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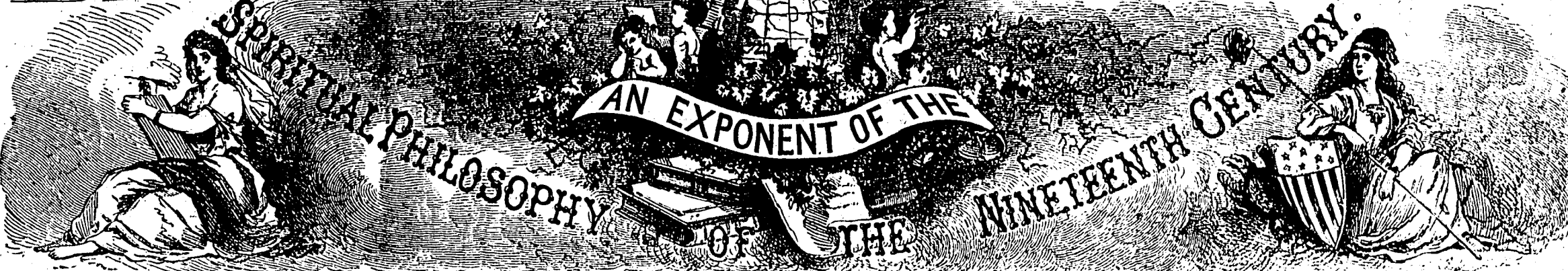
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BANNER OF LIGHT.



VOL. XXXVII.

{ COLBY & RICH,
Publishers and Proprietors. }

BOSTON, SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1875.

{ \$3.00 Per Annum,
In Advance. }

NO. 7.

A Highly Interesting Original Story,
Complete in Two Numbers of the Banner.

CHARITY;

OR,

WHO WAS TO BLAME?

Written Expressly for the Banner of Light.

BY MRS. ELIZA M. HICKOK.

Author of "Linda's Trials," "Clara Devine," "The Artist's Hope; or, The Inspiration of a Rose,"
etc., etc., etc.

CHAPTER V.

Mrs. Lionel Darrell.

Let us leave now the pleasant sea-side (we shall return presently), and, referring back to that sombre, lonely evening on which Hellen, arrived at Priam, we betake ourselves to the distant city from whence she had come, and venture to intrude within the elegant mansion of Mrs. Darrell, confident of seeing that lady at home.

We find her in company with her daughter, quite at ease in a luxurious apartment. The carefully toned light from a massive chandelier casts a soft radiance upon the elegant and costly furniture, and everything in the room denotes wealth and comfort. The two ladies are alone, each reclining languidly in the depths of a velvet-covered chair; but evidently some subject of unusual importance engages them at present, for the younger lady remarks with considerable interest:

"And so she has really gone, and left no trace by which Lyon can find her, even if he should wish to. Well, mamma, I must say you would make an excellent diplomatist."

"Well, when I determine upon anything I usually find means to accomplish it," replied the mother. "And determined I was to separate those two, which I think I have done effectually. That was why I appeared so favorable the last time Lyon was here—to learn all I could of his plans and purposes. But how fortunate it is, Bertha, that they have not appeared in society! I suppose she did not like to go, and he was just silly enough to remain at home with her. But he will soon be over his infatuation now; and when he has a wife whom he will not be ashamed of in his aristocratic set, he may thank me for the part I have taken."

"But I wonder, mamma, that he did not take her to Mrs. Wainwright's party; he knew we were not to be there."

"Oh, there was a very good reason for her not going into society of late; though I never dreamed of such an additional trouble until I saw her the day after she received the note. I am glad I did not, for fear I might have relented; but then she will be well supplied with money, and that, you know, has power to conceal anything from the world."

"Besides, mamma, I should think it all the more important to send her away," added the wise daughter, thus revealing her skill in the art of diplomacy.

"You are right, Bertha. Lyon is the last of the noble Darrells who can perpetuate the name. And how would it seem for his children to know that their mother was a poor working-girl whose lineage and character we know nothing of. My son to introduce that girl as his wife, indeed! And Mrs. Darrell's lip curled scornfully, though her eye soon lighted with pride as she glanced at a large picture of Lyon which adorned the wall. "Very handsome, very noble-looking he certainly was. But, oh, hard, cold woman of the world, how could you counsel and wish him to leave the wreck of a bright, young life in his pathway? how could you scheme and plot to rob him of his true nobility, caring nothing for the stain upon his soul so long as it was concealed from the world's gaze?"

Mrs. Darrell was naturally a cold, calculating woman, though it is hard for a sympathetic nature to conceive how she could be so cruel. But her whole life and education had fostered and strengthened her unworthy pride and principles, and she had an idea that the working class of people were not possessed of the finer feelings and sentiments of life—that they only required money to secure their earthly happiness anywhere. More than this, her frivolous mind did not accept the possibility that her son's happiness could be at all affected by Hellen's disappearance. She never quite understood Lyon about some things, yet she expected to convince him that she had acted wisely, even if he should be disposed to rebel.

"But, mamma," questioned the discreet daughter, after a little pause, "do you think Lyon really was married to her—I mean according to every legal form?"

"Well, I do not know," was the calm reply; "he might have been, in his blind infatuation. I believe Lyon is more scrupulous about such things than most young men of his age; but it would never have been prudent to let her know it. Indeed, I saw no easier method than to make her believe (which I am sure she does) that she had been deceived. I was rather sorry at her situation, as I have nothing against her, save that she aspired to a place in our family; but, as you say, that only makes the demands of the case more imperative; beside, when I had seen her, of course it was too late to retract, as the note had been written. So I reasoned with her as kindly as I could; and advised her to forget all the past. I do not much wonder, though, that Lyon was charmed by her beauty."

"Yet I am surprised that she left the city so readily, mamma, and before a letter from Lyon had time to reach her, too! But then your imitation of his handwriting was just about perfect!"

"Yes," interposed the triumphant mother; "and she was too much bewildered by the sudden shock to reason clearly. Then my opportune call was additional proof to her. I led her to think that Lyon had not even left the city; naturally that would hasten her departure. She does not know how well informed I have kept myself of all their movements, waiting for just such an opportunity."

"Well, the only anxiety I feel now," said Bertha, "is about Lyon's return. I confess I rather dread that, for your sake."

"Why, how will he ever suppose that I had anything to do with her going away? I shall also give him an idea which her silence will only strengthen; and, even if he did love her, I think I can lead him to believe her unworthy!" And Mrs. Lionel Darrell arose and paced slowly across the floor, her rich robes trailing after her, and took up the latest, most refined novel, thus dismissing the subject and seeking to banish reflections which were not wholly agreeable.

And, though she maintained her calm demeanor as the days went swiftly by, she did find herself wishing that the meeting with her injured son was over. For of course, my dear reader, you have now learned where the blame rests, and are quite ready to accept Lyon Darrell as a hero worthy of your admiration. She judged, and rightly, that his surprise and anxiety at not hearing from Hellen would hasten his return; so she was not altogether unprepared when, a few days later, she heard his quick, elastic step— which she recognized in a moment—in the hall outside her door, though, when she answered his imperative knock, she was a little startled at his pale, changed countenance.

"My wife!" he questioned, with just a word of greeting, "do you know anything of her, mother?"

"Your wife!" was the cool, astonished reply. "How should I know anything of her, Lyon? I believe I have never recognized any lady as your wife."

"But she is my wife, as I have told you repeatedly, though you do seem very willing to credit me as a villain! and, more, I tell you now, proud mother, she is the only woman this earth holds whom I ever will call my wife!"

"I beg you will make no such rash statements, my son. If she could thus leave you at the first opportunity, of her own accord, would you cherish her unworthy memory? You! a proud Darrell! Lyon! You do not know what friends or attachments she may have had prior to your acquaintance with her."

"But that has yet to be proved. Nothing but indisputable facts can ever convince me that Hellen is not all I thought her. Don't, mother, wring my heart with a suspicion unless you know whereof you speak. If neither you nor Bertha can give me information regarding Hellen, I will go," said Lyon, sadly, pausing in his rapid walk, his hand upon the door.

"I certainly cannot," replied his mother; "but you are much fatigued, Lyon. Do sit down. Mary shall bring you up a lunch, if you do not wish to go down to the dining-room. Rest a little while, my son; you have not even seen Bertha."

"Not this time, mother. I cannot lose a moment now. I must find some trace of Hellen before I can rest. I will see you again soon," and as quickly as he had come he was gone.

Mrs. Darrell breathed a sigh of relief, as she murmured to herself: "I hope Lyon will not rest in this way very long. It really grieves me to see him. But he will be easily deceived. He doesn't even suspect me of any part in her absence. Of course not. Why should he?" she repeated to her guilty heart.

Back to his desolate rooms the young husband returned, with such a weight of sorrow on his heart as had never rested there before. "Oh, Hellen, my love, my darling," he said, looking sadly about him. "What does this mean? She cannot have left me without some word of explanation. There must be in these rooms some clue to this mystery. Yes, I feel that there is. I cannot lose my treasure so."

He threw wide open every blind, and resolutely commenced his search. But no scrap of Hellen's delicate handwriting rewarded his patient and thorough examination of every box, drawer and private receptacle which the room and furniture contained. Nothing to enlighten or to guide him. A tiny, crumpled paper, lying in a dark corner, hitherto unnoticed, did not escape his watchful eyes, and with an habitual love of order, he picked it up to cast it from the window. But suddenly his hand was stayed, and without a suspicion of the revelation to follow, he began to smooth the crushed and apparently worthless paper, and soon discovered writing upon it.

Amazed, he saw his own initials, and then with palling face deciphered every cruel word. And the writing—no wonder Hellen was deceived—he would not on an ordinary occasion have hesitated to declare his own.

But who could have been so treacherous and designing? What enemy had he or Hellen, so base and wicked? were thoughts which perplexed him. He knew the reason now of his wife's absence, but could form no idea of where she had gone, and in despair he groaned aloud. "How shall I ever find her? Where shall I seek? Oh God, direct me," he prayed, as he bowed his proud head upon the marble slab before him, whereon still rested the fatal missive.

Then suddenly he started from his chair, and again taking up the paper, minutely examined it. It was perfectly plain, of delicate texture, though in common use; but about it lingered faintly a rare perfume, which Lyon Darrell had recognized. Again, by a chance movement, this little, unexpected detective appealed directly to his senses. And though it cost a bitter pang to believe his own mother guilty of this cruel forgery, he set his lips firmly, and with an air of determination which plainly would brook no evasion, placed the important paper in his pocket and proceeded directly to his mother's residence. He made no pause or hesitation, until he again stood in her presence. She was seated comfortably in her elegant parlor, Bertha as usual beside her, busy with some trifling work. Both ladies started at Lyon's abrupt entrance, and stern, resolute manner.

"I have learned the reason of Hellen's disappearance," he said, by a plighted effort speaking calmly, and fixing his searching eyes intently on his mother's face. "What enemy can I have on earth, to write a lie so cruel as that?" he added, holding the note up to her view.

Mrs. Darrell's countenance changed in spite of her great self-command; and her reply only strengthened the young man's suspicion. "It might not have been an enemy, my son," she said soothingly, when she had appeared to read it over, "but some one who wished to befriend; by helping you to free yourself from a strangely infatuating power. Surely, Lyon, you could never wish to introduce that girl into your own exclusive circle."

"You are wasting words, mother," interposed the young man, impatiently; "and I have no time for that. One question I directly ask you, did you write that note?"

"The prudent, worldly woman, for once had no reply to give. There was a look in his eye which would have made a less courageous person tremble and shrink away from him, but she only quietly held her peace.

"Enough, my mother," he resumed with a bitter emphasis upon the words; "but God forgive me, I think I will never desecrate the name of mother by applying it to you again. Only one question more; and to this I demand a true and correct answer. Do you know where my wife has gone?"

Mrs. Darrell's composure was fast forsaking her before the terrible depth of suppressed feeling in her son's manner. She saw that she had played a dangerous part, and made a serious mistake in his character. "I do not, Lyon," she replied in sincere tones. "I have not the slightest clue, believe me. If I had, I would tell you, for I never supposed you cared so much for her."

"They must go, for I will find Hellen if she is alive on this earth. But if—oh, if harm has befallen her, my curse be on you forever."

"Oh Lyon, my son, what pain you bring to my heart," moaned his mother.

"And what pain have you brought to mine?" was the quick reply; "a pain whose power and lasting effects I do not even know of yet. But I leave you; perhaps a merciful Father will forgive your cruelty—I cannot now. And if I fail to find my wronged, suffering wife, know that your son will henceforth be a desolate wanderer."

Then, with pale, stern face, and a light adieu to his sister, who was sobbing aloud, he left them. Mrs. Darrell pressed her hand upon her heart, essaying to speak, to call him back, but she could frame no words; and as the street door closed after him, she fell back in a deep swoon, while the frightened Bertha quickly summoned assistance. And here for the present we leave them, and return to old friends.

CHAPTER VI.

The Dawn of Peace.

The remainder of Hellen's story would not be interesting in detail. She described the interview with Lyon's haughty mother, (and I fancy the reader does not care for an extensive acquaintance with that lady;) and told the reason of her addressing Dr. Harmon in that far-off place.

When the first shock of her great grief enabled her to reflect regarding her immediate course of action, she remembered that her father had once been slightly acquainted with Dr. Harmon, and that he, as well as others, had always spoken of him as remarkable for kindness and benevolence. Thinking she would seek advice of him, and perhaps place herself under his care, she endeavored to find his residence. Fortunately she learned where he had gone, and hastened to address him, and when she received an immediate and favorable reply, she felt as though a kind Power had opened the way for her. And though she hardly looked for such chivalric reserve among the people of such a small, social neighborhood, the kindness of Dr. Harmon's family had more than compensated for it all.

"And now, Aunt Dorcas," concluded Hellen, "good comforter as you are, what possible happiness can the future hold for me?"

"Before I answer thee, Hellen, I desire to

ask a question and favor of thee," replied Aunt Dorcas, with unwonted animation. "Hast thou a picture of this young man—Lyon Darrell?"

Hellen's face flushed, and her lip quivered, as she said, "Yes, I have, though I ought of course to have destroyed it;" and she opened her trunk and took it therefrom.

"Nay, dear child, I had no thought of reproving thee for its possession; I only wished to see it." Then Aunt Dorcas fixed her eyes intently upon the picture—as perfect, in likeness, to Lyon Darrell as a picture could be—and made no remark for a few moments. At length, with a satisfied expression, the good lady looked up, saying, "My dear, I am not at all convinced that this young man has a wicked heart. Truth and honor seem written on his noble countenance. He is very fine looking, Hellen. I think, indeed, that thou hast been most cruelly deceived, but not by him."

"Oh, Aunt Dorcas! how can you bid me hope? It was his own handwriting. It crushed my heart to believe that one who appeared in all things so perfectly honorable, whose manner was invariably tender and loving, could prove so base and cruel; but what else could I think?" "Thy conclusions were too hastily drawn, child. If there had been no perceptible change in his manner, he would hardly have left thee so suddenly; yet I cannot wonder at thy decision in that bitter hour. But remember, Hellen, there are wicked hearts in the broad world, and ready hands in Satan's employ. And thou hast no reason to doubt the genuineness of thy marriage," questioned Aunt Dorcas; very kindly.

"None at all."

"And was there not a certificate?" "There was; but I think Lyon has it in his possession, as he said he would have a larger copy framed; but after receiving that terrible note I supposed he only intended to destroy it, if it were indeed genuine."

Aunt Dorcas shook her head. "I have not one reproving word for thee," she said; "but I wish thou hadst not so readily accepted a seeming truth. But do not grieve now, Hellen. I think it will all end well, and the blame fall where it belongs."

Aunt Dorcas and Hellen conversed together long after the evening shadows fell, and the spending young mother found herself daring to hope that this good, sympathetic woman, whose faith was so clear and strong, might indeed be gifted with the spirit of prophecy.

The next day was Saturday, and it seemed as though all the beauties of ocean, earth and sky had convened at Priam. The flowers bloomed and nodded brightly, as if they felt a thrill of happiness for their brief lives. The soft breeze just rustled the leaves of the sentinel trees, the birds sang sweetly in their branches, while the sunlight kissed old ocean's waves, until they sparkled like a myriad of diamonds.

Aunt Dorcas, as usual, was in perfect harmony with Nature. Busy and cheerful, she seemed possessed with a spirit of cooking, so much that Mrs. Harmon said pleasantly, "Why, Dorcas, have you expecting company? I think we shall have to invite some to help dispose of all the good things which you are preparing."

"Well, perhaps the minister may dine with us to-morrow," was the laughing reply. "I presume, ministers do not object to dainties. But Hellen seems so much more cheerful than usual that I do not mind leaving her alone. The baby—dear little fellow—is always good and happy, you know; and then, I just felt like joking this bright day."

"You always feel like doing your part of work, I guess," replied her sister-in-law, who saw no fault in whatever Dorcas chose to do; "and I am glad if you have succeeded in bringing some hope to the poor girl's heart, she has been so sad."

"But mind thee, Sarah; I think the dawn is very near at hand. I am sure her husband will seek and find her. Hard as it may seem, some kind way will be ordered by which he can trace her."

"Well, Dorcas, if you feel so confident, I shall have faith for you are seldom wrong in your impressions. Oh, I hope it will be so; she has suffered enough to deserve such happiness as his coming would bring. But what would he think of us plain, old-fashioned people? I should wish to receive him cordially for Hellen's sake, but he must have been accustomed to very proud society."

"Never fear, Sarah; his heart is right, and he is sensible, unless I am greatly deceived in his picture and by my own impressions."

So these true-hearted women employed their minds with charitable thoughts, which often found utterance, as with busy hands the delicate and tempting cookery was prepared and perfected; and after that each pleasant room arranged with scrupulous neatness.

And even if they should remain at home on the morrow, were they not serving God as acceptably as the rigid Mrs. Sharp, who, with commendation in her heart and on her tongue for others' shortcomings, put everything in pious order—each brush and broom forbidden to leave its place on the holy Sabbath—and then was among the first at church, upright and proper in her pew, alike arrayed in Sunday clothes and Sunday countenance?

"Come, Hellen," said the pleasant voice of Aunt Dorcas, as dressed in most becoming drab she entered her young friend's room. "I have a fancy for seeing thee look as beautiful as everything else about us to-day. Now, to please Aunt Dorcas, unbind thy hair, and allow it to fall, as Nature intended it should; put it back from thy

face with those handsome combs I saw the other day; and then, just to please me, wear that becoming blue dress a little while."

"Why, Aunt Dorcas!" said Hellen, in surprise.

"I know what thou art thinking of," was the quick reply, a little flush of pink rising in each fair cheek. "But, Hellen, though most of our 'Society' condemn all adornments and bright colors, and though I do not wish them for myself, yet I can admit them appropriately used; and I think it no sin for thee, so young and fair, to wear them according to thy own excellent taste. Now wilt thou dress as I tell thee, for my sake?"

"I will do anything you desire, and deem it a pleasure, my truest friend," replied Hellen, as she arose with some interest to make her toilet."

The days were much longer now than when Hellen had arrived at Priam, so that the train reached there some time before sunset. And when the distant ear-whistle sounded, Aunt Dorcas and Mrs. Harmon were just adding the last dishes to the most inviting of tables. Tea would be late at Dr. Harmon's, that evening, for the physician was away, and would not return until after the train came in, intending, as he passed the depot, to call, as he usually did, to see if any one wished to ride down with him.

Arrivals at Priam were more frequent now, for the summer season was at hand; but the arrival of a young man, so handsome, so polished in manners, so sad and anxious in appearance, was unusual. He drew at once all eyes to him, but took not the slightest notice of this fact, as he directly, in a business-like manner, inquired the way to Dr. Harmon's residence. While the ticket-vender was puzzling his brains how best to direct the stranger there, his face suddenly lighted, and he exclaimed, "There's Dr. Harmon now, just driving up to the station, sir. I will speak to him for you!"

This kindness was received with appreciative thanks, and as Dr. Harmon had no time to linger, the wondering people enjoyed only a brief scrutiny of the stranger; but gossiping tongues were busy again; they might have saved their forces could they have dreamed of the revelation which awaited them on the morrow.

Hellen Darrell (for she now receives her rightful name) stood by a window looking out upon the sea, pale, but beautiful, and strangely calm. The baby slept sweetly in his little nest of pillows, and a peaceful influence pervaded the quiet house, while without the slowly-setting sun bathed everything in a golden glory as Dr. Harmon's carriage was driven rapidly up to the door.

"Sarah! Sarah!" called the good physician, in a low tone, full of suppressed excitement, "there's wonderful news for Hellen, my dear. But she must not hear it too suddenly. This young man, her husband, 'Who will tell her very calmly?'"

"Oh, Aunt Dorcas, by all means, Henry; she is always calm, you know. Beside, I think, she felt that he would come to-night. I doubt, even, if she will be much surprised, her faith was so strong."

And when Aunt Dorcas had given Lyon Darrell her cordial greeting, receiving one as cordial, lysing in return, and seen the look of alarm with which he heard the Doctor's injunction to wait a few moments before seeing his wife, she hastened to Hellen's room, her heart filled with gratitude for others' happiness.

In a short time she returned, and bade the young man follow her. And Lyon Darrell, his heart full of conflicting thoughts, of bitter indignation toward his scheming mother, of fear for Hellen's safety and health (for he knew not the happy surprise in store for him—that an heir to the proud house of Darrell had been given), quickly obeyed the summons. But no; Hellen, beautiful, radiant now, met him just within the door. Aunt Dorcas immediately withdrew, merely saying:

"When thou art ready, Hellen, dear, come down to tea—this young man needs refreshment. And however great the soul's happiness, it cannot wholly supply the physical needs."

We pass lightly over that tender meeting, the happiness of which seemed beyond expression; and the love and pride with which Lyon Darrell gazed upon the sleeping face of his little son, for as Hellen soon remarked:

"We must not keep our good friends waiting for their tea. And," she added, "they will as heartily rejoice in my great happiness as they have sympathized in my deep sorrow, Lyon."

And presently they joined the family at the pleasant tea-table. That even Lyon Darrell felt the gentle but powerful influence of Aunt Dorcas we may suppose from a remark of his when, later in the evening, he sat with his wife and child in their room, watching the moon rise over the now peaceful waters.

"That is a wonderfully agreeable woman, Hellen," he said. "Without the least obtrusiveness she seems to draw one to herself. Oh, what a blessing to have such a mother."

A bitter emphasis rested on the word, yet the sigh which followed bespoke already the awakening of gentle thoughts.

"To me, I believe she is perfect," replied his wife; "and when I have told you all my experience here I think you will agree with me, dear Lyon."

But Hellen, in her warm praises of her kind friends, could not well avoid giving her husband, with his keen perceptions, an idea of the cold scorn with which others had treated her. Then his face flushed with the deep indignation which swept his proud soul, and he exclaimed:

"So you had to bear that reproach, as well as your own great suffering, my wronged darling. But the reckoning must come. And now I think

I will attend 'divine services' here to-morrow for an especial purpose."

"Why, Lyon?"

"Yes, my dear," he interposed in a playful tone, but firmly asserted, "I am resolved these people shall hear my version of the story which they have been feasting their scandal-loving souls upon. They deserve it, Hellené. I doubt not they need to be reminded that there is such a word as 'charity' in the Bible too so deeply revere. Fear not, my love. I will say nothing rash, for the peaceful influence of this home has already calmed my turbulent feelings."

Prism received a sensation the next day which must have lasted for a season.

There was a visible stir and excitement when a tall handsome stranger, of commanding appearance, entered the little church accompanied by the beautiful mysterious lady who had been the subject of so many remarks, and both quietly took seats in Dr. Harmon's pew.

I fear the minister's carefully-prepared sermon was hardly understood or appreciated that day, but I do think the wondering congregation understood at least the forcible but well-chosen words of the stranger who at the close of the meeting craved permission to address their briefly.

It might not have been exactly a religious proceeding to allow this proud-looking stranger to tell them from the sacred pulpit of the great mistake they had made regarding a lady who, he desired them to remember, was his loved and honored wife.

But Lyon Darrell demanded this as the only method of clearly explaining away the stain which had rested upon her name, and, one and all, they were too much interested in the subject to leave, so they heard him through. Heard, many of them, with downcast faces and a strong realization of the uncharitable state of their hearts.

And if Mrs. Dorothy Sharp felt that his keen eyes rested oftenest on her, it must have been because she had so readily and so loudly given her voice in censure, and surely no one was to blame but herself. True, she had never thought of such a denunciation, but she had chosen to take the most unkind, uncharitable view of the case, which, though plausible enough, did not happen to be correct. We trust the mortification experienced by more than one of that congregation taught them a lesson, and reminded them of the words "judge not," &c.

And when Lyon Darrell's gratitude to Dr. Harmon's family was manifested in something more substantial than words of thanks; when the good physician was made happy by the gift of a clean and free deed of the place he was striving, rather unsuccessfully, to pay for, and each member of his family received a valuable and appropriate present—if then many another family in Prism thought regretfully: "We thought have been included in this pleasant remembrance," who, indeed, was to blame that they were not?

If, when the summer season brought the annual visit of Lyon Darrell and his wife to Dr. Harmon's seaside home, always accompanied by some worthy token of regard; and when all the family had been persuaded to visit Hellené's city home, receiving every attention which grateful hearts could bestow—if then others in Prism half-enviously sighed: "How pleasant to have such rich generous friends," we ask again, who was to blame?

And now, in the enjoyment of happiness the greater that it has once been overshadowed by sorrow, and love the stronger that it has been tested, we leave our happy, reunited friends. In conclusion, we have reason to believe that the shock which Mrs. Darrell received at her son's departure has touched her proud heart and she is trying to overcome her false ideas and receive Hellené as a daughter. When she is ready to be just, we know that Lyon and Hellené will forgive and bury the past, for the life and counsel of Aunt Dorcas—blessings on her loving heart—have not been without a benign and lasting influence. And when Mrs. Darrell knows Hellené, we feel sure she will acknowledge that Lyon has chosen wisely and well, and for his honor and firmness he fully deserves the earthly happiness he now enjoys in the presence of wife and child.

Written for the Banner of Light.
THE DAWNING DAY.

BY WILLIAM BRYTON.

The sun of light and love bedecked our morning prime,
And burst in golden splendor down the hills of time;
And sheen of darkness night transparent hues of day,
And wakes to fair land life the dawn of day.

It robes the earth with flowers, bright stars of truth and love,
And thrills to praise and peace the gentle lark and dove;
Enriched with saintly grace and bliss with wisest lore,
It sweeps from furthest East to break upon our shore;

But not for white alone, or men of high degree—
For all of woman born, to bless and make them free;
To bless with hope and strength, make free from care and frailty,
And be the light and love, the heritage of all!

We are not best poor free while sin maintains his sway,
While want and crime abound and brave the dawning day;
While erring mind and soul are left in desert drear,
With no kind shepherd-bark to rescue, help and cheer;

While wasteful war and wrong estrange, destroy and blight,
And foul ambition seeks the ancient rule of right;
We are not best poor free till faith and virtue reign,
Till truth and justice meet, and life and love are slain;

Till light and love are one in royal stature and grace,
The man's majestic form, the woman's angel face;
That perfect time is near, responsive to our call;
Behold its brightening beams, the heritage of all!

There's light for thee, dark soul, that totters to the tomb,
That fears its frowning porch, the hemlock of death and doom;
There's light to show the life that sheds its fragrance there,
Twin-rose and lily-flower—sweetheart and fair!

And light for thee, lone one, whose tears suffuse thine eyes,
The sunset light that dawns on furthest Eastern skies;
There's love in yonder sky, ten thousand angels bright,
The summer rays of love, the tropic beams of light!

There's love for desert hearts, the sweetest fruits and flowers,
There's love for Sharon soils, the bloom of Eden bowers,
Away with fears and doubt, away with death and night,
Let all embrace the love, let all receive the light!

Arise, ye young and brave! arise from sin and shame!
Go, win the victor's wreath and high heroic name!
Arise, ye dull and dead, the soldiers in the van;
And live the blessed life, the spirit-life of man!

Let each and all unite, regarding manhood's trust,
Till earth is fair and free, with wisdom pure and just;
Oh, dawns of light and love, ascend thy heavenly way!
Our souls expanded thus, for thee we watch and pray!

Thy light our ambient air, thy love our azure sky—
A Paradise shall lead to that on high!
Sweet pentecost day, fast dawning on our sight,
Arise o'er all the world, eternal love and light!

The Rev. Joshua Brooks, of Manchester, was a clergyman of irritable temper. The churchyard was surrounded by a low parapet, with sharp ridged coping, to walk along which required nice balancing of the body, and was one of the favorite feats of the neighboring boys. The practice greatly annoyed Joshua. While reading the burial service at the grave side, one day, his eye caught a chimney-sweep waiting on the wall. This caused the eccentric chaplain, by abruptly giving order to the sexton, to make the following interpolation in the solemn words of the funeral service: "And I heard a voice from Heaven saying—Knock that black rascal off the wall!"

Foreign Correspondence.

The Davenport Brothers in Europe—Great Success.

To the Editor of the Banner of Light:

It is now over one year since we left America for Havana, Cuba, and during that time we have visited nearly all of the islands of the West Indies, also some of the principal cities of South America; but the hot climate of the West Indies had reduced us to such a weakened physical condition, that I was especially advised by the physicians to leave for a colder climate; so we concluded our engagements and sailed from the island of Curacao in one of the finest steamers of the North German Line, and landed in Havre after a tempestuous voyage of twenty-three days. I have seen many storms at sea, but nothing to compare with the one we encountered when off the Bay of Biscay. For five days and nights we were in a tremendous hurricane; it was the most sublime sight I ever saw, but I do not want to see it again.

During our stay in the West Indies we succeeded in creating considerable interest amongst the higher classes, consisting of bankers, merchants and government officials—the bulk of the population being made up of uneducated natives and half-breeds of all nations, the negro element being very prominent in many of the islands; the Catholic being the predominating religion, excepting the islands under the rule of Great Britain. In most of the cities and towns we were received by large audiences anxious to witness the spiritual phenomena that for the first time they had an opportunity of seeing. During our career in the West Indies we had many adventures, some of which were not very agreeable. We were subjected to all sorts of inconveniences, and continually meeting with difficulties which we never experienced either in America or Europe. Among the other islands that we visited was the French island of Martinique, the birth-place of the Empress Josephine; and here we met with an adventure which took us entirely by surprise. On landing we observed in the park a beautiful marble statue of the Empress, which was presented to the citizens by her late grandson, Louis Napoleon, while Emperor. Having a curiosity to visit the place of her birth, we engaged a small sail-boat and crossed the bay, a short sail of three miles. After a tedious walk over the hills in the hot sun, guided by an old negress, we came upon the ruins of the house in which the devoted wife of the great Napoleon was born. Nothing now remains but the foundation walls, the building having been destroyed many years ago by one of those terrible hurricanes which sometimes occur in the West Indies. In a small church near the bay the remains of the mother of Josephine are entombed beneath a mound of brick and mortar, with no inscription whatever. On our return to the hotel we were very much surprised by the sudden appearance of several negroes, armed and uniformed after the manner of the French police. To our questions in regard to the cause of our arrest we could obtain no satisfactory answer. We were obliged to accompany the "colored gentlemen" to the station, from where the order of our arrest had been issued. After a long delay and considerable display on the part of the officials, the face of an examination began, lasting about one hour, when we brought it to an abrupt termination by presenting our passports, which surprised them very much, as they were entirely unaware that we were "armed" with those very necessary documents.

We were immediately discharged from custody, but not being well satisfied with the episode, sent the following protest to the Governor:

August 12th, 1874.
Monsieur le Gouverneur de la Martinique.

Sir:—As strangers in a strange land, and in a country boasting of liberty, we appeal to you for justice, and to the protection of the laws under which we have voluntarily placed ourselves. With the exception of the violation of any law of the country, we have been roughly assailed by the police, taken from our hotel, carried to the station, and subjected to indignities which Frenchmen are capable of inflicting. We were brought before the Court by whose orders we were arrested, and after an examination we were discharged, which fact alone proves our innocence. Have we no redress? We appeal to you not only as sovereign authority, but as the representative of the people, and as the guardian of the rights of man. We have no other recourse, and we trust that your sense of justice will lead you to grant us the same redress which you have granted to others.

W. H. DAVENPORT.

In reply we received a letter from the Governor saying that he had already been waited upon by several of the most prominent citizens, and notified of the unjustifiable conduct of the police; that he had severely reprimanded the Chief, and would still further investigate the matter. The indignation of the citizens was intense, and the consequence was that when we gave a public séance in the theatre it was crowded from pit to gallery.

Our success in South America was far greater than we had expected; in Caracas, Valencia, Puerto Cabello, and other places in Venezuela, we filled the largest theatres to overflowing for several nights in succession; also giving many séances in the private residences of leading citizens. In Georgetown, South America, we gave two public séances, and were surprised at the extraordinary display of wealth, style, and fashionable appearance of the audiences; it seemed more as if we were before first-class London audiences, than before an English audience in Georgetown, South America. The audiences during the manifestations frequently expressed their satisfaction by rounds of applause. The daily papers stated that since the hall had been built there never had been such large and brilliant audiences assembled within its walls.

Our experience since our return to Europe has been all that could be desired. Landing in Havre, we passed two weeks, resting and recruiting after the fatigue of our long voyage. From Havre we came South, giving public séances in the principal theatres of Nantes, Tours, Angers, and several other places, being greeted by large audiences. From Bordeaux we sailed for Lisbon, where we arrived on the 8th of February, and on the 12th gave a private séance to the members of the press, causing an excitement only equalled by that of London and Paris in 1848 and 1851. Thousands of such papers were immediately issued by the newspapers, announcing an explanation of the phenomena, and sold by thousands in the bookshops, shops, and in the streets; but it proved nothing more than a description of some manifestations that had been given through our mediumship while in Paris; it only had the effect of increasing the excitement, then at fever heat. We were immediately sought for by the managers of the theatres and other public places of amusement, and concluded an arrangement with the Director of the Theatre Gymnasio for one week (opening on the 16th), to a house literally packed from pit to gallery, every seat having been sold two days before the opening night, hundreds of persons being refused admission. Private boxes, which were bought at the theatre prices, were afterwards sold for three times their cost by speculators, who are always on the lookout to take advantage of any unusual excitement. During our engagement at this theatre we were visited by the King and Royal Family several times, also thousands of the nobility and prominent citizens of Lisbon. The King was highly pleased, as well as astonished, with what he witnessed at the Palace in the private séances, and took a deep interest in all the different manifestations that were produced. After concluding our engagement at the theatre, we were strongly urged by many of the citizens to open in a larger place, at reduced prices, so as to give every one a chance of seeing the manifestations of spirit-power. In compliance with the general desire of the public we contracted with Mr. Thomas Price, to give two public séances in his Amphitheatre. Tremendous audiences met us on both occasions, every foot of standing room being taken; the crowd even invading the circus-ring, and crowding the stage occupied by us and the musicians. Considerable disturbance occurred in consequence of the crowd being so great that many were forced in the rear of the cabinet, and were unable to see what took place; but the manifestations gave general satisfaction.

We had already received telegrams from the

principal cities of Portugal, and made contracts for Oporto, Braga, Aveiro and Coimbra.

Our career in all the cities we visited in Portugal was one continual success in every respect, unopposed by that of any other country in the same length of time; and we were not a little surprised by meeting with quite a large number of Spiritualists, many of them professing the Catholic religion. Having passed about five weeks in Portugal, being engaged nearly every day giving public or private séances (creating an interest which will not soon die out), we started for Spain, and arrived in Madrid on the 17th of March, and gave a private séance to the members of the Madrid press, which was well received by them all, they without an exception giving favorable reports of what they had witnessed. It was our intention and desire to at once give public séances, but we were prevented on account of the religious holidays, of which they have a great many in this country.

After considerable delay and difficulty in obtaining the theatre that we wished to get, we finally concluded an arrangement with the theatre, assisted by some of the prominent citizens and Spiritualists of Madrid, and opened to a large audience last evening, composed of the best citizens of Madrid. The phenomena, as usual, created great astonishment, and gave satisfaction. We gave two more public séances here, besides several private ones.

We intend leaving Spain for France and Belgium in about three weeks, and shall spend some several weeks in Brussels, where I expect to have the pleasure of meeting my wife and children from America, whom I had not seen for over one year. After their arrival we shall perfect our arrangements for a general European tour.

We will occasionally, Mr. Editor, keep you posted in regard to our future movements, so that our American friends may know, through the dear old Banner, how we are received in Europe. We find the Banner of Light wherever we go, and it is highly appreciated by the Spiritualists of the Old World.

We remain, as ever, truly yours,
(Brothers Davenport.)
IRA ERASTUS DAVENPORT.

Madrid, April 3d, 1875.
Remarkable Séance with Messrs. Bastian and Taylor.

(From Our Special London Correspondent.)

To the Editor of the Banner of Light:

The extraordinary materializations of spirit-forms which have recently been witnessed at a private circle, through the mediumship of these two gentlemen, continue to attract much attention, and especially as it is now announced that their further stay in London will be very brief. The following is a narrative of the manifestations which occurred on a recent occasion, a report of which appears to-day in the columns of your contemporary, The Medium. But your correspondent, having enjoyed the privilege of admission to this select and harmonious circle, supposes that an original and independent report will be acceptable to your readers. Speaking of The Medium, pray observe, when the files reach you, that the current number is full of accounts of materializations; so much that it has been called the "materialization number."

As the test of the genuineness of the practice had been to fasten the medium in a large sack, the superfluous length of which was nailed to the floor. This was done as an additional test, for it was beyond all controversy that the medium could not himself personate the spirits if thus imprisoned during the continuance of the séance, without any possibility of escape therefrom, unless with immediate detection. That night, however, this test was not applied, but our circle was satisfied to substitute for it. Mr. Bastian's hands were bound with a stout cord, but not by any of the circle. After the medium had retired into his cabinet, no one else being there at the time, the binding was effected by the spirits themselves, according to an undertaking to that effect which they had previously given. We were then called into the cabinet, to see for ourselves, and found the hands of the medium secured—fastened in a manner which we could not but admit as the strongest proof of effect. The cord could not have been liberated from without cutting the cord. A committee chosen for the purpose applied a seal to the knot, not without creating some nervous apprehension in my own mind lest they should drop some of the burning wax on the medium's hands. The committee saw that no confederates were present, and that they could not obtain admission to the cabinet without their entrance. The test conditions appeared to every one present to be perfectly satisfied among the rest—to be absolutely perfect. To some of your readers the realization that these tests were so applied may appear wearisome and unnecessary; but the outside public appears to require "line upon line, precept upon precept," and, after all, many are as incredulous as was Thomas, called Didymus, of New Testament story.

We sat a few moments singing a few popular airs, when the black curtains that separated the cabinet as the source of power, were suddenly drawn, and the first apparition to our gaze, was a lady, the wife of one of the members, and readily recognized by the circle generally, for she had visited on former occasions. She was clad in white from head to foot, as on her previous visits, and came forward with a delicacy of step and a grace of manner which it is impossible to describe, and which, to use a well-worn phrase, should be seen to be appreciated. Her long white robe was draped behind her in a beautiful manner—a train longer than even the requirements of the prevailing fashion demand—and as she swept it across the carpet, it caught up a piece of paper which had been crumpled up and thrown on the floor of the cabinet. We wondered at the sharp, crackling noise thus made, and some of us asked "What is that?" "It is the crispness of the robe," was the reply; but this explanation was shortly afterwards corrected, for our next spirit was a gentleman, who picked up the piece of paper, showed us that it had been the occasion of the sharp noise in question, and crumpling it further in his hand threw it on the table in the sight of us all. Though under his manipulation it seemed like one of the "crisp curl" papers of the ever-blessed old lady in Threadneedle street, it turned out a vulgar piece of paper after all, bearing no "promise to pay," and no other of those magic hieroglyphics which give so much special value to the "clever" papers of the "clever" world. The gentleman, however, that no one experienced any disappointment in this respect, for none were admitted to this harmonious gathering with the base expectation of catching a golden shower. We had but little time, however, to spend in wonder over this episode. The form before us absorbed all our interest and attention. It was clearly and well defined, a lady with true grace of bearing, and manifestly with a positive intent, and decided intention to give us a "good" showing. I believe, however, that no one experienced any disappointment in this respect, for none were admitted to this harmonious gathering with the base expectation of catching a golden shower. We had but little time, however, to spend in wonder over this episode. The form before us absorbed all our interest and attention. It was clearly and well defined, a lady with true grace of bearing, and manifestly with a positive intent, and decided intention to give us a "good" showing. I believe, however, that no one experienced any disappointment in this respect, for none were admitted to this harmonious gathering with the base expectation of catching a golden shower. We had but little time, however, to spend in wonder over this episode. The form before us absorbed all our interest and attention. 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MRS. N. J. WILLIS, 94 Windsorst., Cambridgeport, Mass.
 GEO. C. WAITE, (care of Albert D. Moore,) South Ho-
 Me.
 MRS. JULIETTE YEAW, Northboro', Mass.
 MR. J. L. YORK, San Jose, Santa Clara Co., Cal.
 MR. and MRS. Wm. J. YOUNG, Boise City, Idaho.
 DR. JOHN S. ZELLEY, Inspirational, Germantown
 Philadelphia, Pa.

Annual Meeting of the Boston Liberal

Annual Meeting of the Boston Liberal

Mr. R. H. Ranney, Chairman of the Executive Committee, made a report of the special work the committee had undertaken in the last two years. It had given particular attention to the question of equitable taxation. By hard work aided by the Bureau Journals, Index, Investigator, Banner of Light, the Committee had been able to send in to the Legislature of the State a petition of nearly ten thousand names in behalf of taxing religious and educational institutions. The Legislature had given the subject considerable attention in the way of Joint Special Committee hearings on the subject, at which the League had been ably represented. Though progress had been made, no definite favorable action was to be expected from the Legislature this year. The Commission appointed by the Governor and Council had made a lengthy report in opposition, but there was a very favorable showing for the cause in both branches of the Legislature.

Resolved, That the Boston Liberal League protest with indignation against this gross infringement of religious liberty, and against the tyrannical and outrageous, and emphatically second the appeal of Mr. Nielson for redress.

Resolved, That the League, in reference to such outrages on the fundamental rights of freemen as the disfranchisement of the colored people, the denial of the right of suffrage to Joseph T.reat, and the expulsion from the North Carolina Legislature of J. W. Florence, avowedly because of their religious opinions, and in the face of the fact that the safeguards of their religious liberty are incomplete, and need to be supplemented by more effective provisions for their security, and

Resolved, That therefore the Boston Liberal League recommends to the thoughtful and serious student of the subject, the adoption of the proposed Amendment proposed in the Index as a substitute for the First Amendment.

Resolved, That the Secretary be instructed to transmit copies of these Resolutions for publication to the various

Resuming the chair the President read a communication from the Liberal League of Philadelphia, inviting the Boston League and others to be represented at a special meeting to be held in September of this year, to make arrangements for a convention of liberals to be held some time during the winter of 1876-1877. Mr. Kane then offered the following Resolutions, which were adopted after some considerable discussion—in which Messrs. Verity, Smart, Ranney, Abbott, John Werthebe and others participated—as to whether the League ought to pay the expenses of its delegates:

Resolved, That we approve the proposal of the Philadelphia League to arrange for a convention of all the Liberal Leagues of the country, as preparatory to a Convention to be held in that city in 1876; and that, in connection with the Convention, we recommend Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 7th, 8th and 9th, as the days for the meeting of the Philadelphia as the place, of future preparatory meeting.

Resolved, That the President and Secretary of the Boston League be authorized to invite Mr. Woodward, and John Werthebe, as appointed as substitutes, to this preparatory meeting, with power of delegation to such other persons as they may deem proper, to make arrangements for the Convention in 1876.

Resolved, That the Secretary be authorized to transmit copies of these Resolutions to the Secretary of the Philadelphia

The choice of officers for the ensuing year was then made as follows: President, F. E. Abbott; Vice Presidents, Horace Seaver and Mrs. J. W. Smith; Corresponding Secretary, George A. Bacon; Recording Secretary, Mrs. E. D. Hapgood; Treasurer, John Wetherbee; Executive Committee, R. H. Ranney, Dr. H. B. Storer, H. S. Williams, M. T. Dole, Mrs. Etta Bullock, Mrs. Mar Albertson.

Remarks pertinent to the work of the League were then offered by Messrs. Bacon, Ranney, Verity, Wetherbee, Stevens, Seaver, Stone and others, after which the meeting adjourned.

Seneca. This great work is for sale at the Banner of Light Bookstore, Boston, and will be forwarded by mail to any address on receipt of price and postage.

Seneca. The Twenty-Seventh Annual Convention of the National Woman's Suffrage Society will be held in Masonic Temple, New York City, Tuesday, May 11th. Mrs. Stanton presided. Among those present were Susan B. Anthony, the Rev. Olympia Brown, Mrs. E. A. Chambers, of Wash-

IN AID OF THE NEEDY.—In response to Mrs. Holmes's Card in last week's Banner, asking for pecuniary aid, Charles Chittenden, of Boston donates \$2.00; "A Friend," Worcester, Massachusetts, 50 cents. "A Friend," of New York City, also sends us \$2.00 in aid of Austin Kent, and a Worcester friend adds 50 cents for the same purpose.

ment, the medium, has our hearty thanks.

129 Mrs. Tappan's Spiritual Orations in England are to be published, there in book form.

progressing in this vicinity."

Charity Donations

Received since our last report in the Banner :

For God's Poor. — From U. Bushnell, Gustavus, O.
20cts: J. Dillery. Acadia. 20cts.

[illegible]

1 floor), Boston, Mass.

Banner of Light.

BOSTON, SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1875.

(From The Galaxy for December, 1874.)

WAS IT KATIE KING?

BY R. J. LUTPITT.

[Continued from our last issue.]

In the evening of May 21st John King's was the first face to appear. In answer to questions I put, he said he was the same John King that produced the physical manifestations at Kootz's house in Ohio some years ago, and who accompanied the Davenportes, that he died some two hundred years ago; that he was not happy yet, and requiring a very long time to come for such deaths as his.

After him came the face of an elderly man, not before seen. A lady in the room exclaimed in an agitated voice, "Joseph!" The face responded to her by nodding. The lady's fainting condition suspended the sitting for a few moments. When she revived, the face had disappeared. She afterward told me the face she saw was that of Mr. Corson, her husband, who had been dead nine years.

The next face was recognized by Mr. M. —, me as that of his brother. Then a female face was recognized by Mr. S. — as that of his wife; and after her the face of a girl of about fifteen, as that of his wife's young sister. In each of these cases the face nodded in assent to the recognition. Next came a man's face, that was recognized by no one.

All these faces, as usual, gave more or less the impression of figures, some of them in plaster, others in wax, and when at last we saw the bright face of Katie King, we felt that here, at all events, was a real living human being. It was like the sun rising from a mist. A very large bouquet was handed to her; and when she received it, several other delicate white hands appeared near her own. Twice, on request, she stretched first her left arm, then her right, entirely out of the window. Both arms were bare, the shoulders inclusive. Newly plaited white drapery covered the small part of her bust that was visible adjacent to each shoulder. Being asked if she would come out of the cabinet, she answered, "Yes, if you'll behave." In answer to questions, she said her father was a very bad man; that she had been with him in this world as little as possible; that "only the time to think of it" was required to come hither from London. Some one asked, "Are we accountable in your world for everything wrong we do here?" She said, "Yes, for everything you know to be wrong." Being told that one of the ladies present was going to London, she said she must come to see her there.

One of the spectators on this occasion only, was Squire M. —, who, I was told, is the Captain Rynders, of Philadelphia. Katie, on retiring, said, "My next behavior will, I think, be immediately added, as if by a delicate afterthought, 'and you, too, Mr. T. —,' a very respectable old gentleman from New York State.

The first face seen at the sitting of May 22d was that of John King, who began talking to us at once, as usual, in sea phrases. In answer to questions he said he was born in 1636, and was knighted by Charles II. Then came the face of an aged female. After it withdrew, a lady asked if it was —. The answer was three gifts from the cabinet, but the face did not reappear. Then came successively the faces of Mr. Wilson and of Mr. Watford, previously recognized. After the latter had disappeared, one suggested that the two faces looked very much alike, and asked them to show themselves together. They did so, and the difference between them was plain to all. Then the face previously recognized by Mr. S. — as that of his wife seemed to look round for her husband who was not present. Then came Mary Noble's lovely face. She took from her mother a large bouquet, and reappeared two or three times, showing it, and nodding to her father and mother with a pleased expression. Finally appeared Katie King, who was greeted with the usual exclamations of surprise and admiration. She asked what we called those glasses some of us were looking through. She was told they were opera glasses. "We had no such things," she said, "when I lived here." An enraptured elderly gentleman, who saw her for the first time, told her he had fallen in love with her. She saucily replied, "You stupid! Is it true, Katie," the gentleman continued, "that you will allow Professor Crookes to embrace you?" "Yes," she answered, "the squeezed me." "Will you not one day allow me the same privilege?" She answered with amusing emphasis, "If you do, I'll thump you." Then, at Dr. Child's request, she showed her arms, as before described. Being asked to let us see them both together, she held out both arms at once, the hands clasped; and at the same moment appeared the little hands before spoken of. She then told us of her own accord that she remembered, when a little girl, seeing the old St. Paul's Church burned down in London, and even an incident that was puzzling and even suspicious. Before Katie withdrew, she had received four oranges from Dr. Child, and one from myself; as also a large bouquet from some one else. Immediately after the sitting, a doubting Thomas went quietly into the bedroom and picked up the five oranges on the floor, near the foot of the double bed partition already described. The bouquet, however, was nowhere to be found. I ought to add that repeatedly, and after this occasion, I, as well as others, searched the bedroom, the cabinet, and Mr. Holmes's person, immediately at the close of the sitting; this was the only instance of any object being found that had been received by the "spirits." At the next evening's sitting Katie was asked to explain the occurrence. She said that "they did not want the oranges, and so had left them for us."

The first face at the sitting of May 26th was that of a man, very indistinct and unknown to all present. Next came Mary Noble, who thankfully received a bouquet from Dr. Child. Mr. Wilson appeared, also, and was recognized by several in the circle. The next was a new face, very distinct. It was at once recognized by a lady as that of a Mr. M. —, her uncle, who assented to the recognition, and threw a kiss to her. Then came John King. Being asked who the spirit was whose face was indistinctly seen at the opening of the sitting, he said it was a man named Bullock, who had made an improvement in the printing press which was used in the office of the "Ledger," where he was employed, and where he was killed by an accident.

The next day Dr. Child, as he informed me, met George W. Childs, and asked him if he knew such a person in the "Ledger" office. Mr. Childs replied that he did, and confirmed the particulars stated by John King. Dr. Child then asked John King to speak as loud as he could; whereupon he shouted "Ship ahoy!" and other sea phrases. He then retired, saying, "My little girl wants to come," and then the usual buzz of admiration announced the appearance of Katie King. She showed her arms and her curls, one of which she allowed Dr. Child to handle; and then, also at the Doctor's request, as she had done at other sittings, turned up her face, showing us a finely turned chin and throat. "Katie," said Dr. Child, "we have never yet seen your tongue. Won't you show it to us?" "No, I won't," she replied. "But you know, I am a physician, and it is my business to look at people's tongues." "Taint sick," she replied, very emphatically; but after withdrawing her face for a moment or two, she reappeared and put out her tongue to the Doctor two or three times.

She received an orange and three bouquets from members of the circle. One of the bouquets she afterward returned. Agave her an orange to present to my departed wife. Shortly afterward she told me she had delivered it as requested. I asked if my wife was here. She answered, "Of course she is." Some one handed her a fan; she opened it, fanned herself with it for some time,

then returned it. Once when her hands were shown, we asked for a sight of the other hands that had often appeared with hers; and immediately those hands were seen. She was asked if we could not see her father and herself at the same time. The next moment John King's face appeared in the window. Katie pointed to his face, saying, "Is it the homely?" At the same instant John King was saying something I could not distinguish.

The next sitting was late in the afternoon of May 27th. Among those present were the Vice-President of the United States, A. J. Drexel, and George W. Childs of the "Ledger." The first face seen was that of an elderly person; but whether of man or woman it was hard to say; it was so indistinct. Next came John King, who told us the materializations were rendered very difficult by the intense heat and the noises in the street, which prevented a perfect entrancement of the medium; and that Bullock had tried to show himself, but had not succeeded. Then came Mary Noble, who was presented with a bouquet, for which she smilingly nodded her thanks. Again Mr. Wilson appeared, and was recognized by acquaintances present. At last came Katie King, as bright and real as ever. She allowed the Vice President and several others to take her hand. At Dr. Child's request she showed her chin and throat. The Doctor asked her if he might not see her tongue again. She at first declined, saying fully, "Not in better to-day;" but, after retiring for a few moments, she reappeared and complied with the request.

At the sitting of May 28th she had taken from Dr. Child a blank leaf of note paper, promising to return it with some writing of her own upon it. She now performed her promise. The page, which I was allowed to examine, was covered with writing in a neat and studied feminine hand, entirely unlike any handwriting now in vogue, and entirely unlike that of Mr. Holmes, the medium. The writing was as follows:

Flowers are not trines, as we might know from the care of the gardener, but they are everywhere, not one failing the mark of a trine or pencil. Feeding the eternal borders of mountain ranges, growing on the sides of the gray old granite, everywhere they are harmonizing.

Manure is not trine, but it is everywhere, not one failing the mark of a trine or pencil. Feeding the eternal borders of mountain ranges, growing on the sides of the gray old granite, everywhere they are harmonizing.

At the sitting of May 29th, which I did not attend, Katie (as Dr. Child informed me) had asked a Mr. Young, who was present, to let her look through his opera glass. It was a large ivory one. After amusing herself for a few moments by looking through it, she disappeared with it, saying she was going to take it to London. The afternoon she was asked to return it to Mr. Young, who was again present. She said she had not yet done with it; that she meant to look at Professor Crookes through it.

At the sitting of May 30th, no sooner had Mr. Holmes retired behind the doors, and before we had seated ourselves, John King put his face out of the window, shouting, "All hands on deck!" He had done the same thing once or twice before.

After some conversation he retired, and Mr. Watford's brother appeared. Mr. Watford then showed me the window, which already mentioned of his brother, and which had been the likeness of the face at the window. Then came Mary Noble, and after her another young face appeared, whom a lady called "Katie," recognizing her as a daughter who had died two years ago at the age of twenty-one. The mother was quite overcome with emotion; especially when she went up and took her daughter's hand.

A few moments after this face had disappeared, all at once we saw Katie King at the window, surveying us through Mr. Young's opera glass, which she returned to him through Dr. Child. Being asked to let us see her through Professor Crookes' through it, she said yes.

I asked her if she had heard read, just before the sitting commenced, Mr. Benjamin Coleman's account, in the "London Spiritualist" of May 15th, of his interview with her of May 9th. She said she had. I asked her if this account was all true. She answered, "Yes, most of it." Owing to the intense heat, the sitting was then closed; Katie saying as she retired that "she was glad to see so many skeptics here," adding that "her true name was Annie Morgan."

The sitting of May 31st was the last one I attended, being obliged to leave Philadelphia the next day. Katie King and her father came and talked with us as usual, and several other faces were seen, most of which were recognized. I will omit the particulars, as they would be mostly repetition. That evening, both Katie and her father intimated their willingness to come out of the cabinet whenever it should be deemed advisable; but Dr. Child thought that the circle was not quite prepared for this, fearing some nervous shock among the spectators that might injure the medium.

The facts I have related suggest some interesting questions: 1. As to the discovery of the oranges in the bedroom, which was separated from the parlor, as already stated, by two thicknesses of plank, firmly nailed into the sides of the door and into the floor.

The fact is strongly suggestive of trick. But what became of the bouquet handed to Katie King at the same sitting? And what became of the oranges and bouquet received by the alleged spirits at the other sittings, no trace of which could be found, either in the bedroom, in the cabinet, or on Mr. Holmes's person? If we assume these phenomena not to have been extraordinary, or that no extraneous power can pass material objects through solid matter, we might legitimately infer the existence of some secret mechanical means whereby these objects were made to disappear; but would not this assumption be a begging of the question?

2. Were these appearances simply Mr. Holmes himself, using a variety of masks? In this connection, the resemblance between Katie King's writing and Mr. Holmes's in the formation of the capital K seems somewhat significant. But those who have investigated this strange subject tell us there is strong testimony tending to show the existence of a certain psychical relation between the alleged spirit and the medium, causing sometimes a resemblance between them in their modes of action, and even in their personal appearance.

But assuming there was some ingeniously hidden piece of concealment for such masks behind the two doors, this would not account for the simultaneous appearances, at the same time, of Mr. Wilson's father and Mr. Watford's brother, and, at another, of Katie King and her father, both speaking at once. On these occasions, at least, Mr. Holmes must have had the assistance of another person.

As to Katie King, it was physically impossible for a tall man, with a long head, long masculine arms and hands, by any mask whatever, to exhibit himself with a rather small and round female head, or with a female arm and hand much shorter than his own, to say nothing of their exquisite forms. Supposing a living young girl to be a third confederate, how could three persons stand together in so narrow a space? How could the two mediums' limited receipts suffice for the support of five persons? and how is it that such a confederacy has remained so long undiscovered? 3. Were the puppets, operated by some hidden mechanism?

The complexion of most of the faces was anything but natural. Some of them, of a dead white, looked like plaster busts, and others more like wax figures than real flesh and blood. Again, in all of them (except Katie King) there was, more or less, a fixedness of look and immobility of features. This was even the case, in some degree, with John King while he was talking with us. Yet, if these were puppets, it is not easy to understand why they were not all made to look equally natural. And, as to Katie King, no one who saw her could be made for one moment to believe her to be a puppet. Unquestionably, if she has one, there has been no such creation since Prometheus's exhibition of his victim to the gods, such would alone suffice to secure to these mediums an ample fortune. Certain it is that she was either a young girl of living flesh and blood, or else a spirit clothed in what was real flesh and blood to all the senses.

view, no change would be perceptible in any part of her bodily tissues. On the other hand, tissues derived from foreign elements, with which a spirit has temporarily surrounded itself, might be expected after a certain time to show signs of disorganization. Now I closely watched Katie King's countenance through an opera glass every time she appeared, and invariably saw that, on her face, and visible to the eyes, as well as on her other features, were perfectly natural in their appearance, the eyelids having all the mobility of those of a living person; but several times, after her face had been a little longer visible than usual, the eyelids lost their mobility, the whites of the eyes became glassy, and began to prolong themselves downwards, looking like viscid masses about to roll down her cheeks! Of this change she always seemed to become suddenly conscious, hastily withdrawing her face from the window; at which, after a few moments, it would appear again, with the eyes as natural as at first.

5. Supposing Katie King to be a spirit, is she the identical Katie King that has been showing herself in London for the last three years to Professor Crookes and others? Notwithstanding Prince Wittgenstein's account of the London Katie ("Revue Spirite" of February, 1874), which, on the whole, describes very much such a person as our Philadelphia Katie, it would seem that this question must be answered in the negative. The picture taken of her in London by magnesium light, in which Dr. Child is seen holding her hand, represents a totally different person. There is not the slightest trace of a likeness between them.

Our Katie's nose is short rather than long, while the London Katie's is very long and aquiline. Our Katie looks about eighteen, and is very pretty, while the London Katie is, quite plain, and might pass for thirty. Our Katie's head has but a slight covering, while the London Katie's is heavily bandaged. The London Katie's hair is described as coarse, and of a light auburn. Our Katie's is dark brown (darker than the medium's) and of a silky texture. Again, our Katie seems to have been somewhat confused about her name. At first she told us her father's real name was King, though he was known as "the pirate Morgan." Afterward she told us the reverse of this: that his real name was Morgan, and that her own name was "Annie Morgan." At the London Katie's farewell appearance she gave her name as "Annie Owen de Morgan," and though this was on the 21st of May last, nine days after our Katie King began her appearances in Philadelphia, she made no allusion to the "Annie Owen de Morgan" or not, our American Katie would really seem to be the spirit of some English country girl who may have died two hundred years ago. "Her speech bewrayed her." Of course, she pronounces "of course"; "nice" she calls "noise"; "I'll thump you" she pronounced, "I'll thump you." Her favorite epithet "stupid" she pronounced like the English, and not like most Americans, "stepid."

I was telling one of the great poets of this age he was calling her father "homely." He remarked that this was rather suspicious, "homely" in the sense of "plain" being an Americanism. "However," added he, "let us look at my 'Glossary of Shakespeare';" and there, sure enough, he found cited several passages where the word is used in the same sense as with us.

As directly relevant to some of the foregoing questions, I make two or three quotations: In a letter dated June 6th, from my skeptical friend Mrs. D. —, she says:

"Dr. Child has had the cabinet built entirely across the corner of the room, and extending up to the ceiling, and has two apertures for the faces instead of one."

"On account of the heat, the mediums predicted we should have very little materialization; but, contrary to expectations, and perhaps owing to Mr. Owen's (R. Dale Owen) presence, both openings were filled nearly all the time with heads and many hands. Katie King came, more life-like than ever, and very sprightly; showing us constantly both her beautiful arms, and shaking hands with Mr. Owen."

Finally, they said if we would lower the light, and she would appear in four or five minutes. Of course, we immediately had the gas turned down, and then slowly the door of the cabinet opened, and Katie stood before us, robed in white, and looking so pretty. She stood a moment, and the door closed, but opened again, and she came further out and waved her hands to us very gracefully.

"She is very short in stature, but very perfectly formed."

"Once she brought to the opening two little babies in her arms, and many times came with one. They were lovely-looking children."

"It was a most wonderful exhibition, whatever causes produced it, material or spiritual; and I am glad to have had the opportunity of witnessing such a scene."

Under date of June 14th, Dr. Child writes: "Katie came out and laid her hands on the heads of five of us." In a colloquial lecture in Philadelphia on the 26th of June, Mr. Robert Dale Owen stated that, on the preceding evening, Mr. and Mrs. Holmes both sat outside of the cabinet, which he, Mr. Owen, first thoroughly examined; that the only other person present was a lady friend of his; that three spirits came out from the cabinet into the room, "as visible," said Mr. Owen, "and as sensible to touch as any human being in this audience."

"The first that came," he continued, "was an Indian spirit, calling herself 'Santtee,' an Indian figure very perfect. She had a white blanket, which, as she advanced toward us, she deliberately took off and permitted us to handle. The second was a spirit calling himself 'Richard Laramie,' dressed according to his alleged condition in earth-life, that of a sailor boy, about eighteen or nineteen years of age. 'Then came Katie King herself. I hope some of you may have a chance of seeing her; anything I could say would give you no idea of her appearance. I cannot conceive of a disembodied spirit more gentle, graceful, exhibiting a more beautiful character, material or spiritual, than she does.'"

Mr. Owen asked Katie, he says, if she could show herself raised into the air, and he thus relates what followed:

"I saw the spirit usually known as Katie King standing on the floor of the cabinet, and rise gradually from the floor until her extended hands just touched the top of the door, which is seven feet six inches high."

"I saw her afterward appear with another spirit, equally distinct, by her side, purporting to be her father. I saw her raise her hand and place it on her father's head; then I saw her father step forward to the door just outside; and then I saw the appearance of Katie King gradually fade out."

A letter from Dr. Child announces that he has felt Katie King's pulse, and found it a perfectly natural one, of about seventy-two a minute—the pulse of a being that was seen by Mr. Owen not merely to disappear, but to fade from view! Finally, Mr. Owen writes to Dr. Child that Katie King asked for some paper and a pencil for a spirit that wished to write to him; that a moment after she received them there appeared at the other aperture a human hand, not visibly attached to an arm, or to anything else whatever, but self-sustained in the air, which wrote something on the paper with the pencil that had been furnished, which proved to be "Frederic W. Robertson"; and that the next day this writing was compared with F. W. Robertson's signature in his biography in the Philadelphia Library, and the two signatures were pronounced by experts to be identical.

Such facts as are recorded in this paper must sooner or later banish the popular belief that departed mortals are mere intangible shadows—"stuff that dreams are made of." The belief, like many others, now exploded, dates very far back. We read of pious Æneas:

Terronatus ille collo dare brachia circum; Parvulus ventis, volucricus simillimus homo.

Will Professor Crookes ascertain from the London Katie King who her namesake in Philadelphia is?

Organization of the American Spiritual Institute.

Reported for the Banner of Light by John W. Day.

On Sunday afternoon, May 9th, the signers of the "basis," and representatives of the public generally, convened at Rochester Hall, Boston, in obedience to the call of the committee having the matter of organization in charge. The business of the session as set forth in said call was: To hear the report of the Temporary Executive Committee, who were to submit a plan of organization for building and other purposes; also a Constitution and By-Laws for Society Government. The nomination or election of officers was also declared in order, and such other business as might advance the interests of the Institute.

The people attending were called to order by President Williams. Secretary, read the records of the previous meeting—which minutes were accepted.

The next matter for consideration being the report of the Committee, Mr. Brown, in the temporary absence of the Chairman, J. B. Hatch, proceeded to read the Constitution and By-Laws which had been drafted to meet the present occasion, also to lay before the house an explanatory circular intended to be sent out with the same; articles of agreement for the formation of a body of one hundred corporators, to be known as the American Spiritual Institute Company. The report was also read. On motion, voted that the report be accepted for discussion, and the Committee discharged.

The Constitution and By-Laws were then read article by article, considerable discussion arising during the process, in which Dr. H. F. Gardner, Peter West, Dr. Webster, Dr. H. B. Storer, Messrs. Stone, Hatch, Weld, Mrs. Newhall, and others participated, the President and Secretary making various explanatory remarks. The two instruments were then adopted with trifling amendments. The following is the preamble and opening provisions of the constitution:

ARTICLE I. Recognizing the fact that we can work together in harmony and attain success only as we are agreed in the fundamental principles from which our action springs; and believing that the time has come when the spiritualists of the world should unite in the examination of the spiritual phenomena, and the intelligent promulgation of its philosophy; we, the undersigned, hereby unite for the purpose hereinafter named, and in our associated action agree to be governed by the following Constitution:

ARTICLE II. The objects of this Association are: 1. To investigate the phenomena of Spiritualism, and to make known the positive results arrived at by careful scientific research; 2. To promote the study of the phenomena of Spiritualism, and to provide facilities for the development of sensitive or mediums; 3. To encourage the study of the phenomena of Spiritualism, and to provide facilities for the development of sensitive or mediums; 4. To encourage the study of the phenomena of Spiritualism, and to provide facilities for the development of sensitive or mediums; 5. To encourage the study of the phenomena of Spiritualism, and to provide facilities for the development of sensitive or mediums; 6. To encourage the study of the phenomena of Spiritualism, and to provide facilities for the development of sensitive or mediums; 7. To encourage the study of the phenomena of Spiritualism, and to provide facilities for the development of sensitive or mediums; 8. 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