufficient excuse to prevent a proper use of it, it should at least teach us to be cautious.

Physical magnetism is the most external of the influences which we exert upon each other; but it is not the only kind. Mental emanations play an important part, and produce, in many instances, more marked effect upon those who are susceptible to their influence than the other. The phenomena of trance, clairvoyance, and other mental conditions, depend upon this action of one mind upon another. In these states disease may be cured, and by the same law it may be produced

for mental and moral impurities act very powerfully through these channels, and great evils may result from an improper practice in this direction. The operator, a positive individual, holds a very powerful and responsible position in thus controlling the mind and body of the subject, and there are very few persons who live upon a plane sufficiently pure to entitle them to practice this to its fullest extent. Those who submit to this form of magnetism, place themselves in a most perilous position, for they merge their own individuality in that of the operator, and are often compelled to say or do things to which they would decidedly object, if in their natural condition. From a considerable amount of observation, I am disposed to advise that this yielding to the power of another shall not be carried to any great extent, and only with a view to the restoration of health. That this influence may be extensively used to relieve pain and cure disease without any unpleasant or improper effects arising therefrom, I know, and therefore I consider that it is the duty of every physician to avail himself of all the power in this direction that he can acquire; and, furthermore, that individual should ever approach the sick with a pleasant smile and a cheerful, encouraging voice; for by so doing he carries a beneficial and healing influence, varying in degree in accordance with the relations that subsist between him and his patient.

When the Doctor had concluded his reading, his companion remarked, in a musing tone: "I think that you have presented the subject in a clear and pleasing manner, and entered into it as far, if not further, than any medical society will be willing to do; still there are depths to which it seems to me you have not dived, and as I look down into the rippling waves, I behold great pearls of thought, which I would fain grasp and bring up in all their purity. It may be that in the attempt I shall gather sea-weed also; but we can cast it back, and it will soon sink into its native element. In looking at the different conditions of society, I find much that is far from desirable.

Magnetism is a subject but little understood, even by those who have turned their attention and devoted their time to its investigation, and many who are using this strange, occult power, know very little of its general, I might say, almost universal effects. We hear them speak of certain persons as magnetizers, and others as subjects, thus conveying the idea that these conditions are limited to a few favored individuals. This is an erroneous impression, for no human being lives who is not both a magnetizer and a subject, and the influences which prevail in society are the combined emanations of all the persons who compose it. The important point in connection with this idea is, that each one should endeavor to make their own magnetic current as pure and healthy as possible; and while they would seek to weave into their lives the strength and sweetness of those around them, be careful not to throw off any poisons for others to inhale, and the only way to avoid this is not to have any impurities in ourselves, for that which we have we give; and if corruption dwells in us, we cannot present the cup of health to our fellow-men.

Every child born into the world owes more to the influences of the magnetism which it receives than to any and all things else, and the contact of a person very much diseased to the body of a newborn infant is a great evil. Mental emanations, brain-breathings, act both of themselves and through the physical upon those around them. History presents numerous instances of mental epidemics which have swept over large communities, producing effects either favorable or otherwise, according to their character. Fear is often as potent as contagion itself in developing disease, and perchance has killed more than either sword or pestilence.

Moral magnetism, or that which flows from the soul-nature, is still more refined than either of the others, and adds much to their influence and usefulness. When these spiritual emanations are obstructed by low and corrupt desires and feelings, the most deplorable consequences ensue; physical diseases are thus engendered, and all the evils which are found in a false condition of society are fed and strengthened. On the contrary, where the stream of magnetism flows on calm and undisturbed, power is given to man to bless not only individuals, but the whole human race. Thus do we become saviours one of another, and, like the blessed Jesus, who manifested this power in the highest degree, we shall be enabled to work wonders, doing not only the things which he did, but even greater."

"You have certainly thought of some things which I have not even touched upon," said the young physician, smiling. "I perceive that you will be of great assistance to me in the future in this, as well as in other matters."

"That I may prove the companion which your soul requires, is my earnest prayer," she softly answered; and then the twilight shadows drifted over them.

The Doctor remained several days with Katie, and they not only called upon the Dunderbergs and Conants, but upon Mrs. Sullivan and her child; also, Mrs. Mulligan and Aunt Nanny, and everywhere prayers and good wishes followed them. Ah! the blessings which leap from true and earnest hearts are worth more than gold or silver. In just three weeks from that time Katie's hand was laid confidently in that of her lover's, to be his forevermore. Four years passed ere we again heard from Katie, and then we visited Lord Dunderberg, and found the Conants living near, and Lind the happy mother of two bright-eyed girls. Mrs. Conant seemed very much pleased to see us, and we had not been there long before she imparted the very agreeable information that she was expecting the Doctor and his wife, with their two children, to visit them soon, and that she would be most happy if we would conclude to defer our departure

until we had passed several days in the company of these old friends, which we consented to do.

We learned that Edgar had returned, having taken holy orders, and was now engaged in visiting the various churches in the country. Having ample means, he declined taking a settled position, but preferred bestowing his charities himself. His labors were very acceptable to his brother ministers, by whom he was much beloved.

We found Katie much more matronly, but with the same pure face and genial smile, and free, spontaneous ways and speech that characterized her as a child. We spent a pleasant week, and never in our life did we more deeply regret the loneliness of our bachelor estate, than when we beheld the beautiful family group which the worthy Doctor and his lovely wife, with their two attractive children, formed; still the resolve of the long ago was not forgotten, and among the many delightful memories of that happy week are several very interesting conversations with our own loved Mary, which amply compensated us for many sad, solitary hours; for we are fully persuaded that in the true, spiritual marriage, which is of and for eternity, time, with its fleeting, fading joys, is but one drop in that great ocean of happiness whose musical rhythm is ever heard in the Better Land.

CHAPTER XXV.

Letter from John Dunderberg—Katie's Reply.

Two years later, as Katie and her husband were arranging for another visit to her childhood's home, she received the following letter from John Dunderberg, the banished forger:

County, Ind., U. S. A., May 17, 1862.

TO MY WELL REMEMBERED AND MUCH ESTEEMED FRIEND, KATIE MALVOURNEY—I have long been impressed with the idea that it is my duty to write to you, and ask you to do me the favor to inform my family of my condition and feelings in regard to them. If you will do this, and also give me whatever particulars you can concerning them, I shall be greatly obliged to you. In September next it will be seven years since I left my native land, and I hope in that month to see my friends once more. My wife and ever shall be, very deeply indebted to you for your visit to me previous to my sailing for Australia.

When the green shores of my native land receded from my view, my heart swelled with hatred toward all mankind, and found expression in curses both loud and deep. Indeed, so furious was I that even my fellow prisoners on board the ship shunned me, but I did not care for that; on the contrary, I gloried in the fear which I inspired, and as I trod the deck, I longed to spurn its planks with my feet and leap far out into the waste of waters, or, what was better still, sink ship and all beneath the briny waves. Would you believe it, when I thought of you, who had come to me like a ministering angel, offering blessings, sympathy, aid, counsel, my rage increased, and I wished all manner of evil to befall you, forgetting that as long as you walked in your own innocence and purity, though circumstances might bring sorrow to your face and heart, evil could in no way come near you.

I thank God now that that ship was my prison, and held me far away from those whom I would have injured. I know that the motives in me and the sin are the same, but they did not suffer, and I alone must atone for my condition.

During that long voyage of six weeks, I was morbid, melancholy and misanthropic, holding myself entirely aloof from my companions in sin, and becoming almost savage if any one ventured to intrude upon my solitude; still those fires which my own acts had kindled raged within until their fierce heat almost maddened me, and I knew no peace night nor day. Your parting words on that memorable occasion to which I have referred were that "God is a consuming fire. Oh may his love come to you and burn away all the chaff, dross and impurities that have gathered there." I said to myself, "What a fool to talk to me about God." And yet I could not forget your words, nor the clear music of your voice, and when the flames grew hotter and hotter I found myself repeating your declaration, and then the query came, "Can it be that this is God?" Then I remembered the words of the Psalmist, "Though I make my bed in hell, thou art there," and for a moment I paused in awe, for was not that my condition? The next I laughed scornfully, and strove to banish the subject from my mind; but the thought would return again and again, and thus my torment continued. My feelings of hatred which I had nursed into such a fearful intensity never abated, and, strange to say, they seemed to be one of the means appointed for my salvation; for when I left the ship, after cursing it that it had not carried me down to a watery grave, and, as I hoped, to oblivion, and then pronouncing a malediction upon every man on board because they had labored to prevent this result, I turned and strode away, determined to live in solitude and receive no favors from either friend or foe. Not caring to be recognized by any of my old associates in crime, I assumed a new name, and made such alterations in my appearance as would have deceived even my own family. I now desired to be independent, and therefore I went to work. Weeks passed, and at times the glad feeling crept into my heart that some day in the future might find me a man again. Was the fire burning up the dross, think you? I was very successful in my labor, and soon acquired property, yet I knew no one, and was not known save in the coldest business relations. Four years drifted into the past, and all this time I had neither received nor

given one word of sympathy; and yet I was not wholly without comfort, for ever and anon memory bells rang out silvery chimes, as well as dirges, and then the burden of their song was the conversation that took place within those dismal prison-walls, and lo! as I listened my heart grew lighter, and the earth took on a new brightness. I think that had not those moments dawned upon me occasionally, I should have gone mad; for all those weary years of intense suffering. At last I became independent, and then I determined to avail myself of the very first opportunity that circumstances presented, and set sail for America. I found very little difficulty in doing this, for a twenty pound note was an argument that not only convinced the Inspector General that I had a right to leave, but that I ought to go; and so I obtained a passport, settled up my affairs and started for the new country. When I was once more on the blue sea, I concluded to resume my own name. I had been John White since I left the shores of my native land, and now I was John Dunderberg again, without the sin, follies and weakness of the long ago, I trusted and believed. This voyage was a new and strange experience to me. The ship was not like that other. The very atmosphere seemed purer, and the music of old ocean in sunshine and in storm stilled my soul, and breathed peace over the troubled waters of my life, and then and there I resolved to turn into my path of truth and right, and walk on fearlessly to the end, a vow that has never been forgotten since that hour.

There was a little cabin boy on board the ship, who soon became a favorite with every one. It was strange what a feeling of attachment sprang up in my heart for him. He was full of vivacity, and yet at times a kind of sadness seemed to sweep over his face, but it was gone before you could really make up your mind whether it was ever there. No one knew anything about him, save from his own account; and when he said that he was an orphan, and alone in the world, the sad eyes and sorrowful voice checked all idle and impertinent questions. We became great friends, although he had seen but fourteen summers, while I was old in years and crime. A strange couple, truly; but is it not written that "a little child shall lead them"? And surely the beautiful golden chain with which he bound me to him lifted me into a purer atmosphere. We were now rapidly approaching land again, our destination being the city of Philadelphia, in the United States of America. About this time a dark and sombre cloud wrapped heart and brain in its sable folds. I had learned to love old ocean, on whose ever-rolling waves and unstained brow Time's changing finger writes no doom, but I feared the land. Was I to sink in gloom and woe and sad despair, or could I breathe on earth the pure, celestial air which my soul now inhaled? These were not the thoughts of a mind fallen into a morbid state, but because a coming event had cast its shadow over my path, baptizing my spirit in the chilling waters of fear.

As we entered the bay which leads to the gentle river on which rests the City of Brotherly Love, my glance fell upon fields that lay smiling in the soft glory of a May morning; but I was hardly conscious of it, for my boy, my beautiful boy, was sick, and oh! how I longed to bear his little weary form to some quiet resting-place far away from the rolling ship and its close, stagnant air.

We landed, and, hardly knowing what I did, I hastened up the strange-looking streets of that neat and beautiful city until I stood before the house of a physician. I read the words, "Doctor Child." Was it because his name was Child that I felt as though he would heal my boy. No; I have learned since that what we call blind impulse and mere chance is often the ruling of a power of which we as yet understand but little.

I went into the office, and there sat the gentleman writing. He was a plain-looking person, apparently about thirty-five years of age, with black hair, a full beard of the same color, and dark eyes. He received me with a pleasant smile, and after I had taken the chair that he proffered me, the following conversation took place:

"I have just arrived here," I remarked, by way of making known my business, "and I have left a boy on board the ship, whom I wish you to see. He is now very sick with a fever, and I desire to take him to some quiet place where he can have all the comforts of a home. Being a stranger in this country, you would oblige me very much if you could give me any information whereby I might find such a spot. I would like to have it sufficiently near, so that you might attend him."

"Well," said the Doctor, after a silence of several minutes, "I think that I know a lady who is admirably fitted to supply this want. Indeed, she was speaking to me only this morning about obtaining some such occupation as this. I presume that she will board you, also, as she has plenty of room. Her name is Peaston. I will accompany you there; but first, where is the ship?"

"At Pine street wharf. It is the barque, Soland, from Australia."

"How old is the boy?" was the next inquiry.

"Fourteen years, but very slender and delicate."

"Do you think that you could carry him on your lap in my carriage?"

"Oh yes, easily," I replied, overjoyed at the thought of getting him out of his narrow berth.

"Well, then, we will go at once," said the Doctor, rising; and it certainly was not long before we were down to the landing.

My now-found friend gave one glance at his patient, and then pronounced it a case of ship fever, and taking the little fellow in his arms, he brought him to the carriage and placed him in my lap. As we rode up to the house of Mrs. Peaston, the Doctor remarked:

"This is not your son?"

"No," I answered; "I found him on the ship, and became so much attached to him that I have adopted him. In that sense he is my boy."

Mrs. Peaston received us very kindly, and gave

my child and I two pleasant rooms. Strange to say, the little waif that had wound itself so tightly about my heart-strings, proved to be a girl, and although I was surprised, I certainly was not displeased, for I never had a daughter, you know, and I have got three sons. For a time, however, I feared that she was to be taken from me, but at length the waning tide of health turned, and she began to recover. Her history is briefly this: Her father went to California in search of gold in 1852, leaving his wife and this child. He died soon after of a fever, and in five years from that time, Isabella, now an orphan, was left in the care of some persons who felt but little interest in her, and who soon turned her out into the world, to beg, steal or starve. Perceiving that boys could obtain work more easily than girls, she contrived to obtain some of their garments, and soon engaged herself as a cabin boy. She had been two voyages before this, and none suspected that she was other than she seemed, although she was small of her age, and possessed pretty, delicate features.

After her recovery, we remained sometime in Philadelphia, for I had become very much interested in the phenomena of Spiritualism. I found that the doctor was a firm believer in these strange things, and through his efforts I was enabled to witness many startling, not to say marvelous occurrences. I was a materialist, and had but little confidence in the belief of an after state of existence; but if we were destined to live forever, I wished to know the fact, therefore I embraced every opportunity that was afforded me of attending circles and visiting mediums, and thus learned much of this wonderful phenomena which has marked a new era, not only by the faith which it is instilling into the minds of hundreds of thousands, but by the modifying influences which it is producing upon all the churches in reference to their creeds and dogmas.

I attended lectures at Sanson-Street Hall, where the peculiar doctrines of these people are presented every Sunday to large and appreciative audiences, and I was much pleased with their exposition of the philosophy of this life, and that which is to come, as far as I could understand it. There were mediums who read my entire life-history. At first it was rather humiliating to know that all my sins were thus laid open to the inspection of strangers, but after a while I comforted myself with the reflection that if they could perceive the dark side of my character, they were also conscious that I was now earnestly striving to walk in the path of truth and right. A Mrs. Goodfellow and a Mrs. Marshall were the most accurate in their delineations, and through them I was informed of many events transpiring at home, and also with regard to the welfare of my wife and children; nor is this all: they even prophesied with regard to my future, and several events thus foretold are now a part of my history.

I need hardly say that with so many convincing proofs of immortality, my doubts vanished like dew before the sun, and now I know that death is but the laying aside of these mortal bodies, and that love and knowledge belong to the spirit, and are therefore not laid down dumb and cold in the dark grave. Oh, God be thanked, that the light of that other sphere is streaming through the Valley of Shadows, so that human hearts need no longer throb with terror, and our eyes grow sad, and our feet tremble when we stand upon its verge.

After spending three months in Philadelphia, I visited the West, and purchased a rich, fertile tract of land in Indiana, on which I have erected a comfortable house, and am now a regular farmer. I expect to sail for Ireland next September, as I said before, and I hope that my family will be willing to accompany me when I return. I shall be anxious to hear from you, so that I may know exactly how things are. I am thankful now that I have been down into the depths, also that I have risen therefrom. With this feeling, I can bless God for all my experiences, painful though they were. I am conscious of the presence of the loved ones of the inner life, and as I know that you realized this truth long ago, I have not hesitated to express myself freely. Trusting that you will respond to me at your earliest convenience, I remain, very respectfully yours,

JOHN DUNDERBERG.

There was great rejoicing at the castle when Katie appeared there with this news. It seemed as though the prodigal son was about to return. A short time after the reception of this agreeable missive, Mrs. Kenrick wrote the two following letters:

JOHN DUNDERBERG, Esq.—My Esteemed Friend: Yours of the 17th of May was received after it had traveled around for a few weeks. The pleasure that I experienced in its perusal words cannot tell. You will learn by this that in the changes incident to this life my name has followed the general custom. I am now residing at Belfast with my husband, Dr. Kenrick, of this place. Your letter found us on the eve of starting for a visit to my old home and your father's, from which latter place I am now writing. If I was filled with joy on reading those welcome lines from your pen, what, think you, were the emotions of your wife and other dear ones when they fully realized that their prayers had been heard, and that the lost was found?

Then giving a particular account of the changes in the family by death, marriage, &c., she proceeded:

Your visit to Philadelphia was particularly interesting to me, for during the last eighteen months I have been a constant reader of the Boston Banner of Light, and among the writers for that paper I have noticed the name of Dr. Child, of Philadelphia, and from your description of the man, I should judge he was the gentleman you allude to. It was certainly very providential that you should meet with him as you did. You perceive that I am not a believer in chance, or blind

impulse. I intend to enclose a letter to your friend in this. Will you be kind enough to forward it to him?

Truly yours, KATIE M. KENRICK, Belfast, Ireland.

DOCTOR CHILD—My Dear Friend: Although a stranger in the outward, and separated from you by the wide waste of waters, I have often seen you, especially after reading those interesting narratives which have been given through you and published in the Banner of Light.

A line from you would be very acceptable to your friend, KATIE M. KENRICK, Belfast, Ireland.

John Dunderery and the girl, Izzie, called upon me as they journeyed to his former home, and gave me the above note, to which I replied in the following manner:

MY DEAR FRIEND—Your letter is before me. Believe me, I was most happy to receive it. How pleasant it is to think that, though the ocean rolls between us, there is a power that knows neither time nor space.

I should be pleased to see the manuscript to which you alluded. I have not time now to write more. Sincerely yours, HENRY T. CHILD,

634 Race street, Philadelphia, U. S. A.

To Mrs. Katie M. Kenrick, Belfast, Ireland.

Some months after this I had a very pleasant visit from John and his wife and their four children—the three boys and my Izzie. They spent a few weeks in our city before starting for their home in the West; and a happier family I have not seen for a long time.

DR. CHILD—My Kind Friend: I have concluded to send the papers to you, and if you would be willing to revise them for publication, I should be glad to have you do so.

One lovely June morning, she went out into the garden and gathered her hands full of flowers. Beautiful roses of many hues, and garden lilies, and the phlox and clematis.

There is a spirit who frequently comes to me, who gives the name of John Teps. He says that he was your mother's father, and a native of the Green Isle.

Very truly yours, KATIE M. KENRICK, Belfast, Ireland.

[I answered this letter, confirming the statements made therein, and remarking that I not only desired to visit the Green Isle, but was really proud of my Irish blood.

What a bother to be always trying to brush up! said a Rose-tree. "I'll just stop shaking myself in the wind, and let the dust cover me all up."

ROBIN BADFELLOW.

Four bluish eggs all in the moss! Soft-lined home on the cherry bough! Life is trouble, and love is loss— There's only one robin now!

You robin up in the cherry tree, Singing your soul away, Great is the grief befallen me, And how can you be so gay?

Who said: "Music, come fill his throat, Or over the May be fed?" Who was it loved the wee, sweet note And the bosom's sea-shell red?

Who said: "Cherries, grow ripe and big, Black and ripe for this bird of mine?" How little bright-bosom bends the twig, Drinking the black-heart's wine!

Now that my days and nights are woe, Now that I weep for love's dear sake, There you go singing away as though Never a heart could break!

THE HONEST MAN.—Most men are not so dead to moral principles but what they feel a spontaneous glow of admiration for the man who does right because it is right, no matter if he does make less money by it.

What is the elevation of the soul? A prompt, delicate, certain feeling for all that is beautiful, all that is grand; a quick resolution to do the greatest good by the smallest means; a great benevolence joined to a great strength and great humility.

A man who lives almost exclusively upon tick—the telegraphic operator.

Children's Department.

BY MRS. LOVE M. WILLIS, 192 WEST 27TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY.

"We think not that we daily see About our hearts, angels that are here, Or may be if they will, and we prepare Their souls and ours to meet in happy air."

MOLLY'S HABITS.

"Come, Molly, do tie up your shoe-strings, and brush your hair; how untidy you look!"

"Yes, mamma, in a minute," said Molly. But many minutes passed, and Molly forgot all that had been said to her.

"Now, Molly, dear, I wish you'd attend to what I say. Just look what a fright you are! Tie your shoe-strings, dear, and brush your hair."

"Yes, mamma, in a minute," said Molly. But the minutes went by, and Molly remembered no better than at first.

Thus it had been for many days and weeks, till Mrs. Milbur wondered why her little girl cared so little for her wishes.

The beautiful month of roses had come, and everything felt fresh and lovely. The flowers bloomed, as if it was the easiest thing in the world to be beautiful, and the insects hummed, and the leaves were as happy in the soft air as if they understood all about the sky, and the rain, and the dew that made them grow so luxuriantly.

At last a pert Artichoke spoke up, saying: "Please, your highness, we have seen Molly Milbur running through the garden so much, with her hands dirty, and her hair in a snarl, and her shoe-strings untied, never trying to look beautiful or nice, that we thought it a pity for us flowers to keep at work so hard, when she gave us no thanks, nor tried to return our favors."

Molly felt herself blushing to her hair, and was so ashamed, that she suddenly awoke, and found herself with her gathered flowers all scattered on the green bank, while the brook was murmuring softly, and the birds singing over her head.

She shook herself to find if she was still Molly Milbur, and not the queen of all the flowers, and then went to a place where the water ran smoothly over a dark rock, and looked at herself, as in a mirror.

Never after that was Molly found with her clothes unnecessarily soiled, or her hands and face untidy. "For," said she, "I will be as good as the flowers, and make myself agreeable to everybody."

and bright opening buds like stars, and glowing roses, and fresh green leaves; and when Molly, the queen, came home from her journey, she looked in vain for her beautiful subjects.

"What change has come over my beautiful ones?" said she. "What will the little girls do that come in the morning to read by the blossoms the loving Word of God? What will the little boys do that wish to gather garlands, that they may consider the way in which God clothes the flowers? What will all the sick and weary do that want the brightness of the blossoms? Something must be done, and that right away."

So Molly, the queen, sent forth couriers to gather in her subjects; but what a pitiable sight they were! Dried roses, dusty lilies, tattered pinks, wilted violets, crazy-looking japonicas took the place of the sweet flowers she had left.

"Do tell me what has happened," said Molly, "since I left. Have you all forgotten yourselves, and remember no more what made you all so happy and content? You all continually tried to bless the world by your purity and loveliness. You clothed yourself in the beautiful garments prepared for you, and kept yourselves in delightful order."

At last a pert Artichoke spoke up, saying: "Please, your highness, we have seen Molly Milbur running through the garden so much, with her hands dirty, and her hair in a snarl, and her shoe-strings untied, never trying to look beautiful or nice, that we thought it a pity for us flowers to keep at work so hard, when she gave us no thanks, nor tried to return our favors."

Molly felt herself blushing to her hair, and was so ashamed, that she suddenly awoke, and found herself with her gathered flowers all scattered on the green bank, while the brook was murmuring softly, and the birds singing over her head.

She shook herself to find if she was still Molly Milbur, and not the queen of all the flowers, and then went to a place where the water ran smoothly over a dark rock, and looked at herself, as in a mirror.

Never after that was Molly found with her clothes unnecessarily soiled, or her hands and face untidy. "For," said she, "I will be as good as the flowers, and make myself agreeable to everybody."

Looking out of my southern window, my eye meets a long row of brick houses. There is only a short yard between my windows and those opposite.

Very cold and cheerless those brick walls looked in the autumn. The driving rains from the North wet the bricks, and the water trickled down the yard.

For the sake of the sunshine, this southern window became the little home within the home. It was the pleasant resting place; the place to dream in and work in.

Very blue eyes were set in that pale face, and a sweet smile was on the mouth; the light curling hair made a halo about it, and it soon began to seem very much like a little sun gleaming in the window.

A little boy's face it was, although as fair as a girl's. Soon it seemed quite neighborly, and began to smile on me at my work, and I nodded back, whereat the pale face became brighter than ever, and the blue eyes shone more pleasantly.

I soon had a dear little friend that I loved quite tenderly; but I kept wishing that there was something for those eyes to look on besides the brick walls and the streets.

I wanted to put beautiful roses in my window, and honeysuckles, and fill up the little yard with lambs, and chickens, and birds; and I wished I had a beautiful home close by so that I could take all such into it, and give them fresh air, and oranges, and a great playground.

I saw that the pale face grew paler, and dark circles came about the blue eyes, and I began to wish I knew the little boy. After a time I accepted the invitation of his mother, and gave him a call.

After this Robbie and I became better friends than ever. When I went to the window in the morning to see how heavy the clouds were, his face was there before me, and we had a cheerful nod, as if we quite understood each other.

When I looked out in the evening to see if the stars were shining, I looked to see if Robbie's room was dark, and wondered if he was having pleasant dreams.

It was so pleasant to have this little neighbor that I began to think the brick walls quite delightful. The little yard was almost as good as a garden when those pleasant eyes looked out on it.

But I noticed in Robbie's eyes that far-away look, as if he was seeing something that others did not see; and as if he knew about a home better than the one he lived in.

Robbie's father was blind, and he was very fond of him, watching him as he felt his way along the high fence, as if he must take very good care of him every moment.

One day I missed Robbie's face from the window. I wondered if he had gone away, or if he had some better fun than looking out to see the boys play.

The next day he had his throat all wrapped up, but he was at his place again. He displayed a flag at the window, and some large letters, and I concluded he had taken cold and would soon be well.

It was quite like home again to see him, and he had a hearty laugh at some sport in the street. We had several friendly nods, and I determined to give him another call.

When I went in he was so glad to see me that he showed me all his treasures, and emptied out all his pennies for me to count. He would soon be well, we all thought, and then he was to return my visits.

But the next day, and the next, no sunny face looked out of Robbie's window. How lonesome it was! The beautiful, sunshiny, looked in upon me, but I missed something warmer than that.

The blue sky showed me, in the little patch that I could see far up between the buildings, how very benevolent and true it was, but I wanted the soft light of the blue eyes.

When I next went to see Robbie, he had no strength, and lay on the couch all the time. He did not even talk of his playthings, but looked so

that he could hardly smile. He was so pale and gentle that it was pleasant to him. Christmas was coming, and we had heard about the beautiful gifts that Santa Claus might bring, but he seemed to be thinking of something else.

His eyes looked further away than ever. When I went back to my window I felt quite homesick; some light seemed to be going out of my sky; a little flower seemed fading out of my garden. Robbie grew weaker and weaker, and at last we all said he was going to that other home.

When he began to suffer pain he was just as patient as before, but he wanted his mother to pray to God to take away his great big pain.

When Christmas morning came, little Robbie went to get his beautiful gifts in his spirit-home; and when I looked up to his window it was all dark, and I thought I should never see any light there again.

The little yard was no longer like a garden, or the light like the sunshine; but as the rain fell, and the mists settled down, it seemed as if a great deal of light had gone from our home forever.

My little neighbor had been a great comfort to me, and I sadly missed him. But this is always true: that which has blessed our spirit remains forever with us.

Little Robbie's pleasant smile comes back to my memory almost every time I look out of my window, and my thought goes to his beautiful home where he is now enjoying so much.

I often think, I wonder what he is doing in that home, and whether he gathers the bright flowers, and feels strong in the air of heaven? Thus he is ever a little minister of good to me, leading my thoughts to that blessed time, and those lovely scenes that await us.

Dear little Robbie, when I see you in your spirit-home, we will continue our neighborly intercourse, and your pleasant smile shall be one of the lights of that beautiful land.

WELCOME AND TEARS, ON THE RETURN OF THE ARMY OF FREEDOM.

BY G. W. LIGHT.

Living heroes! wreathed with laurel, Pride of valiant sires! Kindled by our homeward footsteps, All the country fires!

Listen to the grateful beating Of the nation's heart; Where no words may sound the welcome, Joyful tears can start!

While the sun shall gild the morning, Through advancing days, Your renown, with ages heightening, Every land shall praise!

But the tread of noble victors, Marching from the field, Shouting for the great salvation Martyr blood has sealed,

Keenly minds us of the heroes— Offerings to the time— Who with us are now rejoicing On the hills sublime!

Smiling, they the gloom would scatter, And our sorrows drown, While they beckon us to see them Wear the patriot's crown!

And our hearts, with music thrilling, Bless the Father's care; Still the tears will flow, unbidden, Round the "vacant chair"!

Ah! the minstrel knows the anguish Mingled with the joy; While he sings his heart is bleeding For his martyr boy!

Martyrs, rest! from stormy winter Passed to glorious spring! Men shall now your deeds majestic Through the ages sing!

Proudly rest! The world's great battle Now is fought and won! Leaving fame to shine in story Brilliant as the sun!

Peace in morning bloom returning, Every region glows; While throughout the ransomed country Freedom's trumpet blows!

THOUGHTS ON THE WING. NUMBER SIX.

BY J. M. PEEBLES.

The spirit saith, write, "Blessed are those that, through investigation, persecution and soul-consecration to truth, have entered within the veil, receiving as a reward for continuance in well doing, knowledge of immortality, communications from spirits, and the goodly fellowship of angels, as well as the 'white stone' of mystic memory, with the 'new name,' and the hidden manna, which is life everlasting."

This is truly an age of thought, research, marked individualisms and rapid transitions, the old overlapping the new, and the new striking its roots afar back into the fading past.

The political waters of this and European countries are in commotion. The Pope sees the handwriting on the wall; monarchies are before the judgment-seat; republics are being tried by the fires of war, assassinations and death; social storms are gathering over and around us; extremists are running to and fro; old religions are "getting religion"; revival converts are "backsliding"; into common sense; sectarists are striving to Jerusalemize Americans of the nineteenth century; thinking Churchmen, both in the orient and occident, are hesitating between the disintegrations of Protestantism and the intensified centralization of Roman Catholicism; while all earnest souls are knocking at the gate that leads to the celestial city of eternal days.

'Tis the tidal hour, then, for Spiritualism! A Spiritualism that shall spiritualize materialism, and celestialize the spiritual, bringing human souls by processes diverse and inverse into more conscious relations, not only with angelic existences, but the impersonal and the absolute; a Spiritualism compatible with science, refinement, the rarest culture and broadest measure of freedom; a Spiritualism pregnant with facts, yet looking to a spiritual philosophy that shall appropriate the good and the beautiful, the pure and the true of all past and present philosophies, inspiring the masses to higher, diviner action, and prouder military movements for the world's redemption. "Christ's second coming" is now. It is a coming in power and principle, in inspiration and angelic ministrations. Apostles, and the "spirits of just men made perfect," are in the "clouds of heaven" over us; while a-down through the aethers, arches and corridors of distant eternities, silvery voices continue to roll, burdened with the psalm: "Come, up higher." Catching the key-note, I sound the refrain: Let us unite the scientific with the religious; the fact with the philosophy, earth with heaven, and go up as fraternal bands, of workmen to repair Zion; and rebuild the Jerusalem, that is to be, and all to the glory of a divine humanity.

WE NEED, IN THE WORLD-WIDE VINEYARD, loving brotherhoods of laborers, and banded sisterhoods

women who dare to stand, and live what they know to be right; and a new glow with the aspirations of the day, the hour, and full of self-reliance, rebelling the cross or cypress, sooner than the crown; speakers, speaking as with tongues of fire, rapt and holy, too, as the sainted one of Patmos, and full of ode and rhapsody, stirring men's souls to the very depths, as did that butastic Crusader, Peter the Hermit. No wilderness of words, gloddy rhetoric, tinsel eloquence, empty declamation, or poetic, moonshiny sentimentalism, will serve the spiritual gospel of to-day.

The age demands, not science and logic alone, but spiritualistic truths and humanitarian principles, bodied in good, solid, Anglo-Saxon words, with hearers who will listen as though in eternity, surrounded by throngs of white-robed angels, and not hear, merely, but practice, daring, doing, and dying even for a principle! Such, by losing life, or its more physical enjoyments, find it, and find it by having the celestial intruded into the spiritual, and the spiritual thus celestialized, intruded through the physical, spiritualizing the whole terrestrial being with a transfigured grandeur and glory, comparable to those highly unfolded souls long anchored in the harbors of heaven!

HARMONY.

It is no more true that "Order is heaven's first law," than that harmony is indispensable to spiritual growth. Earthquakes and whirlwinds may have their mission during the ripening and rounding of worlds, and so may rivalries and wars during the development and perfecting of nations; still the prophetic soul ever looks forward with hope and confidence to the dawn of a more harmonious age; an age when man, instead of being influenced by the spirit of the Mosaic Law, shall practice the principles of the "higher law," returning good for evil, and blessing for cursing. It matters not though Jesus came to "bring a sword on earth," I come bringing an olive-branch, symbol of peace, and purpose holding it till it withers in my hand, asking "Spiritualists," "Christian Spiritualists," "Progressionists," "Friends of Progress," "Progressive Friends," "Reformers," and all true workers for humanity, to cultivate charity and cherish only love and kindness toward each other. It should not be now, as in apostolic times—"one for Paul, another for Apollos, and another still for Cephas;" but all for the truth, abounding in benevolence and good works. I can and will work with all faithful workers—all worthy men and women, in their reconstructive efforts, regarding names as chaff and husks. My Church is as extensive as humanity, and my creed briefly this: I believe in God, in truth and myself!

BOOKS.

Speaking, during April, in Milwaukee; I called upon the Rev. John Hanni, the Roman Catholic Bishop, for the purpose of examining his extensive library, and inquiring relative to certain European works not translated into English.

The Bishop is an elderly man, very genial and affable, with quite a tincture of the egotistic in his nature, owing in part to his position, and more to Church-ionic influences. Our conversation soon turned upon Spiritualism, during which he said:

"A few years since I hoped much from these modern phases of Spiritualism, as an offset to an increasing tendency in speculative minds to German materialism; but my hopes have not been realized."

I asked him what estimate he put upon Spiritualism?

"Spirit-communion," he replied, "has ever been a fundamental doctrine of the Catholic Church in all countries, and has been so acknowledged, when orderly, and subject to the Church of Christ."

His library occupies some two hundred shelves, all literally loaded, and in character decidedly polyglot. It has a choice selection of standard authors, some literary, others scientific, but chiefly theological, the German editions predominating. He showed me a copy of the "Latin Vulgate," bearing the imprint of "Basil, 1496," with serges of the ancient classics, both in Latin and Greek.

"Those saved by musk, like mummies, many a year, Dry bones of divinity appear."

I think the largest library in the world is the Imperial at Paris, numbering 1,084,000 volumes; then comes the Royal Library at Munich, with over 800,000; the British Museum, with over 600,000; the Berlin exceeds 500,000; and then comes the Astor Library, in New York, containing over 100,000 volumes. Reader, how many volumes may be counted in your library, and what the general character of the same? Every young man should not only gather trophies, antiquities, fossils, paintings, and geological specimens, but a choice collection of books, forming early habits of study for disciplining the mind. If a youth lack a delicate taste, let him read our best American and English poets. If wanting in power to reason systematically, let him read Buckle, Compto, Cousin, and John Stuart Mill. If deficient in piety, and an intensified vigor of style; let him read and re-read Emerson's works; and if tending toward the blight of sectarianisms, let him digest the volumes of Theodore Parker, A. J. Davis, and, so far as he can, gather up the truths that glitter on the divine pages of God's great rock-book, Nature, yet damp, fresh with biographical facts of constant formations, and musical with joyous star-songs of progression.

DR. J. R. NEWTON.

Passing through Chicago, I had the pleasure of witnessing, for the first time, the doctor's "Gifts of Healing," and they are certainly remarkable. I conversed with a number who were rejoicing in the freedom of complete restoration to health. He does not profess to cure all. Jesus "could do no mighty works" in some Judean villages. The "Chicago Evening Journal," noted for religious conservatism, admitted this much: "Hundreds, with maladies of every description, hobbled forward to be cured. Whether or not cures were performed, we do not know, but certain it is that people who had lost the use of limbs and of the senses, were made to dance, see and hear." The doctor frankly admits that spirits and angels aid him in his mission.

Dr. Bryant is meeting, too, with wonderful success in Detroit. In August he goes to Milwaukee, spending some two or three months. Dr. J. Wilber, wielding a mighty magnetic power, is now in Delaware, Ohio, healing physical and mental ailments.

Dr. Hathaway, a most estimable man, and permanent resident of Milwaukee, has his rooms continually filled with patients. Divinely beautiful is the mission of the Healers, and those possessing these "gifts from on high" should cherish kindness and brotherly love one toward the other; and "use apostolic language" in honor preferring one another; manifesting no rivalry, except to excel in doing good, for the love of doing good.

PALEMYRA, WIS., AUGUST 10, 1866.

In this prairie village I lectured two evenings in the Baptist church to appreciative audiences, the deacon and family present, also two clergy-men, and a host of prayer; and the choir singing liberal theological ideas are rapidly being instilled into the minds of the people.

far more rational view of God, and the final destination of souls, and being generally disseminated, even among churchmen,

A positive demonstration that Spiritualism is gradually leaving the great mass of humanity. The spirit of bigotry and traditional superstition is disappearing before the glowing march of reason, as the morning sun dispels the mists of the great system, in her paralytic and heralds forth the brightness of the coming day.

MRS. C. F. DODGE.

This very excellent lady, the wife of the Rev. C. F. Dodge, a Universalist clergyman, is not only a Spiritualist, but is gifted with superior mediumship. She writes under influence, examines and makes medical prescriptions, gives psychometrical delineations, and speaks occasionally in a highly impressive and inspirational state. Brothers of the Northwest, call her into the great harvest-field, and keep her there, by cordial receptions and financial encouragements, that mortals, through her ministrations, may be edified and their lives glorified. Her post office address is Palmyra, Wis.

SPIRITUAL PROGRESS.

The general facts and teachings of Spiritualism are marching through the land in rapid strides. The press, the bench, the pulpit, and senate chamber, feel their power, and many, by becoming manliness, confess the truth. Be sure, there is less said of the phenomena; but the theories and principles that grow out of these angelic instructions from the spirit-world are being woven, not only into our current literature, but are cropping out from nearly all recently published scientific works. Bennett's New York Herald admitted last winter that "Spirit manifestations made a chief and most exciting subject of attention in numberless households."

Clergymen, traveling lecturers and colporteurs bear witness unanimously to its equally alarming and astonishing growth. It is not the mere fact that spirits commune with mortals that the clergy so doggedly oppose, but the spiritual philosophy, as in direct opposition to sectarian theology. Nevertheless, God and the angels are back of the whole movement, and while the old dies, the future will add new triumphs to truth. And what is encouraging, also, many more phenomenalists are becoming calmly philosophical, extreme organizations rounded off, and tangential souls better balanced.

FLOWERS.

It was the good Wilberforce, I think, that said, "I look upon the corn and the grain as the bounty of God; but upon flowers as his smiles." Another has termed them the "alphabet of angels," whose sweet, dewy lips speak a language as interior as the higher life. Who was not delighted with Mary Howitt's story, "The poor man's garden, hedged around with flowers?" A French skeptic, feeling foregleams of immortality, said: "When I go, clothe me with spring blossoms, inebriate me with roses, bury me in mid-flowers." And in T. B. Read's "Vision of Death," he invokes the flowers over the grave of a beautiful youth, thus:

Bloom, bloom,
Ye little blossoms, and if beauty can,
Like other purest essences, exhale
And penetrate the mould, your flowers shall be
Of rarest hue, sweetest perfume."

What choice life-lessons they teach us; what culture to the soul; what aids to the ideal eminences that redden along the sunsets of the future; what stories they tell of archetypal predestinances; and what sermons of unselfishness they preach, begging us to scatter the fragrance and budding beauty of good deeds all over the rough places of life, thus becoming wandering minstrels of mercy. Loitering, a few years since, with a friend in a rear yard of Auburn State Penitentiary, I saw, jutting through the window grates of a prisoner's cell, trailing vines, and flowers in full bloom, placed there by pale hands, in morning's time, to catch the sunshine; and I said, he cannot be a bad man! My sympathies were touched. I wanted to extend him a warm hand, call him my brother, tell him I loved him, and would fain come unto him. Be sure, in an impulsive moment he may have committed a crime, and infinitely greater criminals may have pronounced upon him the stern sentence. Did not Jesus say, "Go and sin no more?" Gladly would I have borne him on love's wings into the realm of better conditions, placing him 'mid summer surroundings; and calling angels to guard him, bid him look hopefully toward a smiling and peaceful future.

Mysterious are life's disciplinary processes. The fire must try every man's work. Yes, each must find his Calvary, and bear his cross, ere he can wear the crown.

"And I said, in a underbreath,
All our life is mixed with death,
And who knoweth which is best?
And I smiled to think God's greatness
Flowed around our incompleteness,
Bound our restlessness His rest."

Battle Creek, Mich.

NO MORE!

BY S. B. KEACHE.

No more the sorrows of absence, in their keener strength, shall be felt. No more the hopeless pain of parting when no ray of light from over the river shows us the chain that binds our hearts as one, is only lengthened for a time, not severed. I thank heaven for the assurance given me that Time will restore all that Death had robbed from me; and not only restore after the great transition, but even now, day by day. Impishable are the memories of childhood and youth; and how can I doubt, if I can recall the past in thought, so that I even seem to live over again those blessed days, that I may by-and-by renew in reality the same bright experiences.

But it was not always thus. Blind in the first sad moments of a great sorrow, we feel that all has passed beyond recall, and the future may bring fresh sadness, but never the joy that is gone. Faith taught me to look upward and beyond the past, for the same sun that sank upon our desolation, will light with the dawn's radiant promise the fields and meadows—yes, and the graves. Let us not leave the lesson half learned, that bright intelligences are revealing to us, but realize that the lamented, the wildly loved, are here. We shall meet them in heaven, we know; let us feel that we are with them now, and they still with us. In the still night, listen: there are voices speaking to us in tones we must remember; there are forms passing around us, and the old-time tenderness is in the caress of their soft hair.

Close the eyes. Let the heart beat calmly on. Trust life and soul with ethereal guardians. Sleep. Now the spirit is free for a moment, and mounts with useless pilgrims the heights of space. In sound sleep we surrender ourselves to the care of the mysterious Helmsman, who folds around us robes of sweet forgetfulness, as we float with him upon the untroubled waves of thought, further and further out upon the deep, calm sea of peaceful dreams, safe, for a time, from the pursuing, grasping hands of sorrow, pain, unrest and wrong.

'Tis in those kindly moments we forget the clanking of our fetters and the shadows that parade us; hear forgotten music, and feel the touch of hands the clay hath pressed for years, without effort we tread heights that glow in wondrous stillness; there is no toll in the ascension to the buoyant heart and unweary feet, for angels walk

with us the starry way, and we wake to say we have dreamed of Heaven. In the busy hours of day we know our hands are strengthened to perform their toil, and our spirits soothed with a healing power, when the path is rugged to our weary feet. Let us thank Him for the knowledge we have gained through sorrow. No more the cruel doubt, worse than death, and utter loneliness we have felt. We will await in peace and hope the reunion of hearts that shall be eternal. And say no more, they are gone beyond our sight forever, where their voices cannot reach us, or their radiant forms be glad to cheer us. No more say, though we reach out our pleading hands toward them, they will heed us not, and our cry of loneliness be mocked and lost in the dull realms of silence.

And one, when we and life were young, who passed away in arms of angels, as a star fades in light when morning cometh; I shall no more think of her walking among green fields, by pebbly brooks, her path radiant with immortal glories, lonely, in Heaven, for it is not denied her to return to earth, so lonely without her.

Her presence lights up the sacred past till I see forms of old, as buried years uncover their treasures in the magic rays; illumines the present with a chastened glow, like the effulgence of many stars, and throws upon the future a radiance that beams through the Valley of Death, till it is no more a land of shadows, and the way is plain to the gates of the immortal cities.

THOUGHTS.

BY C. F. ALLEN.

Questions of vital import are to-day thrilling the mind of nations, pertaining to the temporal and spiritual welfare of our being. All theories, to be enduring, must be outwrought into human life, else they melt away in the noontide heat of earth magnetisms. While ornament is one of the essentials of life, utility is another, as much to be prized and as needful as beauty. We admire the rose and the arbor as combining taste and use, yet despite the spiritual senses, something more substantial is desired while we are enclosed in the earth form. Therefore the ground is tilled, and provisions are made for a bountiful harvest, by which the most spiritual being yet in flesh may and must satisfy Nature's demands. Even thus while theory is beautiful, and like the blossoming of "the mother fruit of New England" in its fragrance, mankind still looks gladly forward to the time when change (or progression) shall bring forth the delicious fruitage. Man respects the medium Jesus; yet that respect flows as much from admiration of his conduct as of his language. Eloquent were the divine messages which he gave; still more noble was the realization of his inspiration in his daily life. "Go and sin no more!" fell in soothing accents from his lips, with no haughty sneer accompanying the loving tones. Calm, yet grand, in his pure selfhood, he commanded with "publicans and sinners," though a frowning world cried "Crucify him!"

Theoretical Spiritualism to-day gives to man a divine gospel. Christ-like, it says, "Go on your mission, extending the hand of love to all earth's children, interlinked by God-ties in a grand relationship." The language is eloquent, the oratory unsurpassed, and strong men bow their heads, and tender-hearted women weep. But when the surging waves of every-day life sweep o'er the soul, where stand those who were so swayed by the Theory—the buds and blossoms of truthfulness? They dare not—alas! too oft—"contaminate" themselves to lift up the oppressed and speak kindly to the erring; for Mrs. Grundy would stand aghast at such an innovation of propriety. They may be moved to give money, old clothes or advice, but they say, "I cannot sink my individuality to elevate the degraded ones; acknowledging their acquaintance in the street would at once cause me to lose caste; and what would folks say!"

Practical Spiritualism—the fruit—says the same as Theoretical: for it has need of the buds and blossoms; but it acts what it says, thinking that after so many years of truth-telling it is time for applying those truths.

Practical progression embraces all phases of Reform, from the lifting up of the down-trodden to proclaiming "Liberty to the land, to all the inhabitants thereof"—Liberty, physical and mental, religious and social. The fruit is with a few who dare act out their convictions of right—though not in its fullness: for many years must yet elapse ere that can half be comprehended. H. C. Wright, in his "Marriage and Parentage," (which work, with profit, might well be, and I wish was, in every family) nobly advocates fidelity to ourselves in this world, as the only true preparation for the next; also, "The Kingdom of Heaven is with those, and only those, who understand and comply with the conditions of present life, and health to body and soul." These words, as well as the entire book, contain food for reflection and action. Matter, though inferior to mind, does not alter the fact that the mind depends upon its physical temple for its proper manifestations.

Health of body induces health of mind, while a healthy mind is rarely seen in an unsound body. Throughout the mass of human life, we view bowed forms reeking with filthy disease; from out this darkness comes a cry for true life. How can the soul wash itself pure in the waters of Truth, unless physical conditions give it untrammelled freedom? Fetter the body with injure magnetisms, and the spirit seldom attains sublime heights of Wisdom and Love.

Thus, practical reform, or religious progression, bids us seek for health and harmony of the earth form, in order to bring a corresponding effect to the soul. For these reasons, and many others, I echo a hearty amen to the sensible remarks from Juliet Stillman, which appeared in the Banner of a few months ago, entitled "Hints on Dress"; also to the earnest words of Mrs. Townsend, advocating the practicing of principles, uttered at the Bridgewater, Vt., Conventions, the report of which appeared in the same number of the Banner. When earth-angels, like Mrs. T., appeal to the nineteenth century for reformatory action, then we may well believe there is need of it. For these reasons, and many others, I confess myself pro reform-dress, pro non-condemnation, pro vegetarianism, pro raising the fallen, (anti "affinity" seeking), and for any reform that will benefit and elevate body or soul.

If it requires an exchange of tobacco fumes for a sweet breath, or a step from intemperance to sobriety, or the leading of the prostitute to a life of virtue, or a few inches less in a street-sweeping dress, or a little less glow for a few more apples, I, for one—and I am glad to know I am not alone—am ready to try to get to know I am not alone. I am ready to try to climb the ladder of progression, though words, looks and deeds of opponents cause the pillars of dark magnetisms to sweep o'er the sensitive heart, like winter blasts o'er the shivering leaves of the household plant.

I commend the following true and beautiful words from Miss M. E. Ellsworth: "If all would practice what they know of right, the world would be readily moved, but if reformers would improve themselves, containing to authorize customary evils, and will be the back of the Herolef, and slowly will approach the era of health and harmony."

Report of the Three Days' Meeting Held at Greensboro', Ind., May 12, 13 and 14.

(Reported for the Banner of Light.)

The Meeting that had originally been appointed for the 5th, 6th and 7th, was deferred one week to meet on conditions that seemed more favorable.

FIRST DAY.

Meeting called to order by Dr. Cooper, of Bellefontaine, Ohio. Dr. Bradford, of Paris, Ohio, elected to the chair; Lois Walsbrooker, Secretary; Dr. Cooper, Agnes Cook, of Richmond, Ind., and Silas Small, of Greensboro', Committee of Arrangements.

Dr. Cooper read a poem by Charles Mackay, entitled, "Old Opinions."

Old opinions, rage and tatter,
Let you go! let you go!

Mrs. Alcinde Wilhelm, M. D., then took the stand, and said:

Strange are the vicissitudes through which we have passed since we last met. I need not remind you of the struggle with which our people played its approach of peace, in the surrender of the rebel army and the fall of Richmond, nor how that joy was turned into mourning by the assassination of our President—one who was of the people, not the leader, but one of us; sometimes slow, but always sure; always on the side of the right; one who knew, by the bitter experiences of childhood, the curse of poverty and oppression; giving the strength of his young life to the support of his mother and the rights of the oppressed. He was as successful as he has since struggled with the giant of slavery; passing through all this toll, and with but six months' schooling, up, to the highest office in the gift of the people, and stepping from thence to a position in the skies. If he erred, it was on the side of mercy; but his work is done. We have passed through dark hours, but we shall have still darker hours and fiercer conflicts in the future; for, through us, other nations are to be purified, and crucifixion physically is the birth of liberty spiritually. But, while we have a right to appreciate individuality, Principle is the true watchword. We, as a nation, have become classic; the blood of the President has mingled with the blood of the common soldier. The blood and tears of both enrich the soil into which the Tree of Liberty is to strike new roots.

The speaker then drew a vivid description of the fate of the assassin; compared the boon of well-doing with the gainings of remorse; asked if it was a pleasure to be crucified, and to see for the murderer, beyond the frowning battlements of centuries, the undying glare of progression, pointing with the finger of hope o'er all the ages of anguish that intervene. Closed by urging up on her hearers the importance of life, in its deeds more than words; saying that theory is good, but practice better.

Benjamin Todd, of Wisconsin, followed with appropriate remarks. He said: I call you friends, for I recognize the Fatherhood of God and the Motherhood of Nature, and I call you even call yourselves Christian Spiritualists, but an Infidel I am not without my Bible. Yes, I have my Bible, and each human being is a word therein. I love to turn up the rocks, as leaves, in this great book, the grand old Book of Nature, and to study the flowers, as letters whose combinations spell use, beauty, love and progress; and what more is there of life? By the way, Brother Todd is a regular son of thunder, with the lightning all in, and chain lightning at that.

Dr. Cooper next presented the claims of the Chicago Sanitary Fair.

Music, and adjourned till half-past nine on Saturday morning.

SECOND DAY.

First Session.—Order of Exercises read by Dr. Cooper.

Music: "Beautiful Hills."

Mrs. Mary T. Clark was announced as speaker. She first read the poem, "To give is to live," and then gave as her subject: The Privileges and Duties of Spiritualists. Spiritualism is that which we can live by and die by. It is the development of all previously developed truths, the outworking of the cream of imagination, down into the common sense of the matter, and what is here left in the Christians' interpretation of the Gospel? We have a God that we are not ashamed of; the heathens themselves are ashamed of the Christians' God. But, making the wealth of brain-development the measure of our conception of God, we have no fixed revelation crushing back the inner nature. We have but one God; one whose characteristics are fixed in the power of our conception to understand and act on. He is not a being who belongs to the Church, and hopes some day to have influence enough to claim heaven on the merits of another; but now I know that I shall live forever, and have just such a heaven as I make for myself; and I would rather accept a low position as my right, than a high one at the expense of another. Our heaven is before us in the even balance of justice; the smallest atom of wrong or injustice would throw the universe out of balance; but we can trust the power that keeps the equilibrium, and we have no need of the Church, and progress is before us, and no insurmountable obstacles there. We can no longer be hoodwinked by the opinions of the past, but think for ourselves. This is one of the many privileges of Spiritualists; but our duties must be commensurate therewith, or we should have and earn not.

Here the speaker dwelt for awhile on the duties of Spiritualists, and then said: The Churches are infidel to their own faith. If you would be the nation of the future, you must do this, and get along with them from all nations, you may raise up such a nation as the world never saw. Principle, and not expediency, is the true law of progress. But the next question is: Shall we organize? shall we have a national creed? Did you ever know a creed that was not baptized in blood? Alas for the blood of Jesus! what fanatic horrors has it not developed? Creeds are full stops; a dropping of an anchor in the River of Progress. Give us individual creeds, individual rights, natural organizations, and let each man maintain his; displace these atoms, let the torrent flow its sides or sweep away portions of its base, it is a mountain still. But, in the privileges and duties of Spiritualists, woman has her full share; she is the nerve-power of a nation, and her greatest duty and privilege is to the rising generation.

Music, and a poem by B. Todd, entitled: "The Weaver."

Lois Walsbrooker followed in a few remarks, enforcing the last position of the speaker, showing how wrong, and the firm alliance with speech was not possible, in the cause of truth, ultimately itself, through the organization of the mother, in deeds of valor in the next generation.

Poem read by Dr. Cooper, from Mackay—"On, Forever on."

Music, with the words, "Tis Very Tough."

Adjourned till two o'clock P. M.

Afternoon Session.—Regular lecture by Lois Walsbrooker, commencing with a poem "Reformers." Subject: The Law of Inspiration. As God is the life of all things, the elements of inspiration must be found in all things, and not alone in the Book, as theologians tell us; the nature of that inspiration depending not on that which inspires, but on the condition of the inspired; for, for instance, the nauseous bug will gather the elements of a stench from the loveliest rose; the bee will find honey in the same flower; and the highest developed among mortals will find their hearts swelling with the fragrance of immortality, as they look upon its blushing love-lilies.

Mrs. Wilhelm followed with appropriate remarks.

Bro. Todd said: There is no question in the world upon which there is such a diversity of opinion as that of God. Each makes his own God, and we have just as big a one as we have material to make him of. The priest of Christendom is just as much an idolater as the heathen; and the work of his hands, the other of his mind, is compared to the God of Zoroaster with the God of Moses, and you have the difference in the character of the two. Some talk of being indebted to God; I don't owe God anything; if I did, I should never be able to pay it. On the contrary,

God owes me everything; and among the first things that he pays in education. Father God and Mother Nature have determined that we shall be educated. They won't take home ignoramuses. We may play truant, but it will do us no good. He then gave a vivid illustration of the tendency of the atonement, showing that it is the Orthodox, and not the Spiritualistic view of things that gives license to sin, and concluded with a poem.

Adjourned till 7 P. M.

Evening session.—Mrs. Wilhelm, speaker. She gave a short discourse upon necessary conditions in order to good spirit manifestations, followed by a public circle, in which spirits were described and named given, some of which were recognized. Music; after which the meeting adjourned.

THIRD DAY.

Sunday morning, at 9 o'clock, the services were opened with music.

Discourse by Bro. Todd. Subject: The Natural Evidences of Immortality. After giving a vivid description of old theology, telling how it had tried up all the springs of joyousness in his youthful heart, and then contrasting it with the teachings of Spiritualism, he proceeded to say that these natural evidences were not found in the Church, nor in the facts of Spiritualism, but were innate in man's nature. True, Spiritualism demonstrates life beyond this life, but that does not prove that life is to be without end. Looking at man's nature, there is a demand for eternal life; and if there is not a supply for that demand, then they are not immortal. But the most important, the most unanswerable argument of all is, the substances of which man is composed are indestructible. The body is not the man, nor the man the body. We have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens, and God built it. God lays the foundation stone. It is God manifest in the flesh. The God-principle is man's personality, and surely the God-principle cannot be destroyed. Next, take man's individuality. If man's personality is indestructible, and the material from which he derives his individuality is indestructible, he must be immortal. The speaker finished with a poem.

Music—"Tenting on the Old Camp Ground."

Adjourned till 2 P. M.

The afternoon session was opened with music; then followed a poem by B. Todd; after which, Mrs. Wilhelm took the stand as speaker for the hour. Subject: Freedom for all. Freedom, physically, socially, religiously and politically, each free and equal access, independent of the central soul, the personal life falls of its legitimate action without freedom. Bondage is the abnormal, freedom the natural condition. Physiological freedom gives health; health brings harmony. True religion makes us free, is natural, strong and stirring, and belongs to us all. God's religion is the action of the universe living out its destiny. The human, if true to itself, would be free as the flower, or the bird. Religion is written in the grand book of Nature's Divine Revelations, and though in this our babyhood we may not be able to comprehend the whole, we can feel its intuitions. Freedom for all. Children have their rights. Parents should understand this. Children are often punished for the sins of the parents. As we do by our children, so do our laws by us. The law shuts its erring subjects up in prisons of wood or stone; we, through ignorance, shut our children up in inharmonious bodies. The darker the deed, the darker the prison, calling for sympathy and aid, and access of sunlight and air. Political freedom for all, and all for freedom. What a struggle we have had, for the last four years, for even the physical freedom of a portion of our people; but the grand conquest is worth the cost. Religious and social freedom must come, but they will come with conflict—the conflict that is to usher in the new heavens and the new earth. The speaker closed with "The Triumph of Freedom," given through Lizzie DeBany, on the amendment of the Constitution, rendering it with thrilling effect.

Music, and adjourned till 7 P. M.

Evening session—Opened with music.

Mrs. Mary Thomas Clarke, as speaker for the evening, then came forward, and said: The inspiration and power of music quiet the soul, bringing forth its loves and aspirations as the earth brings forth its flowers, streamlets and music, drawn to outward expression by the attracting power of love and harmony. But while listening to the glorious truths uttered here, the question still comes, Shall we ever lose our individuality, and with it the power we possess of attracting to ourselves every particle of God's universe needed to sustain, build up and make perfect our immortal lives? It is this self that alone can comprehend spirit. As a part of God, it must be perfect in its unfolding, yet manifesting different degrees in coming up from the lowest kingdoms. But if man has given through Lizzie DeBany, on the amendment of the Constitution, rendering it with thrilling effect.

Music, and adjourned till 7 P. M.

A Spiritual Letter.

The following letter was written by a lady residing in the West, to her aged mother, who then resided in Syracuse, N. Y., but who passed to the spirit-world in March last. The letter was sent to us for publication by a member of the family. We trust the mother was able to appreciate the truths therein contained, for they will be as lights to guide her on her journey through the spheres:

Fort Dodge, Iowa, Jan. 23, 1865.

MY DEAR MOTHER, I feel it duty to write you. I hear by sister Nancy your health is very poor. She thinks your time is almost done on earth. You have lived to a good old age. I hope the future to you is no dread, but a glorious reality. It is a continuation of the present—a living existence in which you will feel and realize the desires and aspirations of the present, and reap the fruition of hopes that the material life fails to satisfy. Do not suppose, when you enter the spirit-world as a disembodied spirit, that your labors are finished—that your journey is ended. Life is ever onward, and wears all buds and blossoms upon its mighty tree. We must ever learn more and more of life. Everything in spirit-life will call you onward; the voice of God will speak to you in every atom—and your senses will feel that God is calling you, and as you are his child, you must obey.

Cluttered though poorly understood, brings back tidings of the spirit-land, which past ages has failed to do. Spiritualism, since its dawn, has revealed many beautiful truths; my own experience has testified these things to be living realities. The Spiritualism of this nineteenth century is only a continuation of the miracles of the day of Jesus; and the same hidden law governs both. Miracles are being performed under the new dispensation, which far surpassed those of Moses, or of the apostles. The material life fails to satisfy. Do not suppose, when you enter the spirit-world as a disembodied spirit, that your labors are finished—that your journey is ended. Life is ever onward, and wears all buds and blossoms upon its mighty tree. We must ever learn more and more of life. Everything in spirit-life will call you onward; the voice of God will speak to you in every atom—and your senses will feel that God is calling you, and as you are his child, you must obey.

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these things are what Jesus spoke of when on earth. Christ taught us to imbibe his spirit; to make our life conformable to his precepts; to be like unto him, pure, peaceable, holy, forgiving, etc., as he was. Spiritualists are the victims of persecution to-day.

But Spiritualism has not done its work yet; it has a greater work to do. It will soon have a controlling power over government. It availed but little for a man to say that no benefit is derived from communion with spirits, for the truth speaks otherwise. The temple of truth is now being firmly erected.

Now, dear mother, do look upon death as a door to a more glorious and higher existence, where you will meet your dear departed, waiting friends. I shall expect you will be as a guardian-angel around us. I hope I shall have a spirit-visit in which I shall behold you.

Yes, dear mother, I often think of my dear and dear friends whom I have left in the East—perhaps never to see again on earth. And I look forward to a happy reunion of parents, brothers and sisters, in a better and purer world; but if I still remained in mental darkness—as I was—I should feel very different in parting with friends; but now I feel that it will be only a short time that we shall be parted.

But, while sojourning here, I feel the presence of loved ones gone before. Oh, how thankful I am that my eyes have been opened to perceive the light that has dawned on humanity. The vision I had of another world has filled my heart full of hope and love, and raised my once drooping spirit. Now, when I feel weary of earth's cares, the vision I saw comes again to my mind, and I then feel strengthened to bear all with patience. If all of earth's care-worn creatures could comprehend the precious pleasures which the dwellers in the bright spheres above endeavor to unfold to their minds, and the glories which they desire to attain, they would no longer "mourn in dust and ashes" for the flood-gates of tears and sorrows would be forever closed, and new hopes and aspirations would spring up in their souls. Your ever loving daughter,
SUSAN H. ABBOTT.

Written for the Banner of Light.

THE DEATH OF CREEDS.

BY D. M. H.

The diamond streamlets of the soul
Are gushing forth in joyous song;
No more in darkness and in gloom—
The hours, all golden, speed along.

The melting clouds reveal the light,
Quick flashing forth from Nature's springs;
The raptured spirit hails the sight,
And Hope replumes her drooping wings.

The galling chains that long have bound
Earth's children down to narrow creed,
Link after link fall to the ground,
And men stand forth, redeemed and freed.

Now Death, of all his terrors shorn,
No longer pulls the trembling heart;
No more with hopeless tears we mourn,
When from our dearest friends we part.

Part, did I say? We do not part!
The River of Death it is not wide;
And at our call the loved ones start,
And slip their boats across its tide.
Stoughton, Mass.

A Spiritual Funeral.

Something like a "sensation" occurred lately in this "City of Churches," Pontiac, Mich., among the members of the denomination of Orthodox worshippers, a brief outline of which will doubtless interest your readers.

A promising young man, twenty years of age, son of the late P. Nisbett (a name known to some of the readers of the Banner), an Englishman, and for several years a "London City Missionary," was drowned during the recent floods in Oil City, Pa. His remains arrived here on the 27th of March, and arrangements were made to inter them on the following day.

Mr. and Mrs. Nisbett are converts to Spiritualism, and the family, including the deceased son, were inquirers, and consequently were in bad odor with the sect, especially as it was well known that Mr. Nisbett had, on several occasions, made public confession of his faith in modern Spiritualism.

On the day preceding the funeral, among the great number of friends and neighbors who paid visits of condolence, were several persons who were very anxious to ascertain "what church the body would be taken to," to what Christian denomination the parents belonged, and "which of the ministers was going to officiate at the funeral." To these queries the father courteously replied "that his religious views had undergone a great change; so that, unless he could procure some person entertaining views similar to his own to preach the funeral sermon, he intended performing that duty himself." Some persons thought (thought aloud) "it would be curious"; others, that it would be "kind of mean," till numbers were on the qui vive to know the end of it.

The deceased son, till the day of his death, a member of the Hoss Company, and was highly respected. About two o'clock P. M. on Tuesday, the 28th, the members of the Hoss and Engine Companies turned out in uniform to attend the funeral of their late comrade. A goodly number of Spiritualists, some with their teams, from city and country, joined the procession, and the mournful cortege wended its way to the Universalist church, accompanied by a great crowd, in which every sect in the city was largely represented. Every available nook in the church was occupied, and old and young, black and white, saints and sinners, mingled and jostled each other in the portal and on the stoop. The eager, the curious, the earnest, the careless, and the inquisitive.

But where, and who, was the preacher? Surprise characterized the countenances of not a few, when two indices were ushered behind the reading-desk, both of them known to several of the congregation as Spiritualists, namely, Mrs. Lydia Ann Pearson, and Mrs. Emma Martin.

Mr. John Southard, many years Deacon of the Baptist Church in Pontiac, but for several years past a Spiritualist, of peculiar mediumistic powers, an inspirational poet and a staunch opponent of error, opened the proceedings by reading some highly interesting verses composed, improvised, by himself, and very appropriate to the occasion. Mrs. Emma Martin, in a solemnly impressive strain, invoked the "Great Father of Spirits," after having been deluded, attracted much attention from her hearers. She then proceeded to the consideration and explanation of some phases in the Spiritual Philosophy, giving a glowing and eloquent description of the beauties of the higher life, and closed with an exposition of what is termed, "Death," speaking sympathetic words of comfort and courage to the bereaved. Altogether the discourse was most encouraging and instructive.

Mrs. Emma Martin, after singing another hymn, closed the services with prayer.

The calvacead then re-formed, and the procession moved forward to the graveyard, followed by the immediate friends of the family; but most of the Orthodox friends turned homeward, taking with them much food for reflection.
Pontiac, Mich., May, 1865. S. BROTHERTON.

Spiritual Phenomena.

The Allen Boy Medium at Rockland, Maine.

The Allen Boy is about thirteen years old, thick set and active, with red hair and corresponding complexion. He arrived in this city on Monday, May 8th, and I was requested to attend a séance at the house of George Morgridge, in this city, on that day.

Dr. Randall, who travels with the boy, manifested a good deal of anxiety and uneasiness for the result, as he wished, probably, to make a good impression on the editor, as his paper would come out on Wednesday, the 10th; but all to no purpose, for no manifestations were made during the evening, and we were all obliged to go away disappointed.

An old gentleman who has passed the bounds of the Church, a reading, thinking man, who opposed, disputed, questioned and denied Spiritualism in every phase, said to me: "I give it up; I am confounded! I will oppose it no more." These things convince me that Spiritualism is progressing, in spite of the many encumbrances hanging upon it.

Our Washington Letter.

CLOSE OF THE LECTURING SEASON—PROGRESS OF THE CAUSE—J. M. ALLEN'S MEETINGS.

With the last Sunday in May our meetings in Washington stand adjourned until October, it being impracticable to continue our Sabbath evening gatherings through the hot weather. The universal success which has characterized the past season, is in no small degree attributable to the energy and practicality of those friends of Spiritualism here, who, when the organization was apparently swamped and going under, assumed the management of affairs, righted the little craft, and piloted her safely into port.

The cause is stronger in Washington to-day than ever before. The barriers of prejudice in every department of life are giving way before the onward march of Omnipotent Truth. The chief characteristics of Spiritualism, are manifesting themselves everywhere. The disintegration which precedes higher formation, is silently but effectually and practically progressing. Thus addition comes and power is gained. Next season will furnish increased evidence of a greater, deeper, and more universal appreciation on the part of Washingtonians toward the science, the philosophy, and the religion of Spiritualism, than has been manifested the past season.

Bro. J. Madison Allen has been our speaker during May, and by his public and private efforts has greatly endeared himself to us. His style is both pleasing and persuasive, being generally animated and impassioned enough to keep the interest of an audience well up to the close. Alive with earnestness, he emphasizes more by voice than by gesture. Modest and unassuming, his deportment is in favorable contrast with those of the great ego school. In all he says there broods a tender and beautiful spirit of Love and Charity, under whose divine influence Spiritualists should be more and more willing to be reared. A revealer and constructor, rather than an expounder or interpreter, his present labors are but preparatory to the prosecution of his great life-work, the furtherance of the mission with which he has been delegated—the unfolding of a practical educational movement of the most valuable, vast and vital importance—the perfecting, in obedience to the direction and inspiration of higher powers, of a Universal Alphabet, which shall endure for all time.

In the agitation and presentation of this subject, he is aware that the world to-day, in the plenitude of its wisdom and charity, is disposed to give what it has always given to those who present a new idea for the good of humanity—anything and everything but a hearing. "Is over the same old story. But thank God! the so-called idealisms of to-day are but the realities of tomorrow. There is precious encouragement in the fact that, "God never permitted us to frame a theory too beautiful for His power to make practicable." The Universal Alphabet, however, is not only a beautiful theory, but a glorious fact, which the future will gladly accept and adopt. Tried by the impartial standard of exact science—the imperial test of Reason and Nature—and found to be true as the needle to the pole, "without variableness, neither shadow of turning"—it patiently awaits the hour when it shall be publicly proclaimed and fully made known to the children of men. In the meantime, "the world that moves" is fast getting to see and feel its necessity.

Progressive, practical and prophetic, Brother Allen's public topics embrace as wide a range of thought and action as characterized the various individualities who from time to time control him. Passing easily under control, individual spirits have but little difficulty in manifesting themselves through him, rendering his presence, in addition to lecturing, much sought after by those at whose residences circles are usually held. I learn that his companion, C. Fannie Allen, whose communications to the Banner your numerous readers are conversant with, is also an excellent and versatile medium, and generally accompanies her husband in his travels. May the angels ever inspire, protect and direct them, as well as the entire army of our spiritual workers, who, marshalled under the "Banner of Light"—Love, Truth and Wisdom—are so effectually battling for the cause of humanity, which is the cause of God.

Washington, D. C., May 28, 1866.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S DEATH FORETOLD.—Amongst the number of mediumistic predictions connected with the great American war must be reckoned the warnings which the unfortunate Lincoln received touching the danger which threatened his life. The tragic end of this great man had, amongst other things, been predicted a long time in advance. In 1863, in the month of August, Mr. Home, being in the trance condition at Dorset, at the house of Mrs. Miller, Gibson, wife of the English cabinet minister, foretold the event which befell the victim Lincoln and Seward. This fact was attested at the time by the witnesses present. Mrs. Gibson told us of it some days after. We hesitate not, therefore, to give our testimony to this great fact of which several journals have spoken.—Review Spiritualist.

J. BURNS, PROGRESSIVE LIBRARY, 1 WELLINGTON ROAD, CAMBERWELL, LONDON, ENGLAND. KEEPS FOR SALE THE BANNER OF LIGHT AND OTHER SPIRITUAL PUBLICATIONS.

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LUTHER COLBY, EDITOR.

SPIRITUALISM is based on the cardinal fact of spirit communion and influx; it is the effort to discover all truth relating to man's spiritual nature, capacities, relations, duties, welfare and destiny, and its application to a regenerate life. It recognizes a continuous Divine inspiration in man; it aims, through a careful, reverent study of facts, at a knowledge of the laws and principles which govern the occult forces of the universe; of the relations of spirit to matter, and of man to God and the spiritual world. It is thus catholic and progressive, leading to true religion as at one with the highest philosophy.—London Spiritual Magazine.

Discussing Spiritualism.

The temper in which certain journals, magazines and pulpsters go at the work of discussing Spiritualism, as they call it, shows, beyond the need of further inquiry, what are the aims and motives which inspire them in relation to it. Unable to make any impression on the truth by one-sided, prejudiced and inconsequential arguments, they next tried ridicule, and with no better effect. Still the developments went forward, and still they refused to learn of those facts which were every day accumulating. For a time, since such journals as the Boston Courier have ceased their rhetorically vigorous assaults on the New Philosophy, there seemed to be a lull in the labors of the volunteer force, which considered it their special mission to overthrow Spiritualism and plow up its foundations. Some believers fondly thought, or certainly hoped, that the unwelcome work of opposing it was at an end, and that those who had been occupied with it had retired from the field altogether. It was but a temporary delusion, however, from which it will take but little to arouse them. We have of late fallen in with several ill-tempered assaults on the philosophy which has made, and is still making, so many converts and so much happiness, all going to show that the blind spirit of detraction and opposition is not yet killed, nor will be while there is a truth to be discovered and developed in the universe.

To illustrate our remarks: the Atlantic Monthly, in a late article, reviewing the recent volume of Browning's poems, makes the unsupported assertion that Spiritualism is a subject too ignominious to be handled with impunity; from which most readers would infer that his having touched the matter is a blot and blot on his fame as a poet, and that in order to have your genius appreciated, you should formally subscribe to the Orthodox style of religious faith. A writer in the Providence Journal notices the statement of the Atlantic, along with its inference, and says that it is a fact that the blot on Browning's fame, in consequence of his subscription to the spiritual philosophy, is "very generally conceded, even by his warmest admirers." And the same writer candidly adds, "Spiritualism, it must be confessed, is decidedly disreputable. It is only the few who can afford to live without a character for respectability, and the many who have but a slender chance of ever being able to attain one, who may venture, openly, to countenance it."

The last remark supplies the key to nearly all the opposition which our beautiful philosophy meets with. It is not assailed because it lacks for truth, because it fails to satisfy the inmost cravings of the human heart, because it offers husks when the soul asks for nourishment, but let the age blush for shame at being compelled to admit so low and disreputable a fact!—because it is "decidedly disreputable." Of all the reasons why a cause ought to be opposed, this should be the very last, instead of being the first. What is reputable, then, is all that we are at liberty to consider, whether in science, philosophy or religion! This life is of no particular value except as it is in keeping with what is popular! We must follow the fashionable, even in our faith! We cannot afford to feed our souls, except with such food as has been prepared at the popular orthodox restaurants! Growth and development are to be permitted only according to the model policy and popularity are to enter into and control all things, spiritual as well as temporal, religious as well as secular! What an admission is this to make, for an independent and intelligent American Journal!

The writer in the Providence Journal, notwithstanding all his slavish palaver over what is supposed to be "reputable," still finds a great deal to admire, even if he does not approve it, in the character and career of the distinguished medium Home. He goes at a sketch of his life with an evident relish, especially dwelling on those parts of it which admit of an illusion to courts and the court circles of Europe, to nobles and princes, and "the beautiful Eugenie," empress of the French. It is all twaddle, of course, and all in perfect keeping with his declared opinion about sticking closely to what is reputable. And Home's wife, too, is perfectly lovely in this toady's eyes. She has a character, according to his scribbling pen, "whose intuitive grace and childlike innocence belong to a type as rare as it is beautiful." What is such a writer's estimate of anything or anybody worth, after he has so freely confessed the standard to which he refers all his opinions, viz., that of "reputableness"?

But we will pursue this matter still further, even at the risk of disgusting the reader, in order more thoroughly to expose the hollowness and impudence of these writers, who presume to tell others, in the columns of journals which should be ashamed to give room to them at all, what they ought to believe, and what not to believe, and why they ought to accept on the one hand and discard on the other. The same writer in the Providence Journal narrates the particulars of a séance given in New York by Mr. Home, just before leaving for Europe. According to the writer's previous confession, he must be either "one of the few who can afford to live without a character for respectability," or one of "the many who have but a slender chance of ever being able to attain one," or he never would have ventured to present himself—in such an assembly in the world. He says the tables were turned, but his head was not. Possibly it was turned years before he ever saw Home. We have seen some very cleverly turned heads in our day, made to figure on vessels and over doors. Our friend finds it suddenly "respectable" to be present at that séance: There were persons there whom even he was not afraid to be ashamed to meet. He states that he met there "several persons of distinguished literary reputa-

tion" an "eminent Unitarian clergyman," and "the editor of a leading Orthodox newspaper." That made him all right at once. They like himself, undoubtedly belonged to one of the two classes of individuals before mentioned by him, and so he rested easy, and came out of the evening's trial with his reputation unscathed. How he managed to do it, he might consider it none of our business if we should ask him.

There is any quantity of this sort of stuff about Spiritualism in the newspapers. Sift it all down, and people are surprised that they should for a moment have paid the least attention to such nonsense, much more that they should have been frightened by it. It is nothing better than what this shallow, cowardly, uninformed, and, as we incline to believe, thoroughly unintelligent writer, for the Providence Journal confesses it is—an effort to show that Spiritualism has not yet become sufficiently respectable to make an open profession of. Only let it become the fashion, or the rage, and in such views as his it would be all sound, and true, and right. Thus it has been, in fact, with everything that has gained a permanent footing and exerted a wide and powerful influence in the world. Thus, too, until men become indeed independent, will it continue to be. We are disposed to find no sort of fault with the fact; but when we can let a little light in upon the truth by exposing the paltry modes and motives of its detractors, we consider it our duty, as it is our pleasure, to take up the pen and do it.

The Result of the Late Convention.

The Spiritualists' Convention held in this city on Anniversary week, closed its sittings on Friday of the same. In addition to the well known and constant workers in New England, the Convention was favored with the presence and labors of our Bro. A. J. Davis and lady, Anna O. Doubleday, Giles B. Stebbins, and Henry C. Wright. Among the marked features, distinguishing this from all others we have ever known, is the entire absence of all fanaticism. The usual attendance of persons with special missions and methods for introducing the millennium in a few days, or at once, has fallen off entirely, and instead, this Convention has been composed of men and women deeply in earnest to find out some way in which their energies may be more successfully used in hastening the progress of truth. The general course of remark on the part of the speakers has been upon the question of Sunday instruction for the children. Good and beautiful thoughts have been uttered. We hope they will bear much fruit.

The Convention resolved to make itself a permanent institution, and adopted a constitution for that purpose, and appointed its officers for the ensuing year. Among them we notice Thomas Hunt, of Salem, as President, Daniel Fox-Wetherby, Jr., as Treasurer, and J. S. Loveland as Secretary. These names are a guarantee that what the Convention attempts to do will be accomplished.

The Convention has been highly favored by the sweet singing of Miss Laura Hastings and others, and also the magnificent readings of Mrs. D. R. Stockwell, of this city. We noticed only one thing which grieved us. In some instances there were, as we thought, unnecessary personal reflections, when a single word to the one implicated would have entirely relieved the misapprehension. Spiritualists preach the largest charity, and certainly should practice an ordinary degree of it.

We publish a portion of the proceedings in this week's Banner, and shall continue them in future numbers.

Summer.

We are come to Summer again—delightful Summer. June is always a welcome month. If earth is ever attractive to mortal sense, it is now. We offer the heartiest of welcomes to the new season. A pleasant and remarkably advanced Spring has preceded it, making its final entrance all the more delightful. The country sights now are at their finest. Farmers are happy; and farmers' boys enjoy themselves as they will not again, until they hunt woodchucks in the stone walls while gathering the ripe corn in the month of October. The anglers take this month to be at the streams, and follow up the courses of the brooks with delightful zeal. About rural homes the trees are green, and grass, vegetables and flowers are doing their very prettiest. The expression of the time is that of active life; there is no death anywhere to be seen; all things are springing up, developing their vigor, and making the face of the earth look as beautiful as possible.

The Foreign News.

The British Government is slowly talking over the propriety and policy of withdrawing its recognition of the South as "belligerents," and, on the whole, thinks it will not take so rash a step so long as even one rebel port—as that of Galveston—is left blockaded. In France there is a great panic over the stories about emigration from the leading cities of the United States to Mexico. The Emperor was to be recalled from Algeria to Paris, to see what was best to be done, and the Paris correspondent of a London journal declared that he "would not stand it." By the time he begins to fulminate on the subject he will find that our seven day's excitement is all over. There is little use in Europe's trying to shape or direct affairs on this continent. We shall hereafter have things entirely our own way.

To Conductors of Meetings.

The friends who have charge of spiritual meetings in different parts of the country, should be more prompt to inform us of any change that takes place in regard to them. In several localities where meetings have been suspended, no intimation has been given us to that effect, consequently the notices have continued to appear in print. This is not right. We insert the notices of such meetings gratis, whenever they are sent to us, and the least we expect is that someone should feel interest enough to notify us of any changes.

We wish to have our List of Mediums' Appointments and the Notices of Meetings as correct as possible for general reference, and trust that all parties interested will promptly aid us in keeping it so.

The National Fast.

The National Fast in honor of the memory of our late President was observed in this city on the 1st inst. All business was suspended. A procession was formed under the auspices of the city government, composed of about three regiments of military, the Fire Department, State and City officers, Masons and Odd Fellows, the various organized societies of workmen, the benevolent societies, and marched through the city to Music Hall, where an oration was pronounced by Chas. Sumner. The procession was very long, being one hour and three-quarters passing any given point, and was looked upon by hundreds of thousands. Our city rarely if ever has had so many visitors at one time.

Newspaper Change, Etc.

Rev. Moses Hull, of the Kalamazoo Progressive Age, informs us in his paper of May 20th, that that is the last number he shall publish; that it has lived its time and done its work; that it has not received patronage enough to support it, and would have ceased to be ere this, had it not been for the aid of a few whole-souled Spiritualists who came to the pecuniary aid of Bro. Hull. We deeply sympathize with our brother, whose soul is in the good work, and trust that his future labors in behalf of the cause of Spiritualism will be more remunerative. In lieu of the Age, its subscribers will receive the forthcoming 'Belgium Philosophical Herald,' to be issued from Chicago, Ill. We should indeed be ungrateful to our cotemporary, did we not take this occasion to especially thank him for his kind notice of the Banner. In Brother H.'s "Parting Word," he says: "We shall answer calls to lecture anywhere between 'the two seas,' or, perhaps, settle down and take the 'regular' charge of a congregation. We have several invitations to that effect already."

Mrs. H. F. M. Brown also sends out a parting word in the Age, appropriate to the occasion.

We, too, have been through "a sea of trouble" similar to that alluded to by our brother, since we established the Banner; but, by indomitable energy and angelic aid, we have surmounted all obstacles, and are happy to inform our numerous patrons that this paper is now established upon a basis so firm—THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE—that neither foes from within nor foes from without can do us any material harm.

As our patronage increases, we shall, from time to time, add increased talent to our already large corps of contributors, and otherwise improve and beautify our sheet, thus making it not only acceptable to the Spiritualistic reader, but to the public generally. In fact we design it shall be a FIRST-CLASS FAMILY PAPER. And we would here take occasion to announce that we shall publish a fine Story in our next, from the facile pen of Miss Sarah A. Southworth, whose writings are already familiar to our readers. Its title is, "VOLET LEE'S VOW."

Free Meeting next Sunday.

The meetings in Lyceum Hall, next Sunday, June 11th, will be free to the public, afternoon and evening. Mr. J. S. Loveland, one of the ablest minds in the lecturing field, will speak upon the present duties of the Boston Spiritualists in reference to the subject of Children's Sunday Schools or Lyceums, as the great necessity and means for our growth and success as a progressive power in the world. As this is a very important matter, we trust that all parents who have their children's interest at heart, will be present. Our friends appear to be taking hold of this matter with an earnest determination to accomplish something. Success will crown earnest labor in a good cause.

Meetings in Haverhill.

The Haverhill Publisher, of May 30th, speaking of N. Frank White, says: "This eloquent and talented speaker closed his lectures here on Sunday, the subject of the afternoon lecture being 'Special Providences,' and that of the evening 'Individuality, the Ultimate of Unfoldment,' both of which were treated with great ability, and presenting many seemingly new truths with a force and clearness which could scarcely fail to carry conviction to the dullest comprehension. At the close of each lecture a beautiful poem, embodying the sentiments of the remarks, was improvised." Mrs. E. A. Bliss lectures there during this month.

The Picnic.

We are informed by Dr. Gardner that he has made arrangements for a picnic at Island Grove, Abington, on Tuesday, June 20th. Cars will leave the Old Colony Depot at 8 o'clock in the morning. This is the first picnic of the season, and Dr. Gardner was urged by numerous friends who visited the late Convention in this city, as well as our own citizens, to have it take place as early a day as practicable. Our people are eager for the enjoyment of another of those pleasant excursions, so popular of late years, and which afford so much pleasure and recreation, in connection with a spiritual feast for the mind.

"The Gift of Spiritualism."

The work, which we have before referred to, being a series of five lectures delivered by Warren Chase, in Washington, last January, is now ready for delivery. It makes a neat volume of one hundred and eighteen pages, elegantly printed on clear type. Those who have ordered the book will be supplied at once. We anticipate a large sale for it, and trust we shall not be disappointed, for it is well calculated to engage the earnest attention of a large class of readers.

Personal.

Dr. A. Paige, well known in the Northern and Western States as an eminent lecturer on electricity and reform topics, died, on the 26th of May, at his residence in Springfield, Mass., after a painful illness of eleven weeks. He was especially a faithful advocate of the Spiritual Philosophy.

Plymouth Meetings.

Fannie Davis Smith, having recovered from a severe illness, has resumed her position in the lecturing field, and is speaking, during this month, before the society of Spiritualism in Plymouth.

Spiritual Poems.

"VOICES OF THE MORNING," by Belle Bush. The spiritual believers have put forth a large number of books more or less adorned with their peculiar views, but all marked with rather different tendencies. The "Voices of the Morning" is one of these publications, and viewing it as an assortment of pious poetry, it is about the least objectionable in sentiment of anything of a similar kind that we have seen, while the versification itself bears unmistakable evidence of the intellectual ability of the fair poet. Her book contains about seventy poems on as many different subjects, and those of a patriotic, moral and philosophical cast, more particularly, are really very pretty, and deserve to be popular. Spiritual poetry, being beyond our comprehension, presents us from having much on that part of the book.

We will add, however, that we like and always did like the liberality pervading this and the rest of the spiritual publications. They do not, that we can perceive, set up any preceptor or divide off mankind into sects with insurmountable partition walls between them; but they regard the whole human race as belonging to one family, and therefore treat them all kindly, whether they are Jews, Gentiles, or Indians. This is equal, just, democratic, and as it should be. It is the best, for the peace of the world, and nobody will be deemed necessary for the heart; if there is one, in order to guard against the quarrelling and animosity caused by Christian priests and sects.—Boston Investigator.

The Springfield Republican, in speaking of Mr. Garrison, says: "he will now devote himself to the building up of a 'new collective' set based on rationalism and the denial of special revelation." Parkerism reduced to its lowest terms. Mr. Garrison seems determined to have no peace with the city of Springfield.

Message Department.

Each Message in this Department of the BANNER was spoken by the Spirit whose name it bears, through the instrumentality of Mrs. J. H. Conner.

The Circle Room.

Our Free Circles are held at No. 158 WASHINGTON STREET, Room No. 4, (up stairs), on MONDAY, TUESDAY and THURSDAY AFTERNOONS.

Invocation.

"And there shall be no light there?" Heaven grant that the night of oppression, of ignorance, of slavery, in its manifold forms, shall no longer find a resting-place on these fair American shores.

Questions and Answers.

CONTROLLING SPIRIT.—We will now consider the inquiries of your correspondents. CHAIRMAN.—G. T., of Rensselaerville, N. Y., sends two questions, as follows: 1st QUES.—Do individualized evil spirits exist in the spirit-world?

of Jesus, and this should teach you to believe it is liable to be faulty. Q.—What became of Christ's body after it was laid in the tomb? A.—Well, supposing we should tell you that the body was claimed by his father and friends; that the authorities gave it up to them; that it did not find a resting-place where the record says it did? You have many things to learn and many to unlearn.

encouraged me, when I have learned since that he told others he knew I could not live. He didn't do anything for me, because there was no use in it, for I was past being helped. Now instead of telling that to me, and giving me to understand my true condition, he kept me in the dark, for which I've cursed him many times since I went to the spirit-world, and I'll tell you why. In passing out from my body in the way I did, I left my affairs in an unsettled and tangled condition, so much so as to make it almost impossible to straighten them.

blessed privilege of communing with their friends personally, may do so in this indirect way. Q.—Does every soul find in spirit-life what it expects to find? A.—No, we do not think it does; certainly not at once. You may expect to be supremely happy immediately after passing through the change of Death. It does not follow you never will be happy—that your expectations never will be realized.

Q.—It is the "shin's thing," as "whatever is, is right?" A.—Yes; we do not believe in the existence of a second power in the universe. Now, then, if God holds superior control, governs all these manifestations, they must be good, because they are from the great principle of truth, justice, love and wisdom.

SPIRITUALISTS' CONVENTION IN BOSTON. IMPORTANT MOVEMENT FOR THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN. THREE DAYS' SESSION.

(Reported for the Banner of Light.)

FIRST DAY.

The Second Anniversary Convention of New England Spiritualists met at Melancon Hall, Tremont Temple, Tuesday, May 30th, 1865.

The Convention was called to order by Dr. H. F. Gardner, at 10 o'clock, by reading the call published in the Banner.

H. C. Wright was appointed temporary Chairman, and Dr. H. F. Gardner, temporary Secretary.

On motion, J. S. Loveland, F. W. Robbins, Lizzie Doten, A. B. Child, J. Edson, A. E. Giles and O. H. Wellington were appointed a Nominating Committee.

This Committee reported the following persons as permanent officers of the Convention, who were elected:

- H. F. Gardner, Boston, President. H. C. Wright, Lizzie Doten, Boston, Emma Harding, New York, Thomas Middleton, Woodstock, Vt., J. G. Waters, Salem, A. J. Davis, Mary Davis, Orange, N. J., Vice Presidents.

J. S. Loveland, Medford, L. B. Wilson, Boston, Secretaries. Dr. H. F. Gardner, Dr. A. B. Child, J. Wetherbee, Jr., Business Committee.

The following persons, from the several Counties represented in the Convention, were appointed to a Committee on the Call:

- J. S. Loveland, Middlesex, Mass.; Ammi Brown, Suffolk, Mass.; J. Buffum, Essex, Mass.; A. E. Giles, Norfolk, Mass.; F. W. Robbins, Plymouth, Mass.; S. Thayer, J. C. Rae, Bristol, Mass.; Mrs. E. A. Bliss, Hampden, Mass.; J. W. Foster, Androscooggin, Me.; P. Greenleaf, Penobscot, Me.; Dr. N. Randall, Windsor, Vt.; Seth Shaw, Providence, R. I.; R. J. Durant, Grafton, N. H.; N. F. White, New Haven, Conn.; Mrs. P. J. Hussey, Fairfield, Conn.; Anna C. Doubleday, New York City; A. J. Davis, Mary Davis, Orange, N. J.; H. C. Wright, Cosmopolitan.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

On the assembling of the Convention in the afternoon, H. C. Wright presented the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Popular Theology of Christendom, in its fundamental dogmas, ignores the self-evident truths and facts of human nature, and its relation to God, and to the immortal soul, and by so doing it directly tends to darken reason, to stupefy conscience, to bewilder our moral perception, and render the mind incapable of distinguishing between truth and error, and right and wrong; therefore,

Resolved, That it is the sacred duty of all friends of progress to guard their minds from the influence of the demoralizing tendency of that theology, and to be more earnest and constant in their efforts to bring them under the influence of a more noble and rational system of doctrine, and to disseminate these ideas, and to bring men and women, in their domestic, social, commercial, ecclesiastical and governmental relations, under their influence.

Resolved, That the superiority of our ideas of man, of God and immortality over those entertained by the adherents of the Popular Theology, need not be proved by any superior earnestness, wisdom and unselfish devotion in our efforts to save ourselves and our fellow-beings from the evils that result from wrong doing.

He then spoke in explanation of his resolutions. He said every Spiritualist should be a practical reformer, and seek to put out every vestige of the stultifying and demoralizing tenets of the Popular Theology. I know from forty years experience that everything that is vile under heaven has been sanctioned thereby, and found refuge therein. It is to be placed on a par with the mythology of Hindostan. In proof of this, he instanced the dogmas of Immaculate Conception, the Vicarious Atonement, Salvation by Grace, Eternal Hell and the Infallibility of the Bible.

Mr. J. C. Gardner, of the Providence Conference, who startled his clerical brethren by stating in their presence a new idea. He asserted that if ministers and missionaries failed to fully perform their work in this life, they would be obliged to come back and do it. Heaven speed the young man in preaching the fundamental doctrines of Spiritualism.

Dr. Randall affirmed that the demoralizing influence of the Popular Theology was due to the demoralization of the priesthood; and their condition was the natural, necessary result of their being hirelings. Spiritualists, he thought, were in danger from the same cause.

The Rev. Mr. McKee, of Taunton, then took the platform and entered his most emphatic protest against some of the ideas advanced. He evidently did not take kindly the onslaught upon the clergy; and would always defend an absent friend; Jesus had been assailed, and he would defend his Saviour, and also the priesthood.

J. S. Loveland explained that the last speaker mistook, if he supposed that we assailed Christianity. That is one thing, while Popular Theology is quite another thing.

Dr. O. H. Wellington offered to take the Bible as the Word of God, and Jesus as the Saviour of the world, and then prove the common dogmas false therefrom. None of the clergy, however, seemed disposed to accept the challenge.

Anna C. Doubleday, of New York, then, as an avowed demoralizer, and whoever teaches us to look out of hell is false. The old does both.

Elder Miles Grant was recognized by the chair, and remarked that he did not wish to impose his views upon the audience, but direct attention to the call which affirms the demoralizing tendency of the Popular Theology. He asked, if the Bible proves it, is not the Bible doctrine false?

"Yes," from many in the house.

Is it proved by the Bible? "No," from all parts of the hall.

H. C. Wright, in explanation, said: The question is, Is the Popular Theology demoralizing? not, Does the Bible teach it? As to the Bible, he had only to say, that if it denied self-evident truths, it was a self-evident lie. The Bible says, God commanded infants to be stoned because of their father's crime. Things were not truths because they were in the Bible, nor false if not there.

The Resolutions were then laid upon the table, and the Report of the Committee on the Call made in part, when the discussion was resumed by Mr. Douglas, of Maine, who was much surprised at the course which the question had taken. He was a new convert to Spiritualism, and loved the cause because God loved it and the Bible taught it. However, it appeared in the sequel, that he only believed therein so far as it taught a God of Love; the damnation portion he most decidedly repudiated, and thought the old theological teachings to be extremely demoralizing.

J. S. Loveland next called attention to the object of the Convention, which was not to prove the demoralizing influence of the Popular Theology; that was already settled with us; but we propose to here institute a different mode of teaching. Spiritualism is a New Dispensation, a new life, a grand and glorious experience; and we wish to institute a system by which its beautiful teachings can be made potential in the education of our children. We want to be builders of the true, not mere destroyers of the false.

Mr. A. Bradley thought the resolutions did not express the sentiments of Spiritualists; they are for peace, these breathe war. Why not denounce atheism, instead of the church? How are we to fall into the same ditch with others. The last speaker (Mr. Loveland) caused his blood to chill by the malignity of his spirit.

Mr. L. very pleasantly smiled at this compliment to his spiritual status. But a venerable gentleman called the speaker to order, which call the chair sustained.

Mr. Bradley closed by an earnest denial that we have a New Spiritualism.

Mrs. E. A. Bliss stated that she had just come in, and found the Convention in a somewhat disorderly condition, which was much to be regretted. She was much surprised at the old theological spirit here represented by the number of members present in the hall. Mrs. B. very kindly yet distinctly reminded the Reverend gentlemen of the ordinary courtesies expected on such occasions.

EVENING SESSION.

The Convention was called to order by the President; after which Miss Laura Hastings favored us with one of her most beautiful songs.

Dr. A. B. Child opened the speaking with the following address:

Dr. Gardner has announced that the subject prominent before this Convention will be to devise and secure some plan by which our children may be guarded against the demoralizing tendencies of popular theology. The following remarks are not designed to cherish any opposition to popular theology, for it has been right that it had birth, and growth, and maturity, and it is right, also, that it should die. Neither have the following remarks any resistance to popular governments, that are inseparably woven into the tangle of popular theology.

The past has been right, the present is right, and the future will be right—but change is inevitable. And we to the glory of existing institutions when such changes come upon them as this century shall reveal. Justice and mercy—justice and charity is the theme of the following remarks. In popular theology, and in popular governments, justice is a very large institution, and charity is very small. I get the meaning of the word justice from every-day life, from the practices and professions of the people, and with the people's definition of justice, with their practices in justice, I do not feel bashful in saying that human justice is a sort of phantom—a juggle—phantom, that can be seen only when it is dark. There is no virtue in justice, nor is there justice in any form for virtue stand above the need of justice. Charity is a virtue, justice is not. Virtues, in practice alone, can make light shine on the present darkness of the moral world.

Like stars, virtues shine brightest when the heavens are the darkest. As one star differs from another star in magnitude and beauty, in light and power, so virtues differ; and, of all the virtues, charity is the greatest.

"One star alone of all the train, Can guide the sterner, enduring eye."

And that star is charity. It is charity that gave brightness and attained heaven to the Star of Bethlehem. In silence it directed the footsteps of the Wise Men of the East. In silence, too, it shall direct the footsteps of the wise men of the world. Some time in the future development of human wisdom there will be no power so powerful to move the tide of popular sentiment as charity; for there is no influence so genial, so generous, so fervent, so effectual, for human nature. In every department of human government charity will be the guiding star, when man shall govern man in wisdom. All the efforts of man, isolated or combined, to banish sin and crime from the world, have failed, and will fail forever, until a governing man with some government that shall differ from the government of popular theology, which is, in church and state, too, human justice. The institution of human justice is a bundle of self-righteousness; the timbers in the fabric are rotten, and the superstructure will fall in this century.

Justice and judgment, payment and punishment through long centuries, have been sought for to lessen the crimes and the sins of the world. In the acts of justice are cruelities, penalties, blood, agonies, sorrows; and from every track of human justice, crime and sin issue. From the least to the present day, crime was never so vigorous as it is now; sin never so mighty. Justice, in human hands, has done all it can do; it has failed to do the work that man designed it should, viz., to balance the morals of men, to set the world all right, to cast out sin and crime. The work of justice has been mighty in power and wide-spread in magnitude. It has planted sin and crime everywhere where human beings are, while man has intended it for the destruction of both.

Man supposed that justice would measure life, to measure men, to weigh their morals in the balance, to compare their deeds, to repair the acts of yesterday; while justice is really to measure corn and potatoes, wood, cloth, land, etc., with Justice, in human hands, is for physics, not for metaphysics.

Justice may measure boards, and cloth, and land, and weigh in the balance, but it can never measure life—pulsating, thinking, feeling, willing life. Life is measureless, and so are all its attributes.

All that can be judged can be measured. Judgment is comparison, comparison is the work of justice. "The common cannot be compared or judged, for there is no measuring string to reach and measure the cause of their production. It is a great while since Christ told man to judge not his fellow-man—to not compare the acts of men, their morals and religions, but to forgive seventy times seven, and to resist no evil. Christ taught and practiced charity.

A Church of justice is not the Church of Christ. Popular theology is a Church of justice; justice knows no charity. All the righteousness that government of justice has ever shown the world is not worth the ink to write it down, or the paper to make the record on. And yet what large professions of charity all governments of justice have made. How large are the professions of charitable deeds in popular theology, and in the morals of the world. But where are they to be seen? Is the murderer forgiven? Is the robber forgiven? Is any one forgiven that violates either one of the ten commandments of ancient times? No, not one, not one.

Charity may have shed some feeble rays on the demeanor of real friendship, and some stronger rays may have fallen on a mother's love; like a bird of passage it may have lit upon a lover's heart to fly away. Its holy influence, like a falling meteor, has only yet flashed upon this dark world to bless it. In all the history of the past there is no record of charity in the laws of justice. A man of justice, simply, does not know what charity is; it is a leaf that he has never yet turned in the expansion of his progression.

The meanest man in the world may be a just man, but a charitable man must be a generous man.

"Justice before mercy." So it is; as childhood is before manhood, so justice is before mercy. The old Bible gives justice preeminence; the new Bible makes charity supersede all the demands of justice, however exalted it was esteemed in the past. As Christ stands superior to Moses—or rather, as the precepts of Christ stand superior to the laws of Moses—so shall charity stand superior to the laws of the world superior in its rulings, to justice. As the generous love and liberality of the popular religion of the next century shall stand superior to the bloody bigotry of the past and present, so the manhood of charity shall come, after the childhood of justice.

In morals, justice is simply revenge; it takes life when life is taken; it steals the liberty of the thief, and for pain and sorrow given, pain and sorrow are returned in punishment. Justice reproaches the sin, and often the same sin it punishes. Justice aims to secure the safety of the people, while it places the people in jeopardy, in its rulings, to justice. As the generous love and liberality of the popular religion of the next century shall stand superior to the bloody bigotry of the past and present, so the manhood of charity shall come, after the childhood of justice.

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Just men have never come to read the motto on the title page of justice yet, which is: "Do unto others not as you would have others do unto you."

The world has never known the danger of justice and the security of charity. Wisdom has kept men blind to the dangers of justice, it has been their schooling in it. Had not this order of things been so, mankind would not have embarked in so dangerous a practice. Children play with edged tools, not knowing their real use. They cut their flesh, their blood runs, and their tears flow. Men know the use of edged tools; that they are to cut wood, hay, cloth, &c., with, not flesh. So spiritual manhood has learned that justice is for dead things—not for living life. But the experiences of childhood must be passed to come to manhood.

As man must pass the sad experiences of suffering, so to this end the wisdom of Nature makes him severely believe, in his early years, that justice, in his earthly life, is his only security. So he sets about the work. The working capital is large, and is all invested in state-houses, meeting-houses, court-houses, prison-houses, navies, armies—and these are the institutions of popular theology. All these institutions are only for the support of justice. And I tell you, in the name of reason, man handles justice in these institutions with no more discretion than babies handle open razors. It is the business of Nature, not of man, to deal justice to the moral world.

If justice in human hands that makes human blood run, justice that makes human hearts ache. It is justice directly and indirectly, that makes the great volume of human sorrows everywhere. But all this is well, and is a necessity in the ordinances of nature. Man's greenness must be passed through. Nature lets man have his childish ways, so that in the cruel experiences that come therefrom, he may read his folly, and thereby learn to be a man. When a man gets smart enough to see how foolish nature makes him cut to cure him of his folly, he will no longer need the curse of justice.

When people demand the blood of man on the battle-field, demand that an evil doer be punished, be imprisoned, suffer the horrors of solitude or execution on the gallows—look at that people, then look at Moses, then look at Christ, then count the long generations of slow progression through which that people has to travel in sorrow to come from the retributive justice of Moses, from the childlikeness of the Church and State, to the practical charity of the liberalism of Christ.

Behold no man standing before the world a Christian, a generous man, a follower of Christ, before he follows his neighbor, his countryman, his enemy, his follower everywhere, every of one, without any payment, without any punishment.

Justice has no command for charity; it cannot prescribe or proscribe it. Justice is of the earth earthly—charity is of heaven heavenly. Justice is physical—charity is divine. Death dismembers and dissolves the former, and unshackles and frees the latter. Justice is the instrument of man's meaner nature, charity of his diviner nature. Justice asks payment for debt—charity forgives all debts. Justice asks payment, and gives punishment for debt—charity gives to the thief what he stole, and more than he stole, and treats him with clemency and generosity. Justice says, "Take the life of the murderer, for he hath taken my life"—charity says, "Oh Father, forgive the murderer, for he knoweth not what he doeth." Justice makes the bleeding wounds of sin and crime bleed more—charity binds them up and heals them. Justice sees only effects that fall—charity sees causes that endure. Justice sees one side—charity sees all sides. Justice deals with fragments, angles, thorns—charity with whole things, circles, round worlds.

Charity is more than the forgiveness of sins, it is the perception of use in what justice condemns as sin. It dissolves the material incrustations of sectarianism; it obliterates the fabulous lines that man's childhood has drawn to distinguish the holy from the wicked.

A man of Christian charity, of broad liberality, is perfectly satisfied, in his own mind, that he merit and demerit in morality and in religion, is a human fiction.

Justice is bigotry, sectarianism, partyism—charity is liberalism, one great brotherhood, one family, one faith, one God who is everywhere and in everything. One is the devil, a fiction—charity is the millennium, is a reality. Justice will converge and come to an end—charity will grow wider, as the soul of man goes further on. Justice is popular theology and popular government—charity is a new theology, a new government, which the liberalism of the world has to gain through terrible conflicts yet.

Charity sees use in all sects and all parties, in all religions, good and bad, and in all men, in one sect, in one religion, and only in the actions, itself called good. Charity sees God in everybody and in everything. Justice sees God only in self, and in what is good for selfishness, in what is agreeable to self. Justice sees only a little God, sees God only in part. Charity sees a great God—God in all things. To see God in everything is to see use and goodness in everything—to see design, wisdom and purpose in all the world. Our goodness and use are seen in everything, our charity covers everything. Charity for a thing is the need and the dearness of the man to us.

Charity knows no sin. Where the sun shines, darkness is not. Where charity is, sin does not abound. Charity covers a multitude of sins. As the gardener covers weeds to destroy them, so charity covers sins to destroy them. The round eye of charity sees all things lovely.

Every success reached for by the hand of human justice will, sooner or later, be a failure. No success reached for by the hand of charity can ever be a failure. An enemy is dangerous, and justice never turned an enemy. Charity will always. As the warm rays of the summer sun dissolve the cold ice of winter, so the soft influences of charity will soften an enemy's heart.

He who has an enemy is always an enemy to his enemy; so he who has an enemy always stands on a level with his enemy. Charity steps in, and enemies go out of the heart. Enemies make the world dangerous, and justice makes enemies. What the world wants is security—is safety. Whether can be had under the rule of justice. The rule of charity is the people's security; the justice of a people is a people's destruction.

So far as this Convention, or any other, shall go to incite and foster in the minds of men and children acts of charity between one and another, so far it shall have gone toward rearing a column that shall support the new and eternal superstructure of the grand temple of liberalism, that ere this century ends, all may come and worship in.

No one seeming in a hurry to speak, J. Wetherbee, Jr., took the platform, and proceeded to criticize some of the Doctor's positions, as follows: "I feel as though I ought to say a few words in behalf of justice. Do we not every one of us love the Golden Rule to be a virtue? But it is justice. Are not there some shortcomings on the part of charity? Our friend says justice pertains to physics—to measurement. But when the body comes under the domain of chemical law, you can no more measure it than you can man in his life. I think I have seen some of the meanest men God ever made, and should be loth to have them present as models of justice. I have one in mind who would travel from Roxbury to Boston to pay a sixpence, if mistake had been made, and yet is extremely mean. The speaker then detailed a conversation between an aged lady and the Rev. Lyman Beecher. She was desirous of uniting with his church, but could not believe in endless damnation, and to pave the way Mr. Beecher told her he believed God had power to save all men if he chose. (Bro. Wetherbee, who was a Baptist, had his Sunday School lesson spotted by this remark.) It is said that a leg of mutton once spoke Populists' theology audibly to us all that it is poison.

Mr. Woodman, of Maine, followed, saying, No theology can be taught unless it rest upon a true philosophy, and no true philosophy except it rest on facts. We now learn that the spirit is not a mere point, but is in the form of the body. We find that all the phenomena of Nature are the product of spirit-power. Spirits are not a direct creation of God, but are impartations of the Divine Spirit. The popular theology teaches that salvation is mechanical, and can be wrought in an instant of time. The doctrine of forgiveness of sins, as taught by the Church, is extremely demoralizing. There is a sort of allegorical truth in all these old notions, but they are obscured and hid that they are veritable falsehoods.

Uriah Clark said he supposed by the popular theology we mean the doctrines of the Evangelical Church. We are too wholesale in our condemnation of these doctrines; for they are not false in toto, but are the perversion of true principles. He illustrated his position by referring to the promise of the Holy Spirit. He had no sympathy with the light and flippant manner in which many spoke of the blood of the Holy Martyr of Calvary. He did, in a strong sense, die for man, and was the type of all noble souls who have given their lives for the welfare of others.

A. J. Davis followed, urging the need of social influence. We are here to represent our children, and should not spend too much time on old theology, but begin the work of reconstruction. Instead of a song, he read the programme, after which H. C. Wright spoke of the young as tender plants, needing care and culture. Let us learn how to work by the zeal of the sects.