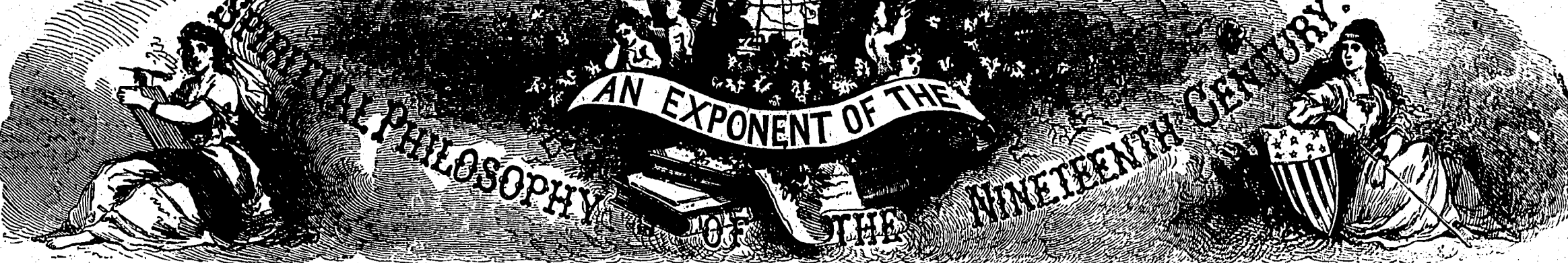


# BANNER OF LIGHT.



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NO. 20.

## GOD.

GIVEN INSPIRATIONALLY THROUGH JAMES H. WHITE, OF  
MANCHESTER, N. H.

I've seen earth's weary, care-worn sons  
Bowed down by heavy grief;  
Have heard them in their dark despair  
Ask God to send relief.

I've seen the strongest spirit bow  
'Neath error's iron rod!  
And from my soul these questions came,  
What, who, and where is God?

A wondrous, strange, unearthly thrill  
O'er all my being came;  
My spirit seemed to rise aloft  
In chariot of flame.

An angel form stood by my side,  
Robed in such pearly light  
As pale Aurora flings around  
The brow of starry night.

We floated on through realms of space,  
To lands beyond the seas,  
Until we felt the cool caress  
Of Araby's sweet breeze.

I saw the desert's dusky sons,  
Each brow with crescent crowned,  
Bowing devoutly toward the east,  
For there their God was found.

A thousand tongues the anthem swelled  
Up to the welkin blue—  
"Our God is God, Mahomet said,  
And he God's prophet true."

The vision changed; we passed along  
Like phantoms in a dream,  
Until we seemed to stand beside  
A swiftly running stream.

I stood beside that mighty tide,  
Whose waves restless rolled,  
Reflecting back the noonday sun  
Like bars of burning gold!

A mother stood beside the stream,  
An infant at her breast,  
A splash, a cry, and all was o'er—  
Her babe had sunk to rest.

"Oh holy Ganga! hear my prayer;  
Oh hear me, goddess mild!  
Protect my home from sword and fire—  
I give to thee my child!"

With shuddering heart I turned away;  
Strange music fills my ear;  
A lofty temple placed on wheels  
Was slowly drawing near.

Tier above tier a thousand gods  
Sat on their gilded thrones;  
The temple's course was plainly marked  
By human blood and bones.

Drawn by a crowd of frantic men,  
With crash of drum and gong,  
With gesture wild and frenzied eye  
They sing their holy song.

They cast themselves beneath its wheels,  
A willing sacrifice;  
Hoping for this their god would raise  
Their souls to paradise.

The vision changed to a temple grand;  
Incense perfumed the air,  
And mild priests and veiled nuns  
Chanted a solemn prayer.

The sunlight fell through rich stained glass,  
Like a shower of sparkling gems;  
Crowning the brow of sculptured saints  
With glittering diadems.

All eyes were on a picture turned,  
Painted with wondrous art,  
Of a mother clasping an infant child  
Close to her bleeding heart.

Above the mother and her child  
Was carved a dying man,  
Nail'd to a cross and crown'd with thorns,  
With features pale and wan.

"Ora pro nobis," rose their prayer,  
"Father, thy will be done;  
Jesus, have mercy; mother, hear  
And save, for thy sweet son."

The vision fades, the chant grows faint,  
My soul to earth returns;  
Yet deep within my heart's recess  
This truth now brightly burns.

The God thou seek'st is everywhere;  
All Nature owns his power.  
You see him in the mighty oak,  
And in the budding flower.

You see him in the sparkling dew,  
In the running stream;  
He shines in every glittering star,  
And every sunny beam.

God never meant the race of man  
To be his abject slaves,  
He never meant the grand old earth  
To be a world of graves!

We will not call thee Lord or God,  
"Our Father be thy name;  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
In earth and heaven the same."

We do not ask for daily bread,  
For that thy hand doth give;  
But, Father, send thine angels down,  
And teach men how to live.

Teach them to walk the paths of life  
In hope and joy, not fear;  
To feel thy presence beat them up,  
And know that thou art near.

And when this mortal life is o'er,  
Safe folded in thy love,  
We'll join to praise thee evermore  
In our bright home above.

A religious journal says it is not preaching which kills preachers, but dyspepsia. It is spending hours and hours writing dry essays which no one else will ever read. It is standing up, half choked with a stiff cravat and a close collar, in the attempt to read a prosy sermon, till the face is livid and the brain is paralyzed, instead of standing erect, free and clear, and talking earnest common sense.

Allice Cary is now 48, Fanny Fern 60, Catharine Beecher 70, and Harriet Beecher Stowe 53.

## NOTES FROM VERMONT.

BY DEAN CLARK.

EDITORS BANNER OF LIGHT—Possibly some of your vast number of readers may wish to learn how your humble correspondent came out of his recent ordeal with "a Pharisee of the straightest sect," and to allay all anxiety in regard to my fate, I pen a few notes to inform them that "I still live," and though physically "rather the worse for wear," and not so badly whipped but that I am manned for action any time another Orthodox pugilist is found "spilling for a fight."

As it is consistent with the character of my adversary to claim a victory, I suppose I must be generous enough to allow that in the use of slang, sophistry, pettifoggery fallacies and clerical cant, I was wholly unequal to him, and in repeated efforts at misrepresenting the position and arguments of his opponent, as well as in twisting and perverting the obvious meaning of unpalatable Bible texts, also in constant attempts to depreciate the importance of the spiritual phenomena of to-day, while swallowing the camels of ancient days with the avidity of Aaron's serpent, I must candidly confess that he is "alone in his glory," as I would not stoop to conquer in that way.

From the representations of some of his enthusiastic rustic votaries who had conceived him to be a veritable Ajax, I supposed that I should have a formidable foe, at least equal to Goliath or Samson, but the only resemblance I discovered to the former was in purpose, and the swaggering spirit with which he "defied the armies of the living God"—the spirit host—and the nearest parallel to the latter was that he used the same weapon with which Samson slew the thousand Philistines.

Perhaps I am possessed of the same stupidity as Santa Anna attributed to Gen. Taylor, whom he declared that he "had beaten three times, but the old d— didn't know it," for I must confess that my conviction is strong that a few more such victories as my opponent won, would serve his cause as badly as one more such question as "Who made dat fence?" would have served the old darkey's theology, who declared that "God made de fust man out of clay, and set him up 'gainst the fence to dry." At all events, I envy not the laurels my antagonist received from his coadjutors and sympathizers.

When I made the arrangements for the discussion, I supposed I was to meet my opponent single-handed, but found that he was supported by a body-guard composed of two or three of his leading churchmen and a Methodist minister, who prompted him continually through the discussion, and gave him some of the best thoughts he uttered, besides acting as refrigerators upon his choler, which several times threatened to "boil over."

I was greatly amused to learn that at one time he was so desperately pushed to the wall on Bible grounds, that he was compelled to consult one of two Universalist ministers living in town, as to the best means of escape from "the common enemy," (?) thus illustrating the compact of Pilate and Herod, and making another analogy between ancient and modern times. Truly "a fellow-feeling makes us wondrous kind!"

As there was no professional reporter present, and I know not that even a synoptical report will be made by any of my friends, I will sketch a few of the positions assumed and presumed by my dogmatic opponent. He declared that the Bible was all the revelation God ever designed for man, and that therefore the continuation of "spiritual gifts," which he persisted in calling miracles, is contrary to the divine economy, and there is no more necessity for them now, the divinity of Christ and the Orthodox plan of salvation having been established by them; furthermore, to establish this position, he quoted Deut. iv: 2—Rev. xxii: 18-19, as God's special commands against any further revelations. Said that the whole spiritual phenomena were "as useless as a foot in length to a cat's tail," that in presenting what I called cognate Bible phenomena, I "had slobbered over the whole thing;" (I give his classical language verbatim, thinking that some of his posterity may wish to preserve a few samples of the elegant diction of their chaste and fastidious predecessor;) that all the modern phenomena could be accounted for as hallucination, jugglery and necromancy; that the promise of and the continuance of the "spiritual gifts" was confined to a brief period—the first two or three centuries—and were then withdrawn by God; that the parable of Dives and Lazarus showed that there is an impassable gulf between this and the spirit-world; that speaking "in tongues" to-day is mere gibberish; that the "spiritual gifts" that were promised to continue were the Christian graces, faith, hope, charity, brotherly love, &c.; that the apostolic gift of "discerning of spirits" meant finding out the character of men; that the pretended prophecies of to-day were no parallel of Bible prophecies, for they are of only insignificant events; that the sick are healed to-day, "if at all, by getting the patient into a sweat and snapping the disease off from the fingers!" And finally as a coup de main to show the utter impossibility of the spiritual phenomena's coming from the same source as the spiritual gifts of the ancient prophets, seers and apostles, he emphatically declared that spirit communion was strictly forbidden by God, citing Deut. xviii: 10-11-12, and Isa. lviii: 19 to prove it, and therefore modern phenomena are the "lying wonders" that Christians were cautioned against.

These were the principal points that he made which had any bearing upon the resolution; the greater part of all he said was a rebash of Orthodox theology, and had as little to do with the question as it had with good sense, common politeness and sound logic. His principal answer to the many important facts of spirit-phenomena that I testified to having seen, heard and felt, which testimony is confirmed by millions of living and unimpeachable witnesses, was to cavil at the testi-

mony and sneer at the facts. He chuckled with taunting exultation when he demanded of us to demonstrate our claims there and then by healing a lame boy in the audience and a sick brother in the village, claiming, in his characteristic conceit and ignorance of the laws of spirit-control, that all of the requisite conditions were there!

Heeding Solomon's injunction for such cases "made and provided," I concluded to answer him "according to his folly," and told him that he reminded me of a certain other personage who took Jesus upon the pinnacle of a temple and said, "If thou be the Son of God cast thyself down," &c. Also of his ancient prototypes, who, in a similar jeering manner, demanded of Jesus "a sign" of his power, and I would answer him as Jesus did the old Pharisees, viz: "A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh a sign, but no sign shall be given unto them." I reminded him that Jesus "did not many mighty works because of their unbelief," when he visited his place of nativity, and I could not expect not to be expected to excel so distinguished a healer, especially as healing was not my forte!

I asked him if he claimed to be "called of God to preach," and, receiving an emphatic affirmative answer, I reminded him that I might with equal propriety "return the compliment" and ask for his credentials—the signs that Jesus said should "follow them that believe," and the "gift" that Peter declared was "unto even as many as the Lord our God shall call!" Acts ii: 39. Seeing that "discernment" would be "the better part of valor," he did not again press his demand for "a sign," but demanded that I should show that the dead are raised as Lazarus. In response I read several similar cases from Brittan's "Man and His Relations," together with his lucid and rational explanation of the raising of Lazarus, reconciling the apparent discrepancy between the declarations of Jesus, that "This sickness is not unto death," "After that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth," with this: "Jesus said plainly, Lazarus is dead."

But Brittan's scientific explanation, notwithstanding he accepts the letter of the text, would not at all answer the Orthodox idea of miracles, so my choleric friend dismissed it, indignantly denouncing it as "perfect sophistry," an ultimatum from which was no use to appeal, as an expert in the use of a thing is supposed to be a good judge of its nature!

In presenting the grounds upon which I based the resolution for discussion, I assumed the generally admitted belief in the unchangeability of God and the immutability of his laws; claimed that all the phenomena of the universe, spiritual as well as physical, were produced in accordance with natural laws, all of which are divine, as God is their author; stated the philosophical axiom that like causes produce like effects, and the converse, that like effects must be produced by similar causes; then rehearsed the "spiritual gifts" enumerated by Paul in I Cor. xii; then proceeded to narrate facts in my own experience and the recorded testimony of others, which perfectly illustrate the identity of the modern with the ancient phenomena—such as prophesying, speaking in diverse kinds of tongues, healing the sick by laying on of hands, presenting of materialized spirit-hands that sometimes write a fac simile of the chirography of the departed spirit, the first test of D. D. Home and others, levitation of human bodies and of ponderous physical objects, &c., &c., and, moreover, I claimed that all of the "spiritual gifts" enumerated by Paul were in full exercise to-day, that most of the real spiritual phenomena recorded in the Bible were reduplicated in these times, in kind, if not fully in degree, and that there is now a far greater diversity of gifts than in those days, thus proving the truth of Jesus' assertion, "The works that I do shall he do also, and greater works than these shall he do, because I go to my Father."

I feel warranted in asserting that I paralleled enough of the phenomena of the Bible record, with facts of my own experience and observation and that of thousands of others, to establish the truth of my Resolution, so far as human testimony can establish truth in the minds of honest inquirers; then I answered my opponent's points (which, by courtesy, I will call arguments), as follows: I proved that his assertion that the Bible is all the revelation God designed for man, &c., was purely dogmatic assumption, unwarranted by any claims of the book itself, and contrary to the letter and spirit of many of its passages; and in the light of the grand and startling revelations now coming, such a presumptuous assumption is little less than a blasphemous assumption of a perfect knowledge of the purposes of Infinite Wisdom! To substantiate this position, I quoted Eccl. iii: 15, "That which hath been, is now; and that which is to be, hath been; and God requirereth that which is past." Also Mark xiv: 15-17-18, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. And these signs shall follow them that believe," &c. Also Acts ii: 39, in which Peter, referring to this very promise of Jesus, says: "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." I asked if the promise of the "gifts" was not commensurate with the command to preach, and the existence of actual beliefs, and to as many as God had called, or would call? Moreover, I reminded my opponent that Jesus declared, near the close of his earthly career, "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth," thus clearly indicating that the truths of God are to be progressively revealed, as fast as mankind can bear them.

As to the commandments against "adding to and taking from," &c., that they had sole reference to corrupting the writings of Moses and John, is evident from the fact that the Bible, as a whole, did not exist for centuries after they were given; besides, if Moses meant that no more revelations

should be added to what he had then given, the whole Bible, after the fourth chapter of Deuteronomy, was added in violation of his command. No student of history who knows how the Bible was made up, rendering what we have out of a vast amount of manuscript, canonical by human votes, will be frightened by those commandments, especially since Paul enjoins us to "prove all things," and Jesus said, "Why judge ye not of yourselves what is right?"

As to the continuance of the apostolic gifts, I quoted several Evangelical authorities, proving that they were common as late as the fourth century, and that there have been spiritual manifestations in every age and among every people on earth, the modern priesthood to the contrary notwithstanding! As to whether "spiritual gifts" are necessary now or not, let us ask if the followers of Christ have fulfilled his commandment to "go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature?" If not, and the Christian ministry are acting under this command, as they claim, will right have them to deny that "these signs shall follow them that believe?" Will they thus "go back" on the authority which they claim has commissioned them? If so, let us hear less from them about "denying the Bible!" The fact that Infidelity and Materialism were never more rife than when modern manifestations began, and that they (the manifestations) have convinced millions of skeptics of immortality, and of the fact of ancient revelations, is enough to prove both their necessity and usefulness! Besides, the fact that these manifestations are flooding the whole earth with a divine baptism which heals the sick, comforts the mourners, enlightens the ignorant, and blesses, in every way, those who use the "gift" aright, is conclusive evidence that "God is no respecter of persons," but that in accordance with the divine economy of demand and supply, he is now giving "the Holy Spirit to every one that seeketh," that "the knowledge of him may cover the whole earth, as the waters cover the sea!"

In answer to the long-since exploded theory of hallucination, jugglery, &c., I read from Rev. Chas. Beecher's Report, his logical and rational conclusion, in substance, that the same theory would sweep its way through the whole Bible, and explain the similar phenomena there recorded!

This turning of an Orthodox battery upon my opponent's col-house or "man of straw," put him in great perturbation, from which he at last found relief in a borrowed witicism from some writer who said: "There are three classes of men, saints, sinners, and the Beecher family." He disapproved the Rev. Beecher, thinking, I suppose, that his anathema against the man would annihilate the truth he had uttered, as did his prototypes who persecuted Galileo!

I showed that we had in our ranks learned jurists, astute philosophers, and profound scientists, who cannot be hallucinated, or imposed upon by jugglers, and it evinces an unpardonable ignorance of the vast array of facts, and of the many far more rational theories of explanation that have been abandoned as shallow and fallacious, for a person now to "return to the vomit" of dogmatic wisecracks.

His claim that "speaking in tongues" is all gibberish, is another exhibition of his ignorance of scores of cases that have been tested by Judge Edmonds, Gov. Talmadge, Prof. Bush, Mapes and many others. Such an assertion deserves simply contempt.

I showed that he grossly perverted the Scriptures, by claiming that the gulf between Dives and Lazarus was between this and the spirit-world; for the account represents both as in Hades, or the land of souls. But I was glad he referred to the parable, for it was a grand Scriptural evidence of the truth of Spiritualism.

I proved that his assertion—that the spiritual gifts that were promised to continue, were simply Christian graces, was another unpardonable misrepresentation of both the letter and spirit of the promise. Jesus said, "He that believeth in me the works that I do shall he do also," &c. "These signs shall follow them that believe: in my name they shall cast out demons; they shall speak with new tongues," &c. And Peter said expressly: "And ye shall receive the Holy Ghost; for the promise is unto you," &c. Nothing can be plainer than that the gifts were the same as Christ and his apostles had exercised, and I know not whether to pity or despise a clergyman who will thus misrepresent his own authority!

That the "discerning of spirits" meant of spirits out of the mortal body is obvious to me, for the character of men was not called "spirits" in the Bible phraseology.

But even if it meant "discerning the character of men," nearly every modern medium has the same gift, so what is the use of making a distinction where there is no difference?

In regard to the importance of modern prophecies, the spirit of my resolution did not require that I should prove the comparative importance of any of the present spiritual gifts, but only that they are the same gifts in kind, as those mentioned in the Bible, which I have done fully; but that the prophecies of to-day are as important in significance as any ever made, all know who know anything about them, for they have related to the welfare and fate of individuals, of nations, and of the whole world!

My opponent's philosophy of the gift of healing by the laying on of hands, as done to-day, is as lucid and rational as most of his explanations, and it proves to me the truth of Paul's declaration: "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are a foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." But though my opponent is evidently too ignorant of spiritual things, and of both physiological and psychological laws to understand how diseases are healed by spirit power through human hands, I beg leave to inform him that the law is the same, and the modus operandi the same as in the days of

Jesus, and his learned and sagacious explanation bears the same upon the ancient as the modern practice.

Regarding the commandments cited against spirit intercourse, I showed that they belonged in the same category with the one authorizing parents to stone their stubborn children to death; the one forbidding to eat the heart; the one forbidding to mix linen and woolen in garments; the one authorizing the Jews not to eat meat that dieth of itself, but to give it away to an alien, or sell it to a stranger; the one commanding to observe the Seventh day, and numerous others that are wholly disregarded to-day by all Christians. Why then select this one from all the other dead Jewish Statutes, designed solely for the Israelites? Simply because it is the dernier resort of a forlorn cause, that has already reached "the last ditch!"

To show that those commandments were set aside when the New Dispensation commenced, I quoted Gal. iii: 19 to 25: "Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions till the seed should come to whom the promise was made. . . . Is the law then against the promise of God? God forbid. Before faith came we were kept under the law. . . . Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, but after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster." Also Eph. ii: 15: "Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances." Also Col. ii: 14: "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross." What more is wanted to show from the Bible itself that we are no longer under the old Levitical laws? The fact that Moses himself came to Jesus, Peter, James and John, repudiates the law, and one of the old prophets came to John on Patmos in defiance of the ordinance. Besides Paul says: "Concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant." "Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts." "I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied." The New Testament is a continuous record of angelic or spiritual manifestations, just such as we have now, and it behooves those who so malignantly light against these continued evidences of the impartial love of God, to heed the advice of Gamaliel to the same class of opposers—"Lest haply ye be found even to fight against God!"

Thus I withstood the assaults of this modern Pharisee, whose valor was so subdued that he failed to close the debate on the first day, and he so strenuously urged it on the second day, that the question was submitted to the audience as to its further continuance, and a good majority voting for its continuance the appointed time, he was reluctantly forced to appear, but it evidently "went against his grain," for his manner indicated serious disturbance in the basilar region of the brain. On the second day there were premonitory symptoms of an eruption of bile, for he took up a book that contains nauseating potions, prepared by theological quacks from the scum that still floats, in small quantities, on the borders of the great spiritual ocean, and was about to take a dose, and spew out the "abundance of his heart," but sundry pullings of his coat-tail by his body guard, together with the administration of a sedative by me, in the form of an assurance that I had accounts of nearly three hundred ministers of the gospel, who, within a few years, have committed every crime known in the catalogue, besides statistics from State's prisons that would be unpalatable to those who "live in glass houses"—these two antispasmodics settled his nerves for that day.

But as pent up wrath, like volcanic fire, must have vent, and as an illustration of the old proverb: "Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad," and like the boy who had been beaten in a scuffle with a companion, who consoled himself by tauntingly saying to his victor, "Well, if I can't lick you I can make up faces at your sister," my reverend opponent, in his last speech, after "dealing damnation round the land" on Spiritualists generally, capped the climax of vindictive folly by "returning to his vomit," i.e. to the book of his love, and making a slight scowl of disapprobation upon the face of a Spiritualist lady a pretext of compulsion (for what he had long chafed to spew forth), he read an obscene and scandalous article purporting to be a spiritual communication, which (if it was not a forgery), very likely might have been dictated by one of Lot's daughters, Tiahah the harlot, or some of those "strange women" whom Solomon and several other Bible characters "went after," or more likely still, by some of the many Orthodox ministers who, while on earth, lived after the lusts of the flesh!

Having delivered himself of that dainty morsel so congenial to his taste, he wound up his tirade by asserting that that was a sample of Spiritualism, and advised us all to repent and come to the Church-fold.

Having that spirit within me that "can smile at Satan's rage, and face a frowning world," I heeded not the wrathful vapors of my self-vanquished opponent, but, like the governor whom a donkey had kicked, considering whom it came from, and having "that charity which covers a multitude of sins," which suffereth long and is kind, I forgave all misrepresentations and insults to the fraternity whom I had the honor to represent, and closed by portraying some of the broad, liberal and philanthropic teachings of Spiritualism, that enable us to bear persecution, forgive our enemies and do good to them that hate us.

Thus have I sketched a few of the points of the debate which was my first tilt with a representative enemy before the public. I was very unwell during the entire debate, and left much undone that otherwise I could and should have done. We had an excellent chairman, and the large audience gave us marked and respectful attention. I do not suppose that I made many converts among opposers, but I reaped ears with facts that will set the mind in motion, which I could not have reached in any other way; and though I did not fully silence my adversary, who, like Goldsmith's schoolmaster, "even though vanquished, would argue still," yet I trust that I convinced him that the Spiritualists carry guns enough to defend themselves with, and that he will be more respectful toward his real friends in the future. So mote it be.



## Spiritual Phenomena.

EXTRACTS FROM A DIARY OF SPIRITUAL PHENOMENA.

NO. II.

BY A. E. CARPENTER.

June 24, 1870.—This evening several friends met together in Dr. Storer's rooms for the purpose of organizing a series of meetings to discuss questions pertaining to the facts and philosophy of Spiritualism, but as the attendance was small, we decided to postpone business and spend the evening in a social way. While we were chatting upon various topics, Mrs. Friend was influenced to write, mechanically, the following directions: "Bring out the small table, and the medium with two others sit around it, joining hands. Let the others form a circle outside the small one, and we will try to give you some test of our presence. We have no choice as to who shall sit with the medium. After her hands are held make the room dark."

We immediately arranged ourselves according to directions. H. S. Williams and George A. Bacon holding the medium's hands, while the outside circle also joined hands, and I turned out the light. In less than a minute, something was heard to fall upon the small table. Mrs. Friend says, "Bro. Storer, I seem to be up in your room, (a private room occupied by the Doctor and his wife on the floor above, and in front of the room in which we were sitting.) How strange it is! I can see everything about the room as plainly as though I was actually there. I now see into the drawer of your secretary; there are some cards lying in the drawer under all the papers, that have pictures on them." "On which side of the drawer?" the Doctor asked. "On the right," she replied. "I have some photographic cards like those she has described," said the Doctor; "but my impression was that they were in another place; however, we will look and see by-and-by."

The medium then said, "I see a spirit who wants to say something to Dr. Storer; he gives his name as Frank. He impresses me to say to you that he has come to fulfill his promise which he made while in conversation with you a short time ago." He continues: "you remember that I promised you that I would come and communicate with you the first opportunity. I am here." "Yes," replied Storer; "I remember, Frank, and I am delighted to find that you are able to come so soon." Then speaking to the rest of the company Storer said: "When I visited my friend Frank Marshall, whose funeral I attend to-morrow, some few weeks ago, he promised me that if it was possible he would improve the first opportunity to manifest himself through Mrs. Friend. He has now redeemed his promise, although his body has been dead but two or three days. I have mentioned this to no one, having purposely avoided doing so, that it might be, as it is, an excellent test."

By request of the spirits the room was then lighted, and lying upon the table was found a small gold chain, in the shape of an anchor, a very delicate and beautiful emblem, which was the substance that was heard to fall at the commencement of the sitting. The question arose, who is it for? The hand of the medium wrote: "There is one here who has little brightness in life. It is for her." Then gave the name of the lady for whom it was designed.

Storer and I then went up into his room to see if we could find the cards the medium said he saw. On searching we found them in the small drawer on the right hand side, under all the papers, as he had indicated.

After again taking our seats a message was written, by the medium's hand, to Bro. Bacon, from L. Judd Pardee, his most intimate friend while in the body. Also a communication from Frank Marshall to Bro. Storer, telling him that he (Marshall) would be with him and assist him in the funeral exercises of the next day.

The room was then darkened, the circle joining hands as before, when the medium said, "I see a hand holding something over the head of Mr. Williams. I see what it is now; it is a lead pencil, and its color is blue. (How she could tell the color was a mystery to the rest of us, but she said she could see the pencil as plainly as though the room had been well lighted.) The hand seems to be trying to lay the pencil upon Mr. Williams's head, but somehow it does not succeed. Perhaps I can reach up and get it, as I did the ink." She made several attempts to do so, but failed, the pencil receding from her grasp as she attempted to reach it. Finally, after giving the hand with which she had been reaching to Mr. Williams, something was heard to fall upon the floor back of him. I struck a light, and we found, lying upon the floor, in the place where it was heard to fall, a blue crayon pencil.

Storer, looking at it, said, "That pencil belongs to me, and I left it lying in my secretary in the room above. Some one has brought it down and taken the liberty to give it to Williams. I should say they were making themselves quite free with my things." While we were conversing, the medium took Mrs. Storer by the hands, and, leading her to the sofa which stood in one corner of the room, removed from the rest of the party, an article was found lying upon it, which Mrs. S. picked up and discovered to be an ivory-headed stamp, used in the old days of wafers and sealing-wax for stamping letters, which had also been brought from Storer's secretary. How it got into the room, the blinds being closed tight, and the article being so large that it was impossible to get it between the slats, and the doors being shut, was a question which we could not solve. However, we asked the spirits, and they told us that it was taken through the ceiling. So much for what they said. We know it got into the room somehow, without any visible means of ingress. Certainly we did not deceive ourselves, for all of us were strictly honest, and, if we had been otherwise, we had no possible motive for deception or collusion.

With a beautiful poem, entitled, "It is so sweet to die," and a song, "Heaven is my Home," both composed in spirit-life, and for beauty and sweetness unsurpassed by anything I ever heard, our spirit-friends bade us "good night."

June 25.—This morning when I entered the office I opened the door to the examination room, and, leaving it partly swung back, passed in. I found Mrs. F. engaged in arranging the room preparatory to receiving callers. After having passed compliments I noticed she was influenced, and I asked, "What is the matter?" She replied, "I don't know; the spirits want something." Then she took me by the hand, and, leading me to the door that I had just opened, her hand was moved mechanically to reach to the top of it and take off a pair of scissors which, to my surprise, were lying there. They must have been put there after I had opened the door, as there was not space enough to crowd them between the top of the door and the casing when it was closed. The scissors were new and very good ones, except the bows were somewhat rusted, as though they had been lost or

laid in some damp place. They came very opportunely, as Mrs. F. had been saying that she must get her some new ones, as she needed them very much. Lillian said she brought them. That is all we know about it.

### Spirit Likenesses.

EDITORS BANNER OF LIGHT.—Among the numerous mediums that have received favorable notices in your *Banner*, and some of them many such, even for years, I have scarcely noticed the name of M. Milleson, whose claims represent that peculiar and interesting phase of mediumship as to be able to portray the spirit features of our departed friends.

In a very recent number of the *Banner* appears a communication, representing a conversation of this artist with his spirit-guides, Benj. West and Anthony Van Dyck, relating to the laws or conditions which control in such cases, necessary to be observed for the full and complete success and attainment of the desired object. Also, explaining the philosophy of development and peculiarities indicated by many of the spirit likenesses painted by the artist above named, in which reference is made to a group of my children.

Feeling impressed that many who have read the communication above referred to would like to learn something more respecting the claims or the peculiar mediumship of M. Milleson, I venture to supply the chasm hitherto almost unnoticed in your paper.

It is several years since that I was called to part by death, in rapid succession, with three dear and fondly loved children. What made the blow more poignant, it occurred in a strange land, whither I had just wandered in pursuit of health, and among strangers. Here I was called upon to bury their little bodies from mortal sight, while I, with blighted hopes, returned from that far distant country, which, but a little time before, I had anticipated as a permanent earthly home, to spend the remnant of my days. But in the progress of events and the natural unfolding of the mysterious laws of the Creator, I found myself holding almost direct correspondence, through channels that had been opened up and perfected, with these dear departed children. I need not stop here to state the thousand and one tests of their identity—of their progress and development onward and upward in spiritual growth and spirit-life; that will be taken for granted in this period of light and indubitable demonstration. Suffice it to say, the volume of evidence of their identity—of light eliminating from this continued spiritual correspondence—conveyed consolation as well as spiritual wisdom to my mind that could be realized from no mere mundane source. At length my desire to possess something tangible of their present developed appearance captivated my mind, hence my interrogatories to them, for the time being, turned upon this point alone.

I was assured by them, through Mr. Mansfield, that they could control M. Milleson, and the object so much desired be accomplished to my satisfaction. But who and where was M. Milleson? His name I had never before heard, nor had I seen it in print, to my recollection. I was told by them that he was located in New York; but on inquiry I found he had gone west, and located for the time being in Chicago; hence, I was again disappointed, and so communicated it to my children. They, without any discouragement, persisted that their chances were just as good West as East, and that I only had to communicate to the artist their intentions, and they would present themselves at his studio. The conditions being complied with, in a few weeks the artist found, among many other paintings produced by him, a group of lovely children; but then the question of designation or individuality was to be determined. To this end the artist interrogated, by way of sealed letter, through Mr. Mansfield, of New York, his spirit-guides, and received the following reply, which was forwarded by Mr. Mansfield directly to me, before going into the hands of the artist:

"MY DEAR CHARGE.—Thy queries of the 11th (of June) are before me, and I hasten to say to the two young ladies that group together are represented by names as given here 'Christina' and 'Purity Stone.' I am pleased to say they are faithful likenesses of their present appearances. If they fall in any one particular, it is in beauty, for the one calling herself 'Purity' surpasses all spirits for beauty and loveliness I have as yet seen. They cannot fail to please the father of these dear spirits. Well are they worthy of a choice place in his parlor. The delight that it afforded the dear children to come thus tangibly is more than I can describe."

This is doing finely; persevere, and know we are with thee. RESA. WEST.

14th June, 1869.

The comfort and satisfaction it affords me to possess the likenesses of these two daughters and a son, since painted by the artist, are beyond my power to describe; and in this lies my motive of making known the claims of M. Milleson to public confidence, at the same time embodying some suggestions as to the conditions for others interested to gratify their desires in accomplishing what I have done.

My children passed to the Summer-land long before the medium was developed as an artist; he never was known to me, nor I to him, before this time, and I learn since, from personal acquaintance, that he had never taken lessons nor painted before being developed by his spirit-guides.

Being desirous of extending my gratitude to the artist capable of conferring so much happiness, Mr. Milleson is now my guest (by special request) where he will remain during July, and the first or second week in August. He will be pleased to receive and entertain parties interested in obtaining the features of their spirit friends, or visit families when so desired, for the accomplishment of said object. After the above specified time he proposes moving onward into Michigan, the banner State of Spiritualism, to meet the wants of those desirous of his services there.

ANDREW STONE, M. D.,  
Lung and Hygienic Institute, Bovey Place,  
Troy, N. Y., July 10, 1870.

### Remarkable Return of a Ring.

A correspondent—Daniel J. Bates, of Cohasset—gives us the following item of the physical exhibition of spirit-power, which occurred in that vicinity. The medium is Mrs. J. B. Bradford, (nee Studley,) of North Scituate; her sister, also a medium, married a gentleman by the name of William Veale. Mr. Veale, on a certain occasion, made a silver ring on which he left certain marks—one of which was a flaw, where if the filling process had been carried on longer the ring would have been too thin—and gave it to his mother-in-law, the mother of Mrs. Bradford, as a keepsake. Mrs. Studley had been troubled for many years with dropsy, from the effects of which she finally passed on about eleven years ago. When on her death bed, the friends desired to preserve the ring in memory of her, but could not remove it on account of the swollen condition of her finger. Her body was put, after decease, in a receiving tomb. Shortly after its being placed there, her daughter, Mrs. Bradford, being in the house with her father and some others, and conversing on the subject of the recent departure, arose from her seat to go

into another room, throwing out her open hand as she did so. To her surprise a power seemed to close it upon something which was pressed against her palm, and, on opening her fingers she was amazed to find in her hand her mother's ring. She immediately exclaimed, "Here is the ring now!" and, taking it to her father, said: "My mother's ring!" He recognized it immediately, and was unable to speak. Several neighbors (in addition to those in the room at the time) were shown this ring, and every one recognized it—the maker, Mr. Veale, among the rest—and were utterly at a loss to account for the manner in which it had been obtained, except upon the spiritual hypothesis.

Here is a manifestation which happened in daylight, in the presence of a quiet, unassuming woman, whose word would be taken as the highest legal evidence in the trial of even a capital case. Can any one suppose her capable of entering a tomb alone, and removing from the decomposing body of her mother a ring, that she might thereby deceive her remaining parent and reopen the wounds which his late bereavement had inflicted? The ring was first seen in her possession, and a dozen reliable witnesses are ready to swear to its identity. The skeptical world may deny, but there are some things which may not be cast off with a sneer, and spirit-power is among the number. The same medium has the faculty of leaving her body—spiritually—and visiting other localities, returning sometimes very suddenly, at others slowly. Several remarkable cases of this have occurred in her experience, similar to those which we have noticed in other issues of our paper as taking place all over the country, astonishing the unbelieving world and proving the dual nature of humanity.

### Answering Sealed Letters.

EDITORS BANNER OF LIGHT.—You are aware that I am one of the earliest converts to the consoling belief of Spiritualism, and my experience for fifteen years in different parts of the country, and with a great variety of mediums, has confirmed said belief. Last week I visited the pleasant rooms of Dr. Mansfield, corner of 15th street and 6th avenue, New York, and had a séance. Having lately lost (for the time being) a wife

"Who was as dear to me  
As the dead dog that circle  
Bound my heart."

I expected to hear from her; nor was I disappointed. But that you may understand the test I sent you, I will say I neither wrote out nor asked any questions, but taking a seat some distance from the Doctor, occupied myself by reading, that my mind could not in any way affect the communications. The doctor soon beginning to write, gave me a long communication from my wife, in which occurred the following passage:

"Your father and Mr. Jonathan Buffum visited the dear old lady, and really thought they did cause mother to feel their presence, or at least that your father was with her."

Being interested in the book I was reading, my mind could not have influenced the communication, and I had no recollection of the person named.

Mr. Daniel Johnson, formerly of Salem, whom I did know, also gave a communication.

The same night I wrote to my sister at Swampscott—where my mother resided—and said, "Ask mother if she ever knew a Mr. Jonathan Buffum." The following is an extract from her answer:

"Swampscott, April 21st, 1870.

DEAR GUS—Yours of yesterday is received, and I write at once, to let you know that what you wrote is a great test to more than Mr. Mansfield and yourself. Mother did know Mr. Jonathan Buffum, Daniel Johnson brought and introduced him here the summer after Frank's visit. I had met him at Mrs. Marsh's circles, and when he called he invited me to come to the private circles at his house. He went to the spirit-land soon after Johnson. He lived up by the middle depot at Lynn, and was a high painter by trade, and did the lettering for Wm. Co. He was a prominent Spiritualist in Boston, often speaking at the public meetings. He was a true man, and did much good in the cause of Spiritualism. It is singular that he came in father's company, though I often made the remark that he was just the person father would have liked."

Comment is superfluous. But in justice to Dr. Mansfield, I felt impelled to send you this. To some of your readers it may seem a small matter; but to my mind it is conclusive evidence of the spirit's presence.

All the sittings I have had with the Doctor have been equally satisfactory; therefore I would say to those who are ever asking, "Where can I find a reliable medium?" I respectfully refer them to "a party by the name of Mansfield," at the corner of 15th street and 6th avenue, New York City.

Yours truly, A. W. FENNO.

150 West 23rd street, N. Y., 1870.

### A Singular Case at Flushing.

The Flushing, N. Y., *Journal* relates a rather interesting story of the appearance of a ghostly visitor in the office of Surrogate Covert, over an undertaker's shop. The following is a synopsis of the interesting features:

"A mysterious visitor appeared in the office of Hon. James W. Covert, on Wednesday afternoon of last week, during the gentleman's absence in the discharge of his surrogate's duties in Jamaica. One of the folding doors stood open at half-past two o'clock P. M., and Justice Quartermaster was sitting with his back to it, engaged in writing, while Justice Hamilton was near the window, reading, and Mr. G. C. Pople, clerk of Mr. Covert, was engaged in seeking for some documents in the corner of the room. Looking up, Mr. Pople saw a lady in black, tall in stature, and veiled, partly enter the room from Mr. Covert's office, take hold of the knob of the open door and close it, with a loud click of the spring bolt. Supposing that the lady wished to see Mr. Covert, he immediately entered the office, and was surprised to find no one there. He quickly opened two closet doors without any signs of the strange visitant, and then turned the knob of the door opening upon the hall and stairs, and found the door locked, having retained the only key in his own pocket since returning from dinner. He quickly unlocked the door, however, and still no one was visible. General Hamilton distinctly saw the lady close the open folding-door, and noticed that her dress seemed of black alpaca, but did not view her face or veil, her head being turned away from his point of observation."

### LICENSED TO DO WHAT?

BY REV. JOHN PIERPONT.

Licensed—to make the strong man weak.

Licensed—to lay the wise man low.

Licensed—a wife's fond heart to break.

And make her children's tears to flow.

Licensed—to do thy neighbor harm.

Licensed—to kindle hate and strife.

Licensed—to nerve the robber's arm.

Licensed—to whet the murderer's knife.

Licensed—thy neighbor's purse to drain.

And on his soul a shadow cast.

Licensed—to heat thy feverish brain.

Till madness crown thy work at last.

Licensed—like a spider for a fly.

To spread thy nets for prey;

To mock his struggles, suck him dry.

Then cast the worthless hulk away.

Licensed—where peace and quiet dwell

To bring disease and want and woe;

Licensed to make this world a hell.

And set man for a hell below.

The viceroy of Egypt expects to realize ten millions of dollars by the sale of land along the Suez canal.

## Original Essays.

WHAT GOOD DOES SPIRITUALISM DO?

BY MRS. C. A. K. POORE.

This is a question often asked, sometimes tauntingly, always doubtfully; and yet it is susceptible of a triumphant answer. When the report of the Rochester knockings first fell upon the ears of the community, curiosity was excited, and the wonder-loving, marvel-seeking portion of society found rare food for the gratification of their peculiar tastes. Had the manifestations continued of the same character or even increased in mystery, and nothing further had come of it, the interest would soon have diminished, and finally given way to some other excitement, which would have passed away in its turn, to be succeeded by other bubbles equally exciting and evanescent. The cry of humbug which echoed and reechoed over the land, would have effectively drowned the sound of the tiny raps, and society at large who look upon the Salem witchcraft as one of the delusions of the past, would have classed this later phase of manifestations in the same category. But when it really could no longer be denied, when it became apparent that behind the phenomena lay a purpose, and a philosophy was being evolved which set at naught the popular theories and established dogmas of the past; when results were produced wholly unaccountable upon the grounds of mesmerism and clairvoyance, then the whole system was pronounced diabolical; a cunning device of the arch enemy of souls; and the learned savans set themselves to work in earnest with their whole artillery of science and theology to exorcise the "evil spirits" who had crept into men's houses, and were leading captive silly women. But the "demons" would not be laid. The opposition of their antagonists was about as futile as the efforts of the worthy dame who resisted the encroachments of the Atlantic Ocean with a mop, and modern Spiritualism is now confessedly a power in the whole civilized world.

But what good has it done? Is the query. It has broken the fetters of the most absolute despotism that ever existed, viz: the subservience of man's religious nature to the mandate of authority. It has unloosed the manacles that bound the human intellect and compelled it to accept dogmatic assertions in place of philosophically established truths. The epithet of free thinker, as applied to an individual, once rendered him a moral and social outlaw, and few there were brave enough to willingly submit to its opprobrium. Now it is regarded with less disfavor by the masses, while the earnest thinking minds of the age regard it as no doubtful compliment. Many of us who had wandered for years through the broad fields of theology, and like Noah's weary dove found no rest for the soles of our feet, have discovered in Spiritualism a system of religious philosophy in harmony with itself, and in perfect keeping with the character of the Supreme Being as manifested in all his works. In this new light we see the utter absurdity of de-throning reason as an unsafe and perverted guide, and at the same time placing implicit reliance upon the leadings of faith, which is but an attribute of reason. For a person who has learned to do his own thinking it certainly requires no great mental effort to discover that a stream cannot rise higher than its fountain; or to learn that in the world of mind as well as matter, "men do not gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles."

To many of us the illumination from the spiritual philosophy upon the pages of biblical inspiration has been as a light shining in a dark place. Taught from our earliest infancy to regard what is termed the sacred volume as the Alpha and Omega of wisdom; the "thus saith the Lord" from which there could be no appeal, yet our carnal reason was continually confounded by its discrepancies and inconsistencies, and our reverence and veneration for its doctrines perpetually shocked by its representations of Divinity as an angry and revengeful being, giving his unqualified endorsement of the most outrageous crimes that ever disgraced humanity.

But Spiritualism has come to the rescue, and shown us that the prophets, apostles and other writers of the Bible, were but the mediums of truths from the spirit-world, which were of necessity more or less tinged with the ignorance and superstition of the age, and were also essentially modified by the prejudices and idiosyncrasies of the instruments through which they were transmitted. Regarding the Bible in this light, we learn to read it more rationally and philosophically, and consequently far more profitably. We can readily understand how Jesus himself, that pure and holy spirit, when under the influence of a direct and powerful inspiration, felt himself lifted from the plane of gross materiality, as his inner nature, baptized with a flood of spiritual illumination, asserted its divine birthright, and seemed almost to claim equality with God himself. At other times, under an influence less elevating, he seemed to recognize more clearly his humanity as the link which bound him to the great brotherhood of man, and in language more meekly human, would discourse of the law of love which should bind as in one mass the whole human family. In the writings of Peter, we can detect the same fiery and impulsive spirit which led him, under the influence of a sudden temptation, to deny his master, and can perceive why the pure-minded and loving John should be made the recipient of those divine Revelations upon the Isle of Patmos, when he expressly informs us he "was in the spirit on the Lord's day." It is no marvel to us that Paul, with his mighty intellect—his towering ambition and his indomitable will, hardly redeemed from his intense Judaism, should strive to build up a sect upon the central idea of a sacrificial atonement for the inate sin of a race. The domestic influences of the home circle, which alone have the power to humanize a rugged character like Paul's, he was unfortunately deprived of; he tells us he "was brought up at the feet of Gamaliel, and was after the strictest manner of his sect a Pharisee."

But perhaps, after all, the crowning glory of Spiritualism is the evidence which it brings to us of man's progressive, individualized immortality. We have been taught from our earliest childhood that the loved ones who have "passed over the river," the pure and good, are now the glorified denizens of a far-off heaven, chanting their rapturous hosannas over their own redemption, un mindful of our welfare or even existence; who we are told in the eternity to which we are hastening, will greet us welcome to the ranks of the blessed, or looking down from the battlements of heaven, will behold us suffering the torments of the damned with equal complacency. Spiritualism has exploded this dogma, so repulsive to the instincts of our better natures, and taught us that the heaven of the spirit is where its loved ones abide.

Immortality—a word of glorious significance, and yet how little do we comprehend its real import. Sometimes we stand upon Pisgah's top,

and catch dimly a glimpse of the promised Canaan, but its full radiance has never burst upon mortal sight. It was well said through one of our popular lecturers, that "it is a beautiful thing to be immortal, for grand and glorious are the experiences that await every human being." N. P. Willis in his loftiest flights of poetic inspiration never gave utterance to a truer sentiment than when he said, "This life is but the vestibule of a glorious temple, where the angels are continually beckoning us, but like frightened children we shrink back, afraid of the shadow of the door." But Spiritualism has illumined this hitherto gloomy passage, and transformed the destroying angel into the blessed herald of an immortal life whose refulgent glory "Eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive of."

### CONSANGUINEOUS MARRIAGES.

Owing to false doctrines, as they seem to me, advocated by the author of an article which appeared in the columns of the *Banners of Light* on the 9th inst., and the important relation this subject bears to human happiness and improvement, I feel called upon to designate an error or two, and perhaps substantiate some of the truths of that author's position.

This subject is so comprehensive, so complicated in its relations, and consequently difficult in its full and satisfactory development, that it will be necessary to omit much which might advantageously be stated, and concentrate that which is, to render the communication welcome to the crowded columns of the *Banner*.

Differing from the contributor of the 9th, we hold and shall endeavor to prove that the progeny of intermarriages are, proportionately, more predisposed to congenital idiocy, blindness, malformations, and many other infirmities which afflict thoughtless humanity, than those of extra-consanguineous unions. Not that consanguinity, *per se*, is a cause, but simply a medium through which causes operate. And those causes may be classified under one general head, namely, those diseases or infirmities which contaminate or debilitate the system of an individual sufficiently to cause offspring to inherit a predisposition to mental or physical imperfection. It is the same with extra-consanguineous as with consanguineous marriages; but the danger is not so imminent in the former as in the latter case. For a marriage even between near relatives, whose blood was free from all, or at least similar injurious tendencies, would doubtless be consumed by offspring inferior to none. Yet such a case is highly improbable, for of all the beings that inhabit earth none are so subject to hereditary diseases as civilized man. "In the careful breeding of cattle at least ninety-six per cent. come to maturity, and of horses ninety-five per cent., even in this our rugged climate, while of the infinitely more precious race of men at least thirty-three per cent. perish in the bud of infancy or the blossom of youth." (Mass. State Report.) Man's susceptibility to hereditary predisposition to disease is alone sufficient to explain the more deleterious and immediate consequences of intermarriages among men than close interbreeding among our domesticated animals. That disease is hereditary none will deny; a cursory investigation into one of the many consumptive, cancerous or scrofulous families would soon render it vividly apparent that the sins of the fathers are visited upon the children unto the third and fourth generations; and this fact becomes doubly true in consanguineous unions.

Is it not logical to infer that if persons whose blood is impregnated with a latent tendency to the same disease (and few are the persons whose ancestors' blood was pure) should marry, the offspring would be tainted with a predisposition, owing to concentration, just twice as strong, and, therefore, doubly as effective as that of either of the parents? and this lurking poison will be likely to manifest itself in some one of the multifarious forms of hereditary disease.

The nearer the relationship to the original source of disease, the greater the probability of evil effects being apparent. Those intermarriages, in which the common ancestor was afflicted with some hereditary disease, are followed with the severest consequences. Where one parent only is affected—but generally both are more or less—the child is just half as likely to be as that parent; the grandchildren, who are first cousins, will be one-fourth as liable; second cousins one-eighth; third cousins one-sixteenth, &c., the last two of whom are comparatively safe, provided other causes have not been at work; and, if they should intermarry, the liability would be but doubled in the offspring, owing to accumulation, while should they have paired with strangers in blood it would have been divided rather than multiplied; and if, in the latter case, the effects were not congenital, the majority—and the closer the parental kinship the greater the number—of the offspring would be much inferior, instead, as they ought, superior to their parents.

By original source of disease is intended that common ancestor from whom the disorder was communicated. This is frequently of great importance in the consideration of this question, as persons may be closely related without having their blood tainted with the same disease; as where the inherited tendency originated in the immediate ancestor. In that case the children of this parent and those of his or her brothers or sisters would be first cousins, and yet not inherit the same predisposition.

I know of several instances of the marriages of first cousins, but the children of each were nearly all less than mediocre, and the greater number were idiotic or imbecile. In the article previously alluded to, the author quotes from a Massachusetts Report concerning idiocy, as collateral proof of the validity of his theory, as follows: "Out of three hundred and fifty-nine cases in which the parentage was ascertained, one-twentieth of the whole were the offspring of consanguineous parents, that this fact proves the correctness of his position in holding that consanguineous marriages are not more dangerous than others."

In closing, permit me to cite the same authority that he has seen fit to adduce: "This would show that more than one-twentieth of the idiots examined are offspring of the marriage relations. Now, as marriages between near relations are by no means in the ratio of one to twenty, nor are even, perhaps, as one to a thousand to the marriages between persons not related, it follows that the proportion of idiotic progeny is vastly greater in the former than in the latter case." F. L. M.

New Haven, Conn., July 15th, 1870.

To a horticulturist who advertised all kinds of seeds and plants, a wag sent an order for one package of custard-plant seed, and a dozen of mince-plant seeds. The horticulturist returned twelve hen's eggs and a small dog.

A little girl who was watching the balloon ascension at Lewiston, Me., suddenly exclaimed: "Mamma, I should n't think God would like to have that man go up to heaven alive."







The Banner of Light is issued on an sale every Monday Morning preceding date.

## Banner of Light.

BOSTON, SATURDAY, JULY 30, 1870.

OFFICE 158 WASHINGTON STREET,  
ROOM NO. 3, UP STAIRS.  
AGENCY IN NEW YORK,  
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EDITOR.  
LEWIS B. WILSON,  
ASSISTANT.

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### A Political Religion.

From the fact that the President, the Vice President, and the Secretary of State have cheerfully signed a document favoring the objects of the Evangelical Alliance, which is to hold its sessions in New York during September, it may be fairly inferred that the leading officers of the Government commit it to the support of ecclesiastical Protestantism. Have these officials the right to do any such thing? The framers of our Constitution were jealous above all men of committing the Government in any manner to the support of any style of religion, and they distinctly declared in that instrument that there should be no established religion in the country, and that its free exercise should not be prohibited. Now what is the first public officer of the United States doing, and the second, and the most important officer of the Cabinet besides, but showing practical contempt for that solemn constitutional provision inserted after the most serious personal knowledge and understanding of its meaning? By what right or authority do these three individuals, not speaking privately for themselves, but publicly and officially, and so adding their signatures to the document referred to—by what right or authority do these three men presume to express their approval of the objects contemplated by the Alliance, and the hope that its deliberations may tend to the "advancement of civil and religious liberty?" Such is their deliberately chosen language.

Would they sign a similar document favoring an ecclesiastical assemblage of the Roman Catholics? Or an assemblage of Jews? Or of Mahomedans? Or of Spiritualists? How could they do so, while they stand committed as they are already? They have declared officially, as officers of the Government, that they favor the Presbyterian, or Orthodox faith, and that precludes them from favoring any other. Is that, therefore, to be henceforth the religion of the Government—the officially established religion of the United States? Is it to be recognized by citizens everywhere? The Independent says of this proposed meeting of the Evangelical Alliance, that "it comes together to uplift a standard of Protestant Orthodoxy, against Unitarianism on the one hand, and against Romanism on the other. Now the United States Government is neither Protestant nor Roman—neither Orthodox nor heterodox." They why this attempt to officially join Church and State? Says the Independent still further: "Our fathers meant, and their descendants mean, to keep Church and State as far asunder as the East is from the West. Any act on the part of the Federal Government which looks like showing a greater favoritism toward one sect, or church, or creed than toward another, is the beginning of despotism. Such an official act by the Government, or any of its agents, is unwarrantable, and ought not to be endured. Suppose, instead of putting their official names to a declaration of sympathy with the Evangelical Alliance, these signers had put their signatures to a similar declaration in favor of the Ecumenical Council. Would not the whole Protestant press have rung its bells of alarm?"

This is a grave matter, and a press jealous of religious freedom will protest at once with all its influence.

### Superstition Killing Faith.

A communication in our Message Department last week from Ellen Taylor betrays a fact, and its powerful influence over the human mind, that is not generally understood as it deserves to be. A matter of such profound interest to humanity and its hopes ought to be laid open to the full comprehension of every one. The spirit in question passed away in consumption at the age of nineteen, leaving a sister behind whose fear of death implanted in her tender mind by the teachings of superstition, she cannot by any possibility overcome. Her whole life is darkened and embittered by it. Yet some people affect to adore a religion that works thus on an innocent and ingenuous spirit. She was bred to a faith in what is styled "the doctrine of election," that is, that a few are chosen from all time to be "saved," and will be saved let them do or what they will, while all others are sure to become "castaways." This unhappy survivor, it seems, cannot be brought even to unite with the church in whose frightful dogma she was early educated. She holds to the creed, but cannot enter the church. Was ever worse or more cruel torture devised by man, for no end but to build up power over the minds and bodies of others? One may believe in the church, yet not be able to believe himself good enough ever to enter it as a member. It is time the angelic messenger came in the form of Spiritualism, to break up such monstrous delusions, and shatter them with the blackened idols of the heathen.

### The Crops.

The condition of the country in respect to its products is too promising not to extort—if it does not come otherwise—expressions of gratitude from every side. The wheat crop is safely not in, and it is a good average yield. Hay never had a better chance, both during its growing, its curing, and its housing processes. Oats are equally good, though not yet fully secured. Potatoes were never better or more plentiful; they ought to be within the reach of every one in unlimited quantities. Indian corn, however, promises to be the royal crop of the year. The heats of June sent it ahead at an amazing rate of speed, and it is now very much in advance of what it ordinarily is at this season of the year. As for fruit, all kinds of it are poured into our lap in the most unparalleled lavishness. Unless some ulterior evil betide, we shall have such stores of it in the autumn as will make this harvest the most joyful one known during the life of the present generation.

### Grove Meeting at Phoenix, N. Y.

By a notice in another column, it will be seen that the Spiritualists of Central New York are to hold their tenth annual Grove Meeting at Phoenix, on Sunday, July 31st. Leo Miller and other good speakers will be present.

### Spirit Communism—Verification of Spirit Messages.

We have received from a correspondent a letter calling on us for the proof of the reliability of our Message Department, which epistle we give below in full, as we wish our readers to follow its writer, in his own language, to the point at issue. We have ever been ready to consider any communication, however adverse to our faith, if couched in proper terms and based on anything like apparently reasonable objections. A vein of facetious irony runs through the article. Three points are clearly stated by him (those indicated by the numbers in brackets), two of which we are prepared to meet and demonstrate with tangible evidence; the third we are unable to explain, owing to the fact that the two spirits manifesting in that particular case were entire strangers to us, and dwellers in earth-life, in a far distant part of the country, and we have no means of going behind their messages to test their verity save through the honesty of their surviving relatives; and we are sorry to inform our correspondent that it has often been our experience that prejudice in the minds of the friends of the returning intelligence blinds their eyes to justice and honor, and they either remain silent altogether—thus depriving us of our reward for gratuitous labor in their behalf—or pick flaws in the trembling utterances of those who come "hoping with a great hope" to be once more received into the arms of those dear ones, whose presence is so tangible to the spirits that it seems as if the children of mortality could not help seeing them as well.

Editors BANNER OF LIGHT—You claim that "each message in this department is spoken by the spirit whose name it bears." I have no doubt of the sincerity of your belief, or of the honesty of the medium through whom the communications purport to come. To those who are acquainted with Mrs. Conant, and with all the details, if I may so speak, of the manifestations at the "Public Free Circles," it may seem very clear that "Sam. Fellows," the reputed horse thief, "Edward Harris," the soldier killed by rebels, and Theodore Parker, are really there, just as represented. But to those of us who live in this benighted region, far beyond the reach of the Boston god, who listen to the "beautiful invocations," it seems somewhat doubtful. In the *Banner of Light* of February 6th, 1869, I have just counted seven messages claiming to come from as many different persons. Taking this number as a fair average for each of your issues during the year, we have three hundred and sixty-four, and you can find out whether such a person ever lived. Is there not a Spiritualist in all Boston who will take the pains to shed a little light on the case? Almost every week parties come, who give names, dates, and incidents, which, one would think, would enable any persons residing in the localities to prove whether the statements are facts or fictions. If Spiritualists would take the trouble to report for, or against, it would be very gratifying to those who either lack the evidence or credulity which some seem to possess.

If the Smiths, Johnsons and Flannigans [2] will come forward and testify that the friends who throw them a line from the ether, I, for one, will listen with the greatest pleasure. It is all very reasonable that "Capt. Eliza Hammond" and "Aunt Betsey Hammond" should feel provoked at modern Christianity, especially as it seems to have "soured" on the Captain just as he was getting on in years, and as to the latter, we demand that some one of the friends or acquaintances of the Captain and Aunt come forward and show themselves. Let a sufficient number of these mothers, fathers, priests, gamblers, soldiers, sailors and Bridgets be identified, to make it probable to those of us who occupy back seats that what we read really comes from those who have crossed the river. That highly favored individual who asks for information in regard to the race inhabiting the planet Mars, evidently has no doubt but that he is talking with some one who has been there, or, at least, has seen some one who knows from actual observation. "Hagar" man! Does he predicate his belief on the evidences of gentleness which the messages carry within themselves, or has he traced out a sufficient number of them to enable him to take the balance on trust? If we are to be treated, each week, to six or eight columns of matter, which, if it is claimed, comes from the spirits, let the friends try to accumulate evidence going to establish that fact.

"One swallow does not make a summer," neither does a single verification make a hundred messages true. The fact is, Messrs. Editors, when one of these fellows comes round

Like a half-pinteen kicked at the shins, I would like to share the belief with you that somebody is lit.

Permit me to make a statement of a matter which came under the observation of a most intimate friend. Some time during the summer of 1867, Mrs. E. N. Talmadge, who resides in Westville, Ind., wrote a letter and forwarded it to your office, requesting that it might be placed on your table at your public circle, hoping by this means to obtain a communication from a dear father and sister who had left the earth-life several years before. You may imagine her joy when she saw it stated in the *Banner*, that messages had been received from William and Charley Niles, who were the spirits addressed. She could not wait for them to appear. What was her disappointment on reading to find that there was not the faintest allusion to anything which could be construed into a test, only a few "glittering generalities," which would suit almost any case. The father, from whom no message came, according to the claims set up in your paper, perished by freezing, in Iowa, right in sight of his daughter's house. He left a widow in very poor circumstances. A son was in Andersonville and other rebel prisons many months. William Niles's father hobbled through the world on crutches. The sister by marriage, Charley, was a family physician, and also died an accidental death. Her infant child was buried in the same coffin. She left behind a husband and brother, living in the same little hut in Minnesota—the brother made blind in one eye by a curious accident just before her death, and a most terrible stammerer. herself a vegetarian, a blood-urine, and near-sighted. Now if William and Charley Niles were actually controlling the medium at the time the communications to which their names are attached were given, is it not a little remarkable that they did not list a word in regard to the persons or facts referred to above? There certainly could never have been a better opportunity for establishing one's identity. Here are two "swallows" which I can but regard as very unsatisfactory. I write this in no fault-finding spirit. I am a Spiritualist, and have been for twenty years. I accept the messages on general principles, but where scores of reputed spirits come, fairly slopping over with peculiarities, giving details with a fluency which is astonishing, it does appear as if one in ten ought to be recognized and reported to the *Banner*.

S. N. FORD.  
We fully agree with the writer of the above, that "if Spiritualists would take the trouble to report for or against" the truthfulness of our Message Department, "it would be gratifying" to us, as well as to "those who lack the evidence" which some seem to possess.

Our correspondent says, "One swallow does not make a summer; neither does a single verification make a hundred messages true." But as the coming of one swallow from a warmer climate indicates the pioneer bird of a host that is to follow, so the verification of one spirit-message from the summer-land of souls argues the nearing march of that vast procession which, in the more enlightened days which are to come in man's history,

George F. Davis said he was First Lieutenant of Co. "L," 4th Mass. Cavalry; that he was killed in action April 6th, 1865, at quarter past eleven o'clock; and that his body was buried at Major Water's farm, four and one-half miles west of Farmville Station, Va.

tory, will cheer all earth's hearts and homes with a "joy unspeakable and full of glory."

In reply to the first point [1] wherein our correspondent says: "Take the case of George F. Davis, who declares himself to have been First Lieutenant of Co. L, 4th Mass. Cavalry, and strongly intimates that by walking up to the State House you can find out whether such a person ever lived," we would state that recently (July 15th), we did, through a representative, "walk up to the State House," and found entered the name of the said George F. Davis, together with the following remarks on the roll of the 4th Mass., Co. L: "First Lieutenant, Aug. 23, 1864; killed in action April 6th, 1865." Thus the statement of the spirit is corroborated, as far as the State record goes, by evidence within the reach of any one to peruse.

Our correspondent says, secondly, "If the Smiths, Johnsons and Flannigans [2] come forward and testify that their friends have thrown them a line from the ether, I, for one, will listen with the greatest pleasure." That a large proportion of the Catholic messages are not heard from is not a matter of wonder, yet we have proof in the words of a living witness, a highly respectable lady, that influences akin to those referred to above have visited her. One of the instances—which will suffice for the present—we here submit. The lady in question, Mrs. Michael Tubbs, formerly landlady of the National House, Boston, went to California some ten years since. She is now in the East on a visit, and a short time since attended one of our free circles, when the spirit of Margaret Welch took possession of the medium, and publicly thanked Mrs. Tubbs for the help rendered her when here on earth. Mrs. Tubbs identified the spirit as that of a poor washerwoman whom she had assisted (and also several other indigent neighbors,) while she was landlady of the National.

A communication previously given by Margaret Welch, and published in the *Banner of Light*, we have inquired into, and find it to be correct in every particular, as we are prepared to prove by witnesses now living in Boston. These facts are proof positive to any reasoning mind of the return of the spirit after death. We cannot engage that every spirit manifesting shall give such a perfect sketch of his or her previous life as to immediately challenge recognition. Such, indeed, would be a "consummation devoutly to be wished," but both the invisible intelligences and ourselves are subject to the unvarying law of spiritual conditions, and by and through that law alone whatever reaches us must come. Success in manifesting depends therefore on the will-power of the spirit, more or less strongly exerted—precisely as in earth-life—and the passivity of the medium. Anything on this side the river of change, or on the other, which militates against the operation of this law of control and obedience, tends to deflect and distort the message given.

### War in Europe.

The blow has fallen almost without a warning in Europe, and we see the two most powerful nations of the Continent suddenly engaged in a deadly grapple for supremacy. Both of them have for some four years been preparing for the event, and expecting it. The people, not less than the rulers of Prussia and France, have been steadily trained during that time to the idea of war. Sadowa was not more satisfactory to France than to Austria. The armies of Prussia are large, and in a state of admirable discipline; but, with all their intelligence, they are the slaves of the monarchy, and bidden to do only the will of the ruler. Germany is of herself not a fighting nation, but will nevertheless readily enter a contest for her own territorial defence. Prussia has so far merely made herself supreme in Germany, which she did by kicking Austria out. The latter promptly accepted the situation, and bent her energies to the task of recuperation, which she sagaciously hastened by so speedily bringing about the union with Hungary as an integral part of the Empire.

France is a military power as well as Prussia, and her citizens are no less trained soldiers on compulsion. But she is preeminently one nation. Prussia cannot pretend to match her there. They fight, but it is for the glory of France. In this contest, their enthusiasm for war has driven the Emperor on, rather than his existing them. The people are substantially a unit for the war. The Emperor of course wanted it, and was not at all slow in taking up the chance for a quarrel. And so has Prussia been preparing for it, too. When two such powers really want a fight, it will go hard but that some sort of a pretext sufficient for it can be found. The Emperor deemed Prussia's secret meddling in Spain, and her insufficient explanation or denial of it, entirely unsatisfactory; and upon Prussia's offering the last insult of refusing any further intercourse with the French Minister, the Emperor caused a declaration of war to be promptly made, and the Legislative Chambers immediately afterward voted the supplies asked for entering upon war. Before this will be read by our regular readers, a battle will undoubtedly have been fought by the two armies, which, however, nobody expects will decide the question yet. The object of France is to make the Rhine her boundary. That is the desire of ruler and people. The war will therefore concentrate itself there at the first, and it need surprise no one if, in case of being protracted, it drew all Europe into its bloody complications.

### Infallibility.

It has been voted at last by the Council that has sat so long in Rome, and the Pope supposes that what he now says and does is out of the reach of criticism or the right of protest and disobedience. To quiet the fears of certain people, the Romists tell them that it is no new thing—the Pope was always infallible. If so, then perhaps the Pope can answer why it is necessary to make the declaration anew. A large force of Catholic prelates, we know, have protested against the measure, as being entirely in defiance of the spirit of the age, and blindly offering obstructions to the progress of the times. They have opposed it on the double ground of its being out of the range of necessity, and dangerously inexpedient. Still the Pope has persisted, and at last he has succeeded in carrying his point. Proclamation is to be made without delay, in the most imposing manner and with a long train of ceremony. It is to be remarked that the affirmative vote on the dogma so displeased Napoleon that, as we write, there are reports that he is to withdraw the French troops from Rome, which will throw the Pontiff wholly on his own resources. Garibaldi and the Reds will lose not a moment in taking the hint, as it is a serious question if in a little while the Pope has any temporal power left with which to enforce his spiritual authority.

### Picnic at Walden Pond.

Messrs. Richardson and Dodge announce—as will be seen in another part of the paper—that on Wednesday, the third of August, they will give the second of the current series of Union Spiritualist picnics at Walden Pond Grove, Concord, Mass.

### Mrs. Nellie J. T. Brigham, and the N. Y. World.

Under the heading of "A Sheep among the Shepherds," the *New York World* for July 23 gives a very interesting sketch of the order of worship and general appearance of the religious assemblies presided over in that city by Rev. George P. Hapworth and Rev. O. B. Frothingham, closing with a description of a Spiritualist gathering at Apollo Hall, where Mrs. Brigham addressed the meeting. The report is as follows:

"The audience is quite equally divided as to sex, and old heads predominate over young ones as to numbers. Respectably attired, and quietly attentive, it is marked by no peculiarities that distinguish it from ordinary religious assemblies."

On the stage is a cabinet organ, a quartette of singers, and on the speaker's desk a small vase of flowers. Presently Mrs. Brigham glides on the floor and sinks in a chair just back of the desk. With downcast eyes and pensive look she sits still as a statue, and then, with a quick motion, touches her finger to her lips, as if a thought had suddenly thrilled her. The attitude, expression, and rare intellectual beauty of the woman form a most interesting tableau.

After the singing the account says:

"The speaker comes forward at once and prays. She has been charged with an electric battery, her fine and delicate organism quivers for a moment, and a few gestures are thrown out as resulting from some power foreign to her normal self. She prays fittingly, modestly, beautifully, and closes without an amen. She refuses her chair while the choir sings again; after which she promptly rises to her place and announces her text or theme, 'My Father worketh hitherto and I work.'

It is only after it is all over that we stop to analyze this phenomenon, for such it seems to be. A singularly beautiful woman, delicate, exquisitely sympathetic, spirituelle, and looking more angelic than mortal. Her voice is sweet, clear, and evidently so from nature rather than culture; her words most fit, chaste, and appropriate, and flowing from her lips rather than being chosen expressions; her gestures make one feel that to her delicate finger tips, every nerve and fibre is tingling with 'inspiration.' A vein of pleasant but keen sarcasm runs through some of her sentences, when her lips have an added graciousness, and her eyes open into positive radiance. Her discourse has been beautiful smiles, exquisite illustrations, poetic fancies, revealing at times a remarkable degree of scientific knowledge, as nature in her varied forms and laws furnishes the material for illustrative teaching.

From the beginning to the end there has been an uninterrupted flow of language, unexceptional to the highest degree. She finishes with a number of stanzas of verse, perfect in rhythm and melody, and abounding in beautiful figures; and all that she has said has been improvised; the spontaneity of the occasion of the moment. Her friends claim that it is true, and, indeed, all things considered, there seems little reason to doubt it."

### Thomas Gates Forster.

This able and popular lecturer closed an engagement in Philadelphia, Sunday, July 17th, and started at once for Yellow Springs, Ohio, where letters will find him, addressed care of Frank Grinnell, Esq. Bro. Forster in a private note to us says:

"Will you do me the kindness to announce that I will accept of engagements to speak in Ohio and the neighboring States during the months of August and September; that I am to speak in Philadelphia during October, January and February; in New York during November; in Boston during December; and that, having decided not to visit California, as contemplated in the spring, I will accept of engagements during the months of March, April, May and June, at whatever points desired? I closed the season in Baltimore by lecturing through June.

Having thus burdened you with a long request, permit me to inquire how you vegetate during the hot term? Editors, mediums, and car-horses would appreciate that anomaly termed rest, if they could but procure it for a month or two. Do you not think so?

The Maryland State Association of Spiritualists, for which I lectured five months during the season just closed, is in a good condition, both as to numerical strength and a continued intensity of interest in behalf of humanity, and the spread of philosophical and spiritual truth. Levi Weaver and John N. Gardner, the excellent President and Vice President, are sustained by a corps of noble workers, male and female, led on by J. H. and Jacob Weaver, William Leonard and others, whose earnestness and devotion are a sure guarantee that much good will be done during the years that are to come. The Association occupies, with the Lyceum, one of the handsomest halls in the country, and the audiences are courteous, kind and generous to the mediums and speakers. My own association in Baltimore has endeavored the friends to me very much, and my recollection of their kindnesses will continue as long as memory shall exercise its office. Our speakers would be pleased by a month's sojourn in the Monumental City."

### The Social Evil.

St. Louis has decided to adopt the rule of the large European cities in reference to this subject, and will at once stop street-walking altogether, but license and attempt to regulate houses where an improper commerce of the sexes is practiced. There is a great deal to be said against this open, legal recognition of an evil that is so wide-spread, and whose terrible effects threaten to vitiate and taint more than one succeeding generation. The very most that can be urged in its favor is on the score of expediency, as if it were a final confession that the modern state, styling itself preeminently Christian, can do nothing with an evil that has become so deeply seated as to threaten the health and perpetuity of the State. As it has been for ages in operation, so will the cure be slow. Superstition far proves to be the most efficient protector and ally of chastity, but that is a wretched commentary on the power of Christianity as it has been employed? Why are not our youth taken in hand at the critical period of their lives, and instructed in the imperative necessity of keeping their bodies pure and holy? Why is not habit, good and bad, not more freely talked about with the young? Why are they thus left entirely to their own growing passions, which ignorance misleads, and a whole lifetime is not long enough to lament the abuse of? Why are the evil, the libidinous, the satyrs permitted to scatter their instructions in all our schools, but purity forbidden to open its mouth?

### Dr. H. F. Gardner's Next Picnic.

The Doctor will continue the course of social gatherings so auspiciously begun on the 28th of June, by another picnic at Island Pond Grove, Abington, Mass., Friday, July 29th. The upward tendency on the part of thermometers during the present month, has operated to increase the desire of all to escape from the stifling limits of the city; and to no better place can any one go who desires cool breezes, pleasant company, and beautiful scenery. Those also who reside in the country will find themselves repaid for their trouble in attending, by the words of the speakers who will be there, as well as by the greeting of old friends who make of these meetings a kind reunion. A full account of the arrangements for this picnic may be found in another column.

### The Awakening.

In our day (not perhaps more than in the ages of man's past history, but better known and more widely acknowledged) has come the resurrection morn in which souls passed beyond the shadowy boundaries of time return to tell of the land wherein they dwell; and those who yet linger amid the untoward circumstances of earth-life rouse themselves to better views of existence here and in the coming future. Not with the warning blast of Gabriel speaking to the outward ear, but with the soft whispers of love coming directly within the sacred folds of the heart, is the glorious morning heralded abroad.

How many there are among the champions, both lay and clerical, of the olden creeds, who waken on the other side to find the mistakes of life, and hurry to return, bearing their admittance to the ears of friends near and dear. But such find in too many cases the doors closed against them by ignorance and prejudice—the same they helped to foster while in the form—and sadly reap the harvest themselves have sown, till the light comes to them. Such was not, however, the case with the minister referred to by our correspondent, J. A. Willard, who, writing us from Springfield, Ill., July 15th, says:

"A correspondent of mine has recently furnished me with the following item. The case occurred in the West, and the character of my correspondent I think a sufficient guaranty of the facts named:

The Methodist church lost their minister last summer. After a lingering illness he passed into the spirit-land. Before leaving, he was entranced, as we would call it. His friends thought him gone; but unexpectedly he revived, and said to his wife at his side, 'I have not left you yet. I have been to see my heavenly home; but they told me I could not go until I came back and told you that the teachings of all these years from my pulpit are false. Our ideas of heaven are all wrong. I have taught and thought we would do and go straight to God and glory. All wrong. Tell all you meet my last words to them—all wrong. The spirit-land is a beautiful land; but we must go up step by step, and work out our own salvation.' His wife has repeated all he said; but the church regrets that she was so injudicious as to give currency to the ravings of delirium, as dying counsels."

"The ravings of delirium" here spoken of, are akin to the glorified utterances which in the day of that pentecost for whose second descent Methodism often prays so devoutly, while she refuses to see that it has already come, fell from the inspired lips of the apostles—and martyrs yet to be. But what said the established church of that day? "Why, 'These men are full of new wine!'" To-day Christianity brands her opponents as maniacs instead of drunkards, but they who have received the truths enunciated in his last moments by that departing pastor, have learned the glorious fact that

"Life is a debtor to the grave—  
Dark latitudes lotting in eternal day!"

### The Beach.

A brief sojourn at the Farragut House, Rye, N. H., conclusively demonstrates to our mind the superiority of this establishment over other hotels on the Atlantic seaboard between Nahant and Portsmouth. We have at different seasons visited nearly all the noted localities along the coast, and hence we venture the above opinion. Not that the numerous hotels in question are not well managed, for most of them are; but in our estimation the Farragut and Atlantic combine all the requisites so desirable at fashionable watering-places. Here we have a fine beach, where bathers may enjoy themselves to their hearts' content. A coach leaves the house daily, at eleven o'clock, to convey its patrons to the bath-houses; and on the two hottest days of the season—Sunday and Monday, 17th and 18th July—the opportunity was fully improved.

A "hop" took place in the new hall of the Atlantic House on the evening of the 16th, the Naval Quadrille Band from Portsmouth furnishing the music. It was indeed a festive occasion, and continued to a late hour.

Yachts are kept in readiness to convey parties on sailing and fishing excursions to the Shoals, about ten miles distant. A lively stable also furnishes teams to those who prefer drives into the interior.

Woody lawns and cultivated fields contiguous to the hotels present an air of picturesqueness gratifying to the lovers of natural scenery.

The most striking features of the Farragut, however, are its bounteous tables, its orderly and attentive servants, its neat rooms, its affable proprietors, Mrs. J. C. Philbrick & Son, and the efficient chief clerk, Mr. Walter B. Sheppard, who is at his post early and late.

The guests, who hail from different sections of the country, are gentlemen and ladies of culture and refinement, hence the Farragut and Atlantic Houses possess a homelike atmosphere to those who appreciate such qualifications—and who does not?

Therefore we advise those who intend leaving the heated atmosphere of the city for awhile, to take passage in the elegant cars of the Eastern Railroad Co., on Causeway street, and visit our friends of the Farragut and Atlantic Houses, at Rye Beach, N. H.

### An Ecumenical on Dickens.

It is about time the pulpit met in a body and organized in a sort of Ecumenical shape on the Dickens dogma. The author has been dead but a few weeks, as Orthodox counts death, only to live more lively than he ever lived in the flesh, by being made to do duty every Sunday as a subject for the discourses of ministers. In the first place, what business have they to discuss his present condition any more than that of another person so situated? If they assume it on account of his writings, then let common decency suggest to them the propriety of restricting their discussion to his books. Are they mortal or immortal? If these preachers want his views on God and Christ, they have them plainly written down in his will. But if they nevertheless remain dissatisfied, and demand that he shall prove membership in their churches, then they admit that they are denouncing him because he was not such a member; and how long is a community professing the commonest respect for liberality of sentiment to abide insolence of that sort? Has any pulpit a license to abuse and damn a man, whether writer or private citizen, simply because he declined to ally himself while on earth with its ecclesiastical machinery and the dogmas it runs? Let us have this matter better understood. As for Dickens's stories, they are of course open to criticism; if they are irreligious and of wrong tendency, why were they not assailed while the writer was turning them off for the admiration of a whole people? Simply because these men were afraid to do that thing.

### Spiritualism in Baltimore.

Wash. A. Danskin, in the *New Life*, is stirring up the clergymen of Baltimore in good earnest, especially the Rev. Dr. Bond, who made an attack on Spiritualism a few weeks ago. In the eyes of the public, Mr. Danskin's position is the fairest and the best sustained, and light is being shed on the important subject of Spiritualism by his arguments.



**Massachusetts Liberal Tract Society.**

The final meeting for the organization of this Society was held at Mercantile Hall, Summer street, Boston, Sunday afternoon, July 17th. After a preliminary meeting of the Executive Committee, the audience generally were called to order by Vice President Lysander S. Richards, and John William Day was elected Secretary pro tem. After the reading and acceptance of the records of the last meeting, the Committee on revising the Constitution presented amendments to article 6th, as per instructions at a former meeting.

On motion of A. E. Carpenter, voted that the report be accepted, and the amendments adopted. On motion of M. T. Dole, voted that a marking list be opened for the names of lady candidates to serve on the Executive Committee. The marking resulted in the election of eight ladies, whose names will be found among those given below.

On motion of H. S. Williams, voted that the Constitution, as now revised and amended, be adopted as a whole.

On motion, voted that the Secretary be instructed to prepare the Constitution forthwith for signatures of members at an adjourned meeting.

On account of the extreme heat of the day it was decided to omit the meeting in the evening, and Mr. Dole offered (in the name of the Boston Children's Progressive Lyceum) the use of the hall free of expense at any other time it might be wished by the Society, when not interfering with Lyceum arrangements.

On motion, voted that when we adjourn, it be for two weeks, to meet at Mercantile Hall, Sunday evening, July 31st, at half-past seven o'clock.

After some further remarks by Messrs. Reed, Carpenter, Dole, Williams, Dunklee, the presiding officer and others, with reference to the importance of making every exertion to call together a large attendance at the next meeting, it was, on motion, voted to adjourn.

The following is the Constitution adopted in full at the meeting, July 17th:

**Preamble.**—Realizing the necessity of a more general dissemination of liberal literature to counteract the cramped dogmas spread broadcast over the land in tracts and similar publications, we agree to unite for the purposes set forth in the following

**CONSTITUTION.**

**ARTICLE I.**—This Association shall be known as "The Massachusetts Liberal Tract Society." **ART. 2.**—The objects of this Society shall be the publication and dissemination of Radical, Spiritualistic and Reformatory tracts and other publications to advance free thought on religious, moral and social topics which tend to the elevation of humanity.

**ART. 3.**—The annual business meetings of the Society shall be held in the City of Boston, during anniversary week, at the call of the Executive Committee. Special meetings of the Society may be called by the President at the written request of five members of the Executive Committee.

**ART. 4.**—The officers of the Society shall be a President, four Vice Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, an Executive Committee composed of the above named officers, an office, and twenty-five members, and a Board of Trustees composed of five members of the Society.

**ART. 5.**—The officers of the Society shall be elected at its annual meeting, to hold their offices for the term of one year, or until their successors are elected and qualified. Vacancies in office may be filled at any legal meeting of the Society.

**ART. 6.**—Section I.—The duties of the President, Vice Presidents and Secretary of the Society, shall be such as usually pertain to such offices.

**ART. 7.**—The duties of the Treasurer shall be to receive all moneys from subscriptions, contributions, and pass the same over to the Trustees, taking their receipt for the same, and shall not hold at any one time an amount exceeding two hundred dollars. He shall not pay any bills in excess of ten dollars, except the same be audited and approved by the Board of Trustees. He shall also keep an accurate account of the funds collected and from what sources received, also of all moneys expended and for what objects expended, making a full report of the same at each annual meeting.

**ART. 8.**—The duties of the Executive Committee shall be to have the charge of the selection, publication and dissemination of such literary matter as they may deem proper and consistent with the objects of the Society; to solicit funds for its use, and to have the general management of its business, and shall have power to fill vacancies in their number. The meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held on the first Thursday of each month, and five members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of its business.

**ART. 9.**—The duties of the Board of Trustees shall be to receive all moneys from the Treasurer and receipt for the same, and to accept all gifts and bequests which may be made to the Society, and to hold all such moneys and property in trust for the use of the same. All accounts and bills, in excess of ten dollars, except the same be audited by one or more of the Trustees as the same may decide before payment by the Treasurer, and they shall have the general management of the finances.

**ART. 10.**—Any person favoring the objects of this Society, as herein expressed, can become a member by subscribing to this Constitution and the payment of one dollar per annum. The payment of twenty-five dollars shall constitute a life membership.

**ART. 11.**—This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular annual meeting of the Society.

**List of officers for the ensuing year:**

**President.**—William Denton, Wellesley.

**Vice Presidents.**—H. F. Gardner, M. D., Boston; L. S. Richards, Quincy; Miss Lizzie Doten, Boston; Mrs. L. Dorman, Worcester.

**Secretary.**—Albert Morton, Boston.

**Treasurer.**—William A. Dunklee, Boston.

**Executive Committee.**—M. T. Dole, Charlestown; H. S. Williams, Geo. A. Bacon, John Wetherbee, John Hardy, William E. Cask, J. L. Hatch, A. E. Carpenter, Dr. H. B. Storer, William White, Miss G. Stillings, Mrs. E. R. Still, Mrs. Albert Morton, Miss Mary A. Sanborn, Mrs. John Woods, Boston; B. G. Howe, Anson A. Reed, E. R. Fuller, Mrs. Maria Flagg, Worcester; E. G. Burnett, M. D., Webster; David Warner, Springfield; Mrs. W. W. Currier, Haverhill; Mrs. J. S. Dodge, Chelsea; Mrs. Elizabeth F. M. Denton, Wellesley; Mrs. N. J. Willis, Cambridgeport.

**Trustees.**—P. E. Gay, Daniel Farrar, George W. Smith, John Woods, George W. Morrill, Boston.

Thus the Society is fairly organized, and on Sunday evening, July 31st, will present its claims to public notice and favor, at Mercantile Hall. Let all friends of liberal and progressive thought make an effort to be in attendance, and thus lend their bodily presence and pecuniary aid to an Association which, if carried on in the spirit with which it has begun, cannot fail of producing glorious results in coming time.

**Spiritualism in Melbourne.**

We clip the following paragraph from *The Echo* of May 28th, a paper published at Dunedin, New Zealand. It is significant of the desire of the people to learn something more of Spiritualism, which has begun to be investigated in that far-off country:

"A correspondent, writing to the *Castlemaine Representative*, says that he (or she) understands that several enthusiastic Spiritualist gentlemen of Melbourne have decided to introduce to the colony the celebrated lectures, Mrs. Emma Hardinge, of the United States, and two mediums, for the term of twelve months. The expense of this speculation will be about two thousand pounds, which has been guaranteed by several wealthy and liberal Spiritualists of Melbourne. Mrs. Hardinge having lectured and publicly answered questions in a clairvoyant state, in several of the principal cities of America, and having just completed a successful engagement in England, where she had large, respectable and intelligent audiences, is about to return to the States, and it is supposed that she will be willing to accept the liberal offer made by the Spiritualists of Victoria."

**Vermont Items.**

Mrs. Lizzie Manchester will speak at West Randolph, Vt., the first Sunday in August.

J. A. Spear will speak in West Randolph, Vt., the second Sunday in August.

Dr. S. N. Gould will speak in North Fayston, Vt., the 24th of the present month.

Dr. George Denton will open a reform school for physical culture at West Randolph, Vt., September 6th.

**Correction.**

In the *Banner of Light* of May 7th, 1870, was published a statement, copied from the *East Greenwich* (R. I.) *Pendulum*, wherein was given an account of a spirit message delivered by William Wilson, among strangers in Lake, Milwaukee Co., Wis., and sent to the father of said spirit—Austin Wilson—at his home in East Greenwich, R. I., the letter accompanying the transmission being signed by Martha Howard.

We are notified by Mrs. Howard that the message did not come through her organism, but through that of her daughter-in-law, Mrs. M. E. Newson (who now resides in Michigan), and that she wrote it down at the dictation of the medium. Mrs. Howard forwards us, also, a certified copy of the letter received by her from Mr. Austin Wilson, the father of the spirit, acknowledging the leading facts of the message to be true.

**Movements of Lecturers and Mediums.**

A. S. Hayward, of this city, the well-known and successful magnetic healer, with his wife, an excellent test medium, are on a professional tour to Cape Cod. They will visit the principal towns and attend the camp-meeting of Spiritualists at Harwich, August 2d.

H. T. Leonard, of Taunton, Mass., will answer calls to lecture in the trance or clairvoyant state. Keep him at work.

J. H. Powell's address is 10 Chapman street, Boston.

N. Frank White is in Boston. Address care of this office.

M. Milleson, spirit-artist, is at present at the residence of Dr. Andrew Stone, of Troy, N. Y., where he will remain until the middle of August.

**Novel Mediumistic Development.**

Prof. J. H. Powell, who has lately returned from the West, gave a private seance in the presence of some thirty friends at 10 Chapman street, Boston, Tuesday evening, July 19th, at which was displayed the power developed in his wife for dancing while under influence. Mrs. Powell is a very small, physically weak woman, but while under influence she is enabled to continue in the most violent muscular exercise for a long time without fatigue to herself. The course of seances inaugurated on the 19th will be continued every Tuesday and Friday evening at the same place till further notice.

**"The Battle of Gettysburg."**

The exhibition of this celebrated painting at the Art Gallery of Childs & Co., Tremont street, Boston, after continuing for eighteen weeks—during which time twenty-seven thousand persons have visited it—closed Saturday, July 16th. Over \$10,000 worth of engravings from the picture have been ordered by various parties while in our city. Its proprietor, John B. Bachelder, intends leaving for Europe in a few weeks, to set in motion the work of transferring the picture to steel, which will require at least five years for its completion, although he hopes, by continuing the labor night and day, to be able to publish it in two years.

**Dr. Newton in London.**

An attempt was made to mob Dr. J. R. Newton, in London, recently, while he was gratuitously healing the sick in Rev. Dr. Burns's Chapel. A scurrilous handbill had been issued for the purpose of inciting a mob, instigated by "two gentlemen, an earnest Christian minister and the much respected Secretary of a well-known Christian Association." The police interfered, and the Doctor escaped unhurt. The Doctor is working purely for the good of humanity; how disgraceful, then, is such treatment by the leaders and teachers of so-called Christianity.

**The "Heathen" and the "Christian."**

Hon. Israel S. Diehl, late U. S. consul at Java, has been lecturing in Pittsburgh, Pa., on "Bible Lands," Babylon and Nineveh, etc. Many things among the people of those countries, he said, we might well imitate. In all the millions of these Asiatic people, drunkenness and rum-shops are unknown. The same is true of swearing. If a man swears, the first duty of any man that hears him is to knock him down. Imagine what would happen if such were the practice in this country! When they want to say anything bad of a man, they say, "he is as dirty as a Christian."

**Suing Brigham.**

An Elder, or somebody, has been bringing a suit against Brigham Young, and in the United States Court has recovered a verdict against him to the amount of ten thousand dollars. Nothing will answer for the great head of Mormonism to fork over that sum. He need not hope to get out of it, unless he thinks it can be done by levying war. But in that case he would have to spend his paltry ten thousand a good many times over, and have his trumpet establishment knocked about his ears into the bargain. Brigham will certainly have to come to the scratch this time.

**Spiritualist Meetings at Pierpont Grove.**

Prof. J. H. Powell spoke at this place Sunday afternoon, July 17th; subject, "Where are the mighty dead?" Mr. Powell's address is at present at No. 10 Chapman street, Boston. He will be happy to receive calls to address the Spiritualist societies of New England.

Miss Lizzie Doten will lecture at this grove Sunday afternoon, July 31st. Other speakers will be announced in due time.

**Another Speaker Announced.**

I take pleasure in informing the Spiritualist public that Albert E. Stanley, of Leicester, Vt., a young man of fine ability, of irreproachable character, and a logical and forcible speaker, has entered the lecture field of reform. In behalf of our fraternity I cordially extend to him the right hand of fellowship, and welcome him to the toils, sacrifices, honors and dishonors of the position. Though he is an aspiring genius, none need to fear that he will "get above" his "high calling," for, in the first place, God made him humble, and I know the Spiritualists will keep him poor!

He will make engagements within an available distance of his home, and I bespeak for him the patronage of the Spiritualists of Vermont.

DEAN CLARK.

According to a writer in the *Western Monthly*, a remarkable discovery has been made in California, proving that the Indians of the Pacific coast at least, came directly from Asia: "The Chinese and the Indians of the mountain tribes are able to understand one another, so many of their important words are alike or nearly alike." Should this statement be confirmed, its importance in an archaeological point of view can hardly be overestimated.

A Wisconsin paper claims that the water of the artesian wells in the town of Sparta is so charged with electricity that telegraph wires inserted in it need no other battery.

**ALL SORTS OF PARAGRAPHS.**

Our thanks are due Mrs. M. Goodwin, of Glover, Vt., for a box containing a jar of raspberries. Sorry the berries were not in good condition when they arrived. They soured on the journey.

Charlotte Cushman will leave Europe for the United States on the 18th of August, remain here until November, 1871, and then return to her Roman home.

A little school boy in Danvers when asked by his teacher why women should not vote, answered: "Cause they are afraid of catapillars."

The Mormons of Utah have turned their attention to the production of gloves that rival those of Paris in delicacy and workmanship. The gloves are made from genuine kid raised in the vicinity of Salt Lake.

Fun is better than physic.

The *Norwich Bulletin* of July 18th says: "The Rev. Mr. Dana, in his sermon yesterday morning, dissented most emphatically from the remarks on Charles Dickens made by that notorious ass, the Rev. Mr. Fulton, of Boston."

Employment begets cheerfulness.

The Episcopal diocese of Wisconsin have adopted a canon to the effect that any communicant marrying outside of their communion, or by a clergyman out of their denomination, shall stand excommunicated. An "infallible" dogma may be looked for soon.

A wife's love is better than a sweetheart's.

SIX DEGREES OF CRIME.—He who steals a million of dollars is a shrewd financier; he who steals half a million is a defaulter; he who steals a hundred thousand is a rogue; he who steals fifty thousand is a knave; he who steals one thousand is a villain; but he who steals a pair of boots or a loaf of bread is a scoundrel of the deepest dye, and deserves incarceration in a prison.

Since Queen Victoria took her place on the English throne, thirty-three years ago, every other throne in Europe, from the least unto the greatest, has changed occupants.

Gerritt Smith said, a few days ago, that wars would never occur if rulers drank water instead of wine.

By doing good with his money, a man as it were stamps the image of God upon it, and makes it pass current for the merchandise of heaven.

The trouble in Brigham Young's Mormon camp is becoming serious, and the saints are deserting in much larger numbers than heretofore.

Quill, who has hitherto been a Universalist, now believes there are two things destined to be entirely lost—his umbrella and the man who stole it.

The Empress Eugenie has been so anxious for Pius to be declared infallible, that while it was on the tremble, she knelt three times a day with her face toward Rome to pray for the success of her darling hope.

The Ludlow (Vt.) money diggers were assured before they began work that there was one hundred and fifty millions of treasure in buckskin sacks, and only about four feet from the surface. They dug down nine feet and have not found it yet.—*W.*

Had they kept within twelve inches of the surface, spreading out right and left, they could have realized a good crop in another season.

A Syracusan the other day consoled one of Dickens's mourners with the remark that he had "a mighty smart sister—that Anna Dickinson."

Some one pertinently asks: "Why is it that society to-day will forgive a man for a thousand transgressions—may, will fondle and flatter and crown him without repentance or forgiveness; but if a frail sister, tempted overmuch, shall make but one false step she must be consigned to hopeless infamy?"

Napoleon is sixty-two years old, and King William, of Prussia, seventy-three.

United States Senator Frelinghuysen has been confirmed as Minister to England in place of Mr. Motley.

Sunday, July 17th, was the hottest day of the season. In Boston the mercury rose to one hundred and four in the shade. The next day it stood at one hundred and one. Good weather for corn, but uncomfortable for fat people.

Congress passed a new pension law which protects the pensioner from sharpers and swindlers. Mr. Thomas Brinshaw, of Charlestown, Mass., a well known and respected citizen, died suddenly, July 18th, at the age of fifty-three.

The population of Boston is 270,000.

Speaking of his uninvited servants, Dickens said: "I do not consider that I own enough of any man to hang a badge upon."

A recent writer upon the Aryan and Semetic religion speaks of "Pill Shu" as one of the oldest Chinese deities. Where is the rascally plagiarist who claims "Shoo Fly?"

Mary Powell in her lecture on the Indians says she has seen 200 Indian babies all together, and not a squall came from any of them.

A new serial story by a distinguished American writer, whose name is held in reserve, is to be begun in the August *Gleaner*. The tale is said to be full of incident, dramatic, novel in scene and character, and admirably adapted for serial publication.

**CURRENT EVENTS.**

The elegant residence of Mrs. S. P. Shaw, at Old Cambridge, Mass., was destroyed by fire July 10th.

The State Department has received a dispatch from Mr. Hoffman, the acting Minister at Paris, stating that France had decided to respect the treaty of Congress of Paris of 1856, which establishes the principle that the goods of an enemy are free from seizure under a neutral flag, unless they are contraband of war. Neutral goods not thus contraband are not liable to capture on board of the enemy's ships. Similar advice from Denmark is also at hand. The United States, unwilling to give up the right of privateering and to issue letters of marque and reprisal, now become a party to the compact, which is, first, privateering is and remains abolished; second, the neutral flag covers the enemy's goods, with the exception of contraband of war; third, neutral goods, with the exception of contraband of war, are not liable to capture under an enemy's flag; fourth, blockade, in order to be binding, must be effective; that is to say, maintained by a force sufficient really to prevent access to the coast of the enemy.

A very large granite building belonging to the Tudor company, on Charles River Avenue, Charlestown, Mass., was destroyed by fire July 18th. It was used for manufacturing purposes. Loss \$300,000.

Mrs. Charles Kuhn, wife of Charles Kuhn of Philadelphia, and daughter of Hon. Charles Francis Adams, died at the baths of Lucca, Italy, on Wednesday, July 13th, from injuries received in being thrown from a carriage.

The United States Government will be an interested spectator of the war in Europe. The President has decided to send Gen. Sheridan or Gen. Schofield to the scene of the conflict to see if any new ideas are developed. The Secretary of State has sent dispatches to our representatives in Europe, stating that to our neutrality. "We will sell arms, ships, food, etc., to either side." Is the purpose of one despatch. The Secretary of the Navy, with the assistance of Vice-Admiral Porter, is issuing orders to all the navy yards, fleet commanders and others, so as to be ready

for all contingencies. Gen. Sherman and Admiral Porter will not be absent from Washington many days at a time. Gen. Sherman has considerably to do under the new army bill, and both will be at hand in case of trouble. It is not believed that an extra session of Congress will be called under the present circumstances.

France has notified Prussia that she will not use explosive bullets if Prussia will not. After the first battle has been fought all the powers of Europe, it is said, will make an effort to stop the conflict. The French journals have received orders to publish no information concerning military movements. The Catholics of the South German States are reported to be opposed to Prussia.

A telegram from Rome, July 18th, says: "The Council held a public session today, at which 238 Fathers were present. The Schema de Ecclesia Christi was adopted by a vote of 536 to 2, and was approved as a Constitution of the Church by the Pope, who pronounced a short allocution."

Reports from the Indian country for the last five or six days have been quite favorable. Gen. Parker, the Indian Commissioner, does not believe there will be any trouble with the Sioux or other northern Indians, and hopes to avoid trouble with the southern Indians, some of whom have recently shown indications of hostile intent. Three or four members of the Peace Commission will probably leave for the plains at an early day, and if all cannot go the Commissioner will send other gentlemen as temporary substitutes to represent the views of the department. He will soon take steps to learn the will of the Osages in Kansas as to giving up their lands under the terms of the late act of Congress.

The new Patent and Copyright Law makes twenty pages of the Congressional edition of the laws. An edition of that sort of it relating to patents, with notes and references, is now being published under the direction of the Commissioner of Patents. Proprietors of copyright books or other articles must remember that under the new law they are required to send by mail to the Librarian of Congress two copies of the best edition issued of each book, or photographs of paintings, stationery, &c., or be liable to a fine of twenty-five dollars.

M. Prévost-Panhol, the new French Minister who arrived in this country July 13th, committed suicide in Washington, by shooting, during the night of July 19th. It is supposed he was rendered temporarily insane by fatigue and the excessive heat in Washington. Among the rising statesmen of France, he was the most promising.

**The Second Grand Union Picnic for 1870.**

Will be held at Island Grove, Abington, on Friday, July 23rd. Special trains will leave the Old Grove Depot, Boston, at 8:45 and 12 o'clock precisely for the Grove.

From the following way stations by regular trains the fare is as follows:

Harrison Square, Adults, 50 cts.; Children, 40 cts.	
Napamoot, " 45 " " 35 "	
Quincy, " 40 " " 30 "	
Braintree, " 35 " " 25 "	
South Braintree, " 45 " " 35 "	
East Bridgewater, " 40 " " 30 "	
Bridgewater, " 55 " " 40 "	
Middleboro', " 70 " " 50 "	
Hanson, " 75 " " 55 "	
Hallowell, " 80 " " 60 "	
Kingston, " 85 " " 65 "	
Plymouth, " 90 " " 70 "	

Be sure to call for excursion tickets. To be obtained at the depots.

Refreshments in abundance may be obtained at the Grove at reasonable prices. No peddlers or exhibitors of any kind are permitted.

Prominent speakers will be in attendance. If the weather is pleasant it is anticipated that this will be one of the largest and most interesting gatherings ever assembled in this famous Grove. Come one and all, and bring the children, that they for one day may enjoy the fresh air and sunlight of the country.

H. R. GARDNER, M. D., Manager.  
Boston, July 17th, 1870.

**Picnic at Walden Pond.**

The Second Grand Union Spiritualists' Picnic at Walden Pond, Concord, Mass., will take place Wednesday, Aug. 3d. Special trains will leave the Fitchburg Depot, Boston, at 8:45, making stops at Charlestown, Somerville, Cambridge and Waltham. Other trains will leave at 11, 2:15 and 3:35. All excursionists above Concord will take regular trains. Arrangements have been made for the accommodation of the large numbers that are expected to attend this popular gathering. Public speakers and mediums are cordially invited. Edmunds's Band will furnish music. Public speakers will be furnished with free tickets by calling upon the committee. No extra charge for dining.

We would also give notice that arrangements have been made to hold a six days' Camp or Grove Meeting, commencing Aug. 23d, and continuing until Sunday afternoon at 5 o'clock. Alterations will be made at the grove, by arranging suitable accommodations for speaking, and seating at least six thousand persons, the whole to be protected from the sun or rain, thus affording shelter in case there should be a storm. Ample provision will be made for parents to take their families, and thus spend the time in one of the most delightful spots in this section of the country. Full particulars of this meeting and its mode of management will be given in the *Banner of Light* in due season.

Committee of Arrangements.—Dr. A. H. RICHARDSON, Charlestown; J. S. DODGE, Boston.

**Great Grove Meetings.**

At Fond du Lac, Wis., on Saturday and Sunday, July 30 and 31, P. V. Wilson, of Fitchburg, recently from London, England, and J. O. Barrett will address the people. A Grove Meeting will also be held at Glen Buck, Shuey, Lawrence, Mass., next the famous Elbert Lake, accessible by cars at half fare, both Saturday and Sunday, August 6th and 7th. J. M. Peckham, J. O. Barrett and other speakers will be present. Let everybody come up to these feasts of temperance.

**Grove Meeting.**  
The Spiritualists will hold their Tenth Annual Grove Meeting at Burnet Grove, Phoenix, N. Y., on Sunday, July 31st, forenoon and afternoon. Speaker, Les Miller, Steamers Lawrence and Erie will take passengers from Syracuse, to and from the grove, for 50 cents the round trip. The friends at other localities will arrange for the occasion as may seem best. Come friends, come all.  
Clay, N. Y., July 11, 1870. By Order Committee.

**Spiritualists' Camp Meeting on Cape Cod.**  
Arrangements have been made with the New Bedford and Fairhaven Railroad, for fare to Harwich and back, \$1.25.  
New Bedford, July 20th, 1870. I. C. RAY.

**The Austin Kent Fund.**  
Previous acknowledgments: . . . \$107.55  
E. S. Springfield, Mass., . . . 2.40  
Daniel B. B. . . . 1.50  
Mrs. B. B. . . . 1.00  
G. L. D. Albany, N. Y., (monthly donation) . . . 50  
\$111.95

**Spiritual Periodicals for Sale at this Office:**

**THE LONDON SPIRITUAL MAGAZINE.** Price 30 cts. per copy. Edited by W. E. Glendon. A Monthly Journal of Zoetic Science and Intelligence. Published in London. Price 25 cts. per copy.  
**THE MEDIUM AND DAYBREAK.** A weekly paper published in London. Price 5 cts.  
**THE RELIGIOUS-PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL.** Devoted to Spiritualism. Published in Chicago, Ill., by B. S. Jones, Esq. Price 5 cts.  
**THE LYCEUM BANNER.** Published in Chicago, Ill. Price 5 cts.  
**THE AMERICAN SPIRITUALIST.** Published at Cleveland, O. Price 5 cts.  
**THE HERALD OF HEALTH AND JOURNAL OF PHYSICAL CULTURE.** Published in New York. Price 20 cents per copy.

**Business Matters.**

Mrs. B. D. MURPHY, Clairvoyant and Magnetist Physician, 32 West 29th street, New York. Jy.

JAMES V. MANSFIELD, TEST MEDIUM, answers sealed letters, at 102 West 15th street, New York. Terms, \$5 and four three-cent stamps. Jy2.

SEALED LETTERS ANSWERED BY R. W. FILINT, 105 East 12th street, New York. Terms \$2 and 3 stamps. Money refunded when not answered. Jy2.

Mrs. S. A. R. WATERMAN, box 4193, Boston, Mass., Psychometrist and Medium, will answer letters (sealed or otherwise) on business, to spirit friends, for tests, magnetic advice, delineations of character, &c. Terms \$2 to \$5 and three 3-cent stamps. Send stamp for a circular. Jy2.

**Notice to Subscribers of the Banner of Light.**  
Your attention is called to the plan we have adopted of placing figures at the end of each of your names, as printed on the paper, so that the figures stand as an index, so that we can exact time when your subscription expires; i. e., the time for which you have paid. When these figures correspond to the number of the volume and the number of the paper itself, then know that the time for which you paid has expired. The adoption of this method renders it unnecessary for us to send circulars. Those who desire the paper continued should renew their subscriptions at least as early as three weeks before the receipt-figures correspond with those at the left and right of the date.

**Special Notices.**

**HERMAN SNOW,**  
No. 39 KEANEY STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Keeps for sale a general variety of Spiritualist and Reform Books, At Eastern prices. Also Planchettes, Spencer's Positive and Negative Powers, etc. The *Banner of Light* can always be found on his counter. Catalogues and Circulars mailed free. May 1-1f



ing. Entertainment will be provided, and a cordial invitation to be present is extended to the Spiritualists of Orleans and adjoining counties. A good degree of interest is already awakened, and a large and interesting meeting is hoped for.

M. B. DELANO, of Committee.



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 12 " " " " 5.00  
 9.00  
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July 2.

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