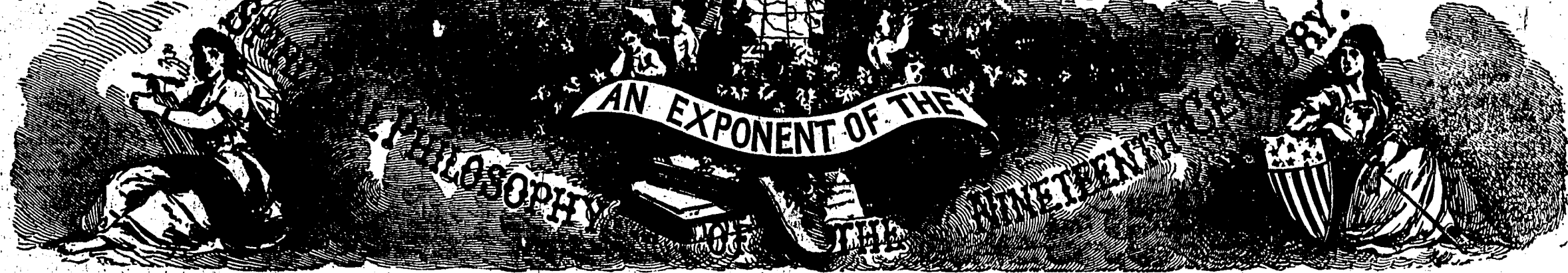


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Literary Department.

Written for the Banner of Light.

HERE AND BEYOND.

BY MISS M. T. SHELHAMER.

CHAPTER III. THE SUMMONS.

Days passed into months, and months rolled into years, while the one absorbing thought of George Phelps's heart was to fit himself to dwell with the pure and good in their homes of celestial life. Prompted by the teachings of his unseen helpers, he sought to leave no duty neglected and to slight no opportunity of befriending the unfortunate. Yet he had no sympathy with those who, through the stress of inherited or acquired evil tendencies, erred in their conduct and committed sin. He believed that it belonged to the law to take care of these, and never dreamed that he had any responsibility in the state of society that tolerated evil, or any duty to discharge toward the wrongdoer, except to see him incarcerated away from the light and air of heaven and from the temptation to annoy peaceable, law-abiding people.

A few years after he had become convinced of the truths and the consolations of Spiritualism, George was suddenly summoned to test the realities of immortal life for himself. Without warning, the tie binding him to the body snapped in twain and set his spirit free. They found him in the morning cold and rigid, and pronounced it apoplexy that had killed him.

There was a grand funeral, attended by a large number of people, for many had known and respected the quiet man who had gone from them. After the last ceremonies had been performed over the body the will was produced and read, and it was found that, although the deceased merchant left far less wealth than it was supposed he possessed, what he had had been carefully divided and distributed among the relatives and friends whom he had loved or whom he felt had a claim upon him.

Let us now follow the departing spirit into the land of souls, and see what new life and lessons were to open before him. At the moment when the last great call came to George Phelps, he was awake and in his right mind. He had been thinking of the past, its achievements and its failures, its pleasures and its pains. His thoughts had wandered to his early life, and old friends whom he had once so loved seemed to appear before him. He recalled to his mind the image of his mother, and her gentle face seemed to beam upon the world-worn man with a smile of tender affection. He tried to remember how his father looked, and wondered if he should recognize him in heaven. And then he thought of his beautiful angel Mary, and of her delicate brother Arthur, the friend whom he had cherished; and as he mused a mist seemed to rise before his eyes and a beating, roiling, surging tone filled his ears. It was as though a mighty flood had rushed over him; he could not breathe, he could not cry out; he was powerless to do aught but grasp the air with his hands, as one makes a frantic effort to seize something as he feels himself hurled through space. The sensation lasted but a few moments, though to the dying man it seemed like hours, and then a sweet, tranquil feeling stole over him, and a sense of such perfect rest as he had never known pervaded every part of his being.

Still the mist hovered around him, and although his eyes were closed he could see and feel and sense its power. Suddenly the vapor appeared filled with lines of golden light, which grew until they illuminated the mist that now looked like a cloud of glory, and in its midst he saw the faces he had been thinking of—his mother's, tender and radiant as an angel, and beside her, one manly and noble and strong, which he felt must be his father's. Close to his vision floated that of his waiting bride, Mary, radiant, delicate, heavenly in her expression, and then a vision of his young and smiling face, and a vision of his young and smiling face, and a vision of his young and smiling face.

and sweet with greeting; but he only gazed on these so dear to his heart, so near to his life. And now he found himself not lying upon his bed, but erect, standing in the midst of the golden cloud and surrounded by the loved ones of the past. They saluted him in tender tones and loving words of welcome; they gathered around him, and his soul seemed filled with divinest music as he listened to their sweet words of greeting and realized that he was safe at home.

As the full meaning of the new experience broke upon him, and he comprehended that he had parted with the body and was no longer a mortal, he cried in the ecstasy of his new-born joy: "And is this death—this which man so dreads and bows before? Oh! it is life, and hope, and all things glorious!"

Dear friends vied with each other in making the new-comer feel comfortable and at peace. He had been taken at first to the pleasant spirit-home of his parents, where amid congenial magnetisms and harmonious associations he began to form his first impressions of and gain his first acquaintance with immortal life. His beloved Mary and her brother were of the company, and seemed to be considered honored guests in this quiet, beautiful abode, where no trace of friction or of aught like turmoil appeared to ever intrude.

George felt perfectly at home with his dear mother, and in these first new days he loved to stretch himself beside her on the lawn and lay his head in her lap and question her of the wonders of existence, as many an inquiring boy, filled with a sense of awe at the wondrous opening before him on earth, goes to his maternal parent for a solution of his problems.

His father he admired and respected, yet felt that he had yet to grow familiar with him, and so he studied this parent at every moment when he felt himself unobserved. Arthur seemed the same thoughtful and genial associate of times past, yet there were moments when George felt there was a difference between the long ago and now, and that Arthur had grown immensely since then, until he seemed to be more saintly than human. Ah! our friend had yet to learn that the more intensely humane a soul becomes, the more saintly and holy it appears in form and character.

How gloriously sweet and refreshing were these early days in the spirit-world! How divinely tender were his associations with his Mary! How he watched her as she moved to and fro intent upon some pleasant mission, or sat by his side giving him some account of life in the spheres, and of what she had experienced in the years gone by. There were many things he could not comprehend, lessons that he had to study over and over again before they gained a hold on his mind. In his intercourse with spirits through earthly media he had been interrupted and restricted; sometimes days and weeks would elapse between one interview and another, and so while he retained what he did learn, yet owing to material cares and considerations he was limited in his instruction and communion with the angels. He felt this now as he realized how much he had to learn, but as far as he could comprehend he was glad to make use of the truths that appealed to him. There were times when a consciousness of his ignorance swept over him; moments when he realized the difference between a life spent in the pursuit of external riches and one spent in love-service to others; hours when the radiance of his spirit-companion Mary seemed to contrast with his own atmosphere until his appeared to him like a gloomy, misty environment. A feeling of dissatisfaction with himself would then seize upon him, and in the midst of harmonious, self-poised, happy beings, and surrounded by the most lovely views and beautiful objects of interest, he would almost despise himself, and the littleness, as he deemed it, of his spiritual nature.

But through the very experiences thus coming to him he was growing mentally and spiritually, and making his first efforts to adjust himself to the laws of his being.

He did not trouble himself with the disposal of his earthly body nor the distribution of his material effects; and it was not till he had been a spirit some months that he was drawn back into contact with physical life. He had begun to feel an attraction in a certain direction; an impelling force seemed to be at work, moving him to proceed against his will. At length he unconsciously found himself obeying the power thus so strangely acting upon him, and very shortly he discovered that he was here in the midst of former scenes and associations. He saw and touched men of business whom he had daily met and known. He spoke to them, but they did not answer. Some of them he saw making foolish ventures in their business; he tried to warn and advise them, but they took no notice, and his efforts seemed wasted. Sometimes they would pause and think over the matter in hand and feel as though obligated to change their course, but once once was the mystic influence obeyed, and a large-hearted man of business saved from financial ruin; the others, worldly-minded, keen and grasping, felt not the weight of the spirit's desire to help them, and they went on their way, speculating foolishly or making rash ventures and reaping no gain but experience as a result.

But yet the uncontrollable impulse was not satisfied, and George Phelps found himself moved to visit those who had inherited his money and possessed themselves of his effects. The relatives whom he had remembered in his will he had held little in common with; there were none nearer than cousins, and he had never held much intercourse with them; a few weeks at a time, during the year, spent in their company, was all that he knew of them.

At such times these people would pay great deference to him, for was he not a man of influence, of position and of wealth?

When it was discovered that the rich man was not so very wealthy after all, and that he had divided his means among so many that the portion of each was comparatively small, there was dissatisfaction and much private grumbling in this nest of relatives, who, because they happened to be connected with George by the accident of birth, considered that they held a claim upon him. One in particular, a loud-voiced man, did not hesitate to proclaim his chagrin and indignation that his legacy had not been greater. And it was to this condition of inharmonious and discord and discontent that the returning spirit was unwillingly drawn by the positive magnetism of those dissatisfied ones whose complaining thoughts of him formed cords of steel to draw him to their side.

CHAPTER IV. HIS EXPERIENCES.

When George Phelps discovered the atmosphere of discontent which the disposal of his wealth had created, his indignation knew no bounds. Oh! then he wished that he had studied the character and disposition of his connections before he had trusted them with a share of his means. While the heat of the dissatisfaction lasted he felt bound there, and by no effort of his will could he free himself from contact with the ungrateful ones who knew nothing of his presence. His own state of anger had much to do with his condition, but this he did not know, and he resolved to do what he could to thwart the schemes of those who were loudest in their condemnation of him.

One of two who were weak-minded, and whose complainings were silent and querulous, he paid no attention to; but the loud-voiced cousin he attended with assiduous diligence. Finding this man disposed to invest the few thousands of his legacy in what promised to be a well-paying venture, he strongly impressed him to do so, and did not withdraw his influence till the plan was accomplished. In all this while the grasping man saw that he had made a mistake, but it was too late to withdraw, and he only had the mortification of seeing "Old Phelps's money" swept from him forever.

Another, a hard, exacting woman, whom George had seen turn a poor girl from her door, denying her the food for which she sought and suffered, was influenced to place her portion of his bequest in an institution that claimed to pay a high interest, but an after investigation of the concern showed that the funds had been removed, its board of officers dissolved, and that neither principal nor interest remained for the clamorous creditors who besieged its doors.

When he had paid his respects in this fashion to those whom he disliked, George turned to others—not relatives, but those whom he had counted his friends—whom he had remembered in his will, and these he found under various conditions. One or two were not as grateful as might be desired; they did not know as he had done any more than he ought in remembering them. One or two more were pleased at what they had received, and had set themselves to enjoy it after the fashion of the world; another was grateful, and remembered to deck his picture with flowers, and to speak of him as "my late friend, Mr. Phelps." And the last—a sensitive, sympathetic woman, who had been his friend and comforter in hours of weariness and pain, and from whom he always looked for assistance in any of his plans for benefiting others; one whom he felt sure understood and never misjudged him—he found pursuing her own work in her quiet way, making no display with what he had bequeathed to her, but looking upon it as a sacred trust to be used in doing good; filled with earnest thoughts of life, anxious to be of use in the world, and thanking God for the friend she had known and honored, and that his heart was at last at peace with the angels whom he loved.

Coming from the glitter and dress, the baseness and frivolity that he had encountered, into the presence of this pure woman who had known much of life's trials and cares, was like passing from the hot and murky atmosphere of a closed dungeon into the light and peace of heaven; and here George began to regain his faith in human affection and gratitude and appreciation, and to feel that there are spiritual beings walking earth in garments of flesh.

In the presence of this friend his tired spirit grew strong, his fevered senses gained tranquility, and he broke the chain binding him to earth and repaired to the quiet home of his mother, in the upper country. Here again he was joined by Mary, but Arthur was away upon some benevolent errand to humanity. George found that he had no need to recount his experiences, as his friends had been cognizant of them; and he discovered that the lessons he had learned in his pilgrimage had enlarged his perceptions and widened his understanding.

As the days passed, in this quiet retreat, the spirit gained new light upon the subjects that occupied his mind, yet he was not at ease. As yet he had never visited that home which Mary had described to him in her communications through mediums when he was a mortal, and he longed to see the spot that was to be hers and his exclusively. Besides, he had never attended his love in her labors for others, nor in her beneficent errands to the lowly and unfortunate. He did not share her lessons, nor did he enter as much into her life as he had hoped to do. Yet he was with her, and shared her love, her sympathy; she was ever tender and condescending with him; there was naught of affection or of attention from her that he missed; it was as though she was a college graduate, and

he a mere school-boy; though they might love each other dearly, he could not comprehend the tasks and studies that were so simple to her, for he had not yet grown up to them.

Once he said, "Mary, darling, why can you not teach me those laws and principles that are so clear to you? You seem loth to tell me when I am wrong, or to check my restless moods."

And she answered: "I cannot give you the things you seek, because they must be born within you through experience, and this you are acquiring as rapidly as you can appropriate it to your understanding. I do not check your eager restlessness for knowledge, because I know that it will be valuable to you by-and-by, in teaching you wisdom in applying truths to your life. I am loth to tell you when I think you wrong,"—and here she spoke with hesitation—"because I fear you will take it ill from me."

"As though I ever could think hard of you for anything you might say, darling," he responded; "only try me, and see how grateful I will be for your admonition and advice."

With a smile she said, "Tell me, George, what was the motive that urged you to thwart the plans of your cousin and influence him to invest the money you left him so that he should lose it all. And what power awayed you in impressing Harriet to put her portion into a bank that you knew would swallow it up?"

He seemed surprised at the question, but answered, "Indignation that such base ingratitude should exist was the cause of my motive, no doubt. I was vexed that those ingrates should speak and think of me as they did, and I was determined they should not profit by the money I had toiled for."

"Then it was not because you found them unworthy your bequest in any way, but through ingratitude?"

"No; I did not think of them in any other light, though he is mean and sordid and avaricious, and she is arrogant and selfish and proud."

"Yes, and I am glad they did not retain the money you bestowed upon them, for they are undeserving people. But, dear George, could you not have influenced them to dispose of it in other ways, that it might have done some good? When one works in anger the result is never so potential for good as when one labors from some higher motive."

He seemed nettled at the words that appeared like a criticism of his conduct, and she said no more; but the thought sank into his heart, and he began to learn that in celestial life there is no place for anger, no room for passionate wrath, and that angels, in working a regenerating power through selfish, ignorant humanity, never make use of the weapons of retaliation, but if they must censure or punish, do so in the spirit of love and from the motive of uplifting and purifying those whom they condemn. Shortly after this George desired to know when he should go with Mary to her home, and she said, "Are you not happy here in this sweet spot?"

"Yes, it is pleasant," was his reply, "and I enjoy its peaceful influence; but I do not yet feel at home with my father; he is so busy, and pays so much attention to the concerns of the people around him, that I feel like a mere cipher in his presence. Then, Mary, I want to understand you better, and I think I can do that in our own home."

And so it was decided that they should leave the kindly parents and go to their own home. On the way they stopped at a pleasant house beside a running brook, and found that Mary's parents lived there. How changed they seemed from what they were on earth. The lines had faded from their faces. The stiffness had disappeared from their figures; there was a serene and gentle expression to their features unknown in years past. George could see at a glance that his old friends had grown, and with his present knowledge he knew they must have long since thrown off their old ideas of "the wrath of God" and "saving grace," and kindred themes.

They were delighted to welcome their daughter and her companion; but the twins did not tarry there long, and soon continued their journey. At length the travelers came to a clump of stately trees, beyond which stood a small but dainty dwelling, in the midst of fertile lands and blooming gardens. The structure was apparently one of snowy marble, the copings and columns of which were wrought and chiselled in the most exquisite manner. Standing amid the luxuriant growth of nature's most beautiful creations, it appeared like a brilliant gem in a fair and precious setting.

[To be continued.]

Says the London Secular Review: "In all history there never was such a strained and unnatural civilization as this, where Dives was so opulent and Lazarus so full of sores, and no dog to lick them. Jehovah himself is a better God than Mammon; and Mammon, faintly dashed with Jehovah, is the God of the Englishman. In England, the gulf which lies between the rich and poor is deeper than it is in any country in the world. The strut and pride of Feudalism sat in the chamber of dais, while the vassalage sat at the same table, but below the salt. Capitalism does not allow its vassals a board to sit at either above or below the salt. Feudalism chastised the people with whips; Capitalism chastises them with scorpions. In England, more than in any other country in the world, the difference between a man with money and a man without it is the difference between a slave-driver and a slave."

The masses are waking up to the fact that they must remain supine no longer, but must be up and doing, attending to their own affairs. The philosophy of this idea is comprehended in this saying: "If you allow your affairs to be attended to by some one else, he will attend to them in his own interest." Moral:—If you want your affairs looked after in your own interest, attend to them yourself.

THE TRUTH CONCEDED.

To the Editor of the Banner of Light.

In commenting upon the uncommon sensation lately produced in England by reports of "mind cures" and "faith cures" in this country, and especially in Boston (the leading London journals having united in a fusillade against this alleged new outbreak of transatlantic folly and fanaticism), the *New York Tribune* rises to the defense with the claim that there is nothing in these cures either new, miraculous or unscientific. This is precisely the ground that Spiritualists have maintained for the last thirty years or so. In fact, the *Tribune* goes further, and affirms the fundamental principle on which not only mind or spirit cures are effected, but also on which most forms of spirit-manifestation and spirit-communication depend. It says (italics ours):

"There is really nothing new in the proposition that, under certain circumstances, the body will obey the will even to the extent of undergoing molecular changes. . . . Dr. Carpenter has shown what can be accomplished by 'expectant attention,' but he has not gone so far as he might have done. Expectant attention will do a great deal, but it often happens that physical changes are set in motion by the operation of an external will. What this shows is that mind is a force to be reckoned with in all curative processes. The general principle is as old as the hills."

Exactly so! And if 'mind' is to be reckoned with in all curative processes, why should it not be reckoned with in a variety of other processes as well, especially where mind is notably exhibited, as in various forms of purported spirit-manifestation? A spirit is only a mind without a visible body. And if an external will can set in motion physical changes that work a cure of disease, why may not an external will also set in motion the changes that produce thought, speech, vision, hearing, etc.? This is precisely what is claimed on the part of mediums of various classes who are instruments in giving evidence of spirit-presence and agency. Mediums are simply persons specially sensitive to the action of external wills, whether in or out of physical bodies; and mediumistic persons are the ones most readily susceptible to mind-cure or faith-cure processes in all their phases. And yet the anti-spiritual press, the *Tribune* included if we mistake not, has labored most assiduously for years to account for all forms of purported spirit-manifestation by referring them to material and mundane agencies, "automatic action of the brain," "unconscious cerebration," etc. Now if "mind is to be reckoned with" in these matters, and if the reckoning is done fairly and honestly, the mind exhibiting itself will, in many instances at least, prove itself to be a disembodied mind—i. e., a spirit.

Dr. Carpenter has labored hard to show that all alleged evidences of spirit-action in various forms of phenomena are but the product of "expectant attention" on the part of mediums or witnesses present. But there is not a particle of proof that expectant attention does more than to induce a condition of negativism or receptivity—a quiescence of the internal will, so to speak—which is necessary in order to allow an "external will" to act more efficiently, so that Dr. Carpenter, in his zeal to explain away spirit-agency, has plainly mistaken a mere necessary condition of action for the real actor! He might, indeed, have gone much further and come vastly nearer the truth.

The *Tribune* adds: "The Protean force which in different periods has posed as magic, mesmerism, hypnotism, electrobiology, the psychic force and a score of other metamorphoses, is really mind-force, which plays so important a part in every phase of existence."

This is precisely the position held by intelligent Spiritualists the world over. And mind-force, as proved by the demonstration of Spiritualism, is by no means limited to minds enclosed in mortal bodies. In fact, the great majority of minds that have lived on this earth have thrown off the encumbrance of clay, and so far as they have become harmonized and unified with the infinite and all-pervading Mind of the Universe, they may be supposed to be joined with countless other minds from other earths similarly harmonized, in forming a vast reservoir of mind-force that is available for human healing and uplifting to such as in faith and receptivity are earnest to avail themselves of it. No matter whom or what the curer claims or is claimed to be, the *Tribune* admits that "the result will be the same, so long as the patient is passive and receptive."

Further, the *Tribune* says: "Whether mind is a manifestation of matter or of spirit signifies nothing in relation to this question. In either case, we have simply to recognize mental action as a perfectly human and natural process, which calls for no hysterical, justifies no transcendentalism, and should excite no wonder. It is a pity that so much mystery has been thrown over this subject for weak-minded people and those who are always yearning after some new thing appear to have been almost thrown off their balance by the occurrence of phenomena which seemed miraculous only because they were not understood." The same remarks equally apply to the phenomena usually termed spiritual. Human spirits are only disembodied minds, and their doings are "perfectly human and natural." It should excite no wonder that they seek to make known their presence to their friends still veiled in flesh, nor that they should endeavor to remove human ills, when given the opportunity to do so, through the necessary conditions of receptivity and confidence on the part of mortals. Spiritualists universally insist on the entire naturalness of all such phenomena. It is their ignorant opponents only who persist in calling these things "super-natural" and "miraculous" thus exciting "wonder" and inducing "hysterics" in weak-minded people.

The cohesiveness with which the *Tribune*, after its years of opposition to Spiritualism, assumes to know all about these matters and to declare the fundamental principle of Spiritualism—namely, the action of an external will in producing physical changes—to be "as old as the hills," (which it really is) is truly refreshing in this July weather.

A. E. NEWTON.

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Before the coming light of Truth, Creeds tremble, Ignorance dies, Error decays, and Humanity rises to its proper sphere of knowledge.—Spirit John Pierpont.

Funerals and Burials.

The awakened and expanding intelligence of this age is justly putting aside some of the old relics of superstitious belief and supplanting them with what is more nearly reasonable and more clearly enlightened. The superstitions which naturally cluster, like outworks, around the ancient ecclesiastical establishment whose roots run down and back into mediævalism and darkness, include what relates to the dead equally with the living; and perhaps even more what relates to the former, in order to increase and intensify ecclesiastical terrorism over the latter, and thus strengthen the fatal grip of ecclesiastical authority. These horary superstitions are one by one relaxing their hold on men's minds. The ideas so long associated with death, for example, have been forced to give way to the increasing enlightenment which actual knowledge has caused; and, with the overthrow of the ignorant dogma of a literal resurrection of the human body for reappearance on a great judgment-day, the hideous rites of sepulture are losing their mysterious authority over the human conscience, and we now witness the favorable reception of the plan of cremation.

One cannot but recall, in reflecting on this matter, the saying that the easiest way to overcome a bad habit is to flank it, instead of marching in front and warring with it more strength in conquering it. If one can only get around it, and by marching on in another direction leave it in the distance, one is just as much the conqueror in the case as if he had lost more strength in the grapple of a desperate encounter. The illustration applies to this theological question of a literal resurrection: in place of coming up in battle array and fighting it with argument, the more enlightened world is upsetting it more completely than it could be done in any other way, by adopting the practice of cremation. The absurd theological notion of a literal resurrection of the body, or of any sort of a resurrection of the body, is thus most effectually flanked, and the emancipated ones are marching away from it and showing the world how to forget it as a dreadful superstition of the dark times of the past. When cremation is openly advocated in the pulpit, too, it is time, surely, to make up our minds that even there the old resurrection of the body doctrine has lost its hold and is gone.

The Rev. Heber Newton, of whom we have had frequent occasion of late to make mention in these columns, comes out squarely in his pulpit for cremation. He calls it "a custom which is wrongly conceived to be a duty toward the dead"; that is, inasmuch as we now practice it. To him the custom is "unspeakably revolting." When the old Greeks buried their dead at all, he said, they placed them truly in the bosom of the earth-mother, draped in flowing robes, flowers sprinkled above their breasts, nothing around them to interfere with the chemical processes which nature sets immediately at work when death ensues. We copy the form, but hinder in every possible way the natural process of dissolution. We place our dead in two or three cases, enclosing the wooden casket in a metallic box, and sealing it as tight as possible. And although we cannot prevent the ultimate inevitable dissolution, we can, and do prevent nature's purifying process. We delay the process itself, and we turn what would be an innocuous process into one fraught with danger to the living. The dead become a constant menace. No sanitary science in our homes can save us from perpetual danger while the homes of the dead violate the laws of nature.

From our graves, says Mr. Newton, gases are liberated to poison the air; fountain-heads of water are tainted; germs of disease are turned up to the surface of the earth with every change made by the cemetery superintendent. "I hope," said he with emphasis, "to see the introduction of cremation." We think too much about the dead remains of our friends; if they are tenderly disposed of, and allowed to resolve themselves into their constituent elements without endangering the health of us whom they have left behind, that is enough; but our empty funerals, showy and costly, are the merest vanity imaginable, besides being a blind obedience to superstitions that have no place in the enlightened civilization of to-day. As Mr. Newton well observes, "To set up any one form (of disposing of the dead) as the only rightful custom, is to enslave ourselves to a prej-

udice. To surround that traditional form with the associations of religion, so that when science calls us to change it we shrink back in fear—that is to invite a new superstition, from which our age ought surely to have shaken itself free.

Yet he reminds his hearers that only a few years ago a leading dignitary of the Church of England dared to assert that cremation endangered the belief in the life to come. To burn up the body in a crematory seemed to him to be the same as evanishing the soul into air. Yet whichever way the body is disposed of, by burial or burning, the same process of combustion is carried on, one only slower than the other; and, said Mr. Newton, if the dissolution of the body imperilled the true doctrine of the resurrection, then that doctrine was long ago hopelessly lost. Providence has not left the fate of any soul to the accident of the body. No duty to the dead exists which science tells us stands in the way of duty to the living. "We owe them," he continued, "the duty of believing in them as living, and of communing with them." The dead "need our fellowship and companionship." He thinks we have lost in a great measure our sense of the reality of the life beyond the grave, because we do not pray for the dead as we ought. And the practice of erecting costly mausoleums to the dead he thinks a caricature of true memorials. These would far better take the form of schools, homes and hospitals, erected and sustained as a living memory of the departed.

Resurrection and Materialization.

The subject of materialization is one on which people at large will always be much more apt to ask for facts than for theories. They can feed on the former for themselves, while the latter are at best taken at second hand. In a discourse of some months ago, obviously without intending to touch upon this subject, Mr. Beecher came squarely to it and gave unconscious testimony to his personal belief in it. He was speaking of the resurrection of the body, and of those Christians in the earliest times who unquestionably believed in it. He said he did not doubt that they did believe in it as a scientific fact; and he thought our belief in it is their belief in it, only we take it by the imagination and not by the reason. The sense of identity, he said, is very largely dependent upon it, not alone of ourselves, but of all that are dearest to us. We live here in such a way that we can scarcely conceive of delight with abstractions of ourselves. The picture of the vision of the future life is but the projection into the future of the ideas which the colors of this life must materially fashion.

Mr. Beecher said he could not clasp a little cloud because it is his babe; he sees his babe still as it was. He thought of his father as he was when he was here with him. While he acknowledged it to be a great comfort to say that he was resurrected, still he "must see the things in the other life under the figures and pictures that they made upon him when they were here." While he could agree with the person who says that this body cannot appear again in the judgment, he passes over to his inner and upper side, and discerns, "beautiful and glorified in the heavenly land," those whom he knew here. "So," he concludes, "the body becomes a kind of mnemotechnic or sort of emblem or interpreter to us." Which clearly means for him, that the spirit-organization is after the form of the bodily, only etherealized, spiritualized and made unspeakably beautiful. That is his resurrection; that is spiritualistic materialism. It is the old body, long crumbled to dust and unrecognizable, that supplies the form by which we are to know our resurrected kindred and friends; that is to be the sole token of recognition after we shall ourselves have been clothed with immortality.

We love the form of our departed ones as long as we live here to love them. The thought of any violence coming to them is shocking to us. The form is for all time sacred to us. And the spirit takes the only form by which mutual recognition is made possible. The body is displaced utterly, but the spirit lives in its organized form, which it originally acquired as the tenant of the body. To respect our bodies, therefore, is to respect that which is, under changed conditions, to be ourselves, in point of form, for illimitable ages. Is she nothing to you, asks Mr. Beecher, speaking of one's dear dead mother, but a thin, vaporous gas? Is she nothing but matter, to go back again to the soil? He declared that the whole spirit of the New Testament is in favor of the resurrection in a form which shall answer to our earthly body, and that, in some high and noble way, belongs to it. Therefore he appealed to his hearers to so live "that this body shall be itself but a cluster, of associations and sanctities, and dying, as to our outward and physical life, leave not the mouldering dust to the disenchanted and materialized notions of the age, but leave a memory, a faith, clustering affection, spiritual elements, and a glorious reappearing."

Thus does he accept the discovered truth of spirit organization after the bodily form as the true doctrine of resurrection. It is spirit materialization. We could wish that a happier word than materialization had been found to convey to the mind an adequate idea of the spirit reappearing to the human sense. It were better to speak of the departed one as returning in a spiritualized form, though we also have to say that that form is so far materialized as to be impressed as a living presence on the mortal sense. But materialization is the highest proof of resurrection from the body, and will be so accepted by all who have once fully tested its truth.

A late number of *Le Messager*, of Liege, just received, notices our article on the trial of J. H. Mott in Kansas City, and speaks of its importance—first in acquitting him, particularly in regard to the testimony that was offered by men of prominence, who were willing to stand up and be counted as having been witnesses of the manifestations, believing them to have been what they claimed to be.

A Report of the Fifth Annual Convention of the New Hampshire State Spiritualist Association at Keene, 28th, 27th and 28th ult., will be found on another page of the BANNER. Many of our able workers in the grand cause were present, which shows that the people of New Hampshire and elsewhere are as active as ever in feeding the hungry with the divine truths of Modern Spiritualism.

In the Boston *Index*, May 21st, Mrs. Isabella Beecher Hooker defends Mrs. Maud E. Lord against the attacks of the *Index's* correspondent, "Annet," and demands that public mediums and their friends be treated by the press with at least ordinary courtesy. It is high time that this were done.

Going to Church.

We have under our eye at this moment the printed reports of two pulpit discourses on the above subject, and numbers more of similar reports have arrested our attention within a comparatively recent period. The first reflection arising in the mind from their perusal is that the subject is one that gives the ministers much more than ordinary concern. The falling off in church attendance on the one hand, and the failure of current preaching in the pulpits to attract numbers at all in a ratio with the increase of population, offers a problem to those who have assumed the work of organizing religion which they thus openly confess to be extremely difficult of solution. Rev. Mr. Flanders, of New Bedford, in the report of his remarks before us, after beating the bush of explanations and excuses for all it is worth, at last comes out plainly and lays the falling-off in church-going to "what is called (by such as he, for instance), modern Spiritualism." He charges that "it has taken thousands out of the churches and led them into indifference or hatred to all churches."

And of course he proceeds with the amplification of misstatement, denunciation and abuse of Spiritualism. He especially condemns it for putting "a low estimate on the Bible"; but that is only saying that it refuses to pronounce his particular Shilsholeth. What that has to do with religion we do not understand, nor does he either. Mr. Flanders is apparently concerned chiefly or only for the Bible and the Church. It amounts to a question of earmarks, branding-letter and dog-collar, and nothing more. The misuse of "the Sabbath" also distresses Mr. Flanders, who would evidently have people who have worked hard all the week starchy up and shut up on Sunday to listen to what he and those like him would like to say to them, and have them pay for saying besides. He is afraid, and so are we, that "many of the stockholders in the companies (he means steamboats, for instance) that furnish means for these excursions are members or pew-holders in the popular churches." He calls on the pulpit "to search them out," and to "tell them squarely that 'the partaker is as bad as the thief,' and that the misuse of the Sabbath Day is a sin for which God will surely bring men into judgment." His people may hold up their hands and say "Amen," but most people will simply smile and say: "Oh! My."

Rev. Mr. Savage of Boston also feels compelled to admit that it is not so common a thing for people to go to church as he wishes it were. He chooses to divide the community into the two classes of church-goers and non-church-goers, the latter constituting the great majority. He ascribes the habitual absenteeism from the churches to the fact that to many of them the upper, higher world is not a real world to them. We should say, then, it is the business of the ministers to make it so, instead of railing at the whole community and charging a want of intelligence and respectability against them, as the ministers reckon it a "smart" thing to do. The managers of theatres, lyceums and concerts know better than this. Some, says Mr. Savage, refuse to go to church because they believe it to be only a survival of the old superstitions of mythology, and he confesses that he respects such people for staying away. He makes a grievous mistake, however, in calling such persons unspiritual, and in assuming that all spiritual-minded, spiritually developed and spiritually aspiring people go to church, or would naturally do so. Why do not the complaining ministers look at home for a solution of this bothersome problem, and try to discover the fact that the world has escaped from the dominion of ecclesiastical authority, and is fast learning the new formulas of a religion of charity and love?

Independent Slate-Writing.

We have received a photograph of a message received by means of independent slate-writing, a copy of which with the explanatory letter accompanying it we give below. Another correspondent in whom we have the most explicit confidence, confirms the truth of the statement as to the genuineness of the phenomenon:

To the Editor of the Banner of Light:
I received from my mother, who passed to spirit-life in 1822, sixty-three years ago, a message written through the mediumship of Dr. Henry Rogers of 109 West 6th street, New York City, by the method known as independent slate-writing. I took two new slates to the Doctor. Placing a very small piece of slate pencil between them, he fastened the two together with a rubber band, the slates not leaving my hands, and placed them on my head, the Doctor holding the two corners. In about two minutes three slight raps were heard, indicating that the message was finished. I then opened the slates and found a message containing two hundred and fifty-eight words and signature, of which this photograph is an exact copy.

Milton-on-Hudson, Ulster Co., N. Y., July 1st, 1885.
Dear Son—I come to thee with a mother's blessing from my home in the spirit-world, where everything is beautiful and fair to the eye and to the soul-perception, for we in this realm of spirit-life absorb through the keen perceptions of the soul the outward manifestations of the Divine Being to a far greater extent than it is possible for thee to do through thy senses. My son, the glories that wait the resurrected spirit when the life has been pure, are too sublime to be portrayed in mortal language. It is only the communion of soul to soul that can convey an idea of its exalted beauty. Thy life has been one of many changes and of varying successes from a worldly point of view, and of the keenest experiences have been many. Thou shalt see the wisdom of the great sorrow that has been to thee a cross when thy spirit has fulfilled its earthly mission and risen to the higher state. Then thou shalt thank the Divine Father that has led thee through all thy trials safely to the end. This seems a strange way for me to commune with thee, my son, but for the assistance of others it would be impossible for me to write. I thank thee for the opportunity thou hast given me, and will guide thee safely over the river to the happier shore where the soul finds rest from earthly cares. Thy mother bids thee be hopeful and trust.
DORCAS COLEMAN.

The Facts Convention at Onset Bay.

Arrangements are being made to hold this Convention on Wednesday and Thursday, July 29th and 30th. The day sessions will be spent in giving descriptions of mental and spiritual phenomena of all kinds, in which many of our best investigators will take part. On Wednesday evening a séance and concert will take place at the Temple, and on Thursday evening a séance and social promenade concert: dancing to commence at nine o'clock, which will be interspersed with singing. Mr. Edgar W. Emerson of Manchester, N. H., the platform medium, will make his first and only appearance at Onset this season at this convention.

Among the musical talent expected we may mention La Petite Louise Marguerite, Mrs. Maria Kimball, Mrs. L. C. Olapp, the Onset Quartette, Mr. Frank Crane, organist, and several others whose names we are not at liberty to announce.

We had a friendly call at our office, recently, from Wm. F. Nye, of New Bedford, who made his visit additionally pleasant by a generous donation of Onset water-lilies.

The Paying of Clergymen a Heresy.

A member of the Canadian Parliament, Mr. James Beatty, is the author of a recently published volume, consisting of a large number of short sermons, each with a scriptural text, the purpose of which is to show that paying clergymen for their services is unscriptural, prohibited by divine authority, and a custom derived from Judaism and Paganism. His general argument is that "paying the pastor," that is, granting stipends to preachers of the Gospel, cultivates the vanity of prebendary, perverts Scripture interpretations, prevents mutual edification, produces teachers for sects, does not procure faithful men, obstructs general preaching, makes void commandments of God. It has made churches into sects, and developed sects from society. The system, he says, prevents Apostolic congregations, makes the church mercantile, encourages presumptuous titles, promotes gratification, perverts Christian churches, encourages costly temples, destroys the order of worship, suppresses the Lord's Supper, prevents aid to the poor, suppresses Apostolic teaching, and has not improved mankind. In support of his arguments and assertions he gives copious scriptural quotations and extracts from religious and theological writers and critics.

Just how the writer would provide for the physical wants of the preachers does not appear in the review of the *Toronto Globe*, from which we gather our information; but as we have good reason to suppose that in a large majority of cases the loudest "call" to and the surest to gain a response from one of the clerical order is that which promises the largest pecuniary remuneration, the English pulpits, as well as those in this and all other countries, would rapidly become vacated were no *quid pro quo* in the shape of a good salary provided for their incumbents. Mr. Beatty seems to have overlooked the fact that when Jesus sent out the seventy disciples to preach his gospel and heal the sick, he told them "the laborer is worthy of his hire."

Anti-Vaccination Congress.

A note from William Tebb, under date of London, July 2d, announces the meeting of the Fourth International Anti-Vaccination Congress at Charleroi, Belgium, July 26th. The place has been selected on account of its being the residence of Dr. Hubert Boiss, the leader of the movement in Belgium. Mr. Tebb remarks that the abolition of the vaccination laws in Switzerland, the decision of the Imperial Vaccination Commission in Germany in condemning arm-to-arm vaccination, the demonstrated virus-inoculations, and the success of the great Anti-Vaccination Demonstration at Leicester, have given an impulse to the agitation for the abrogation of compulsory vaccination throughout the Continent, and it was expected that all the leading States would be represented, as at the previous Congresses at Paris, Cologne and Berne.

The SPIRIT MESSAGE DEPARTMENT on our sixth page the present week contains many gems of thought and instructive utterances. The invocation although brief is very beautiful. The questions why Indian spirits possess a larger power over earthly mediums than others is tersely explained by the Controlling Intelligence. The question propounded by a correspondent respecting Christ—whether or not such a person ever existed—is replied to at some length. The Controlling Intelligence speaks for several spirits who were unable to control the medium and speak for themselves. SAMUEL A. BAILEY, who says he was well-known in Lynchburg, Va., and once held a public office there, wishes to communicate with his friends still living in that place.—STEPHEN L. SAWYER reports that he, too, held a public position, and would like to meet his Boston friends in private, if they will give him an opportunity to do so through some medium.—DAVID SAUNDERS says he lived in Wilmington, Ohio, and for some time was a Collector of Internal Revenue in that State. He is anxious to bring information concerning spiritual things, and is only waiting for an opportunity to satisfactorily do so.—ALEXANDER and FRANCES LEAH, belonging to one family, send greetings to friends in New York City and in Jersey City.—MARY A. SHEED brings her best love to friends in Boston, and desires them to investigate Spiritualism; says one of them in the family to which she belonged can be developed as a writing medium, etc.—EMMA E. JONES has a mother and sister living in New York, to whom she wishes to communicate, although in her message she says many things by which to be identified.—WILLIAM BLAIR hails from Brighton, Mass. He says he passed away very suddenly. He claims to have followed the business of butcher.—ANNIE PICKERING, a medium when here, sends word to a friend in San Francisco, and wishes, all her friends to realize how happy she is in her spirit-home.—ELIZA CHASE reports that she has no special desire to have her earthly friends investigate Spiritualism, although she is herself a spirit. She evidently possesses a very positive nature. Her earthly friends should carefully peruse her message and seek privately to communicate with her.—WILLIAM MILLER is anxious to come en rapport with friends in New Bedford. He says he can influence them to their advantage in material things.—A little child reports, and gives her name as "CONNIE." The spirit in control thinks it a pet name.—JAMES PARKER says he is learning how to materialize, and thinks he will succeed ere long.—MARTHA SAWYER said she lived in Boston, and died at a ripe old age. She is anxious to meet her earthly friends.—The Controlling Intelligence answers the question, propounded by a mortal, who desired to know why spirits do not influence the people of earth to accumulate wealth, assigning as a reason that, in his opinion, such a course would give a great impetus to the spread of Spiritualism, etc., etc. The answer is a very important one, and should be carefully perused.

It is stated by a telegram from Madrid, Spain, under date of July 18th, that every one of the forty-seven nuns who were inoculated to prevent cholera by Dr. Ferran has since died of that disease. After fifty thousand people had fled from the infected districts and "cholera inoculation" had become quite general, the cholera cases increased to sixteen hundred per day, and the deaths to eleven hundred.

The Hon. Thomas B. Hazard of Rhode Island, who has been stopping at the Parker House in this city for the past two weeks, has just returned to his home in South Portsmouth, R. I. Although nearly eighty-nine years of age, he still retains his full mentality, and is as active as ever with pen and voice in proclaiming the grand truth of spirit-communication.

W. Stainton Moses.

We are pleased to learn by a letter recently received from W. Stainton Moses, of London, that though not fully reinstated, yet his health is greatly improved, so much so as to allow him to do something in the spiritual field, where he has labored long and well. On the evening of the 26th ult., the Alliance held a Conversation at which a host of active friends of Spiritualism welcomed him with many congratulations upon his advanced state of recovery from a long and serious illness. The meeting opened with an address from Mr. Moses, characterized by his usual strength and felicity of expression. Referring to late experiences and his prospective work, Mr. M. in his letter to us says:

"I keep myself posted in affairs in the States by means of the BANNER, and note the progress with pleasure. I am right, I think, in saying that there is a deal of interest abroad, both with you and us. We are getting good results with Eglington: and people are beginning more to understand the complex subject of materialization. My own researches upon that subject, some of which I have printed in *Light*, and all of which will finally be given to the public in book-form, have convinced me of the great value as well as of the vast bulk of the evidence already accumulated. I hope to do something toward reducing our evidence to order. And I hope some one will arise to do the same for the still vaster records of America, which I am quite unable to cope with at such a distance from you."

An exchange speaks of earthquake shocks which were recently felt over a wide area in Yorkshire, reminding the writer that an authority on the subject of those phenomena, M. Delaunay of Paris, is of opinion that next year will see the recurrence of upheavals of the earth's crust in an intensified form. What will become of San Francisco next year? Is the question. M. Delaunay is a prophet of evil, but unfortunately all his prophecies have hitherto come true. His specialty is earthquakes, and he predicts them only too surely. In 1877 he announced that that year would not conclude without violent disturbances of the earth, and as a matter of fact two frightful catastrophes on the coasts of South America followed. In 1883 M. Delaunay again pointed to approaching earthquakes, and soon after the volcanic eruptions in the Indian Archipelago occurred, by which thousands of human beings lost their lives, and hundreds of square miles of terra firma were engulfed by the sea. Toward the end of last year M. Delaunay once more raised his warning voice, and the earthquakes in Spain proved how well founded were his warnings. And now one has just occurred in India. Quite recently he has prophesied very severe volcanic disturbances for 1886. Having acquired a well-merited notoriety in foretelling earthquakes, some weight ought to be attached to M. Delaunay's utterances. He affirms that next year these natural phenomena will be of a very intense character, and that they will show themselves either when the earth is under the direct influence of a planet of the first rank, such as Jupiter, or under that of a group of asteroids, or at a time when sun and moon are nearest to our planet at the same time.

The spirit-message of Deacon Stephen Woodman, late of Salisbury, Mass., which was given at our public circle-room some time since, and first published in these columns, is going the rounds of the press as a remarkable production. Coming as it does from a man who was once a devout church deacon, it may with propriety be so considered. He said he had been talked to by kindly beings over on the other side (meaning, of course, the spirit-world), and they told him he would see clearer by-and-by; that he must be willing to let the old ideas go, and not cling to them. "But," said he, "somehow it is hard to do that. When a man has held to a religion the greater part of a long life, and it has become a portion of him, it seems like letting a part of his being go to have it taken away from him. But if what they tell me is true, I shall have to commence and learn my lesson anew, and let those old ideas go sailing away into the past." And then Mr. Woodman goes on to say he wishes his friends to know that he is alive and in a country much like this one, etc. We have had hundreds of experiences given us of a similar tenor by persons who had their eyes opened to their true condition after passing to spirit-life. It is evidence of their honesty when they are willing to return and admit they were mistaken as to a future life by and through the false teachings of Old Theology. When will the people of earth shake off the shackles of superstition and bigotry and mount the ladder of truth as taught by Modern Spiritualism?

A clairvoyant in England (Ellen A. Blake) contributes to *The Medium* an interesting description of what she witnessed at the funeral of a number of men who passed through death at a recent colliery explosion. She says:

"As the coffins were being borne up the churchyard pathway, from the entrance up to the church, there were arches of heavenly flowers too grand to describe, and the people seemed to be walking amongst them. These flowers were not like earthly ones; they were much lighter and brighter, and were very much like a great number of ostrich feathers above and under their feet, and amongst them I saw a great number of angels. I could scarcely see the coffins as they were borne through these beautiful flowers. One of the angels was robed in green raiment and carried on his arm a large wreath made from the choicest flowers, and from one or two of which came forth a red star; this was most surprising of all I had seen. Many of the angels were trying to comfort the broken hearts around them. When they were returning from the grave I beheld the spirit of a man whose body had been laid in the grave, returning with his wife; his arms clasped around her in an attitude of love; and as I gazed on them again, they were as if the woman's spirit was also with him, and rejoicing, although the woman was quite helpless; she seemed as though she knew nothing, and her eyes were closed, as a cloud vanishing from sight on a very bright day in summer. The angels passed away in the same manner as the flowers, and while standing and beholding these beautiful flowers and angels, I felt a desire to be with them, rejoicing and singing."

It should be distinctly understood by those who peruse this paper that it does not undertake to vouch for the abilities or competency to perform what they propose of any who advertise in its columns—whether as mediums or in any other capacity. Neither can it be responsible for their integrity or moral character. Each must, as in all other matters, stand on his or her own merits, and all who apply to them must rely on their own judgment. While THE BANNER will not knowingly allow its columns to be used as the vehicle of imposition or wrong in any form, yet it cannot sit in judgment upon the claims or characters of those who choose to advertise in them.

You can certainly depend on DR. GRAVES' HEART-REGULATOR, in any case of Heart Disease. Its merits are many and well known. Give it a trial if you are afflicted. Free pamphlet of F. E. Ingalls, Cambridge, Mass.

The Manual of Psychometry.

The announcement of the issue of this work will be a profound gratification to many in Europe and America who have been waiting for its publication with impatient interest. It is a mine of intellectual wealth, and, as its author justly says, it "lifts a corner of the veil that hides inaccessible wealth of knowledge and wisdom." Moreover it gives a new demonstration of the immortality of the soul, and opens another broad highway through which multitudes may learn the truth of Modern Spiritualism. Part First, "Introductory and Historical"—four chapters; Part Two, "Practical Utilities"—five chapters; Part Three, "The New Philosophy and Religion"—two chapters. Appendix: "Prophecy of Cazotte, Frequency of Prevision, Destiny of the Young." It is a grand book, and should be in all the libraries of the world.

Audible Spirit Music.

An occurrence during the illness of a Mrs. Shepherd, in Afton, Iowa, has been the subject of much discussion of late among the residents of that place. During her illness, and when she seemed to be the lowest, beautiful music, coming from an unknown spirit, would float into the room, and could be heard by all its occupants, and on each occasion Mrs. Shepherd would rise up in her bed and exclaim, "Oh, how sweet! I will soon be with you, dear children."

Noting the above, the Afton Enterprise remarks: "We, like the majority of mankind, are great disbelievers, but responsible men and women declare they heard the music, and there is no question as to its truthfulness; but where it came from or what caused it is the question."

Reports from Camp and Grove Meetings.

are respectfully solicited from persons in attendance. We shall be pleased to print in our columns concise accounts of general proceedings at these gatherings, and of notable phenomena and incidents that may occur; all of which will undoubtedly be perused with great pleasure and satisfaction by those of our readers who are unable to be present.

The Opening Lecture at Onset,

by Dr. Fred. L. H. Willis, entitled "SPIRITUALISM A CASSET OF RARE AND PRECIOUS GEMS," reported expressly for the BANNER OF LIGHT, will be one of the attractive features of the next number of the BANNER.

Dr. A. W. S. Rothermel,

Accounts of whose remarkably developed mediumship have recently appeared in our columns, is now holding sittings at Onset.

The evanescent nature of all earthly objects upon which mortals bestow their holiest love and place their fondest expectations was shown in a sad event of late occurrence in our neighboring city of Haverhill. On the afternoon of July 9th, Ralph, a bright, intelligent son of Captain and Mrs. Henry A. Lord, on his way home, a strong gale blowing at the time, was while crossing a street, struck on the head by a wheel of a buggy that was driven round an adjacent corner and unseen by him. The collision prostrated him senseless. The occupant of the buggy promptly sprang to his relief, and conveyed him speedily to a physician. Restoratives being applied he slightly recovered, and was conveyed to his home. During the night unfavorable symptoms appeared, and at half-past one his spirit vacated its shattered abode and passed to the home of the immortals. The suddenness of the event, shadowing as it did a hope that a few hours previous knew nothing of happiness, with a cloud of grief, called for the deep sympathies of not only the many personal friends of the family, but of all who became informed of it. These found expression in a profusion of floral gifts at the hour of sepulture on the following Sabbath; on which occasion, as was to be expected, a fine spiritual atmosphere prevailed, and few, if any, could fail to recognize the consoling fact that though visibly absent he whom they so bitterly mourned was in their midst, not dead but living, silently waiting an opportunity through someone of the many channels of communication to make his continued love and presence known. May the sorrowing parents soon see the ever living of the cloud that is above them.

We learn from *The Cornubian and Red-ruth Times* of July 10th that the libel case of Maskelyne vs. Irving Bishop, which has been on the legadocket in England for some time, has at length been decided. In the Sheriff's Court, London Bishop was mulcted in the sum of ten thousand pounds. The Divisional Court ordered a new inquiry on the ground that the damages were excessive, and a rehearing was subsequently had. After the addresses of counsel, the learned Under Sheriff, in his address to the jury laid the question for their consideration and determination was the amount of compensation in damages to which the plaintiff was entitled. The jury, after a short deliberation, assessed the damages at five hundred pounds, exaction being stayed for a week on the application of Mr. Coward for the defendant.

The *National*, published at Washington, sees in the prospective abolition of war indications of the approach of the millennium. We trust its anticipations may be realized, and have no dot they will, for "the good time coming," which has so long been talked of and sung of, on its way to earth's people, though many generations have passed away without seeing it, in many others, in all human probability, will in the meantime let us all do what we can to help it along.

We are informed that strenuous efforts are being made by Mr. Mer, of Brooklyn, N. Y., for the resumption of a publication of the *Psychometric Circular*. In this connection it may be mentioned that by Sara Williamson, formerly an attaché of the paper, receives and inspirationally answers inquiries relating to the spiritual philosophy, 441 Fulton street, Brooklyn, at which place St. John holds sittings for materialization/force manifestations, etc., every Friday evening.

Attention is directed to notice in another column under the caption "Done a Great Deal of Good," showing the way of Dr. Dobson's treatment of the sick.

Mr. O. G. Overton, an old worker in the ranks of English Spiritualists, is present with the inspirational lecturer, Armon De Main, at Sherbrooke, Ohio.

Spiritualist Camp and Grove Meetings.

By reference to the subjoined list it will be seen that the Spiritualists of America are in earnest regarding out-of-door services, and their prosecution during the present summer:

ONSET BAY CAMP MEETING.—The ninth annual assembly, under the auspices of the Onset Bay Grove Association, will take place on its grounds, East Wareham, Mass., July 12th to Aug. 9th.

QUEEN CITY PARK.—The fourth annual assembly of this Camp Meeting will take place on the grounds in South Burlington, Vt., Aug. 13th to Sept. 14th.

THE NEW ENGLAND SPIRITUALIST CAMP MEETING.—The Association holds its twelfth annual convention at Lake Pleasant, Montague, Mass., Aug. 1st to 31st inclusive.

THE CAMP MEETING ASSOCIATION OF VICKSBURG will hold its second annual meeting in Fraser's Grove, one half mile from Vicksburg, Mich., beginning Aug. 27th, and continuing ten days.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY SPIRITUALIST CAMP MEETING.—The Third Annual Meeting of the Association will be held upon its grounds at Mount Pleasant Park, Clinton, Ia., beginning on the first day of August, and continuing during the entire month.

NEWARK FALLS, N. J.—The Seventh Annual Camp Meeting at this place commences Sunday, July 19th, and closes on Thursday, Sept. 10th.

THE SECOND ANNUAL GROVE MEETING OF SPIRITUALISTS will convene at New Era, Clackamas County, Oregon, Thursday, Sept. 3d, and continue until Sept. 14th.

NEMOKA SPIRITUALIST CAMP MEETING.—The Nemoka Camp Meeting Association and the Michigan Association of Spiritualists unite to hold a camp meeting at Nemoka on the beautiful Pine Lake, on the Grand Trunk Railroad, eight miles east of Lansing, August 5th to the 31st.

THE WORLD'S CAMP MEETING.—At Sea Breeze Grove, near Rochester, N. Y., commenced June 27th, and is to close July 27th.

SUNAPEE.—The Camp Meeting at Lake Sunapee, N. H., commences Aug. 2d, and ends Aug. 30th.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN (TENN.) CAMP MEETING.—The Second Annual Camp Meeting will be held on these camp grounds for ten days, commencing Saturday, Aug. 22d, and concluding Aug. 31st. On Wednesday, Aug. 26th, the annual meeting of stockholders will be held. On Saturday, Aug. 29th, the Annual Convention of the Southern Association of Spiritualists will be held.

PAY PAW, MICH.—A Camp Meeting takes place at Four Mile Lake from July 30th to Aug. 3d.

CASSADAGA, N. Y.—The Camp Meeting at Cassadaga Lake opens Aug. 1st, and closes Aug. 31st.

TEMPLE HEIGHTS, ME.—August 14th to 23d.

VERONA PARK, ME.—August 15th to 24th.

ONSET.—This summer resort for Spiritualists hereabouts has a large number of visitors last Sunday, when the campaign was opened. One poor brother, Mr. George B. Holmes, (the Herald says), was insane, and, thinking he was surrounded by spirits, ran through the streets, arrayed in white, and then jumped overboard, but was saved from drowning and committed to the insane hospital at Taunton. It is but fair to state that he was crazy before he went to Onset.—*Boston Investigator*.

The Boston Evening Record headed its account of this affair in glaring capitals, "CRAZY OVER SPIRITUALISM," and at the same time, in the body of the article, it said: "Mr. Nickerson says he became acquainted with him [Mr. Holmes] about nine months ago at New Bedford, where he gave lessons in elocution at the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association. About two months ago Mr. Nickerson, upon Holmes representing that he was in poor health, invited him to come to Onset Bay and assist him about his place of business, which invitation was accepted." This same Mr. Holmes wrote us a letter last May, which led us to infer that he belonged to the "Young Men's Christian Association"—and now the fact is corroborated by the article in *The Record*. Is Spiritualism to be responsible for all the "cranks" who belong or belonged to "the church"? It would seem so, according to the secular press outlook.

Of the message in the BANNER July 11th from Dr. George E. Hayes of Buffalo, Mr. S. H. Waterman writes that Dr. Hayes was an old resident of Buffalo, and "though an old man an able one, his message clearly proves he has not lost any of his ability by his transition." Our correspondent adds that a renewed interest has been awakened in spiritual phenomena by the visits of the Independent slate-writing medium, Mr. W. A. Mansfield, of whom he says: "One half hour's sitting with him satisfied me that as a medium for independent slate-writing he has no superior. He does not even hold the slate in his own hands. He said: 'Take the slates in your own hands, look at them, put the pencil between them yourself, put them away over there, yourself, on that table (ten feet from him), put your folded question on top of the slates yourself and take hold of my hands.' In one minute he told me to look at the slates. I did so, and found upon the under slate my question answered, love given and name signed, all done in broad daylight."

A writer in the *Century*, over the signature, "A Pew Owner," asks why people attend church? Of the assumption that they do so for the worship of God, he says: "Nothing could be further from the truth. The buildings and trimmings of churches are simply the survival of a practice around which a multitude of pleasant and tender recollections twine, but the true and original spirit of which has utterly perished. Indeed, the churches have very aptly been styled the dress parade of modern civilization.... I say it without a particle of irreverence, and with no desire to wound the feelings of any one—the modern church-going is simply a form of decorous Sunday amusement, differing only in degree from the so-called sacred concert."

A letter from Mr. J. J. Morse, dated July 11th, informs us that he was to give his closing lectures in Liverpool on the day following. Leghill, North Shields and Newcastle-on-Tyne were to be the field of his last week's labor in England, returning to Liverpool on the 24th, for a farewell reception concert, and embarking the next day for this country.

Number forty of "Echoes from England," the closing one of the series from Mr. Morse, for the present, is received and will be given in our columns next week.

"THE GHOSTS."—We are in receipt of the first number of a twenty-four page octavo monthly, bearing the above name, published and edited by George Chalmey and Anna Kimball, Oakland, Cal., who announce as their purpose to devote its pages to a presentation of "Theosophy, Spiritualism, Occult Phenomena and the Cultivation of the Higher Life." For terms and particulars, address George Chalmey, Oakland, Cal.

Miss V. Roberts, the materializing medium of whom our New York correspondents spoke so highly in the BANNER of July 4th and 14th, is now in this city, holding sittings at No. 74 Waltham street, as will be seen by her card in another column.

We learn from our English exchanges that Mrs. Cora L. V. Richmond's recent public lectures in London were listened to by earnest and appreciative audiences. This grand monthpiece of the angels was to lecture in the Provinces from July 12th to Sept. 20th.

Our Canadian friends should secure the services of Mr. J. J. Morse, the English trance-medium and fine lecturer, who will soon arrive in this country. He may be addressed at this office.

Mrs. Emma Hardinge Britten is actively engaged in the English lecturing field. She is an able speaker, and consequently is always fully appreciated.

Movements of Mediums and Lecturers.

(Matter for this Department should reach our office by Monday's mail to insure insertion the same week.)

J. K. BATES, permanent address is P. O. Box 123, So. Rte. 1, F. R. Mrs. Bessie Huston, materializing medium, will be at the Whipple and Hubbard cottage, Lake Sunapee, July 27th, where she will hold sittings until the close of that meeting.

Mrs. Willis Fletcher can be addressed care of BANNER OF LIGHT. She will deliver a limited number of lectures during the coming winter.

Mr. O. P. Kellogg, of Ohio, and **Mrs. E. C. Woodruff**, are to be speakers at the Grand Camp Meeting at Four Mile Lake, near Paw Paw, Michigan, which commences July 30th and ends August 3d.

A. S. Hayward, magnetic physician, of Boston, will receive all letters in due time addressed to him as an advertisement on seventh page of BANNER. They will be forwarded to him wherever he may be.

G. H. Brooks, of 124 Charter street, Madison, Wis., would like to make arrangements to lecture for the fall and winter months. Address him as above.

J. Wm. Fletcher speaks at Newburgh Falls, August 9th, delivering both lectures, and has been secured for the Cassadaga Lake Camp Meeting.

Mrs. Dr. L. E. H. Jackson's address is now at Hookland Cottage, Rutland, Vt. She will answer calls to lecture and attend funerals.

Edgar W. Emerson has the following engagements for Camp Meetings: July 19th to 26th inclusive, Newchamley Falls, Pa.; July 29th and 30th, "The Fair Convention," Onset Bay, Aug. 2d to 10th, inclusive, Lake Pleasant, Mass.; Aug. 10th to 31st, inclusive, Cassadaga Lake, N. Y.; Sept. 5th and 6th, "Kona Camp Meeting," Glenburn, Me. Will probably visit Sunapee Lake Camp, N. H., from Aug. 14th to 18th.

Correction. In the last issue of your paper, among the editorial items, I notice one which says: "President Potter of the Free Religious Association announces that the subscription to *The Index* during the past year have largely decreased." Knowing the statement at the time, I called his attention to it, and he stated that he had never made any such announcement, nor said anything that could in fairness be so construed. I repeat the statement is not true from whatever source derived or upon whatever authority made.

Sincerely yours, B. F. UNDERWOOD.

[We are pleased to learn, as we do by the above note, that the statement attributed to Mr. Potter in regard to *The Index* is not true. We derived our information from the Boston secular press.]

Address J. W. FLETCHER for lectures, etc., care BANNER OF LIGHT.

Writing PLANCHETTES for sale by Colby & Rich. Price 60 cents.

To Correspondents.

No attention is paid to anonymous communications. Name and address of writer in all cases indispensable as a condition of insertion. We do not undertake to preserve or return communications not used.

G. GENHARD, HOBOKEN, N. J.—Dogmatism would be conspicuous by its absence in anything that might be said in these columns regarding it.

W. BOWEN, NEW YORK CITY.—MSS. received, and under consideration.

H. G. NAPA, CAL.—We shall submit your letter of inquiry to the spirit control when the medium resumes her duties at our Public Free Circle Room.

Special Notice.

The date of the expiration of every subscription to the BANNER OF LIGHT is plainly marked on the address. The paper is discontinued at that time unless the subscription is previously renewed. Subscribers intending to renew will save much trouble, and possibly loss of a paper or two by sending in the money for renewal before the expiration of their present subscription. It is the earnest desire of the publishers to give the BANNER OF LIGHT the circulation to which its merits entitle it, and they look with confidence to the friends of the paper throughout the world to assist them in the work. COLBY & RICH, Publishers.

Spiritualist Meetings in Boston:

1081 Washington Street.—First Spiritualist Ladies' Aid Society, Monday at 2½ and 7½ P. M. Mrs. Henry O. Torrey, Secretary.

College Hall, 34 Essex Street.—Sundays, at 10½ A. M., 2½ and 7½ P. M. Eben Cobb, Conductor.

Essex Hall, 610 Washington Street, corner of Essex Street.—Sundays, at 10½ A. M., 2½ and 7½ P. M. Also Thursdays at 8 P. M. Able speakers and test mediums. Excellent music. Prescott Robinson, Chairman.

White Cross Parsonage, 125 Bedford Square, Bedford Square.—Sundays, at 7½ and 9 o'clock. "Service of Silence" every Saturday evening. The Secretary of the Fraternity, Mrs. J. Whitaker, in daily attendance from 10 o'clock on week-days, will give information concerning the Order.

Chelsea.—The Spiritual Association meets every Sunday in Odd Fellows' Building, Hawthorn street, opposite Belemham Car Station, at 8 and 7½ P. M.

Temple of Honor, Hawthorn street, every Friday afternoon. Business meeting at 4½ o'clock. Entertainments in the evening. Mrs. E. A. Baker, Secretary, 129 Marlboro' street.

Subscriptions Received at this Office:

THE SPIRITUAL OFFERING. Published weekly in Ottumwa, Iowa, by D. M. and N. F. Fox. Per year, \$1.50. THE OLIVE BRANCH. Published monthly in Utica, N. Y., \$1.00 per annum. Devoted to the highest interests of humanity, both here and hereafter. London, Eng. Price \$3.00 per year.

THE MIND-CURE AND SCIENCE OF LIFE. Weekly Journal devoted to Spiritualism. London, Eng. Price \$2.00 per year, postage 60 cents.

THE PSYCHICIST. A Monthly Journal, published in India, and sent direct to subscribers from India, \$3.00 per annum.

For Sale at this Office:

FACTS. A Monthly Magazine. Published in Boston. Single copy 10 cents.

THE SPIRITUAL OFFERING. Published weekly in Ottumwa, Iowa, by D. M. and N. F. Fox. Per year, \$1.50. Single copy 2 cents.

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THE MIND-CURE AND SCIENCE OF LIFE. Monthly. Published at Chicago, Ill. Single copy, 10 cents.

THE MIND-CURE AND SCIENCE OF LIFE. Monthly. Published at Chicago, Ill. Single copy, 10 cents.

THE SHAKEN MANIFESTO. Published monthly in Shakers, N. Y. 60 cents per annum. Single copy 10 cents.

THE THEOSOPHIST. A Monthly Journal, published in India, and sent direct to subscribers from India, \$3.00 per annum.

THE LIGHT FOR THINKERS. Published weekly in Atlanta, Ga. Single copy, 5 cents.

RATES OF ADVERTISING.

Each line in *Agate* type, twenty cents for the first insertion, and fifteen cents for each subsequent insertion on the seventh page.

Special Notices forty cents per line, Minimum, each insertion. Business Cards thirty cents per line, *Agate*, each insertion. Editorial columns, large type, leading matter, fifty cents per line.

Advertisements for renewed at continued rates must be left at our office before 12 M. on Saturday, a week in advance of the date whereon they are to appear.

The BANNER OF LIGHT cannot well undertake to couch for the honesty of its many advertisers. Advertisements are accepted on a basis of honor upon their face, and whenever it is made known that dishonest or improper persons are using our advertising columns, they are at once discontinued.

BUSINESS CARDS.

THIS PAPER may be found on file at GEO. F. HOWE, Bureau (108 Prince Street), where advertising contracts may be made for it in New York.

TO FOREIGN SUBSCRIBERS. The subscription price of the BANNER OF LIGHT is \$5.00 per year, or \$1.75 per six months. It will be sent at the price named above to any foreign country embraced in the Universal Postal Union.

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ST. LOUIS, MO. BOOK DEPOT. THE LIBERAL NEWS CO., 629 N. 5th Street, St. Louis, Mo., keeps constantly for sale the BANNER OF LIGHT, and a supply of the Spiritual and Reformatory Works published by Colby & Rich.

HARTFORD, CONN. BOOK DEPOT. E. M. ROSE, 37 Trumbull Street, Hartford, Conn., keeps constantly for sale the BANNER OF LIGHT, and a supply of the Spiritual and Reformatory Works published by Colby & Rich.

ROCHESTER, N. Y. BOOK DEPOT. JACOB A. HIGGINS, Bookellers, Arcade, Hall, Rochester, N. Y., keep for sale the Spiritual and Reformatory Works published by Colby & Rich.

WASHINGTON BOOK DEPOT. The Roberts Bookstore, D. MUNCEY, Proprietor, No. 1010 Seventh Street, above New York Avenue, Washington, D. C., keeps constantly for sale the BANNER OF LIGHT, and a supply of the Spiritual and Reformatory Works published by Colby & Rich.

ROCHESTER, N. Y. BOOK DEPOT. WILLIAMSON & HIGGINS, Bookellers, 62 West Main Street, Rochester, N. Y., keep for sale the Spiritual and Reformatory Works published by the BANNER OF LIGHT PUBLISHING HOUSE, Boston, Mass.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL. AGENCY. I. K. COOPER, 748 Market Street, San Francisco, Cal., keeps constantly for sale the BANNER OF LIGHT, and will take orders for the Spiritual and Reformatory Works published and for sale by Colby & Rich.

DETROIT, MICH. AGENCY. AUGUSTUS DAVIS, 1111 Second Street, Mich., Spiritualist Sale and Circulating Library. Agent for BANNER OF LIGHT, and all publications of Colby & Rich.

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ADVERTISEMENTS.

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Twelfth Annual Convocation

AT LAKE PLEASANT, MONTAGUE, MASS.

(On the Hoosac Tunnel Route, midway between Boston and Troy.)

August 1st to August 31st, 1885, Inclusive.

SPEAKERS. Sunday, August 2d, Hon. A. H. Bailey, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Tuesday, Aug. 4th, Mrs. C. H. Hawburn, New York, N. Y.; Wednesday, Aug. 5th, Dr. J. H. Buchanan, Boston, Mass.; Thursday, Aug. 6th, Mrs. J. S. Little, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Friday, Aug. 7th, Mrs. J. S. Little, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Saturday, Aug. 8th, Mrs. N. J. T. Brigham, Elm Grove, Mass.

Sunday, Aug. 9th, Mr. J. Clegg Wright, Philadelphia, Pa.; Monday, Aug. 10th, Mrs. R. S. Little, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Tuesday, Aug. 11th, Mrs. R. S. Little, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Wednesday, Aug. 12th, Mr. J. Clegg Wright, Philadelphia, Pa.

Thursday, Aug. 13th, Mrs. R. S. Little, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Friday, Aug. 14th, Mrs. R. S. Little, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Saturday, Aug. 15th, Mr. Walter Howell, Philadelphia, Pa.

Sunday, Aug. 16th, Mrs. Sarah A. Byrnes, Boston, Mass.; Monday, Aug. 17th, Rev. George Chalmey, Boston, Mass.; Tuesday, Aug. 18th, Mrs. Fannie Davis Smith, Brandon, Vt.; Wednesday, Aug. 19th, Mrs. Fannie Davis Smith, Brandon, Vt.

Thursday, Aug. 20th, Rev. George Chalmey, Boston, Mass.; Friday, Aug. 21st, Miss A. M. Beecher, Newtonville, Mass.; Saturday, Aug. 22d, Mr. J. Frank Baxter, Chelsea, Mass.; Sunday, Aug. 23d, Rev. E. P. Powell, Clinton, N. Y.

Tuesday, Aug. 24th, Rev. E. P. Powell, Clinton, N. Y.; Wednesday, Aug. 25th, Mrs. F. O. Hyzer, Baltimore, Md.; Thursday, Aug. 26th, Mrs. F. O. Hyzer, Baltimore, Md.; Friday, Aug. 27th, Miss A. M. Beecher, Newtonville, Mass.; Saturday, Aug. 28th, Mrs. S. B. Fales, Boston, Mass.; Sunday, Aug. 29th, Mrs. N. J. Willis, Cambridge, Mass.; Monday, Aug. 30th, Mrs. J. Frank Baxter, Chelsea, Mass.

PUBLIC TEST MEDIUMS. J. Frank Baxter, Dr. H. B. Miller, Dr. W. B. Miller, Mr. Edgar W. Emerson, Mrs. J. S. Little, Mrs. Maud E. Lord.

MUSIC. The Fitchburg Military Band, of twenty-four pieces, will arrive Sunday, Aug. 1st, and remain until Monday, Aug. 2d, giving two concerts—at 8:30 A. M. and 8 P. M. This well-known band will fully sustain its reputation this summer of being one of the best organizations of its kind in the State. Mr. Fitch, the leader, has under several changes for the better in its make-up, and the habits of Lake Pleasant may confidently anticipate the pleasure of listening to some of the best concert ever given by the band.

The Russell Orchestra will furnish music for the dancing assemblies at the Pavilion afternoon and evening.

We take pleasure in announcing the engagement of Mr. Little of Brooklyn, N. Y., to read the singing by the audience, with music by the band. Mr. Little will be assisted by Mrs. Little, and other eminent vocalists. Mr. J. Frank Baxter will also be present the last two weeks of the meeting, and will frequently entertain the audience with some of his choice songs.

THE HOTEL. Under the management of H. L. Barnard, of Greenfield, Mass., will be open for guests July 15th, Address Greenfield, Mass.

For particulars concerning transportation of camp equipment and baggage, leading tents and lots, engaging lodging and board, schedule of railroad fares, etc., etc., see annual circular, which will be sent post-paid to any address by N. B. HENRY, Clerk, Lake Pleasant, Montague, Mass.

July 4—6

Mrs. Maria Kimball.

It is expected, will sing the FACTS CONVENTION July 22nd and 23rd at Onset Bay.

SOMETHING

For Every Reader of the Banner.

MRS. J. L. THURSTON, of Lynnfield Centre, was developed in eight private sittings as *Business and Test Medium* and Inspirational Speaker. She is now ready for public work. MRS. M. B. ORANE successfully developed in twelve private sittings as *Personating, Speaking and Test Medium*, and other eminent vocalists. MR. C. H. TERRY reduced rates of 60¢ private sittings for four dollars in advance to receive aid in development of mediumship under most favorable conditions. JAMES E. COOKE, 6 Worcester Square, Boston. 3w—July 25.

THE ONSET QUARTETTE

Will sing at the FACTS CONVENTION July 22nd and 30th.

July 22.</

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FEB. 28.

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April 11.

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year, one address, \$1.00 each. Single copy 5 cents; machine copy free. Fractional parts of a dollar may be remitted in postage stamps.

Advertisements published at ten cents per line for a single insertion, or fifty cents per inch each insertion one month or longer.

March 14.

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A JOURNAL devoted to the interests of Spiritualism in all its aspects. **MADAME LUCIE CHANCE, Editor.** The ablest writers contribute to its pages.
 Terms of Subscription. In advance, per year, \$1.20. In remitting by mail, a Post-office order on Paris, France, to the order of **J. DARCY, Manager, 75, Boulevard Montmorency.**

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1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

7

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ITCHING
AND
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