



VOL. 94.

Banner of Light Publishing Co.,
204 Dartmouth St., Boston, Mass.

BOSTON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1903.

\$2.00 Per Annum,
Postage Free.

NO. 10

THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL SPIRITUALISTS' ASSOCIATION

United States of America and Dominion of Canada,

HELD IN

NATIONAL RIFLES' ARMOY, G STREET, WASHINGTON, D. C.

At least a week before the Convention opened, delegates began to arrive from various sections of the nation, all interested in the work of the N. S. A., particularly in the election of officers. By Sunday morning all of the trustees, save Hon. Alonzo Thompson of Nebraska, who is traveling in Europe, were on hand, as well as a large number of delegates. The local societies received their attention in the morning and evening, when they had the pleasure of listening to able and instructive addresses by J. J. Morse and Mrs. Jennie Leys-Edson. Mr. Morse is the same whole souled, broad gauged man he always has been since we first clasped hands with him in days of "Auld Lang Syne." His inspiration is of the same high order as of yore, and his utterances full of solid instruction.

Monday was spent in preparing for the Convention, and in welcoming arriving delegates. They came on every train, and from all sections of the nation. One of the largest delegations from the West was delayed by a wrecked engine, and did not reach the city until Tuesday noon, fully one day late. Monday afternoon brought the New England delegation, led by that veteran manager, J. B. Hatch, Jr., who brought a party of happy people with him, all of whom were bent upon taking in the Convention and seeing Washington. The secular press took due notice of the arrival of noted Spiritualists, and gave excellent reports of the exercises at the Monday evening reception. It was the most representative body of delegates that has assembled at a National Convention of Spiritualists since 1893.

Monday evening, Oct. 19, at eight o'clock, the Board of Trustees of the National Spiritualists' Association tendered a reception to the delegates and visitors at Hotel Regent. The reception room was filled to overflowing, and all were cordially and gracefully received by the Secretary of the N. S. A. and the wives of Trustees. After a most pleasant social hour, during which old friendships were renewed and new ones formed, President Barrett introduced many prominent workers from different sections of the land. All spoke most earnestly in behalf of the Cause we love and revere. This occasion was an unusually pleasant one.

Tuesday morning: Promptly at ten o'clock President Barrett called the Convention to order and the work of the National body began in earnest. The session opened with a selection by the quartet. Mrs. Mary T. Longley followed with a soulful invocation, asking that the blessing and aid of the angels be bestowed upon each and every one and the N. S. A. as a body. The quartet then rendered sweet, inspiring selections, as it did on all occasions. The musical artists were Miss Patience Mori, soprano; Mr. J. L. Flynn, tenor; Mrs. J. L. Flynn, contralto; Prof. E. E. Mori, basso; Miss Bertha Mori, pianist. They are artists of the highest order and their selections never failed to delight the delegates and visitors.

President H. D. Barrett delivered the address of welcome in his usual eloquent and cordial manner. Rev. Moses Hull of White-water, Wis., in behalf of the West responded to President Barrett's welcome. The next in order was the appointment of the Committees on Credentials and Rules.

Committee on Credentials: J. B. Hatch, Mass.; W. J. Hicks, Mont.; F. W. Martin, Ohio; Miss C. Edson, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Stella A. Fluke, Iowa.

Committee on Rules: Dr. Geo. A. Fuller, Mass.; J. S. Gillespie, Cal.; Dr. B. O'Dell, Mich.; Dr. E. H. Green, Mo.; F. H. Morrill, Pa.

Both committees retired and proceeded at once to attend to their duties. A partial report of the Committee on Usages was then given by the chairman, Rev. F. A. Wiggins of Mass. He outlined briefly the work prepared by the committee during the past year, and Hon. Charles H. Schirm of Minn., the Reading Clerk, read a portion of the Usages. After the reading a motion was passed to lay this matter over until Wednesday.

Officers of the Convention: Hon. Charles H. Schirm, reading clerk; Walter P. Williams, stenographer; I. C. I. Evans, assistant secretary; J. L. Flynn, musical director; Henry Steinberg, sergeant-at-arms; C. D. Pruden, ticket seller; F. C. Just, doorkeeper. Tuesday afternoon: The report of the Committee on Credentials was the first business of the afternoon. A partial report was submitted by the chairman. The delegates secured their badges and were seated on the floor of the Convention. The report of the Committee on Rules was then read and accepted.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RULES.

1st. This Convention shall be governed by Roberts' Rules of Order, in all matters not provided for by the Constitution and By-Laws.

2d. The printed program shall be the order of business in so far as it is found practicable.

3d. Delegates shall not be allowed the privilege of the floor of this Convention for a period of time in excess of five (5) minutes, except by unanimous consent of the delegates assembled.

4th. Any appeal from the decision of the chair shall be sustained by at least ten delegates.

5th. The previous question shall not be ordered unless the same is moved and supported by at least ten delegates.

6th. Properly accredited representatives of the press shall be welcome and places suitably equipped for their work provided, except

otherwise ordered by special vote to the contrary.

6th. The nomination of candidates for position on the Board of Officers shall be in order commencing at the hour of 3 o'clock Thursday afternoon and all nominations must be made before the close of that session. Election of officers shall commence not later than 3 o'clock on Friday afternoon.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed George A. Fuller,
F. H. Morrill,
Dr. B. O'Dell,
Dr. E. H. Green,
J. Shaw Gillespie.

The appointment of various committees was next in order.

Auditing Committee: Dr. B. O'Dell, Mich.; H. H. Simpson, Me.; Mrs. H. L. P. Russeque, Conn.; F. H. Morrill, Pa.; Simeon Butterfield, Mass.

Committee on Delegates' Reports: Mrs. M. E. Cadwallader, Pa.; P. L. Peck, Me.; Lyman C. Howe, N. Y.; E. E. Carpenter, Mich.; Mrs. Laura G. Fisen, Ill.

Committee on President's Report: H. W. Richardson, N. Y.; Geo. B. Warne, Ill.; Carrie Firth-Curran, Ohio; John W. Ring, Texas; Mrs. Clara L. Stewart, Wis.

Committee on Secretary's Report: E. G. Reilly, N. Y.; Oscar A. Edgerly, Mich.; Mrs. Elizabeth Schauss, Ohio; Mrs. M. J. Stephens, J. S. Gillespie, Cal.

Committee on Amendments: A. A. Kimball, Mass.; Mrs. Tillie U. Reynolds, N. Y.; Mrs. Sarah Charles, Kan.; Geo. Morton, R. L.; Mrs. Viola A. B. Hand, Mo.

Committee on Correspondence: Miss M. J. Fitzmaurice, N. Y.; Mrs. C. D. Pruden, Miss. C. P. Longley, Mass.; E. W. Sprague, N. Y.; Miss Florence Morse, Cal.

Committee on Finance, Ways and Means: Carrie E. S. Twing, N. Y.; Mrs. J. P. Whitwell, Minn.; Henry C. Dorn, N. J.; Mrs. Julia R. Locke, Pa.; Geo. W. Way, W. Va.

Committee on Resolutions: Miss Susie C. Clarke, Mass.; Moses Hull, Wis.; Mrs. Julia M. Walton, Mich.; J. J. Morse, Cal.; Thomas Grimshaw, Mo.

The reading of the President's report came next and was greeted with great applause as the Reading Clerk read the closing words of the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports. All three reports were placed in the hands of the respective committees for consideration.

Tuesday evening: The meeting opened at 7:30 o'clock and the spacious hall was completely filled with earnest, enthusiastic, progressive people. The hall was very tastefully decorated with potted plants, cut flowers and the national colors. The Hatch Brothers opened the meeting with the "William Tell" overture, which was finely executed and received hearty applause. Rev. Geo. W. Kates offered an invocation, after which the president introduced to the vast audience Rev. N. F. Ravlin, paying a glowing tribute to this gentleman. Mr. Ravlin's subject was "The Exalted Mission of Spiritualism." He said in part:

"Spiritualism is what you make it. It means purity of life and purity of heart; means your manhood and your womanhood. You hold your loved ones in spirit in bondage by the life you live. If you live low down, if you live in the flesh, if you live on the low plane, you are holding your loved ones in bondage. Every pure thought, every pure word, every pure action gives them encouragement and strength, and opens to them new light and new blessings. The exalted mission of Spiritualism pertains not simply to your communion with your people, but it means your progress and progress."

After a piano duet, Miss Margaret Gaule gave messages, as did Mrs. Zaida Brown Kates. All the messages were most readily recognized. The exercises of the evening were closed with a benediction by our English co-worker, J. J. Morse.

Wednesday morning, Oct. 21: At the usual hour (10 o'clock) the delegates were called to order by the President. The first in order was the introduction of business and assignment of orders. Then followed the reading of the Report of the Missionaries. Mr. and Mrs. Geo. W. Kates and Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Sprague. They were listened to intently by all, as the persons named are well-known workers in the Cause and especially in missionary work. Rev. James S. Scarlett was also appointed a special missionary by the N. S. A. and directed to confine himself especially to New England. His report was read to the delegates. President Barrett then gave a verbal report of his work during the campaigning season. He said he had attended ten campmeetings during the season of 1903. In nearly all places the N. S. A. received a warm welcome, and most generously contributed to the National Association. In less than three months' time he turned over to the secretary of the N. S. A. one thousand dollars (\$1,000) as the result of his work during the campaigning season. All felt that he had done nobly and realized that his heart and soul were in the work.

In regard to the work of the Association at the camps President Barrett said: "The National Association received this summer, for the first time in many years, a warm welcome at Cassadaga Camp (City of Light Assembly). Their platform was turned over to the N. S. A. for one day. The returns from the collection for that day were \$399.37, owing to the generous kindness and courtesy of the progressive president of that camp, Mrs. Abbie Louise Pettengill. Lily Dale has a name throughout the world; a place to which it is a pleasure to go; a camp that is full of promise in the coming year. (Applause.)

And I feel that a special vote of thanks should be tendered to Mrs. A. L. Pettengill and Lily Dale Camp." He also spoke of the kindly and generous welcome accorded the N. S. A. at Onset and other well known camps.

A special committee was appointed to consider the reports of the missionaries consisting of the following: N. C. Westerfield, Minn.; Mrs. A. L. Gillespie, Cal.; Mrs. Dues N. W. Max Gentzke, Neb.; Mr. Schauldon, Mo. During the session Max Gentzke of Nebraska placed before the Convention the fact that a missionary able to speak the German language was needed in our ranks. He believed such a person could do a great work by reaching many who are now unable to understand English. He made a most earnest plea and the matter was placed before the Committee on Missionaries' Reports. The remainder of the morning was spent in reading various communications.

Wednesday afternoon: The business before the Convention this afternoon was the discussion of the Report of the Committee on Usages. This matter is of the most vital importance to the National Spiritualists' Association and the cause of Spiritualism in general. The entire afternoon was consumed with the discussion of this matter, and the Convention did not adjourn until long after six o'clock. The question was discussed by many of the delegates, in fact we may say very few were silent regarding it. Various points were brought up and several amendments presented and adopted.

The sections of the report of the Committee on Usages are as follows:

1. Declaration of Principles.
2. Responsive Readings.
3. Church Fellowship.
4. Marriage Service, No. 1.
5. Marriage Service, No. 2.
6. Marriage Service, No. 3.
7. Marriage Service, No. 4.
8. Christening Service.
9. Legal Ordination.
- a. Call to Pastorate.
- b. Usages of Ordination.
- c. Admission to Fellowship.
- d. Lay Ministers.
10. Public Ordination.
11. Mediums.
12. Burial Services.

After the reading of Section 1 it was voted to read the Declaration of Principles adopted at the N. S. A. Convention held in Chicago, Oct. 1898. The first responsive reading in Section 2 was adopted, after which it was voted to lay the remainder of the responsive readings on the table and take into consideration the legal points embodied in the report. Section 9, Geo. W. Kates submitted a preamble to be incorporated just before the first responsive reading, Section 2, which was adopted. Legal Ordination, Section 9, with its sub-divisions, was next matter for consideration. After considerable discussion it was adopted, various amendments being submitted and adopted. Section 10, embodying two forms for public ordination, was next in order and this section was also adopted with several amendments, and several sections were re-committed to the committee. The Convention then adjourned, voting to continue the consideration of the report of the Committee on Usages at 9 o'clock Thursday morning.

In the course of the afternoon the secretary, Mrs. M. T. Longley, paid a most glowing tribute to the good president, and it was unanimously voted that the National Spiritualists' Association give the president \$500 as a mark of their appreciation of his fidelity and loyalty during the ten years of his presidency.

Wednesday evening, Oct. 21: The Hatch Brothers of Boston again favored the meeting with one of their excellent instrumental and vocal selections, which was most enthusiastically received. The invocation was offered by Mrs. Anna L. Gillespie, she being followed by the quartet. The president in appropriate words then introduced the widely-known speaker, Mrs. Helen L. P. Russeque of Conn. She took for her subject, "What Have Been and What Are the Uses of Our Spiritualism?" She said in part:

"Spiritualism is unifying the world. Nations are bound together by spiritual bonds that cannot be severed. It is putting the world closer and closer together, into a greater oneness of divinity. It is holding up not an ideal you cannot reach, not a thought that is so enshrined in mystery that you have no right to penetrate its shadows, but it is holding up to you a reality. It is speaking on lines that are of a spiritual type; it is telling the wonderful story of a new world; it is telling you of the divinity and godliness of man; it is making humanity divine. Spiritualism not only tells you that you are to live beyond the grave, but it instructs you how to live here and now. It tells you of the spiritual awakening of the world within yourself."

Mrs. Russeque took her seat the hall fairly rang with the applause of the vast audience. The enthusiasm continued until she arose and gracefully acknowledged the appreciation of her audience.

During the evening Mrs. Carrie E. S. Twing of New York made an earnest appeal in behalf of the National Association, and the response was most generous. Mrs. Anna L. Gillespie gave spirit messages to the audience. All were well received. In the absence of Mrs. May S. Pepper, Mr. E. W. Sprague gave messages. He said he felt it a most difficult task to fill the place of such a renowned medium, but it was the unanimous verdict that he filled the place in a very admirable manner. All the messages were readily recognized. During the evening the quartet rendered several selections, including, "Nearer My God, to Thee," "Open Those Pearly Gates of Light," "Lovely Spring," "The Palms," "Good-night."

Thursday morning, Oct. 22: The consideration of the report of the Committee on Usages was continued Thursday morning at nine o'clock. After considerable discussion it was voted to re-consider the entire report of the committee, including the preamble, then followed the adoption of section 9, Legal Ordination and its sub-divisions and section 11 headed Mediums, with several amendments. It was also voted that the sections adopted be re-committed to the original committee consisting of Rev. F. A. Wiggins, Geo. A. Fuller, M. D., and Harrison

D. Barrett for editing and revision. When their work is completed it is to be sent to the Board of Trustees of the N. S. A., for publication and general distribution to auxiliary societies of the State Associations and the National Spiritualists' Association at the discretion of the Board.

Thursday afternoon: A special committee was appointed consisting of Hon. Charles H. Schirm, Moses Hull, and J. S. Gillespie, to consider a preamble to precede sections of the Report of the Committee on Usages embodying the marriage services, burial services and poetical selections. This preamble was to the effect that the sections named were recommended to all societies and Spiritualist ministers, but that the wording and perhaps some sections might be improved upon, when brought before the Convention of 1904. A vote of thanks and confidence was tendered to the efficient Committee on Usages for their faithful labor during the past year. A motion was made to compensate these earnest workers, but all arose to their feet and vigorously protested, saying that their services had been freely donated to the work and they absolutely refused to receive any compensation.

The report of the Committee on the President's Report was next read by the acting reading clerk, Mr. J. J. Morse. Nearly all of the President's recommendations, in his report on another page of this issue, were adopted by the Convention. The sections on Railroads, Editor-at-Large, Missionaries, Campmeetings, Local Societies, National Superintendent of Lyceums, Necrology, Home Circles, Post Office Mission, were all especially interesting. At three o'clock nominations for the officers for 1904 were received. When nominations for the President were in order, Dr. Geo. B. Warne of Illinois arose and read the following petition asking that the esteemed President re-consider his resignation and consent to stand.

"In view of the long, faithful and above all spiritual service rendered our Cause and the N. S. A. by Mr. Harrison D. Barrett, we the undersigned delegates to this convention, do hereby petition Mr. Barrett to re-consider his decision not to stand for the nomination to the Presidency of the N. S. A. this year, and yield to the will of the undersigned petitioners and again accept the nomination as the choice of this convention, we, as delegates representing our constituents: Lyman C. Howe, H. W. Richardson, E. G. Reilly, J. B. Hatch, Thelma U. Reynolds, E. Warren Hatch, Chas. L. C. Hatch, Mrs. E. A. Dhiell, Mrs. E. A. Lambertson, Mrs. J. H. R. Matteson, Grace A. Tarbell, Mary J. Stephens, H. Darman, Mrs. Elizabeth Schauss, Carrie E. S. Twing, Anna Gillespie, Harriet Dahl, Sarah Charles, Stella A. Fluke, Mrs. J. R. Francis, Mrs. Caroline Catlin, Theodore J. Mayer, J. J. Morse, Thomas Grimshaw, Carrie L. Hatch, Mary H. Tarbell, A. A. Kimball, J. Shaw Gillespie, Anna Field, H. H. Simpson, Annie C. Simpson, Mary T. Longley, C. Payson Longley, Henry Steinberg, Chas. S. Hulbert, Viola A. B. Hand, Lucile Barrett, L. B. Nutting, Geo. B. Warne, E. R. Whitling, Florence Morse, Geo. A. Fuller, Edward Brewer, Mrs. Edward Brewer, Wm. P. Lees, Carrie F. Curran, Mrs. A. M. Zoller Lees, Margaret Gaule, I. C. I. Evans, H. C. Sweetser, Susie C. Clark, P. R. Peck, Emma E. Zvahlen, Dr. E. H. Green, R. B. Hill, Chas. R. Schirm, Henry C. Dorn, Mrs. G. A. Dorn, Mrs. May A. Price, G. W. Way, Marie J. Fitzmaurice, Ella Royal Williams, Abby Louise Pettengill, Mary C. Smith, Martin Skjoldal, Geo. Mostow, Frederic W. Martin, Simeon Butterfield.

The reading of the report of the committee on the Treasurer's Report followed, and was adopted as was also the report of the committee on the Committee on Usages and Auditing. A partial report of the Committee on Finance was read and adopted, after which Vice-President Locke's report of the period he acted as President was read and adopted. The report of the Committee on Amendments was next submitted. Two additional committees were appointed: Committee on Location: Thomas Grimshaw, Mo.; Dr. Geo. A. Fuller, Mass.; Moses Hull, Wis.; Mrs. C. D. Pruden, Minn.; Miss M. J. Fitzmaurice.

Committee on Lyceums: John W. Ring, Texas; Miss Margaret Gaule, N. Y.; E. Warren Hatch, Mass.; Mrs. M. J. Stevens, Chas. E. Roffield.

Thursday evening: The evening meeting opened with a musical selection by the Hatch Brothers, which was heartily applauded. Rev. E. A. Wiggins of Massachusetts offered the invocation of the evening. Mrs. M. Florence Johnson, teacher of elocution in the Morris Pratt Institute of Whitewater, Wis., favored the meeting with two readings which were most enthusiastically received by all. Miss Florence Morse of England, the talented daughter of J. J. Morse, gave spirit messages to the audience, and she also kindly rendered a vocal solo during the evening. Mr. J. J. Morse, well known the world over as a lecturer and earnest worker in the Cause of Spiritualism, was the speaker of the evening. He said, "I am not going to lecture to you tonight. I am going to have a good old fashioned talk with you. I think we should never be ashamed of the word Spiritualism; it means everything to us that we have strived for, that we have gained and that we hope to gain. Neither should we be ashamed of the words 'medium' and 'mediumship,' for they are the foundations of our Spiritualism." He presented the fraternal and loving regards of the Spiritualists of Australia and New Zealand which were kindly received by our own workers.

In closing he said: "For thirty-four years, my friends, I have borne the cross of my mission, my feet have wandered around the world. I have visited many peoples and many lands; I have seen our Spiritualism rise up from its first beginnings and grow into what it is today. I do not expect that my feet will ever stand on these shores again, I do not anticipate ever visiting America again. I believe that Spiritualism stands for God, the immortality of the soul, progress and reality in the life beyond and the demonstration of that life. I believe that Spiritualism stands for all that shall make life holy and happy for man and woman in this world; I believe that Spiritualism stands for the revelation of the good in the inner soul of man's life and that which should touch us and help us to advocate every condition of fraternal, civil and personal rights that will affect all lives as deep as the soul, as broad as the world, as

spiritual as the breath of heaven itself in the souls of the weary and the sad. This is what I believe Spiritualism to be; it is at least what Spiritualism is to me."

Mrs. C. A. Sprague gave messages in place of Mrs. May S. Pepper and all were very explicit and readily recognized. The benediction was pronounced by J. J. Morse.

Friday morning, Oct. 23: The Convention convened at nine o'clock, a special hour being set aside to the Morris Pratt Institute. Mrs. Clara L. Stewart and Rev. Moses Hull both gave a report of the work done at that institution during the past year. Dr. Geo. B. Warne of Illinois submitted a resolution recommending that a committee of five be appointed to thoroughly familiarize themselves with the business and conduct of the Morris Pratt Institute, together with the qualifications of its Board of Trustees. This committee to serve until the Convention of 1904. This resolution was adopted together with a vote of \$500 to the Morris Pratt Institute. Then followed the reading of the report of the Committee on Resolutions which was re-committed to the committee for additions.

The report of Committee on Missionaries' reports precipitated some discussion, after which it was adopted by the delegates. Report of Committee on Delegates' reports and the report of Committee on Lyceums was read by the National Lyceum Superintendent John W. Ring of Texas. It was most explicit and showed that his heart and soul is in the work for the sake of the "little folks." It received hearty applause from the delegates. Mrs. Emma Rood Tuttle, the well-known Lyceum advocate read a paper on the subject of Lyceums, and Hudson Tuttle also spoke earnestly in behalf of the same subject, paying a fine tribute to John W. Ring. Mrs. Carrie L. Hatch of Mass. made a motion that the N. S. A. vote Mr. Ring the sum of \$100 for Lyceum work, and another motion was made by Mr. C. D. Pruden that his expenses from Galveston, Texas, to Washington, D. C., and return be borne by the National Spiritualists' Association, both of which were unanimously carried.

The report of the Committee on Resolutions was next read and adopted, after having been revised by the committee. The reports of Committees on Correspondence, Finance and Special Resolutions were next read and adopted in their turn.

In the course of the afternoon a most beautiful testimonial was presented Mr. Theodore J. Mayer, the philanthropic treasurer of the N. S. A. by C. D. Pruden in the name of the Association in appreciation of his great generosity, loyalty and fidelity to the cause of Spiritualism. Mr. Mayer responded in most appropriate words. This presentation was received with hearty applause.

While the Convention was in session greetings were sent to the Universalist National Conference in Convention assembled in Washington. I would say right here that great interest was manifest in our Convention by one of the Universalist ministers, Rev. E. Sales, who attended several of our sessions.

The final business of the Convention was the election of officers. The following were elected: President, Harrison D. Barrett, Mass.; vice-president, Dr. Geo. B. Warne, Ill.; secretary, Mary T. Longley, Washington, D. C.; treasurer, Theodore J. Mayer, Washington, D. C.; trustees, I. C. I. Evans, Washington, D. C.; C. L. Stevens, Pa.; Thomas Grimshaw, Mo.; Alonzo Thompson, Neb.; Carrie E. S. Twing, N. Y. It was voted that Harrison D. Barrett be declared unanimously elected president of the N. S. A. for the eleventh time in the history of that organization. At six o'clock the Convention adjourned.

Friday evening, Oct. 23: The last meeting of the Convention opened at 7:30. Musical selection by the Hatch Bros. was the first number on the program, and on this evening as well as all others they received great applause. Rev. E. W. Sprague offered the invocation. After a musical selection by the quartet, Mrs. Carrie Firth-Curran of Ohio delivered the lecture of the evening, taking for her subject, "Spiritualism and Its Needs." It was earnest and most interesting, receiving warm applause at the close. Mrs. Zaida Brown Kates and Mrs. C. A. Sprague gave messages which were easily recognized and very explicit in many cases. Music by the quartet followed the messages and the benediction was pronounced by Rev. E. W. Sprague.

Thus closed the eleventh annual Convention of the National Spiritualists' Association. It has done a good work and we feel that its influence will be felt all over our land and result in the moral, social and spiritual upliftment of the whole human race for which the National Spiritualists' Association of the United States and Canada stands.

Delegates to the Convention and States represented: Miss Mary E. Adams, Mass.; Harrison D. Barrett, Mass.; T. G. Benson, Wash.; Esther T. Beesley, Wash.; Miss Lucile Barrett, Texas; Edward Brewer, Conn.; Mrs. Edw. Brewer, Conn.; Mrs. Minnie Brown, Pa.; Nathan Brewster, Conn.; Wm. F. Bogue, Conn.; J. B. Brown, Miss.; J. A. Buckwater, Pa.; Simeon Butterfield, Mass.; Miss E. E. Brown, Mont.; Mrs. Salome Cowell, Cal.; E. E. Carpenter, Mich.; Mrs. M. E. Cadwallader, Pa.; Mrs. Caroline Catlin, Ill.; Mrs. Marion Carpenter, Mich.; Miss S. C. Clark, Mass.; C. F. Curran, Ohio; Mrs. Sarah Charles, Ky.; Mrs. Harriet Dahl, N. Y.; Rev. H. C. Dorn, N. J.; Mrs. G. A. Dorn, N. J.; Mrs. Julia R. Daniels, Kan.; H. D. Dwyer, Neb.; I. C. I. Evans, Wash., D. C.; Oscar Edgerly, Mich.; Milan C. Edson, Wash., D. C.; Jennie L. Edson; Laura G. Fisen, Ill.; Stella A. Fluke, Iowa; Mrs. J. R. Francis, Ill.; Mrs. Anna Field, Cal.; Miss Katie Finch, Pa.; Mrs. C. R. Fielding, Mo.; Miss M. J. Fitzmaurice, N. Y.; Dr. Geo. A. Fuller, Mass.; Mrs. Anna Gillespie, Cal.; J. S. Gillespie, Cal.; Miss M. Galloway, Pa.; Miss Margaret Gaule, N. Y.; Dr. E. H. Green, Mo.; Thos. Grimshaw, Mo.; Max O. Gentzke, Neb.; Rev. Moses Hull, Wis.; Lyman C. Howe, N. Y.; Chas. S. Hulbert, N. Y.; Mr. W. J. Hammond, Pa.; Mrs. Laura A. Holt, N. Y.; Mrs. J. H. Hinds, Pa.; C. L. C. Hatch, Mass.; W. J. Hicks, Mont.; Carrie L. Hatch, Mass.; J. B. Hatch, Mass.; E. W. Hatch, Mass.; Mrs. Blanche Koehner, Mich.; Geo. W. Kates, Washington, D. C.; Dr. A. A. Kimball, Mass.; Chalmar P. Longley, Mass.

(Continued on page 4.)

National Spiritualists' Association of the United States of America and Dominion of Canada.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT, HARRISON D. BARRETT, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPT. 30, 1903.

To the Spiritualists of America, Greeting:—
CONGRATULATORY

Another year has rolled away into the eternity of the past, and we are once more assembled in Convention to review the work of the past twelve months, and to outline the labor of the year that is to come. At the opening of this convocation, I congratulate you upon the auspicious outlook for our National Association, as well as upon the results of its year's work. I congratulate you also upon the progress our Cause has made during the year and upon the increase of interest that has been apparent in all sections of our country. The people are recognizing the value of the truths of Spiritualism as they never have before, and are looking to the N. S. A. to have them placed before their minds as their importance warrants they should be.

RETROSPECTIVE.

The past year has been one of active work on the part of the N. S. A. in all of its departments. The various annuals of the secular papers in all of the large cities of the land were supplied with data in regard to the standing of Spiritualism in general in America, and of the N. S. A. in particular, which facts found their way into print when those books were published.

There has been a more general interest in the subject of Spiritualism on the part of the masses than has been apparent during any previous year in the history of the N. S. A. and the treatment accorded our movement by the secular and religious press, with a few exceptions, has been uniformly fair. The masses are demanding information on occult subjects and the press is meeting that demand.

Several estates have been settled from which certain sums have accrued to the treasury of the N. S. A., in harmony with the wishes of the testators. The settlement of a few estates in which the N. S. A. is interested, is now pending. The N. S. A. will ultimately receive these bequests, the delay being occasioned by the requirements of the law.

One State Association and a few local societies have been organized and chartered during the year. Local interest in Spiritualism has almost uniformly shown a marked increase throughout the nation, the only exceptions being in such places as have had bitter experiences with fraud and charlatanism within a few years.

There has also been a greater demand for literature than has been met. The subject has obtained hitherto, and the N. S. A. has been called upon to supply as much of it as it could. The Spiritualist papers have been more widely read, and books by our best authors have been called for in the way of sales, and for reading in the public libraries of the country.

From a careful study of these and other indications, I am able to report decided progress on the part of Spiritualism during the year, and can assure you as representative Spiritualists, that our National Association is more generally recognized as the supreme authority of our movement than it has ever been before.

THE RAILROADS.

The relations of the N. S. A. with the various passenger associations of the West have been most cordial throughout the year. Our clergymen have been treated with uniform courtesy and kindness, and in no instance has any unjust discrimination been made against them. All applicants whose work entitled them to permits under the rules of the Passenger Associations have received them promptly, and the utmost consideration has been shown them. All refusals have been warranted in fact, and there is no just cause for complaint on the part of our clergy taken as a body. The Passenger Associations have worked in perfect accord with the N. S. A., and are deserving of special recognition at the hands of this Convention. I therefore recommend that engrossed resolutions of thanks, under the seal of the N. S. A. be sent to Eben E. MacLeod, F. C. Donald, James Charlton, and J. E. Charnock, Chairman of the Western, Central, Transcontinental and Southwestern Passenger Associations. I also recommend that the policy of former years regarding clergy rates be maintained during the year next ensuing.

RATEWAY RAILROAD LINES.

The Eastern Trunk Lines do not yet recognize our platform workers as clergymen and base their refusal of clergy rates to our ministers upon the fact that they are Spiritualists. Their rules declare that special rates are granted clergymen who are resident pastors in cities and towns through which their roads pass, yet they have in two or three instances refused our resident clergymen on the ground that they were Spiritualists. This matter should be looked into by this Convention, and I recommend action in the premises, and a test case taken before the Inter-State Commerce Commission, should the evidence offered be sufficient to warrant such action.

EDITOR AT-LARGE.

This important office was created at the last annual Convention and was filled by the Board of Trustees by the election of that gifted writer and zealous defender of our Cause, Hudson Tuttle of Berlin Heights, Ohio. Brother Tuttle has served the N. S. A. faithfully and well in doing the work of his office, and has placed every Spiritualist in America under obligations to him for his earnest devotion to our sacred Cause. He has promptly defended Spiritualism from every attack to which his attention has been called, and has never failed to worst the opponents of our movement. He has done the N. S. A. an invaluable service, and added much to its power for good in the land. I commend his report that will be submitted to this Convention, to the thoughtful consideration of every delegate, and urge that his recommendations be made a part of the legislation of this body. I recommend further that the office of Editor-at-Large be continued for another year, and that, if possible, our faithful Brother Hudson Tuttle be re-elected to it.

MISCELLANEOUS WORK.

Four general missionaries in the persons of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Kates, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Sprague, were appointed under the orders of the last annual Convention, and placed in the field, with a roving commission at a salary of sixty-two and fifty-one hundredths dollars each per month. Their reports, to be received later, will give detailed accounts of their work and the results thereof. They have rendered our Cause excellent service, and endeavored to awaken interest in organization wherever they have labored. No one can complain of their zeal or earnestness of spirit in the discharge of their duties. Special attention should be given the history of their work as laid down in their reports in order that intelligent action may be taken thereon.

Later in the season James S. Scarlett was commissioned Missionary for the New Eng-

land States, with instructions to devote quite a portion of his time to Massachusetts. His report will acquaint us with the results of his labors. Brother Scarlett was true to his trust, and did his best to serve the N. S. A. wherever he stepped upon the rostrum.

Early in the spring of 1903, Mrs. Lole F. Prior, of Denver, Col., was appointed Missionary-at-Large by your Board of Trustees to serve without salary. I am not informed as to the scope of her labors nor as to the returns therefrom. Her report will no doubt be presented to this Convention, and will outline the results of her work. There is an ordinance in Denver prohibiting the practice of mediumship, or restricting it to those who pay a heavy license fee. The commission from the N. S. A. as missionary exempted Mrs. Prior from the provisions of this measure. In Seattle, Wash., this commission did not avail anything, hence the necessity of looking into the prosecutions of mediums in that city, as suggested in another portion of this report.

Missionary work is always an important feature in the propaganda of the religion of Spiritualism. It can be made a tower of strength to the N. S. A. and to Spiritualism when it is rightly undertaken. While we have had good results from the efforts of past years, I am led to believe that we can accomplish yet more, at less expense of money and energy, by a change of method. Many friends of our movement are anxious to have the N. S. A. missionaries visit their communities, but cannot secure them on account of the expense. Others receive them, but with a brief revival of interest in Spiritualism and then return to their former inert state.

Some weak and struggling local societies receive visits of two or three days, only to feel the drain upon their resources for some weeks afterwards with little or no appreciable benefit to the organization. This result is the fault of the method now in vogue, rather than that of the missionaries themselves. So long as they feel that they must pay their way, and turn a surplus into the treasury of the N. S. A., just so long will their work be barren of lasting results. Brief visits of two or three days or even week arouse interest for the time being, but like the old fashioned revival of the churches, no lasting benefit results from them.

In order to be effective, missionary work should be continuous. A man or woman who is sincerely devoted to the principles of Spiritualism, can make a success of missionary work in any community where the spirit of liberalism prevails, provided he does not attempt to cover too much ground. No local society can be expected to flourish on one or two meetings per year. It is steady, persistent work that tells in the end. All missionaries should seek to fill the treasuries of the local societies they serve—not exhaust them—but exhaust them they must if they only visit them once or twice per year.

I firmly believe in missionary work, and recommend more of it for the coming year. Wherever possible, I urge that it be carried on in conjunction with the State Associations, and then upon the short circuit plan. By this method, a worker can be engaged for a full year by the N. S. A. and instructed to devote himself to the task of building up some six or eight local societies within easy distance of each other. This he can do by frequent visits, through which he can impress his thought upon the people, and lead them to be as liberal in their support of Spiritualism as they ever were of the Christian Church.

By means of these short circuits, the expense of travel will be avoided and the matter of compensation be more easily adjusted. Any one, in fact, all of these missionaries, could make the work self-supporting in one year's time, and in three years or less, would be able to aid the N. S. A. This plan would not drain the Association of its resources, as the N. S. A. would only be called upon to meet small deficits, in place of large expenses of travel, and salaries. It would also enable the National body to employ a larger corps of missionaries at much less expense, and thus be the means of spreading the truths of Spiritualism among the masses who are hungering for them and cannot now get them. I appeal to the Convention for action upon this matter, and earnestly recommend the adoption of this method in the missionary work of the coming year. I also recommend that more missionaries, rather than less, be put into the field, and kept at work.

USAGES.

Our last annual Convention authorized the appointment of a Committee on Usages, and instructed said committee to report to this body. That committee has attended to its duty and its report will be presented to you in the regular order of business. It is one of the most important, if not the most important, issues that will come before this Convention. It is to be hoped that the report of the committee will be adopted as a whole by this body of delegates. Its adoption will give Spiritualism a legal standing in every State and Territory of the Union and will place all Spiritualists, who are members of organizations upon an equal footing with the followers of all other denominations. I most earnestly recommend the adoption of the committee's report, and the acceptance of its usages.

CAMP MEETINGS.

I am pleased to report a more general interest in the work of our leading camps, and a largely increased attendance at the most of them. The N. S. A. has been accorded a royal welcome, and a generous hearing at the majority of these gatherings. It is with no little pleasure that I report complete reciprocity between the N. S. A. and the camp-meeting associations. Special days were assigned our Association at a goodly number of the camps, from which generous revenues were turned into our treasury. I recommend that special letters of thanks be sent to all camp managers who granted the N. S. A. their special recognition. I also recommend that the same courtesy be solicited for the season of 1904 from all camps. These special days are the means of acquainting the people with the aims, objects and accomplishments of the N. S. A., and usually prove of great benefit financially. The returns from camp work of all kinds for the present season are not less than \$1,500.

LOCAL SOCIETIES.

In my former reports I have dwelt at length upon this important subject. The need of strengthening this branch of our work is greater than ever, and though as a general thing, the local societies have had a fairly good year, they are yet far from being able to withstand a series of misfortunes. If our movement is to prosper, our local societies must be sustained and their membership increased. All that I have ever said in regard to the danger accruing from weak local bodies is true today. It is the duty of this Convention to devise ways and means by which the primary units can be made to do better work for our Cause as a whole. Very few of them are financially secure, and fewer still have a surplus at the close of the year. I ask you as delegates to consider how the membership of these local bodies may be in-

creased, and their finances strengthened. In former years I have suggested the appointment of a special representative whose duty it shall be to visit as many of these local bodies in the course of a year as he possibly can, without any thought of compensation, making it his special business to determine the special needs of each society visited, and the proper method of meeting them. I can only renew that recommendation to this Convention and I do so with the hope that something more than talking and resolving will be done in the premises. I do this in face of the seeming fact that it means an expense with no compensating revenue, for I fully believe that, when the people see that the N. S. A. is not always seeking money through its representatives, they will voluntarily contribute enough to meet this special expense to which I am now referring. One thing is certain: Our local societies must be sustained or our movement must go down. Fellow delegates, I plead for considerate action upon this matter on the part of all.

STATE ASSOCIATIONS.

Our State Associations have with very few exceptions, done good work and made excellent progress during the past year. There are several State organizations that need strengthening, and a few that require restructuring from the lethargic sleep that precedes final dissolution. From the reports submitted by the State Associations, this Convention will learn what has been done to advance our Cause in various sections of our land, and be able to determine the best remedies to apply to those States where aid is needed. State organizations are important factors in spiritual work, and should be locally sustained. I recommend legislation be introduced by this Convention, and suggest that a union of forces on the part of the N. S. A., with those of the State organizations in well directed missionary work would soon revive our moribund State Associations, and infuse new life into those that are now weak in numbers and finances.

THE LYCEUM.

Interest in Lyceum work has been revived to an appreciable extent, largely through the efforts of John W. Ring, the National Superintendent of the Lyceums for the United States. Mr. Ring was appointed Superintendent by the Trustees of the N. S. A., under the warrant of the last annual Convention, and has rendered faithful service in his special field of labor. His report will acquaint this Convention with what he has accomplished during the year, and what he deems the requirements of his department for the ensuing year. I feel that Supt. Ring has done remarkably well, considering the limited means at his command, and am pleased to report that I have found a marked interest in the Lyceum journal he has established in connection with his office. He can make many needed improvements in that paper and organize a large number of live Lyceums as soon as he is given the means to enable him to do so. We cannot afford to deal niggardly with our Lyceums, and I urge you as delegates to give Supt. Ring's report your thoughtful attention, and then you concede to him all that can be granted in reason for the special work of his department. I recommend that the office of National Lyceum Superintendent be continued another year, and a special appropriation made for the purpose of enlarging the Lyceum paper. If Spiritualism is to prosper in the future the Spiritualists of the present must interest themselves in their children and give them a chance to know something of the principles upon which this movement is based. We have had plenty of Lyceum talkers for many years past; what we needed is Lyceum workers, and a goodly number of them.

THE MORRIS PRATT INSTITUTE.

This institution opened its doors to the public in September, 1902, and has successfully passed through one full year of active school work. It is an auxiliary of the N. S. A., and its claims will be formally presented in this Convention by the officers of the school. All Spiritualists are or should be interested in educational work, and should make every possible effort to advance the same. As an auxiliary of this Association, the Morris Pratt Institute is entitled to a respectful hearing on the part of this Convention and I suggest that a special hour be assigned its representatives in which to acquaint this body of delegates with its aims, purposes and accomplishments.

MEDIUMS' HOME.

It will be remembered that an effort was made during the past two years to establish a home for worthy, indigent mediums at Reed City, Mich. A house and lot were purchased at that point, and steps taken to secure a fund for sustaining the same. The responses were not encouraging, and the Trustees of this Association decided it would be best to offer temporary relief to those who were most needy and let the matter of a special home rest for the time being. Small pensions were accordingly paid to the few who were known to be worthy, and the title was informed that the N. S. City Home would not be opened for an indefinite period. During the past year, the N. S. A. building at Reed City was burned, but as it was insured, the Association's loss is but slight. It was decided to be unwise to attempt to rebuild and the lot was advertised for sale. A good offer was received for it early in September, and accepted. The deeds have been duly signed, and the National Association has formally and finally closed out its business in Reed City. I suggest that no further action be taken by the N. S. A. to establish a Mediums' Home at any point; as such it would be wholly impractical in character, and could not be made popular among the mediums themselves, nor among the Spiritualists.

A PENSION FUND.

In lieu of a Home building, I recommend the continuation of the present policy of the N. S. A. in pensioning such indigent speakers and mediums as are known to be worthy and deserving of such aid. Small pensions, not exceeding twelve dollars per month, have been regularly paid to a few mediums during the past year. All cases were carefully investigated and pensions granted only upon the presentation of reliable evidence of worthiness. Henry Slade has been cared for, for the sake of the good work he did in the early years of his public work. None of the pensioners have received the money into their own hands, but it has been sent to those who have cared for them, who have used it solely for the purposes designated.

This Pension Fund should be enlarged and made a source of income for its own work. I recommend that action be taken in that direction by this Convention. Every speaker, medium and public worker, is or should be interested in this work, and ought to contribute as liberally to the fund as their means will permit, without regard to any possible benefit to themselves. If all mediums who depend upon their psychic work for a livelihood would contribute twenty-five cents per month to this fund, it would be ample to meet every requirement on the part of the distressed. If such assessment could be levied and collected, it would yield a monthly income of many hundreds of dollars. I respectfully urge this plan to your consideration, and recommend authoritative action thereon. The pension system is the best method thus far evolved by which we can care for our own, and I believe it to be wise to husband our resources for this worthy ob-

ject, and not waste them in futile attempts to establish and endow Homes into which very few mediums could be induced to go.

WILLS AND DONATIONS.

A few estates, in which the N. S. A. was either directly or indirectly interested, have been settled during the past year, notably those of Case and Eriksenmuller, from which this Association has received its share in money. The bequest of Mr. Case was seriously diminished by the severe contest made by remote heirs to break the will, but the attempts were not successful, and the N. S. A. received about fourteen hundred dollars as its proportional share. It should have received over three thousand dollars, and would have done so had it not been for litigation. It cost one thousand dollars to secure what was paid over, giving the N. S. A. only four hundred dollars net, from a bequest that designed it to have almost ten times that sum. It was worth all it cost and far more to the Spiritualists of America, as the decision in their favor by the Indiana Court has established a precedent that can and will be followed in future years in defending cases of like nature. This suit has shown the necessity of exercising great care in making wills on the part of all who desire to benefit the cause of Spiritualism. Proper legal forms for wills should be prepared that will stand every test of law, and placed before our people. I wish to recommend, however, that our friends be urged to make their bequests by deed or cheque while they are yet in the form in order that they may see that their wishes are carried out in full. An aged couple in New Jersey has set all Spiritualists a praiseworthy example by bequeathing their valuable real estate to the N. S. A. outright, taking a life lease for their own protection. I earnestly recommend that this method be everywhere urged upon our liberal minded friends who wish to aid Spiritualism through the N. S. A. Lawsuits are always expensive, and their outcome uncertain. Justice and law were long since divorced in the settlement of will cases, hence our people cannot be too cautious in seeking to avoid trouble by disposing of their property while yet in mortal form.

The famous McIlroy will in Philadelphia, Pa., affecting our loyal auxiliary, The First Association of Spiritualists of that city, has been taken to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania during the past year, and a signal victory won for Spiritualism. The decision of the lower court breaking the will was reversed, and the will sustained. Mr. McIlroy's wishes will, in the course of time, be carried out in full, unless the opponents of the will try some other method to avoid its fulfillment. This establishes a most important precedent in favor of Spiritualism in the legal world, and the Spiritualists of the nation are to be congratulated upon the prestige it gives them.

HISTORY OF SPIRITUALISM.

Once more I feel impressed to call the attention of the Spiritualists of America to this important subject. I have referred to it at length in my reports in past years, and must reiterate every word I have hitherto uttered with regard to the subject. Our veteran workers are rapidly passing away from earth, and our sources of information of an accurate character are even now very few in numbers. Steps should be taken to utilize every possible factor accessible for the furtherance of this work. Two years ago, Lyman C. Howe, who had been elected Historian at a previous Convention, was instructed to begin work on a small scale. An appropriation of two hundred dollars was made for this purpose, and Mr. Howe managed to do a great deal of work with that sum. His eyesight becoming impaired, he was not able to continue his work last year, and our last annual Convention elected your President as his assistant. Work was planned for the year, but circumstances, not necessary to mention in detail, forced your President from all fields of labor, hence the only report possible to make to this Convention is that progress has been made, and further time asked for. I feel warranted, now that Historian Howe has almost wholly recovered his sight, in recommending a liberal appropriation to the History Fund, and ask that positive instruction be given the incoming Board of Trustees to push this work as rapidly as possible during the year. If Mr. Howe requires any assistants, this Convention can direct him to employ such as he may need, limiting the expense to a certain amount. I plead with you as delegates to interest yourselves especially in this most important matter. We need an authentic history of our movement, and I ask for legislation of a positive character at your hands that will enable us to secure it at the earliest possible moment.

MEDICAL PERSECUTION.

During the past year, drastic legislation on the subject of the practice of medicine has been enacted in many states of the Union. Under these severe and most tyrannical laws, persecution and persecution have been quite common. I believe these measures to be unconstitutional, and feel that their obnoxious features can be removed by an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States. A test case should be taken to that tribunal at the earliest possible moment. I believe a worthy case has developed during the year in Grand Rapids, Mich., where a magnetic healer (clairvoyant), has been arrested for the illegal practice of medicine. As he uses neither drugs, nor herbs, but simply relies upon magnetism applied by his hands, to affect his cures, it is difficult to see wherein he has violated the law. He has practiced magnetic healing in Grand Rapids for nearly twenty years, and has not used the title "Dr." nor the letters "M. D." illegally during that time, or, at least, since the law restricting their use was enacted in Michigan. He had no difficulty in securing bonds at the time of his conviction, one of the leading business men of the city voluntarily qualifying for many times the sum required by the Court, without being requested to do so by the defendant. I recommend that the incoming Board of Trustees be instructed to look into this matter with great care, and, if found to be the safe case, to cooperate with the State Spiritualists' Association of Michigan in carrying it to the Supreme Court of the United States as soon as possible. I am aware that this means long and expensive legislation, but I feel that liberty is cheap at any cost, hence believe that the people will gladly contribute to a fund for this purpose when they are in full possession of the facts, and realize the necessity for action.

PROSECUTION OF MEDIUMS.

What I have said upon the subject of medical persecution, will apply with equal force to the prosecution of mediums and speakers. Ordinances exist in many cities of the land making the exercise of mediumship a felony. Some States have special laws bearing upon this subject, which make criminals of our best mediums and speakers wherever they attempt to work in those States. Several prosecutions have taken place during the past year, and as there seems to be a tendency to circumscribe our liberties in this direction, I feel that this Convention should take action in relation thereto, and instruct its incoming officers to make a test of the rights of our workers as psychics before our Supreme Court. I therefore recommend that the laws of Colorado, California and Washington be looked into, and the alleged offenses of our mediums and speakers, who were prosecuted in those States, be accurately measured and determined. If these cases are found to be just and worthy, I recommend that one of

them be taken before the Supreme Court of our nation for final adjudication. A fund for this purpose has already been started, known as "The Mediums' Special Defense Fund," to which all mediums are requested to contribute in case of necessity. Every medium is requested to connect himself with the N. S. A. through this fund by taking out a special certificate, at a cost of five dollars, which entitles him to the aid of the N. S. A. in case of prosecution. He is also liable to assessments to the amount of twenty dollars per year under the provisions of this certificate. During the past ten years only two mediums have taken out these certificates. I need not comment upon this significant fact, but will simply say that this branch of the N. S. A. work is open to all mediums, who, by allying themselves with it, testify to their own good faith, and prove their willingness to contribute to their own defense, as well as that of others.

SETTLEMENT OF SPEAKERS.

As the best and surest means of affording protection to our mediums and magnetic healers, I urge the settlement of speakers over our local societies. These workers will then have the backing of a stable organization that commands the respect of the community. Under our loose methods of organization and our shameful itinerant system, it is little wonder that we have any rights left to us whatever, or are at all respected by other denominations. Now that our N. S. A. is known to be a permanent and that our people are supporting their organizations better, Spiritualism has gained a much more general respect on the part of the public, and people are waiting to see what we are going to do. I recommend most earnestly that all local societies be urged to employ speakers for a year, or for a term of years, and that this Convention put the seal of its disapproval upon the obsolete and disgraceful itinerant system that has been the means of dragging our movement down more than any other one influence in its history. I also recommend that "A White List" containing the names of all true and tried workers be kept on file in the office of the Secretary of the N. S. A., and copies of the same filed with the Secretaries of all State Associations. By this means the officers of local societies can obtain the names of worthy and reliable speakers and mediums, without any fear of deception or injury.

MASS MEETINGS.

During the past year I have received numerous requests for the holding of mass meetings at different centres, as was formerly the policy of this Association. These meetings were abandoned two years ago, upon my recommendation, the feeling being, that, while they were financially successful, they did not add to the membership of local societies very appreciably, nor strengthen them financially. There is no doubt but that they do add to the general interest in Spiritualism on the part of the masses, but it is a question whether they carry sufficient weight to make them influence a permanent factor in society. To make them successful requires a great deal of work, and that work is done by the wrong people, these gatherings will do more harm than good. I can see their advantages, and possible disadvantages, hence do not wish to make any special recommendation upon the subject, believing that, as delegates, you know what you ought to do in the premises for the best good of our Cause.

CUBA AND PORTO RICO.

Spiritualism has taken a new start in these islands during the past twelve months and our brethren there are asking for a closer union with the N. S. A. I have received several letters from Porto Rico, asking me to send mediums and speakers to them who can speak the Spanish language, and requesting me to assist them in their attempt to organize. It is a necessary work, and that the N. S. A. should interest itself in the affairs of our brethren in the West India Islands. A long personal interview with one of the leading Spiritualists of Porto Rico convinced me that his people were ready for missionary work, and willing to support the same. He declared that with proper effort on the part of a good organizer and a competent medium, the great majority of the people of Porto Rico could be brought over into Spiritualism. This matter is well worth looking into. The Renaissance in Japan gave the Unitarians a golden opportunity in that country, which they eagerly embraced through proper missionary work. The results have been far beyond their expectations, for the brightest minds of the "Island Kingdom" have accepted their doctrines, and Japan is one of the most progressive nations of the earth because of that fact. I believe the same opportunity awaits the Spiritualists in Cuba and Porto Rico. I therefore recommend that action be taken upon this matter by this Convention, and that every possible effort be made to establish perfect reciprocity between the people of those islands and the friends of the N. S. A.

SPIRITUALISM IN ST. LOUIS IN 1904.

This Convention should see to it that Spiritualism is properly emphasized at St. Louis during the World's Fair in 1904. There is to be no general parliament of religions, but each denomination among the Christians especially, is seeking to have its doctrines presented to as many as can be reached by the various speakers employed. As the Fair is to be absolutely closed on Sundays, the violation of the Fair must put in the time elsewhere. If the N. S. A. were to engage a corps of speakers and mediums for the Sundays of the Fair, I am certain that our brethren in St. Louis will do everything in their power to assist this body in the way of providing halls and churches in which to hold our meetings. Possibly a great tent meeting for Sundays only, could be provided. I am opposed to any attempt to hold a camp-meeting in or near St. Louis during the Exposition, yet I do believe in active propaganda there along legitimate lines. I recommend that the incoming Board of Trustees be instructed to take such steps as will secure a dignified, scholarly and spiritual presentation of Spiritualism throughout the entire season of the Exposition. The local societies there will be in session a portion of the time, but the pastors of the leading local churches are desirous that the work should be carried forward upon a scale representative of the National character, rather than that of local interest only. We should act in conjunction with the local societies there, not independently of them. Again I recommend action upon this matter.

AN INTERNATIONAL SPIRITUALIST CONGRESS.

Upon instructions given by our Convention of 1901, and supplemented by orders from the Board of Trustees, I opened correspondence with the Spiritualists in all quarters of the globe with regard to the practicability of holding an International Congress of Spiritualists in St. Louis next year. I sent seventy letters to the leading Spiritualists of the world, and have been favored with many replies. All English speaking colonies and nations declare such a Congress impractical on account of the expense it would entail upon the delegates to attend same. Some of them feel that such a convocation would be a good thing, but assert their inability to attend it, even if it were held. Others do not seem quite ready to take this step in the direction

(Continued on page 8.)

Never Neglect Constipation

It means too much misery and piling up of disease for all parts of the body. Death often starts with constipation. The clogging of the bowels forces poisons through the intestines into the blood. All sorts of diseases commence that way. Most common complaints are dyspepsia, indigestion, catarrh of the stomach, liver complaint, kidney trouble, headaches, etc. The bowels must be relieved, but not with cathartics or purgatives. They weaken and aggravate the disease. Use Vernal Saw Palmetto Berry Wine instead. It is a tonic laxative of the highest order. It builds up and adds new strength and vigor. It assists the bowels to move themselves naturally and healthfully without medicine. One small dose a day will cure any case, and remove the cause of the trouble. It is not a patent nostrum. The list of ingredients goes with every package with explanation of their action. It is not simply a temporary relief, it is a permanent cure. Try it. A free sample bottle for the asking. Vernal Remedy Co., 120 Seneca Building, Buffalo, N. Y.

For sale by all leading druggists.

Beautiful Thoughts.

Waverley Home, Oct. 18. The creator was and ever will be. Mankind was the first conscious animal in earth life to apprehend a Supreme Being. God reaches down through spiritual agencies, alike to the Mongolian and the Anglo Saxon. All men are His; He brought them into being. No expression of life is beyond the will of God. The tender solicitude of the angel world for the redemption of the human soul is alike in all countries and for all people. God's love is not bounded by countries or principles; men only make treaties between most favored nations, and that too for selfish motives. We are forced on in progressive thought by the unfolding of our spiritual and mental faculties. The human race must go on in glorious achievements, as the laws governing the spiritual and physical welfare of man are more intelligently understood. The world is going forward by leaps and bounds in the higher and grander thought that this is God's world and all therein are his children and the blessings of peace and harmony are theirs as soon as the divinity within has complete control.

These and many other interesting thoughts were given to us today at the home. Among those who spoke and gave messages were Mrs. Littlefield, Mrs. Kneeland, Mrs. Kimball, Mr. Bruley and Miss White. Mrs. Kneeland, pianist.—J. H. Lewis.

The Old Men and Women Do Bless Him.

Thousands of people come or send every year to Dr. By for his Balm Oil to cure them of cancer or other malignant diseases. Out of this number a great many very old people whose ages range from seventy to one hundred years of age, send for home treatment. A free book is sent telling what they say of the treatment. Address Dr. W. O. By, Drawer 1111, Kansas City, Mo. (If not afflicted, cut this out and send to some suffering one.)

To You.

We know how to work with Spirit when we fully recognize and honor it, and rely on nothing else but it. All nature, all matter, and all the so-called "unseen" forces and intelligences obey the adept—the soul which is at-one with God. In truth, to the adept there are no "unseen" worlds, forces and intelligences. He sees all spheres! He is a Seer! He is not limited by the illusions of Time, Creation, Distance! All that men accomplish is by their inherent or inner force—the Spirit. The more spiritual a man, the more his power to do. Think and hesitate a long, long time before you condemn, or censure, or criticize any brother soul with treacherous action. The adept censures no one, for he is a Seer, and sees God in All, sees only good; he has no carnal or mortal mind that comprehends only surfaces and appearances. The goal of all souls in the Grand Evolution is the same, and all become adepts and seers sooner or later. Calmly and serenely pursue the Path, beloved, without doubt or fear. The Brotherhood of Adepts could not deceive thee, would not deceive thee.—The Blissful Prophet.

For Over Sixty Years

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup has been used for children teething. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic, and is the best remedy for Diarrhoea. Twenty-five cents a bottle.

Briefs.

On Monday evening, Oct. 19, quite a number of the Sunshine Club surprised their president, Mrs. Clara E. Strong, at her new home 420 Huntington Chambers, and presented her with a beautiful five-stone opal ring, it being the tenth anniversary of her public works in the Spiritual World. A graphophone concert was held and music and games were indulged in. The "Shiners" also provided a feast for the inner man and all voted a delightful evening for the first of their monthly social gatherings for the winter.—A. M. S.

Ladies' Lyceum Union met in Dwight Hall, 514 Tremont St., Wednesday, Oct. 14. Business meeting called to order at 5, the president, Mrs. M. J. Butler in the chair; supper served at 5 o'clock to the Dames of Malta. The regular supper for the members at 6.30. The evening meeting was opened by the president at 8 o'clock; remarks by Mrs. Alice S. Waterhouse; messages through the mediumship of Mrs. Knowles, Mrs. Bruce of Worcester, Mr. Redding of Malden, Mrs. Mellen and Mrs. M. J. Butler; solo by Miss Lizzie Cushing.—Laura F. Sloan, cor. sec.

The Ladies' Lyceum Union met in Dwight Hall, 514 Tremont St., Boston, Wednesday, Oct. 21, as usual. Business meeting at 5 o'clock. Mrs. M. J. Butler in the chair. Supper was served at 6.30. Evening meeting opened at 8 p. m. by the president. Remarks from Mrs. Alice S. Waterhouse, poem by Mr. Willard, messages by Mrs. Chapman, Mrs. Knowles, Mrs. Berry and Mrs. Butler. Benediction by Mrs. Waterhouse. Meeting closed at 10 p. m. Wednesday, Oct. 23, there will be held in addition to the usual weekly party a sale of fancy and useful articles in the afternoon. The evening entertainment will be given by the children of the Lyceum. All welcome.—Laura F. Sloan, cor. sec.

The Society of Spiritual Truth held its meeting Sunday, Oct. 18, at Crosby Hall, 423 Classon Ave., Brooklyn. The audience was large. The speaker of the afternoon, Mrs. Margaret J. Hoey, spoke on "Spiritualism and Its Relation to Theosophy." Mr. J. Rossmussen gave a number of communications from the spirit world. After describing a spirit as the brother to a gentleman in the audience, he gave him the secret grip of the Order which he recognized. These meetings

will be held each Sunday at 2 o'clock.—Ans. Recht, sec.

Fitchburg, Mass. The First Spiritualist Society had the usual large attendance at both services Sunday, Oct. 18. The subjects of the speaker, Annie L. Jones of Lowell, "Be Ye Not Wary in Well Doing," and "The Power of the Spirit," were ably presented, holding the closest attention, supplemented by many spirit messages correctly given. Miss Howe, pianist, finely rendered several selections.—Dr. C. L. Fox, president.

The First Spiritualist Ladies' Aid Society of Boston commenced its meetings in Appleton Hall, 9 Appleton St., on Friday, Oct. 2, with the president, Mrs. Mattie E. A. Allie in the chair. The business meeting was held in the afternoon; supper was served at six o'clock, and in the evening a general social reunion was held interspersed with speeches and singing. Meetings were also held each Friday during the month with talented speakers and excellent mediums participating. Among those who assisted in making the meetings interesting and enjoyable, was Miss Florence Morse, the daughter of the well-known lecturer, J. J. Morse. Miss Morse is rapidly making a reputation on this side of the Atlantic as a lecturer and psychic and her singing at our meetings proved her to be a vocalist of no mean ability. Success to her in her work at Brooklyn, where she will be located during the month of November. The evening session last Friday evening was unusually well attended. It opened with a song service led by Mr. George Cleaveland and Mrs. Hattie C. Mason, assisted by Miss Gertrude Sloan at the piano. Mr. Albert P. Blinn was called upon by the president, Mrs. Mattie E. A. Allie, and spoke upon the prospects of the society for the coming season. He was followed by Mrs. M. A. Chandler, a water-medicine of fifty years' service. Mrs. Curtis read a poem. Mr. Harvey Redding, under entrancement, gave an oration in the Persian language. Mrs. Alice S. Waterhouse spoke briefly. Mrs. H. C. Berry gave several communications and Mrs. Lattie Mason closed the meeting with encouraging thoughts and cheering words. Friday evening, Oct. 30, at 8 p. m., the usual monthly whist party will be held.—Esther H. Blinn, sec.

The First Spiritualist Ladies' Aid Society met at Appleton Hall, 9 Appleton St., Boston, on Friday, Oct. 23, with the president, Mrs. Mattie E. A. Allie in the chair. The business meeting was held at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, supper was served at 6 and the evening meeting opened at 7.30 with congregational singing. Mrs. Nellie Kneeland presiding at the piano. The speakers were Mrs. Alice S. Waterhouse, Albert P. Blinn, Mrs. Sarah A. Byrnes and Mr. Willard; communications were given by Mrs. Kneeland and Mrs. L. A. Shackley. Friday, Oct. 30, supper will be served at 6 o'clock as usual, and in the evening a whist party will be held. On Friday, Nov. 6, we will hold a snip party.—Esther H. Blinn, sec.

Commercial Hall, 294 Washington St., Mrs. M. Adeline Wilkinson, conductor. Sunday morning, Oct. 18, spiritual conference at 11 was largely attended. Subject, "Socialism and Co-operation." Speakers and mediums during the day were Mr. Hill, Dr. Brown, Mr. L. Baxter, Mr. Marston, Mr. Greaves, Mr. Goddu, Mr. Oulderwood, Miss Sears, Mrs. Wilkinson, Mrs. Wood, Dr. Bixby, Miss Le Clair, Mrs. Blanchard, Mrs. S. C. Cunningham, Dr. Clough, Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Carbee, Mrs. Peak Johnson. Music by colored soloists. Mrs. Nellie Grover, organist. Meeting every Thursday at 2.30. Healing circle every Tuesday at 3.—Reporter.

The First Spiritualist Society of Lowell, Mass., met at Old Odd Fellows Hall on Merrimack St. as usual Sunday, Oct. 11, afternoon and evening. Mrs. Annie L. Jones of Lowell was the speaker. Her discourse and tests gave many proofs of spirit return. The afternoon meeting was followed by a test circle, Mrs. Coggeshall the medium. The ladies held a "Rummage Sale" the last of the week for the benefit of the society.—W. A. Phil, vice-pres.

Greatest of all Tonics.
Horsford's Acid Phosphate

Nourishes, strengthens and imparts new life and vigor. Cures indigestion too.

Boston Spiritual Temple.

Last Sunday the meetings held under the auspices of the Boston Spiritual Temple in the New Century Building, Huntington Avenue, were of unusual interest, and a large number of people were present. Mr. Wiggin, the pastor, took for his subject, "Individual Freedom the Key to Civilization." As this was a historical lecture it is difficult to give any comprehensive idea of what was said by a simple synopsis, but in part the following was given utterance to:

It will be understood in speaking of freedom, that license which means exorbitant freedom and frequently is the direct road to wantonness and profligacy, bears in our consideration of this theme no actual relation to true freedom. The progress of the ages in the advance of just representation of the people's rights in politics and religion has been marked only where the individual has been intellectually free. It is useless to even consider a government worthy of the name or a religion of sufficient dignity to command respect, without civilization, and civilization is utterly impossible where individual rights and individual freedom are denied.

The Orient gives to us a view (when these earlier days of history are considered) of clouded and overshadowing despotic rule under which the true spirit of individual freedom was nearly crushed. The rights of man are first seen asserting themselves in Europe, and these rights are seen giving expression to self-governing states. Under these progressive people of Europe, art and literature thrived and the most faithful expression of the real glory of the Greeks is handed down to us by Homeric genius in the Iliad and Odyssey. The Greeks and the Romans give us a picture of civilization varied in its expressions, but from first to last superior to that of the early Oriental life where the individual had no rights. Although the Greeks rose religiously high enough to entertain strong religious feelings, they nevertheless gave credit to polytheism, were superstitious, believed in Fate, and had a profound regard for priestly sanctity. It may be said that their religion in no sense fashioned their form of government, but their advance in individual freedom led to such a form of religious belief as will be adjudged by all to be vastly superior to that of the Orientals of a former time.

Rome attained great power under the reign of her kings, but although at first under a form of republican government, beginning in 509 B. C., she did not prosper so well, this form of government gave an opportunity for the voice of the people to be heard. The Plebeian Tribunes were formed and the Patrician was forced to level with the Plebeian. The Golden Age of Roman politics covers the time when the individual voice was heard, when individual freedom was in a degree enjoyed. Rome, however, was not satisfied, for no other reason than this, her civilization was imperfect, being but a reflex of her partial individual freedom. The spirit of conquest still lived, and in 286 B. C., for one hundred and thirty-three years her history is a history of war and a history of her victories and defeats. In times of peace the arts and sciences thrived, but noth-

ing will take the place of individual freedom. During the age of Augustus, Time, ever persistent in fulfilling divine purposes, blessed the womb of that age with a conception such as to render Augustus' reign memorable. Christ comes on the stage of action, making his entrance at Bethlehem, in Judea, fourteen years before the death of Augustus. The fact of the existence of Jesus Christ is felt by the pulse-beat of Roman life at the time of the death of Augustus and his step-son Tiberius Claudius Nero coming into political power. Christ was the founder of a religion which dissolved the ancient creeds and philosophies, and renovated the thought of the Roman world.

Prior to the advance of Christianity all sorts of religious teachers had risen within and near the empire of Rome, but history fails to record any indignities or persecutions meted out upon them or their systems. It may be well to pause long enough to enquire the reason for so much attention being given to the teachings of this man who was born in an obscure part of the Roman Dominion.

We reply: It was because the voice of Christianity as presented at this time was none other than a voice from the hearts of the people. The terrible storms of persecution often lapped off the branches of the Christian tree, but its roots took a firmer hold in the soil.

We see, however, in the fourth century the followers of Christianity in power and also observe how they used it. In 361 A. D. Julian became emperor. Being anti-Christian, he sought vigorously to restore the fallen gods. His effort gave the death-blow to organized paganism, for the Christians were in the majority and would not have the pagan gods re-established, and at this time Theodosius gave the final blow to the so-called heathen faith, and prohibited under severe penalties the worship of the old heathen gods. Not long after the death of Christ and his apostles the real spirit of Christ's teachings departed from the system; its garments were worn as a pretence of religion, but really covered the political ambition of the few, and the desire for individual freedom on the part of the many. Thus in crossing the bridge of Time from the reign of Constantine in the fourth century we find that such degree of civilization as appears owes its cause to the demand for individual freedom.

Mohammed started out upon his reform movements in the fifth century in Arabia with best of methods, and the spirit which moved him was undoubtedly good. When his doctrines once gained anything like a position in the majority, his former humility quickly changed to arrogance. Mohammed the prophet became a red-handed man of war, and by the sword, which he declared to be the key to both heaven and hell, Islam was forced upon the people, and before ten years had elapsed the whole peninsula had acknowledged the sovereignty of Mohammed. The Crusades were all made under the emblem of Christianity and the cross. Much blood was spilt in the wars between the Turks and Saracens on the one hand and the Christians on the other. First the crescent was in the ascendant and then the cross, and while it cannot be stated just which ever conquered, it can be truly said that the truly religious spirit of Christ never gained expression by virtue of these pilgrimages.

In leaving the history of the crusades we come in contact with English life, and the greatest event up to this time known to human progress was when the people in the reign of King John forced their king to give them that greatest of all human instruments, the Magna Charta, which was and is still the greatest of English freedom. Indeed, freedom and right had an opportunity to gain some expression during the fifteenth century, and under these rights we find a revival of learning, invention, and science. The circumnavigation of Africa was made, which caused a complete revolution in the commercial condition of Europe; the ships of Magellan circumnavigated the globe, manufactures multiplied, and states previously poor became rich. Sovereigns and governments turned their attention to commerce rather than religious wars. At this time the compass was invented, and it was found that the spirit of religious hatred, the greatest of all inventions had its birth in this century, and if anything has ever could produce universal freedom, it is the printing press.

That part of the history of the sixteenth century in which Charles the V., the papal power under Leo X., Martin Luther, Maurice of Saxony, John Calvin and other celebrities are more or less mixed, is one in which the ups and downs of Protestant Christianity on the one hand and Catholic Christianity on the other gained expression. Roman Catholicism received its first blow as a state religion when Henry VIII. was made king, and this was brought about by a mere incident as it were, and was the simple outcome of this king's desire to marry a certain woman whom he could not marry without striking this blow by which Protestantism became the state religion of England and all seemed well until Elizabeth came to the throne; then the Roman Catholics showed that they did not forget that Elizabeth was the daughter of Henry VIII. and Anne Boleyn, and it was their expressed opinion that Elizabeth was not the rightful heir to the throne of England. Rome looked to Mary, Queen of Scots; here again the demands of blood must be spilt to answer the demands of a blind religious fanaticism.

While these barbaric crimes were being enacted in the name of the Christian religion, it should be remembered that the actor had forgotten Christ and that the religion that he taught never gave sanction to these acts. The first sword drawn for Jesus was drawn by one of his enthusiastic disciples whom Jesus rebuked for so doing, and Peter was the first who denied him and all who have drawn it since have been guilty of the same offence, and it seems that when Christ does conquer, it will be when the last vestige of religious bigotry has been destroyed. The true history of the world will never be written until the history of such men is given to the world as fought not with their hands, but who fought with the pen, and whose voices proclaim upon earth among men the evangel of peace and good will.

Michael Angelo, Raphael, Titian, Edmund Spenser, William Shakespeare, Cervantes, Montaigne, Copernicus, Galileo, Francis Bacon, Kepler, Harvey, Spinoza, Isaac Newton, Ben Jonson, Pascal, Swedenborg, Ben Franklin, Galvani, Voltaire, Samuel Johnson, Schiller, Handel, Haydn, Mozart, James Watt, Robert Fulton, Alexander von Humboldt, Wordsworth, Scott, Carlyle, Hugo, Emerson, Whittier, Longfellow, Morse, Marconi; these are some of the men whose hands have never been red with blood, and to whom the civilization of the present owes its greatest debt of gratitude, and at their feet we humbly bow with profound reverence for that glorious emancipation of both body and mind which it is our privilege to enjoy, and as we consider their service to humanity we must declare that the spirit of Truth lives in them and that in such as these the true Christ principles found a grand expression.

27 An excellent cabinet photo. of "The Poughkeepsie Beer" (A. J. Davis) for sale at this office. Price 35 cents.

"Lord of my nights and days!
I desire be
Not to be rid of earth,
But nearer Thee!"

Children's Book.

THE BABY'S SERMON.

Wee baby and I took a woody walk,
And she babbled along with her childish talk
About the flowers, and birds, and bees;
But the gorgeous tints of the Autumn trees
Was the text of the wee-one's sermon.

She looked at them, and she looked at me,
But I broke not the charm of her reverie,
And patiently waited solution clear,
Which I knew would come to the baby dear;
For wisdom dwells with children.

"I suk," at last quoth the tiny dean,
"Dod' speec' we dits tired of only dreen,
An' so, while ze folks was all in bed,
Ze angels painted ze leaves," she said;
And here the sermon ended.

Dear little mystic, with sunny hair,
You taught me this lesson then and there,
That all that happens—below, above—
Is sent to us by our Father's love,
And we can trust Him ever.

So, whatever the sorrow that rends the heart,
Though the loved and the loving are led apart,
Let us, believing "God understands,"
Upheld and upholding with loving lands,
"Become as little children."
—F. W. P.

Love Messages from Maine.

Monson, Me., Oct. 17, 1903.

Dear Banner Children Every One:—
I think you would like to hear direct from baby Leona Coy for you know she belongs to the Banner family. She is growing nicely and is a real little thinking woman; she often says:

"I will make supper for you when I get big enough."

"Sometimes she wants to wash the dishes," she will say: "Can I wash the dishes, mama? I am real large you see."

She talks about Xilla often, and delights to run out in the woods. Sometimes when she is playing with her brother Gaylon, and he won't want to do just as she wishes him to, she will come to her mama with the complaint:

"Mama, Gaylon won't mind me."

Today she was not very good and she kicked her brother Charlie. Her mama talked to her and she said: "The spirit made me do the naughty thing."

Her mama said: "You must not let the spirit make the little body do naughty things."

She cried and said: "If Charlie will let me kiss him I will do better next time."

So you see, children, she is a very human little girl, but we hope she will grow to be a real thinking woman.

One day her mama was paring apples and she dropped one. Leona was near and said: "Mama, did an apple run away from you?"

Her mama said: "Yes."

Leona said: "I will pick it up for you in a jiffy," and she did.

Alice Nuttal and her Auntie sent Leona some pictures some time ago. She delights to look at them and especially likes the pig family.

I asked her if I had written enough and she said "yes"—so good bye.

Aunt Mary.

Monson, Me., Oct. 17, 1903.

Dear Banner of Light:—
Every week we look to see what there is in your pages for the children. I like Uncle John's letters, but I would like to hear from some of the children who used to write and from some of the first spirits who wrote to us.

My papa and uncle are both working away now, so I do all the chores and go to school which keeps me pretty busy.

My little sister Leona is growing fast, and she talks a great deal. Often she will go to bed at night holding Xilla's picture in her hand.

I want Mrs. Barrett to write to us soon if she is able. We had a nice time with Mr. Barrett at Etna camp and I remember some of our good things he said.

Not very long ago a party of our friends from Dover came to visit us and we had a nice circle down to Grandma Drake's in her circle room. It was in the evening but every one of us children went, even baby Leona. Gardner Stowe was one of the friends who was with us, his guides talked nice. They told us while we were looking after our spirit loved ones and watching them we could not go far wrong.

A few days ago mama's uncle went to spirit life. We wish he would give us a message in the Banner.

I saw two deer one day; they were very pretty. Come up, boys and visit me too.

I wonder how many of you boys take "The Progressive Lyceum," edited by John Ring, of Galveston, Texas. Please take it for it will do you good. It is printed on purpose for children who know how to think. Come on, boys, let us give Mr. Ring a lift in this good work.

Good bye, with love to everybody,

Elhanan D. Coy.

Monson, Me., Oct. 17, 1903.

How glad I shall be when you get able to write in the Banner again! We are all praying for you that you may become well soon.

We all went to Etna camp except Grandma and enjoyed it much. Grandma staid at home and cared for a sick lady part of the time but she said she was with us in spirit if her body was not there.

We are all busy going to school now but we do not forget that we belong to the Banner family, and we are always glad when it makes its weekly visit.

We still have our Lyceum and meeting at Grandma's every Sunday afternoon. Since we came from camp the attendance has been larger. We have some nice meetings and the spirit guides and teachers tell us many beautiful things. Last Sunday the subject of the discourse was: "The Mission of Spiritualism." They told us its mission would not be fulfilled until every sad heart was made glad and every cruel band that held in bondage was broken.

Grandma is feeling very well now; she has upon one hundred and seventeen years of years this summer, taken care of the sick some and done her housework part of the time, so I think she has done well but she says her unseen helpers hold her up and give her strength. She is our best helper too in the Lyceum and meeting. She is sixty-three years old. She has an old lady in her home of whom she is taking care that is seventy-nine years old. Her name is Elizabeth Dore. She loves to be in our meetings and Lyceum, and I want all the Banner friends to send her a loving thought for she has passed through much sorrow but is happy in the knowledge Spiritualism gives her.

Our woods are beautiful here now for the leaves are changing. I must stop now. Please write to us as soon as you are able.

My love to every one who thinks of the children.

Ethel Ruby Coy.

Monson, Me., Oct. 17, 1903.

Dear Banner Friends:—
I had a lovely time at Etna for I had all the watermelon I could get away with and

ARE YOUR KIDNEYS WEAK?

Thousands of Women Have Kidney Trouble and Never Suspect It.



MRS. SCOTT.

An interesting letter to our readers from Mrs. Gertrude Warner Scott, of Vinton, Iowa.

Vinton, Iowa, July 18th, 1902.
In the summer of 1893, I was taken violently ill. My trouble began with pain in my stomach, so severe that it seemed as if knives were cutting me. I was treated by two of the best physicians in the county, and consulted another. None of them suspected that the cause of my trouble was a kidney disease. They all told me that I had cancer of the stomach, and would die. I grew so weak that I could not walk any more than a child a month old, and I only weighed sixty pounds. One day my brother saw in a paper an advertisement of Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the great kidney, liver and bladder remedy. He bought me a bottle at our drug store, and I took it. My family could see a change in me, for the better, so they obtained more, and I continued the use of Swamp-Root regularly. I was so weak and run down that it took considerable to build me up again. I am now well, thanks to Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, and weigh 145 pounds. 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BANNER OF LIGHT BOOKSTORE.

SPECIAL NOTICE

TO BANNER OF LIGHT PUBLISHING COMPANY. Located at 204 Dartmouth Street, Boston, Mass., keeps for sale a complete assortment of good books. We cannot undertake to preserve or return cancelled articles.

THREE CASES.—Orders for books, to be sent by Express must be accompanied by all or at least half cash. The balance, if any, must be paid C. O. D. Orders for books to be sent by Mail, must be accompanied by cash to the amount of each order. Fractional parts of a dollar can be remitted in postage stamps.

Advertisements can be safely sent by an Express Money Order, which will be issued by any of the large Express Companies. Sum under \$5.00 can be sent in this manner for 5 cents.

In quoting from THE BANNER care should be taken to distinguish between editorial articles and correspondence. Our columns are open for the expression of impartial free thought, but we do not endorse all the varied shades of opinion to which correspondents may give utterance.

Nonattention is paid to anonymous communications. Name and address of writer is indispensable as a guarantee of good faith. We cannot undertake to preserve or return cancelled articles.

Newspapers sent to this office containing matter for publication, should be marked by a line drawn around the article or articles in question.

Banner of Light.

BOSTON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1903.

ISSUED EVERY WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON AT 4 O'CLOCK FOR THE WEEK ENDING AT DATE.

Entered at the Post-Office, Boston, Mass., as Second-Class Matter.

PUBLICATION OFFICE AND BOOKSTORE
No. 204 Dartmouth Street, next door to Pierce Building, Copley Sq.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL AGENTS,
THE NEW ENGLAND NEWS COMPANY,
14 Franklin Street, Boston, Mass.

THE AMERICAN NEWS COMPANY,
and 41 Chambers Street, New York.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION IN ADVANCE
Per Year.....\$2.00
Six Months.....1.00
Three Months......50
Postage paid by publishers.

Issued by
BANNER OF LIGHT PUBLISHING COMPANY.

Harrison D. Barrett.....President.
Irving F. Symonds.....Treasurer and Business Manager.
Marguerite C. Barrett.....Assistant Editor.

Matter for publication must be addressed to the EDITOR. All business letters should be forwarded to the BANNER OF LIGHT PUBLISHING COMPANY.

ADVERTISING RATES.

25 cents per Apage Line.
DISCOUNTS.
1 month.....10 per cent.
3 months.....25 " "
6 months.....40 " "

200 lines to be used in one year, 10 per cent.
500 lines to be used in one year, 25 per cent.
1000 lines to be used in one year, 40 per cent.

50 per cent. extra for special position.
Special Notices forty cents per line, Minimum one insertion.
Notices in the editorial columns, large type, headed matter, fifty cents per line.
No extra charge for extra or double columns.
Width of column 3 7/16 inches.

Advertisements to be renewed at continued rates must be left at our Office before 9 A. M. on Saturday, a week in advance of the date whereon they are to appear.

THE BANNER OF LIGHT cannot well undertake to touch for the honesty of its many advertisers. Advertisements which appear fair and honorable upon their face are accepted, and whenever it is made known that dishonest practices are being used our advertising columns, they are at once interrupted. We request patrons to notify us promptly in case they discover that our columns are being used for purposes which they have proved to be dishonorable or unworthy of confidence.

To the Friends of the Banner.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT MANAGER AND TREASURER.

Since addressing you last as President of the V. S. U., a turn in affairs, which may not be discussed here, has placed upon me a responsibility that I would never have found the courage to seek; and, proffered me, under ordinary conditions, I would have sought long for a more worthy one ere I could have consented. But finding myself here, I believe you deserve a word on the situation.

First, so long as this responsibility is mine, the Banner must remain a bearer of the blessed tidings of Spiritualism. I can see no reason, even, to change its physical appearance from the one grown so familiar to your loving eyes, and will say that until sufficient reason appears for a change you may expect the same old familiar form. Our effort to send Her to you promptly has made it impossible to learn just where the business stands, but sufficient evidence has appeared to warrant the statement that immediate funds must become available to carry along the work properly and without interruption.

I can only feel my way along a path but dimly outlined as yet. Let me make plain to those who are in arrears that a prompt remittance is our due at this juncture. Subscriptions remitted now for another year will prove a great help in the solution of our problems. Let me remind those of you who have available funds that this is not a personal partnership, but a corporation, with the treasury stock unimpaired, and if you should buy a few shares of the treasury stock the money must go into the treasury and be accounted for in the business, and cannot be turned to any individual's account without criminality. You can help us, then, my friends, by paying us immediately what you owe us: By ordering and remitting with order future subscriptions now; and ordering some treasury stock (\$25 per share). If you order through the "Treasurer of the Banner of Light Publishing Company," I pledge you that no personal holdings shall be used to fill your order (that would do no good to the Banner's present problems but benefit the individual selling).

Is this not the time for every one who is really interested in keeping the old Banner of Light for Spiritualism, to put his shoulder to the wheel, lifting according to his strength? What are you going to do with this problem?

We are giving all we have to keep the dear old ship afloat. Bend to the oars there, ye brave ones. Angel voices are calling "On!" Yours to do or die,
Irving F. Symonds.

Frederic G. Tuttle.

A great misfortune has befallen the Banner of Light. Our esteemed and greatly beloved Treasurer and Business Manager, Frederic G. Tuttle, has taken leave of earth. He found the burdens he was carrying too heavy to be longer endured, and sought to escape from them through a change from one sphere of existence to another. He was a man of a quiet, retiring nature, and never intruded his personality even upon his closest friends. He had a kind word for every one with whom he associated and seemed to find time to minister to all who were in need, and to add something of cheer to the lives of his friends. No man tried harder to live and to do the right than did he. Indeed, it was not neces-

sary for him to try, for right was ever a part of his nature. He became connected with the Banner of Light in 1872, and has stood faithfully by it from that time to the present. He is the last of the veterans on the staff of the Banner, and his departure closes all connection between the past and present, in so far as living witnesses in the form are concerned. He became Treasurer and Business Manager of the company some years ago, and virtually shouldered the burden of labor connected with those two offices. He was at his desk early and late, and sought most conscientiously to maintain the highest possible standard of excellence in all of the business dealings of the firm. It is not too much to say that he was the very pivot around which revolved the entire machinery of the firm. He had a place for everything, and knew just where that place was. He was methodical in all things, and believed that everything should be well done.

His home life was a model in respect to harmony, love and good cheer. His wife, to whom he was devoted with all of the ardor of his great heart, was one with him in spirit, and co-operated with him in all good works. Three children graced their home circle, two of whom have already entered the busy affairs of the world and are nobly bearing their several parts upon the stage of life. The third, a young son, is yet in the home nest. To all of the members of this home circle, this bereavement comes as a most cruel blow. They have the sympathy of all who know them, and the tender love of the entire community in which they lived. No one has any word of censure for the good man gone, for it is well known that his physical illness was more than he could endure, to say nothing of the mental worries that were his. He had but recently passed his fiftieth birthday, hence was yet a young man in so far as the activities of the business world are concerned.

He has gone, leaving a void in home circle, in social life, in the office of the Banner of Light and among men in general that never can be filled. He was prominent in town affairs and held many positions of trust, voluntarily bestowed upon him by his fellow citizens. He was also a leader in several secret fraternal orders, in which his kindly counsel was ever given in behalf of what he felt to be the right. He was held in high esteem by all of his townsmen, and no one among them all has aught but love to lay upon his tomb. Honored in life, he will be beloved in seeming death by all who knew him as he really was.

The writer has known him for a long term of years, and he has been our yoke fellow in the work of the Banner of Light since 1877. He cheerfully carried many burdens for friendship's sake, and proved himself over and over again a true and trusted friend. It is with no ordinary emotions that we take leave of our brother, Frederic G. Tuttle. We have been so long accustomed to look to him for counsel and suggestion, to make him the confidant of our many ambitions for the paper, that it wrenches the heart to realize that this privilege will no longer be ours on earth. It is with a heart full of love and a soul full of sympathy that we take leave of our brother, and pay him this small tribute of respect in these feeble words. We have only the tenderest, kindest, most precious memories to cherish of him and of our associations together. The one regret is that we could not have done more for him to ease his pain, and lighten his burdens.

The funeral services were held at Woodlawn Cemetery on Sunday, Oct. 25, and were conducted by Rev. W. W. Peck, pastor of

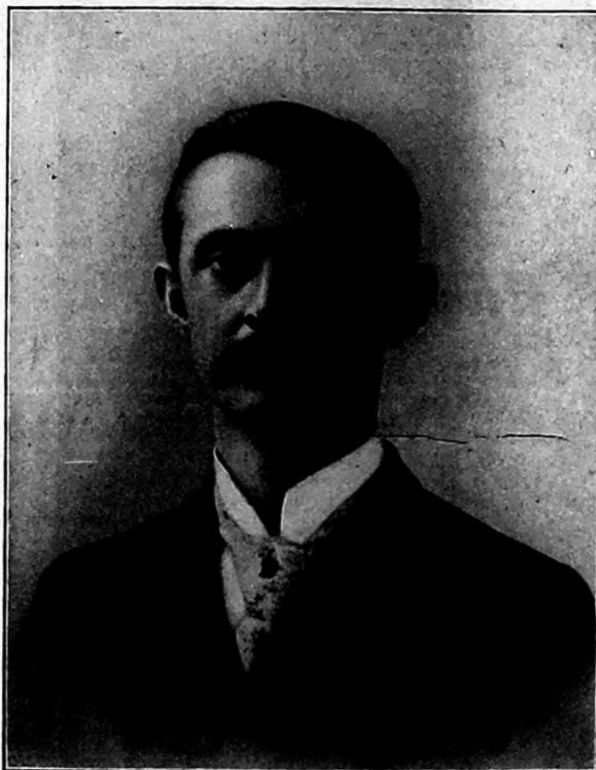
the Unitarian Church in Needham, of which Mr. Tuttle had long been a member. His aged mother, his devoted wife, his loving children, his brother, and all other relatives have the rich legacy of his noble, unselfish life to comfort them in their awful sorrow, and the consciousness that their loved one was true, manly and good to the very last of his life.

All of the members of the staff of the Banner of Light mourn with the stricken family. May the loving angels of God bring the balm of healing to every bruised and sorrowing heart, and give to all who mourn our brother's loss the assurance that he is now at rest, and is better off than he was in his broken, wearied body on the earth. Peace to the memory of one of earth's noblest sons.

Harrison D. Barrett.

Tribute to Mr. Tuttle.

I wish to give expression to my sentiment of regard for Mr. Tuttle. I have known him for quite a number of years in the Banner



Frederic G. Tuttle.

office, and have always felt that he was a good friend and a real man. I cannot account for the act of departing before his true time—because he was such an efficient and faithful servant, and could have done such noble service yet. Oh! the pity of the trials we have when they work upon us too severely. We cannot but throw the mantle of charity over the deed, and know that it was not the Fred we knew who did the rash act. We cannot but express our deepest sympathy with his family in the darkness of this hour, may the angels bless and cheer them.

William Brunton.

FREEDOM.

Adown the river of time we drift,
Into the surge-lashed sea;
Where white gulls wing—low spread and swift—
Lapping the waves of ocean-free.

Free to fly and free to dip
Into the depths of the foam:
Free to gather sweet crumbs from the ship
While man is destined to roam.

To gather in thrift, to borrow, or starve;
To live as best he may;
His neighbors to help or his neighbors to carve
To sure round out their own full pay.

To wait for heaven, is long for half
Within earth's sorrow deep-welled;
While the other hoards gold with a mocking laugh
As their victim's death bell is knelled.

Up through the realms of space we swing
As swift as the gull on the wing.
Rest—peace—Freedom at last
To the soul whose song I sing.

Wanted: Spirit Culture.

Undoubtedly it is too early in the life of modern Spiritualism to look for a crop of individual spiritual cultivation. The best we can now do is to subsoil and fertilize, and prepare the ground for the seeds of eternal ideas. Individual growth in things spiritual is possible, but not probable, in the rudimentary stage of the new dispensation.

Omission from President's Report.

Another good friend of the N. S. A. in the person of J. B. Hatch, Sr., of Boston, has left us during the past year. Mr. Hatch was a patient and a true Spiritualist, a firm friend of organization, and especially of the N. S. A. He was devoted to the Lyceum movement and his efforts in its behalf were untiring. A good man has gone to his reward and his works do praise to him.

[The above paragraph was inadvertently omitted from that portion of the President's report headed "Necrology" by E. L. Coffin.]

HEAVEN ON EARTH.

O happy Earth! reality of Heaven!
To which these restless souls that ceaselessly throng through the human universe aspire;
Thou consummation of all mortal hope!
Thou glorious prize of badly-working will!
Whose rays, diffused throughout all space and time,
Verge to one point and blend forever there:
Of purest spirits thou pure dwelling-place!
Where care and sorrow; impotence and crime,
Languor, disease, and ignorance, dare not come:
O happy Earth, reality of Heaven!
—Shelley, in "Queen Mab."

Intelligence leads and has the right to lead; the highest intelligence is the highest merit, and possesses the greatest power.—Freedom.

The Eleventh Annual Convention.

(Continued from page 1.)

Mrs. G. E. Lamberton, Conn.; Mary T. Longley, Wash., D. C.; T. M. Locke, Wash., D. C.; W. H. Lewis, N. Y.; W. P. Lees, Mo.; Mrs. T. M. Locke, Pa.; Theo. J. Mayer, Washington, D. C.; F. W. Martin, Ohio; Geo. Weston, R. I.; F. L. Morrill, Pa.; H. R. Matteson, N. Y.; Mrs. Gertrude Mudge, N. Y.; Mrs. A. E. Merriam, Conn.; J. J. Morse, Cal.; Miss Florence Morse, Cal.; Mrs. L. B. Nutting, Me.; B. O'Dell, Mich.; Mrs. C. D. Prudden, Minn.; Mrs. A. L. Pettengill, N. Y.; Ira Phillips, Iowa; C. D. Prudden, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Ira Phillips, Iowa; P. L. Peck, Me.; May A. Price, Mo.; H. W. Richardson, N. Y.; E. G. Relliey, N. Y.; Mrs. H. L. Russeque, Mass.; John W. Ring, Texas; R. F. Riser, Ohio; Geo. L. Randall, Mass.; Mrs. Tillie U. Reynolds, N. Y.; Mr. Howell, Mrs. Viola A. E. Rand, Me.; Geo. Randall, Mass.; Isaac Sharp, E. W. Sprague, N. Y.; Mrs. Schoun; Clara L. Stewart, Wis.; Henry Steinberg; Mrs. M. J. Stephens, Washington, D. C.; C. L. Stevens, Pa.; Mrs. Mary C. Smith, Cal.; Mrs. S. Snyder; Mrs. C. A. Sprague, Ind.; Mrs. E. Sloper, Cal.; Mrs. C. L. Stevens, Pa.; Martin Skjodal, Mo.; Mrs. H. H. Simpson, Me.; H. H. Simpson, Me.; Chas. R. Schirm, Md.; H. C. Sweetser, Mass.; Carrie E. S. Twing, N. Y.; Miss Grace A. Tarbell, Mass.; Mrs. Mary H. Tarbell, Mass.; Hudson Tuttle, Ohio; Mrs. F. A. Tarr, Conn.; Mrs. Hudson Tuttle, Ohio; E. R. Whiting, Conn.; Mrs. Julia M. Walton, Mich.; Mrs. N. C. Westerfield, Minn.; N. C. Westerfield, Minn.; Walter P. Williams, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Geo. B. Warne, Ill.; Mrs. F. A. Wiggins, Mass.; Rev. F. A. Wiggins, Mass.; Mrs. M. M. Willson, Mass.; Mrs. Emma E. Wayland, Mass. G. A. T.

N. S. A. Secretary's Annual Report.

To the Officers and Auxiliaries of the National Spiritualists' Association and to the Spiritualists of America and Canada: Greeting.

Dear Co-workers and Friends: As Secretary of the National Spiritualists' Association, it gives me pleasure to submit to your kindly consideration, the following report of the work and affairs incident to the Home office in Washington. The fiscal year of this Association from Oct. 1, 1902 to Oct. 1, 1903, has been a year of constant labor and usefulness for the N. S. A., and I pause here to commend the sincere fidelity and earnest efforts of each of its officers, missionaries and as a rule of its chartered societies.

During the year, the work of the Home office has moved along smoothly and has consisted of the usual correspondence between societies, individuals and the secretary. Our letter files and copy press books attest to the many hundreds of letters received and answered in this office during the year. All this correspondence has shown and cemented the interest taken in the N. S. A. by societies and individuals, and the harmony existing between our Association, and the public at large. Of course, we have had somewhat of adverse criticism, and offers from individuals here and there to show us how the N. S. A. office and work should be conducted, but on the whole, the contact of your secretary with the world—by correspondence and personally has been of a most pleasing nature.

As is customary, we have forwarded the usual quarterly circular letters, and all other needed literature to our chartered societies, and written frequent letters to the several spiritual papers, which have appeared in print, thus keeping the public informed of our work. In this connection, it is proper to specially state that the editors of the spiritual papers have constantly extended the utmost of courtesy to the N. S. A. officers, and have generously published all that we have sent to them from our office. Our sincere thanks are due to The Progressive Thinker, Banner of Light, Light of Truth, Sunflower, Religio Journal, and Lightstrahlen for favors and courtesies too many to enumerate. In addition to the circular letters sent our chartered societies, each society has received separate letters from our office whenever the needs of any particular auxiliary called for the same.

Our N. S. A. Free Library is in most excellent condition, we have adopted the index system, which is most satisfactory, have about seven hundred valuable spiritual and other liberal books on our shelves and continue to loan out these works without money or price to those who come to our office for them. This is a branch of our good work that seems to be highly appreciated, by residents and by "the stranger within our gates."

During the year we have issued twenty-one charters: Two state charters, viz., Oregon and Montana, and nineteen local charters. These societies start out with good prospects, and seem to be in fair way to do good work for the cause of Spiritualism. We learn indirectly that several of the former societies in the South and West have disbanded, but as such societies are negligent in reporting to this office, we have no official report of such. And just here, let me say that I find it almost impossible to get any returns from societies in arrears, and often just as we think a society is a hopeless case, and it must be stricken from our list, it assumes new life, pays up back dues, and wheels into line. We have had two such instances within a few months. The general report to date, from societies, is a lack of established funds, difficulty in meeting current expenses, and the need of circuit speakers and mediums, for the best continuance of the work.

In matters of organized work, it is cheering to note, that in several parts of the country, spiritual temples and churches have been purchased or erected by our societies, and that the growing tendency is to own our halls and buildings, and to cease to be dependent upon rented rooms for the purposes of society work. In matters of Wills and Testaments of deceased Spiritualists we have nothing new to report, such bequests as were left to the N. S. A. before reported, have not yet been paid, with the exception of the W. F. Espeemuller case of Los Angeles, and that of Wm. Case of Lafayette, Ind.; these bequests have been paid, although the legal expense of defending the will of Mr. Case was so large the N. S. A. cleared but about four hundred dollars—out of what ought to have been a payment of nearly, if not more, than two thousand dollars. Several other will cases have yet to be settled from which bequests will be received by this association.

Owing to the difficulty of Spiritualists having their means go to such objects as they desire, because of the liability of their wills being contested in the courts, some of our good friends express their determination to bestow their property where they wish it to go, before they pass from earth; such an instance, we are glad to report, is that of Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair of New Jersey, who have deeded their fine estate of house and nine acres of good land outright to the N. S. A. The deeds of this property are now in possession of this association, and the generous donors are guaranteed their life-lease in the home, they to be caretakers of the same while they live.

The matter of establishing a Mediums' Home has been abandoned by the N. S. A. for the present, owing to the impossibility of securing sufficient funds to warrant the opening of such a home; therefore it was decided by the Board to turn its Mediums' Home

fund into a Mediums' Relief Fund, from which monthly pensions should be paid to as many veteran, destitute or needy mediums as it could care for. We have now five such mediums on our list. They are not paupers or mendicants, but worthy veterans whose life forces have been given to the cause of Spiritualism, and who in their old age have a right to the aid of Spiritualists. The names of these pensioners will be furnished our people who desire to learn them, by the Secretary. Dr. Henry Blade is also completely supported by our Mediums' Relief Fund at the Reed City Sanitarium, and our latest reports from him show that he is improving in health but that he never can be else than an invalid in need of care. Temporary aid has been furnished needy mediums to tide them over some financial straits, according to the wisdom of the Executive Board. We call upon the benevolent to remember the needs of our worthy mediums while dispensing their benefactions. During the last winter, our building at Reed City, Mich., was consumed by fire, but the insurance received for the loss covered our investment in that direction. The N. S. A. has since disposed of its land at Reed City to our co-worker, Dr. Spinyer, and this organization now holds no property in that vicinity.

Among other good works accomplished by the N. S. A. during the year has been the erection of a suitable monument, also granite posts, at the graves of Maggie and Katie Fox in Cypress Hill Cemetery, Brooklyn, N. Y. This was a duty that Spiritualists owed to their pioneer mediums, and it has been freely discharged by this organization.

Our Missionaries have done a good work during the year, as their respective reports will fully show. To those of last year, the Trustees added Mr. J. S. Scarlett as missionary for New England, and for the spring and winter months this brother did faithful work for the Cause in the section mentioned; with the opening of the summer he resigned from his commission. At request of many prominent workers in our ranks who felt the need of an efficient officer being appointed to inspect the various publications of the day—secular and religious, and to reply to any unjust criticism or attack on Spiritualism and its workers, which such publications might contain, the Board of Trustees decided to appoint that veteran worker, Mr. Hudson Tuttle, to an office of Editor-in-Chief, engaging him to keep himself alert towards the attitude of pulpit and press towards our Cause. Mr. Tuttle has done this in a most wise and efficient manner, as his annual report will show, and I venture to recommend that this able man, with his trenchant pen, be continued in this important office, for in this instance, at least, it has been shown that "The pen is mightier than the sword." No special fund has been created for the engagement of such a representative of our Cause; the expense of his services has been met from the N. S. A. general fund, although I am pleased to report in this connection that the generous Editor of The Progressive Thinker, Mr. J. R. Francis, contributed one hundred dollars to this object, without solicitation.

Another office created by the N. S. A. is that of general Superintendent of Lyceums; and Mr. John W. Ring of Galveston, Texas, was chosen for that position. No immediate salary was attached to the office for Lyceum work, and only a small appropriation to aid in establishing a little Lyceum here and there was made. Brother Ring has taken hold of the work with a will, and an enthusiasm that shows him to be well fitted for it. The subject of State persecutions of our mediums still threatens to handicap the dissemination of our works. The latest report comes from Seattle, Washington. Out there, our well tried worker, Mrs. Loe F. Prior, has been arrested under the "Fortune Teller" law for pursuing her legitimate calling of mediumship. Mrs. Prior is under the auspices of the spiritual society there, and it and the State association will do all possible to forward the case in her behalf, but it is very possible that this National Association may be called upon to assist in the defense.

Valuable additions have been made to the books in our free library by Hon. Chas. R. Schirm, Miss Maggie Olive Jordan, Mrs. Florence Huntley and others. Miss Jordan and Prof. Longley have also made donations of their respective publications to be sold for the benefit of the N. S. A. From the incorporation of the N. S. A. to the present, it has issued 324 Charters. Of these, nineteen are for State associations, eleven for Camps, four for Lyceums. The National Lyceum and Young People's Union have dissolved, as previously reported; many local societies have joined their State associations, while in some localities where societies have failed, they have been revived again.

In December last, a most trying experience and a terrible tragedy came into the lives of our beloved friends, President and Mrs. Barrett in the heart-rending and violent death of their precious and only child, sweet little Xilia. No pen can depict, no tongue describe the awful suddenness of that blow and the direful anguish that it brought to the parental hearts; only the consciousness of the truths of Spiritualism could have saved them from the depths of despair, and it is with reverence for their sacred sorrow that I recommend the addition of the name of Xilia Barrett to the list of our departed ones that will be presented to this convention under the head of "Necrology," in whose memory Resolutions will be devised, and towards whose loving ones of earth our words and sentiments of respect and sympathy will be extended.

Suffering physically and mentally from the effects of this tragic blow, our President found it necessary to pass the duties of his office for a time to our honored Vice-President, Brother Locke, and for a period of several months the administration of presidential duties was ably conducted by Mr. Locke. In this direction I can only say, he did his duty and discharged it well. In passing, I wish to call attention to the list of books which the Massachusetts State Association has published, as suitable reading for beginners and investigators in Spiritualism. It is a most excellent list, and worthy the commendation of this convention. In closing, allow me to state that the duties of the Secretary's office have been discharged to the best of my judgment and ability. During the month of August I was permitted by the Board to remove my office work to New England, and from that section the office correspondence was attended to. While at Onset, I had the pleasure and privilege of participating in the N. S. A. day generously given by that camp, and in the exercises of Massachusetts State day. President Barrett, Dr. G. A. Fuller, Mr. J. B. Hatch, with others, rendered a most valuable service on those days. It is with pleasure that I here attest to the untiring help given to me during the year, in the discharge of duties incident to our work, by our loyal members of the N. S. A. Board, whenever they have been called upon for advice and opinion; that our worthy and faithful Treasurer stands first among these helpers is assured, since he is often the first to be called upon, and is at times the only one who can attend to the pressing business at hand, and it is with a grateful heart that I hereby acknowledge his untiring assistance and encouragement. It also gives me pleasure to give well deserved recognition to the valuable aid of Miss Agnes Wink and Prof. Longley, which has ever been cheerfully bestowed. Owing to the help of these assistants during the last few years, your Secretary has been enabled to keep all expense for assistant work at the home office within the fifty dollars' annual allotment, which has

Leading Dealers sell them everywhere as the standard range.

[illegible]

National President's Report.

(Continued from page 2.)

of establishing the brotherhood of the race. My French, Russian, German, Italian and Spanish correspondents are all in favor of such a Congress, yet many of them declare that it will be impossible for them to attend the same. So little encouragement is given by the people who should be interested in it, I am constrained to recommend that no attempt be made to hold this Congress. If the wealthy Spiritualists of the world would place ten thousand dollars in the treasury of the N. S. A. a truly representative body could be easily brought together. I deeply regret that this "Congress of Nations" in Spiritualism cannot be held, and I hope that the day will come when Spiritualists, the world over, will perceive the importance of holding such a gathering, and be led to provide the means by which it can be brought together.

HOME CIRCLES.

The recurring frequency with which the N. S. A. office is besieged with questions regarding Spiritualism and the best means of becoming acquainted with its principles, leads me to refer to the old "Home Circles" that were so popular fifty years ago. As a perfectly safe means to the end in view, the Home Circle is certainly first among foremost. I believe in the establishment of such circles wherever possible, when there is one person who is somewhat familiar with psychic force present to take the lead. When established in a prayerful spirit, and sought for the purpose of receiving spiritual instruction, only good events flow from them. I recommend that this body of delegates declare itself emphatically in favor of establishing Home Circles, under proper guidance, as a part of the missionary work of the N. S. A. I also recommend that a small circular or tract, setting forth such instructions as may be desired for the foundation of such circles in communities not accessible to our missionaries, and where public meetings are not held, be prepared by the Trustees of the N. S. A. and furnished gratis to all who may apply for the same. Such a leaflet is needed, and its publication will do a great deal of good, I urge action upon this important subject.

POST OFFICE MISSIONS.

Through what is known as the "Post Office Mission," our Unitarian brethren have been able to widen the scope of their influence in all sections of our land. The N. S. A. can do the same for Spiritualism if Spiritualists will but co-operate with it in this work by supplying the Home Office with the names and correct addresses of people who are open to the reception of a liberal thought. Our Secretary then can send them such literature as may be on hand for free distribution, open correspondence with some of them, and ultimately secure their open support, induce them to organize "Home Circles," and local societies through which the truths of Spiritualism can be presented in communities in which they are now unknown. I recommend, therefore, an appropriation for the purpose of extending the influence of our Post Office Mission work. If more tracts are needed, I urge that they be prepared or selected and published as soon as possible by the N. S. A. officers.

PROTECTION FOR OUR CAUSE.

The experience of our brethren in St. Louis last spring warrants me in asking this representative body of delegates to take some action to protect Spiritualism as a movement from such abominations in the future. The Brockway family that brought such disgrace upon our Cause in St. Louis recently, scores of others who are engaged in the same unholy work. Spiritualism always suffers from such rascality, and if the Brockways are mediums, that fact did not warrant them in pilfering thousands of dollars from their unsuspecting patrons. Something should be done to disabuse the public mind with regard to the responsibility of Spiritualism for such conscienceless people. They change their names from time to time, and alter their personal appearance as much as possible in order to escape detection. If Spiritualists would but do their duty in all such cases, our Cause would soon cease to suffer from this predatory horde of robbers of mortals and insulters of the arisen ones. Rather than have the present conditions continue it would be better to split our movement in twain, and permit those who believe in obtaining money under false pretenses, and other questionable practices to go their way without claiming any connection with true Spiritualism. We want the plain phenomena of the spirit, but not of the kinds produced by the parties under discussion. I recommend decisive action upon this matter by this Convention.

SOME SPECIAL NEEDS.

The foregoing paragraph prompts me to refer to a few of the special needs of our movement at the present time. First of all, we need a young, progressive body of people preparing for our ministry. There are less than twenty of our speakers today who are under forty years of age. Our young people are led into other occupations because of our failure to establish pastorates and permanency in the character of our work. This Convention should evolve some plan by which our young people may be induced to enter our ministry. Second, we need a more devoted, religious spirit in our public meetings. The curiosity age and the era of the mirth seeker are things of the past. They are now attached to the theatres where they properly belong. This Convention should declare to the world the religious side of Spiritualism, and place it squarely and reverently upon the basis of scientific Theism. Third, we need a more dignified method of presenting our phenomena to the world. As they are now given, they detract from the divine beauty of our great truth, and frequently make our movement the laughing-stock of the world. Phenomena are invaluable aids in our work, and should be sacredly consecrated to the purposes of the angels—not reduced to the level of the circus or variety show. They are of special value in the home circle, in the laboratory of the scientist, and in the communion service that should follow the address of a settled speaker every Sunday evening. I recommend that this Convention devise ways and means by which the foregoing suggestions can be put into practice. Unless something of the kind is done, a division of our forces is inevitable in the near future, and the line of cleavage will be between the religious and iconoclastic elements in our ranks. I hope our union of forces may be preserved, but not at the cost of the self respect of reverent, truth-seeking people. I prefer a division between truth and error, between reverence and irreverence, between instruction and amusement, to the present effort to unite these incongruous elements. Let us have our phenomena, our science, our philosophy, and our religion, with no trespassing upon the prerogative of either branch. Better an absolute divorce of phenomena and religion than the present burlesquing of the two.

FINANCE.

Another need of our movement, especially of the N. S. A., is finance. Any orthodox body with only a quarter of our members, frequently possesses ten times the ready money we do. We have generous, whole-hearted people in our ranks, but they are not able to give to the Cause they love. Still the great mass of our people are not poor in purse. They only need awakening to a

sense of duty to induce them to render generous support to their religion. In order to enable Spiritualism to do its legitimate work through the N. S. A., a generous endowment fund is necessary. Plans for raising that fund should be adopted by this Convention. Receipts from per capita dues, donations and collections are not sufficient to meet the running expenses of the N. S. A. and enable it to branch out into new fields of labor. From the financial report of our Secretary and Treasurer, you will learn of the monetary standing of the N. S. A. It is far from being adequate to the needs of this organization, creditable though it be. The National Associations of other religious bodies have large interest bearing investments from which they derive a goodly percentage of their incomes. There is no reason why the N. S. A. cannot do likewise. A generous endowment fund can be raised, if the will to do it is made manifest.

One small Orthodox body raised seventy-five thousand dollars in one state to carry on its work within the borders of that Commonwealth last year. Another organization—a national association—with less than one-fifth of our members raised over one hundred seventy-five thousand dollars last year. These people as a rule, were not so well to do as are we as a body. They had the will to achieve success, and they were successful. So may we if we will but make the effort. I believe that the raising of a generous endowment fund or planning to do so, is the paramount duty of this Convention. Our Universalist brethren did it fifty years ago when their members were few and their purses slender. They determined to win, and they did win.

I recommend that an endowment fund of fifty thousand dollars be raised for the N. S. A. during the coming year. Let the incoming Board of Trustees be instructed to appoint special solicitors under proper restrictions, to make a house to house canvass in their respective communities for contributions to this fund. A general call could be issued to the country at large asking for donations to this fund, and stating its special objects. By persistent effort on the part of a few devoted, unselfish workers this sum could be speedily raised, and then the N. S. A. would have a permanent source of income, upon which it could draw in doing its legitimate work. I ask this body to act affirmatively upon this question. My own success in raising funds at different camps this past season proves that the people will respond when properly approached. Fifty similar solicitors, equally devoted and in earnest, would do more than fifty times as well. I recommend the selection and equipment of reliable and experienced solicitors for the raising of this fund. If the delegates here present were to be constituted a committee of the whole to engage in this work their returns would average one hundred dollars each. This would mean one-fifth of the sum asked for, and the balance could easily be made up. One general solicitor, with a roving commission, upon a generous percentage, could raise the entire sum within the next twelve months. If our camps were properly canvassed by competent solicitors for a single season only, the sum named could be raised, and all expenses met. I feel that the N. S. A. should have one reliable financial agent at each camp next season to do this very work. I recommend action accordingly.

NECROLOGY.

Many of the loyal friends of our movement have taken leave of earth during the past year. Among these are several, who were especially active in the support of the N. S. A. To all of these earnest workers, I pay my personal tribute of praise, and ask that suitable resolutions be drawn in recognition of their worth. Especial mention should be made of the work of Count Alexander Aksakof, of St. Petersburg, Russia, whose literary labors in behalf of Spiritualism have been the wonder of the world, and of Thomas G. Newman, editor of the Religio-Philosophical Journal, and a worthy representative of our Cause. Brother Newman fought a good fight, and honestly kept faith with his own conscience and the world. In his transition the N. S. A. loses a true friend, and Spiritualism a noble representative. The transition of Benjamin Rogers of California, and Samuel L. France of Massachusetts remove two true and tried friends of the N. S. A. from the scenes of earth. They generously gave of their means to the support of the Cause they loved, and labored for organization because of their belief in the religion of human brotherhood. I ask that resolutions of respect be adopted by this Convention, and recommend that their names be placed upon the roll of honor in the archives of this association. Upon this roll I also recommend that the names of all of the friends of our movement who have entered the higher life since we last met in convention, be inscribed in humble recognition of their worth.

THE SPIRITUALIST PRESS.

All of the Spiritualist papers have rendered the N. S. A. loyal support throughout the year. Without the aid received from these sources, the N. S. A. would have made but little progress. I earnestly recommend that a hearty vote of thanks be extended to John R. Francis of the "Progressive Thinker," Hon. James B. Townsend and Willard J. Hull of the "Light of Truth," W. H. Bach of the "Sunflower," J. Munsell Chase of the "Religio-Philosophical Journal" and Frederic G. Tuttle of the "Banner of Light." I take this opportunity to call the attention of the delegates present to the frequent attempts of a subordinate officer of the U. S. Government to restrict the liberties of our press, and recommend that the incoming Board of Trustees be instructed to be constantly on the alert to serve our valiant editors by defending their rights at the seat of Government, to the end that a free press may be forever maintained in America.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

All of the members of the Board of Trustees have served the N. S. A. well and faithfully throughout the year. They have been true to their trusts, and have upheld the dignity and honor of our Cause in a praiseworthy manner. Personally your President is under many obligations to them, one and all, and takes this opportunity to publicly acknowledge that fact.

THE HOME OFFICE.

The work in the home office in Washington has been performed with the same fidelity that has ever characterized the present incumbent of the office of Secretary. All of the N. S. A. books have been kept with precision, and are models of beauty considering the variety of accounts that our Secretary has to enter. Everything about the office is kept in its place. A spiritual atmosphere pervades the whole building, and all the work of the Association is promptly dispatched. Our Secretary has faithfully discharged her every duty, and has rendered your President many favors during the year. Without her efficient aid, the President's work would have often been incomplete. She has been kind, considerate, and zealous for the right in all things, as well as a source of inspiration and strength to the President and other members of the Board. The Spiritualists of America are under obligations to their faithful Secretary, Mary T. Longley, for the many favors she has done them as well as for her devoted services in her official capacity.

THE PRESIDENT'S WORK.

There is but little to be said upon this topic. The perfunctory duties of the office

were performed by me from Oct. 24 to Dec. 15, 1902, when our honored Vice-President, Thomas M. Locke, became Acting President, and held that position until May 23, 1903. The causes that led to this result are known to all, and need not be repeated here. Acting President Locke discharged his every duty ably, and with conscientious fidelity. He honored the office throughout his regency, and his report will acquaint you with what was done during his incumbency. Since June 1st, I attended to my duties to the best of my ability. In round numbers, I have received and turned over to the Secretary, twelve hundred dollars during the year, five-sixths of which were taken in at the camp meetings. I have not spent more than three months in active service of the N. S. A. during the year. Such as my work is, I place it before you for such judgment as its results may merit.

TREASURER MATTER.

Our philanthropic Treasurer, Theodore J. Mayer, has been the same faithful friend and zealous supporter of the N. S. A. as he has been in past years. He is a tower of strength to our organization, and deserves the grateful thanks of the Spiritualists of the world for the good he has done our Cause everywhere. Let us give honor to him to whom honor is due for his devotion to the Cause we love, and prove our appreciation of him and his work by earnestly co-operating with him hereafter in carrying it forward.

AMENDMENTS.

From the report of your committee on amendments, you will learn of several changes that are proposed for our Constitution. I commend these to your special notice, and recommend that they be carefully studied ere they are accepted or rejected. They are vitally important in their influence upon our organic law, and should not be hastily considered.

SPECIAL RECOMMENDATIONS.

I recommend—that small sums be appropriated to aid State Associations that desire missionary work in their borders, but have not funds to carry it on alone.

That one speaker be furnished free of every campmeeting, upon whose programs special days have been accorded the N. S. A., and speaker to deliver two addresses, if desired, outside of his work on N. S. A. Day.

That special efforts be made by our officials to prove the interest of the N. S. A. in local societies in rendering them such aid as lies within its power.

That efforts to secure special donations and bequests by will be continued with renewed zeal.

That the files of all Spiritualist papers be completed, properly bound, and safely shelved in our library.

That an appropriation sufficient to meet the expense be made for this purpose.

That special solicitors be placed at every camp for the season of 1904, under contract to secure donations either to the Pension or Endowment funds, or to both.

That the purchase or building of churches and temples be encouraged, and that congratulations be extended to all societies that have succeeded in securing homes of their own.

That every delegate and visitor present at this Convention be especially commissioned to work for the N. S. A. and co-operation during the coming year.

IN GENERAL.

Notwithstanding the clouds to which I have referred in this report, and the numerous dangers confronting us on all sides, the general outlook for Spiritualism and the N. S. A. is brighter and better than it has been for several years past. A healthier interest in the subject is everywhere apparent, and a more earnest desire to get at the truth manifest. The attitude of the press, pulpit and people in regard to it seems to be kinder, and its thought is everywhere received with greater consideration than ever before. This change of sentiment is largely, if not wholly due to the influence of the N. S. A. as an organization. I recommend that suitable expression upon all moral and reformatory questions be made by this Convention through its committee on resolutions, thereby testifying to our sympathy with and support of all measures designed to advance the welfare of the race.

CONCLUSION.

I now return unto you the office with which you honored me ten years ago. If this organization is a success today, and there are none who can truthfully gainsay this fact, I trust that my work has, in some small degree, helped to make it so. I have erred many times in the discharge of my duties, but I dare assert in this presence that those errors were from impulse over zeal, and intensity of purpose, rather than from any deliberate attempt or secret wish on my own part. For my mistakes, errors of judgment, and lack of judgment, I have striven hard to atone by renewed effort in behalf of our great Cause. I crave your indulgence for them all, even as I crave a truer life before my God. To all of my friends in the United States and Canada, I return my grateful thanks for their generous support of my administration and for the many favors received at their hands. May they prosper in all good works, and be daily blessed by the visitation of angels. Our N. S. A. has a glorious future before it, if each and every Spiritualist will but support it as loyally as he ought. The outlook for our Cause as a whole is promising, and success awaits it at every turn provided the Spiritualists of America will devote themselves to its sacred principles one half as zealously as they formerly supported their churches. To the work of upbuilding of our Cause and of making the N. S. A. a power for good in the land, I most earnestly commend the Spiritualists of America. I bespeak for my successor in office the same cordial and enthusiastic support you have ever accorded me. With a consecrated union of hearts and hands, victory is surely ours. With only good will in my heart for all of my brethren, without bitterness or malice, and with a prayer for the health and prosperity of our people and our N. S. A., I close this, my last annual report, and bid you all a kindly farewell.

Respectfully submitted,

Harrison D. Barrett.

Pres. N. S. A.

THE GOOD TIME COMING.

I have a vision of a time not far—
When men shall will to know and act the right.
When all shall seek for truth and love and might.
When all the wealth and fearful waste of war
Shall be for things that pure and peaceful are.

The things that make existence sweet and bright.
A blessing and a sense of rich delight:
This shines upon me as a golden star—
And many hearts behold this better day.
Of brotherhood below as heaven divine:
In every good is leading of the way.
Each hope beside the path as flower doth shine.

Some morning in the near-at-hand we'll find
The new has come in every heart enshrined.

William Brunton.

Soap and sunshine are prime agents in producing good health.

Annual Missionaries' Report.

YEAR ENDING SEPT. 20, 1903.

Mr. Chairman and Fellow Delegates:
It is with feelings of satisfaction that we present this our third annual report to this convention.

During the year we labored in nine different states of our Union, viz: Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin. We held meetings in sixty-five different towns; some of these meetings were held with societies already organized, and others in places where Spiritualism had never had a hearing before. We have had the pleasure of presenting the philosophy and demonstrating some of the truths of Spiritualism to thousands of people who listened to its message for the first time.

LINCOLN A SPIRITUALIST.

While stopping at Albany, N. Y., with our esteemed friends E. A. Doty and family, we secured what we consider a very valuable document. It is the affidavit of Mr. E. A. Doty giving a detailed account of an interview he had with Mrs. Best of Washington, D. C., and another one with General Shields, of New York, regarding the seances that were held in the White House at Washington during the War of the Rebellion. These interviews conclusively prove that what is maintained in Nettie Maynard's book entitled "Was Abraham Lincoln a Spiritualist," is true.

Mr. Lincoln believed in Spiritualism and did consult the spirits regarding the management of the War of the Rebellion. There is no longer any question regarding this claim.

We have preserved this document for future use.

MEDIUMS' HOME.

The latter part of November we were called to Lansing, Mich., to participate in the dedication of the Mediums' Home. It gives me pleasure to state that, with the assistance of our true friend, that loyal Spiritualist, John F. Goff, assisted by other generous souls, together with the energy and perseverance of the officers of the Michigan State Spiritualist Association, the John F. Goff Mediums' Home at Lansing, Mich., is paid for and has been opened to the worthy sick and needy mediums of that state.

It is fitting to state here that our missionary work in Michigan has been of assistance to a considerable degree in the accomplishment of this splendid work. True missionary work is not confined entirely to organizing societies, though that may be of paramount importance at the present time.

CAMPMEETINGS.

We served at the following named campmeetings: Vicksburg, Mich.; Vicksburg, Mich.; Snowflake, Mich.; and Ashley, Ohio, where the interests of our organization, the value of missionary work and the needs of our Cause were presented and explained to the large congregations assembled there.

These campmeeting associations are in sympathy with our organization, realizing as they do that the missionary work is a great help to them, as it arouses people to desire to learn more of Spiritualism which leads them to attend campmeetings where satisfaction is obtained.

The campmeetings in turn are a great help to the missionary work, as they give opportunity to the missionaries to reach, interest, and entice our friends to take hold of the work when they return to their homes. Thus a mutual benefit is derived and the Cause advanced.

STATE CONVENTIONS.

We visited the yearly conventions of the Ohio and the Michigan State Associations. We have visited these state associations heretofore and are pleased to state that they are both growing stronger each year. They are going into better condition to work and we believe they are both in better financial condition than ever before. They have more societies than at any previous time in their history, which is directly due to the work of our missionaries during the last three years. These conventions were most satisfactory as undoubtedly their reports to this convention will show.

All along the line we see marked improvement in the work of our organization. We visited a number of places where we held the first public Spiritualist meeting ever held in the vicinity and where we went we made conditions for more speakers and mediums to follow us.

Not only is it for the interest of our Cause that the missionary work should be encouraged and supported, but it is for the interest of our mediums and speakers as it makes many more places for them to work. Every worker in the field should stand firmly for the N. S. A. and the missionary movement, helping to support and carry on the good work of both.

WORK OF THE YEAR.

During the year we have held three hundred and eighteen meetings, which is an average of six and one-half meetings per week for the entire time, including the month of our vacation. We organized twenty-four new societies, reorganized and reinstated five more, making a total of twenty-nine societies added to the list, which is two more than we organized last year. Five of the towns that we visited no public work was being done before we organized these societies. Nearly every one of them are now holding regular meetings and doing good work.

The average membership of these societies is thirty and the total membership is eight hundred and forty. We have also been instrumental in adding new members to several other local societies that we have visited. With the exception of five places, we organized and chartered every town we visited where no society existed before.

We left sixty active societies in the sixty-five towns that we visited. Some of these societies we visited twice.

COST OF THE WORK.

Total cost of the work for the year ending Sept. 30, 1903:

Expenditures \$2,081.14

Receipts 1,616.98

Balance \$ 464.16

Nearly all the societies we have organized in the last three years are alive and active. They need the attention and assistance of the state and national associations. Every local society should be visited by the national and state missionaries as often as possible. This would encourage the workers, interest investigators and others in our organization, add members to the local societies and help the Cause in general. This can and probably will be done as soon as the Spiritualists provide sufficient funds to make it possible.

Fellow delegates, it is plain to be seen that many missionaries are needed to carry the truths of Spiritualism to the people and to bring them into the fold of our organization. Wherever we have been the Spiritualists have received us gladly and have treated us royally. Their words of encouragement and earnest sympathy have been a source of inspiration and a great sustaining power to us in the performance of the arduous duties incident to the missionary work.

The Spiritualist missionary leads a truly

"strenuous life," but the results of his labors fully compensate him therefor. There are so many whose souls are hungering that he can be fed, so many mourning ones to be comforted, so many doubts to be dispelled and so many tears to be dried.

Your missionaries find them everywhere and through the missionaries' efforts these people are receiving the blessings that Spiritualism furnishes in such great abundance.

THE CHURCH.

We have met with very little opposition in our work this year. The Christian church is becoming more tolerant in many places, though we were obliged to pass by several towns because the Christians (?) refused to rent halls to their neighbors to be used for Spiritualist meetings. Occasionally we were permitted to hold our meetings in Christian churches.

NEWSPAPERS.

The newspapers have almost invariably treated us with courtesy and respect, publishing our notices and often lengthy reports of our meetings.

EXPOSERS.

We have not come in contact with as many "exposers" of Spiritualism this year as heretofore. These "exposers," so called, have always inspired the Spiritualists to greater activity, and after witnessing the cheap tricks of these mountebanks the people become anxious to investigate the true phenomena and teachings of Spiritualism. We know of several places where a real "exposer" (?) of Spiritualism could do our Cause much good.

NEEDS OF LOCAL SOCIETIES.

Many societies do not succeed because of the lack of energy and enthusiasm on the part of its president or the carelessness of its secretary. Every society should elect a competent, energetic, thorough going president and a live secretary. Some societies elect officers as though it was for the purpose of bestowing honors upon the ones chosen. This is a mistake. Officers should be chosen on a view to getting those that are best qualified to fill the positions to which they are called. Good, strong societies go down for lack of a leader oftener than from any other cause.

Every local society should have a Ladies' Auxiliary society and a Lyceum. There may be places where the ladies' society could not succeed, but wherever one is in working order it helps largely to support the work of the local society; it is almost a necessity to the success of the work.

A children's Lyceum should also be formed as a part of every organization. The Lyceum is a great help as it interests the Spiritualists and outsiders leading both to the support of the local society besides doing great good to the children and Cause as well.

Each society should appoint a collector whose duty will be to collect the dues of members, receive contributions, etc., for the support of the work. The success of the local society will depend largely upon the efficiency of this member of the board.

Every local society should appoint a committee, whose duty will be to visit the sick and afflicted members and render such aid and assistance as is needed and desired, reporting regularly at their stated meetings.

Cordiality, fraternity and mutual helpfulness should be cultivated and practiced by all. Every well regulated society will have a choir. There are many Spiritualists singing in the choirs of the orthodox church. We think they would gladly come home to help their friends if conditions were made for their coming.

There should be a reception committee appointed by each society to make everybody welcome to the meetings, thus relieving the embarrassment sometimes felt by strangers on entering our meetings.

Genial, pleasant mannered ushers are always needed to wait upon people and see that they are comfortably seated.

Meetings should always begin at the appointed time.

Societies thus equipped and carried on must succeed if the management is judicious in employing good talent to grace the platform.

SYSTEMATIC ORGANIZATION.

There is great need of more systematic organization. Every state should be divided into districts and districts superintendents appointed to look after the work. Circuits should be formed, competent speakers and mediums placed upon them and arrangements made to visit localities where no society exists. Where societies are weak one speaker could care for two or even four places, holding meetings on alternate Sundays or one Sunday in a place each month as the case may require. Quarterly meetings should be established by these district superintendents. The advice, encouragement and assistance of these general superintendents would certainly be of great assistance to local societies. Such superintendents could look after the Lyceums, if placed under their jurisdiction, and could be of great benefit to them.

READING COURSE.

At our last convention we submitted a recommendation that a committee be appointed to prepare a classified course of reading which would include the subjects necessary to an understanding of the teaching of Spiritualism in its different phases. This was recommended because of the apparent great need as well as the desire of many people to become enlightened upon the subjects of Spiritualism, especially that those societies which were unable to employ speakers and teachers might have opportunity to learn and teach others.

We have recommended the forming of reading circles by the societies that we have organized and all societies that have done as we advised are doing good work, growing in numbers as well as in knowledge, while they are gaining the respect of the people in the communities where they are located.

We feel certain that this movement, if properly managed, will be the means of adding many members to our societies, and many societies to our organization, building up the weak ones and enlightening the people regarding our great philosophy more than any other movement could possibly do with so little expense incurred.

The Boston convention complying with our recommendation appointed such a committee last year, but it failed to act so far as we are informed.

We think there was a misapprehension in regard to the intention of this recommendation of last year. It may have been supposed by some that we expected the N. S. A. to publish this course of readings which, if done, would require a great outlay. We only intended to ask that the committee be appointed to choose from works already published and for sale, such books as would be adapted to the different classes of the students.

We again submit this proposition to this convention in the hope that its recommendations may be fully carried out, and in the firm belief that it will work greater good for our Cause than anyone may be able to understand until it is tried.

We consider this subject of the most vital importance. It is the receipt by all those Spiritualists that have gone over to the classes in Christian Science, Divine Science, etc., and will show to the world that we have a philosophy and believe in education. It may eventually develop into something like the Chautauque school.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Soragie,

N. S. A. Missionaries.

Historian's Report.

(Continued from page 5.)

that seem to be needed, and all facts and data that may have been overlooked brought in before it goes to print. Of course my plans are subject to modification by the N. S. A. as they shall see best.

I have given considerable time and labor to this preliminary work, and expect to be in a situation to do much more in the coming year. If the N. S. A. will be patient with me (as I think there is no immediate need of haste, except to get all possible data before those qualified have passed out of mortal coil) and trust my good intentions another year, I think I will be able to report something in the autumn of 1904 that will be fairly satisfactory, and inspire those interested to help the work with their surplus means. If Mr. Barrett can co-operate with me (not in a very arduous labor, but incidentally), I do not think of any one else that I would prefer. In fact I think he is the man for what I shall need. But others may help if they will. I would, however, like the privilege of selecting such help as I may need, within moderate limits of financial expenditures, and paying such help in a small way out of the fund provided for my work.

But I prefer to do most of the hard work myself. If I take time enough I can do it all myself. But to facilitate the work, a secretary to read, make extracts, and write a portion of my correspondence, and help in a variety of ways would be of much value; and such I think I could get at a moderate cost per week or month. I might not need this help regularly, but to be able to have it if my call would greatly facilitate and simplify my labors. I hope the N. S. A. will let me continue this work and put in my efforts under the new and improved conditions, at least another year, and by that time I hope my showing will be such that they will be glad to equip me for the vigorous prosecution of the work to its completion.

With this hasty explanation I leave the N. S. A. to act as it may deem best.

Cordially,

Lyman C. Howe.

Committee on President's Report.

Your committee upon President Barrett's annual report respectfully submits the following:

RAILROAD LINES.

We most heartily concur in President Barrett's recommendation that engrossed resolutions of thanks under the seal of the N. S. A., be forwarded to the Chairmen of the Western, Central, Trans-continental and South-western Passenger Association, expressing the obligation of this body for all courtesies extended by them to our clergymen.

We earnestly recommend that the local and State Auxiliaries of the N. S. A., as well as our Spiritualist papers, be kept advised of any or all railroad lines which discriminate against our clergymen because they are Spiritualists, while they grant special rates to ministers of other denominations; also that the next official board be authorized to present any case of that nature which, in its judgment, is of sufficient importance to call for such action to the Inter-State Commerce Commission.

EDITOR AT-LARGE.

We congratulate both the Board of Trustees and Spiritualists generally upon the selection of Hudson Tuttle as Editor-at-Large, and urge the importance to our Cause of continuing the employment of his able brain and incisive pen in that capacity.

MISSIONARIES.

We recognize the earnestness, loyalty and devotion with which the Missionaries of the N. S. A. for the past year have performed their labors. The compensation granted them is but partial return for their personal sacrifices and continuity of efforts in the face of serious hindrances. Your Committee believes that there is good reason for radical changes in the methods now employed to utilize their labors. They should not be required to cover so great a stretch of territory. They should visit fewer fields and be allowed to labor a longer period upon each one. In this way their visits would not become so great a drain upon the financial resources of the struggling local workers and they would not only create but nourish to the point of independent existence the local societies they organize.

We feel that this Convention should seriously consider the advisability of asking the Official Board it will elect to throw the responsibility for all missionary work in the independent jurisdictions upon the several State Associations responsible therefor. We advise that the N. S. A. only send its missionaries into States and Territories as yet unorganized in its interests, but that its Trustees from time to time appropriate such sums as can be spared to aid its auxiliary State Associations in promoting their missionary efforts, distributing such allowances in proportion to the amounts first expended for that purpose by each State body upon its own field.

CAMPMEETINGS.

We recognize the value of Campmeetings as a means of spreading the truths of Spiritualism and acquainting our own people with the aims, objects and methods of the N. S. A. We recommend that the thanks of this body be extended to every Campmeeting Association whose co-operation for the season of 1903 contributed so great financial benefit to this Association.

We endorse the President's suggestion that the Board of Trustees furnish speakers to all Camp Associations who assign a special day for the National work upon their summer programs.

LOCAL SOCIETIES.

We recommend that methods for strengthening the effectiveness of Local Societies be left to the several State Associations where such exist, with urgent solicitations that they give them the most earnest attention, for upon their active use must depend the very life of all of our organized bodies. We advise that each State body at once put into effect President Barrett's suggestion of sending a special representative, happily adapted to those duties, to visit each local Society connected therewith and that such visits be made as frequently as possible. Local Societies have more important functions than simply to breathe and then die.

LYCEUM.

We, your committee, fully realize that the Lyceum certainly demands our earnest devotion, and we heartily agree with our esteemed President in the need of Lyceum workers. No more efficient or certain avenue for missionary work is to be found than through The Progressive Lyceum whereby our literature will be placed in the hands of persons of all ages, many of whom would not otherwise read of Spiritualism; and by touching the lives of little children, we will establish a thoroughly spiritual Spiritualism.

We, your Committee, with the President, deem it wise to continue the appointment of National Superintendents and that sufficient funds be furnished for representative literature to be supplied to the Lyceum; let effort continue by the National Superintendents to establish Lyceums in the several states

through the co-operation of the State Officials, by devoting proper time to the Lyceum movement at all of their meetings, and by the appointment of at least one individual in each Local Auxiliary whose special duty shall be to promote the work of the Lyceum.

MORRIS PRATT INSTITUTE.

Your Committee heartily endorses the recommendation that this Convention assign a special hour for the consideration of the work and claims of the Morris Pratt Institute and suggest that their importance calls for the exercise of calm judgment and the elimination of all irrelevant personalities.

MEDIUMS' HOME.

We commend the conclusions of President Barrett that under existing conditions the N. S. A. should not now further promote the establishment of a General Home for Mediums.

We suggest to our State Associations careful consideration of the future possibilities for the maintenance of such institutions as illustrated by the success of the work so grandly done by the Michigan State Spiritualists' Association.

PENSIONS FOR MEDIUMS.

We feel that the present Official Board of the N. S. A. has acted with great wisdom in extending aid to needy mediums and recommending that its successor shall continue the work as necessary demands, and its resources will permit. We recommend compliance with the President's suggestion that all mediums be asked to make stated contributions for such relief and that proper steps be taken to interest every layman in giving special offerings for this purpose.

WILLS AND DONATIONS.

We feel that all Spiritualists should be profoundly grateful for the favorable termination of litigation over the wills mentioned in our President's report. Fundamental principles of lasting benefit to Spiritualism have been thereby judicially established.

We earnestly endorse President Barrett's suggestions that donations and wills of which the N. S. A. is to be the future beneficiary should be either made or carefully drawn while the donor or deviser is in health.

HISTORY OF SPIRITUALISM.

Your Committee fully recognizes the importance of this work and would recommend that the incoming board continue the same along lines suggested by President Barrett in so far as can consistently be done.

MEDICAL LEGISLATION.

We owe it to ourselves and to our Cause that we, as Spiritualists, take all proper and reasonable measures for the protection of our honest mediums, healers and speakers before legislative and judicial bodies.

The recommendations of President Barrett are urged upon the attention of the incoming board with view to their being carried out in so far as advisable.

We would urge upon all mediums the importance of making contributions to the General Mediums' Fund which can be used for no other purpose except for the protection and defence of their rights.

SETTLEMENT OF SPEAKERS.

We feel that this question is so interwoven with variety of circumstances, differing degrees of financial ability and dissimilarity of tastes that its decision should rest with each local society, which best understands the needs and possibilities of its own field. What is best for one locality may prove a hindrance to another one. We heartily recommend following the President's counsel, advising settled pastors in every instance where it is believed to be practicable.

MASS MEETINGS.

We suggest that the question of holding General Mass Meetings during this Association year be referred to the enlightened judgment of the next Board of Trustees, asking it to remember that some of our most active State Associations have been born at such gatherings.

CUBA AND PORTO RICO.

We rejoice over the spread of truth in all parts of the world, and would encourage co-operation with our brothers and sisters in Cuba and Porto Rico and commend that the incoming Board be instructed to carry out such plans as in their judgment will promote the well-being of the Cause in those countries.

SPIRITUALISM AT ST. LOUIS IN 1904.

We, your Committee, most heartily concur with the President's recommendation that the incoming Board be empowered to act in conjunction with the existing societies of that city to take such steps as will secure a dignified, scholarly and spiritual presentation of Spiritualism during the entire season of the Exposition.

AN INTERNATIONAL SPIRITUALIST CONGRESS.

We, your Committee, heartily concur with President Barrett's recommendation to abandon the idea of an International Spiritualist Congress during the St. Louis Exposition, but hope that the thought may be kept in mind until at some future time it may be accomplished.

HOME CIRCLES.

We most heartily endorse President Barrett's position as to the importance of Home, and would add to them, Neighborhood Circles, and believe our State and Local Associations should make the promotion of their establishment a feature of their work, safeguarding the participants in them by distribution of carefully prepared directions for their conduct and advising the study of the writings bearing thereon, of Andrew Jackson Davis, J. S. Loveland, Hudson Tuttle, W. H. Bach and others of our well-known authors.

POST OFFICE MISSION.

We endorse all our President says on this matter, and recommend that Spiritualists file their names and P. O. Address with the Secretary of their own State Association, who shall be requested to forward duplicates to the headquarters of the N. S. A., and we would refer the recommendation of the President to the incoming Board with power to act according to their judgment and discretion.

PROTECTION OF OUR CAUSE.

We recommend to the Spiritualists of our country careful consideration of the President's suggestions under this head, and believe that the welfare of the N. S. A. and respect for and advancement of our Cause depend upon morality of life, honorable methods of business conduct and honest mediumistic practices by the adherents of our Cause. Less than these means disgrace and speedy dissolution of this and its auxiliary bodies.

SOME SPECIAL NEEDS.

Surely there is no greater need for the perpetuity and efficacy of our organization than the vitality afforded by young progressive workers and we recommend the attention of Spiritualists to the advantages to be gained by properly conducted Lyceums, The Morris Pratt Institute and Reading Circles.

We most heartily endorse the President's recommendation for the necessity of dignifying the presentation of the various phases of demonstration and guarding their sacredness.

ENDOWMENT FUND.

We concur in our President's presentation of the very great need for the establishment of an Endowment Fund to aid in extending the work of the N. S. A. We do not agree fully with the plan he recommends for immediate creation thereof. Such an attempt should be extended over so long a period of time and be so conducted as to divert to the least possible degree the flow of funds into the N. S. A. treasury which are sadly needed by our local and State Associations as well as the conduct of our Educational enterprises and continuation of the relief of our worthy and needy mediums. We therefore recommend that for the current year voluntary donations for this fund shall be received by whomsoever tendered, but that active solicitation for contributions thereto be confined to our well-to-do, or wealthy adherents, or friends of our Cause. This would hold in abeyance for one year the beginning of a popular or house to house canvass, in aid of this special fund.

NECROLOGY.

We would respectfully add the name of Morris Pratt to those already mentioned by President Barrett and then refer this number to the Committee on Resolutions.

SPIRITUALIST PRESS.

Recognizing the power and value of the Press, we endorse the recommendation of President Barrett to extend a vote of thanks to the different editors who have opened their columns to the N. S. A. and its subordinates during the year, and we would request the incoming board to be watchful of our interests in so far as they may be infringed upon by unwarranted interpretations of State and National laws.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND HOME OFFICE.

Your committee takes note of all our worthy President says relative to the work of the Board of Trustees, the Home Office and Treasurer Mayer, and we feel that the unanimous thanks of Spiritualists at large, and delegates here assembled are due to these able and efficient workers and we also want to especially express ourselves as grateful to Secretary Longley for her untiring efforts in promoting the good of the Cause through the Home Office and by personal efforts when and wherever possible. Treasurer Mayer is to the N. S. A. as a "corner stone" and is so recognized by all who come in touch with the work.

SPECIAL RECOMMENDATION.

All these recommendations we most heartily endorse and would request the incoming Board to see they are carried out as promptly and fully as possible.

PRESIDENT BARRETT.

Our hearts are with our noble President, and we feel he has filled the office with dignity and honor.

No one can estimate the extent of his labors, nor the effect of labor done under such circumstances as has characterized the past year. He will ever be enrolled in the hearts of American Spiritualists as one to whom we owe more for the recognition of the N. S. A. than the present generation can comprehend.

May his foot-steps be guided by the angels and peace and comfort mark his remaining years.

Committee.

The Cost of Delay.

Painting costs more than necessary when repainting is too long delayed. The moral of this is that repainting should be done too soon rather than too late. If a building is properly painted with good paint in the beginning and a fresh coat is applied before the old coat is "done for," there is scarcely any limit to the durability of the protective coating.

Paint is held in place by linseed oil. Linseed oil, in drying, oxidizes and becomes tough and elastic; but as time goes on the oxidation continues, the toughness changes to hardness, the elasticity to brittleness. Then the paint begins to break away and to flake off. The only way to prevent this letting go of the undercoat is to keep it protected from the oxygen of the air by applying fresh oil paint. That is all there is to the cracking and peeling of paint—keep the oil alive. A good combination zinc paint applied to a dry surface has been known to hold well for twenty years. But whether five years or fifty years, the time comes when the oil is dead and the paint breaks its hold on the wood.

It should be repainted before this time arrives to save the life of the oil beneath and enable it to maintain its hold. Loss of lustre is the sure sign of decay in the oil, and when the lustre disappears, or in painters' parlance, when the paint "goes dead," the time for repainting is at hand. If allowed to proceed too far, repainting will only hasten the calamity. The fresh paint will pull off the dead paint.

It is economical to use a paint like those based on zinc, which carry much oil, because they go far and hold their lustre for a long time; but if the higher oil is fully to deteriorate to proceed to the breaking point; because that means the expense of removing the old paint. The wise property owner will save on something other than paint.

Stanton Dudley.

Report of Committee on Secretary's Report.

We, the Committee appointed to review the Secretary's report, would most respectfully report as follows:

We find the report very full and concise and worthy of commendation and to be accepted with a vote of thanks to our Secretary, Mrs. Longley, for her efficient work.

We recommend that a vote of thanks be tendered the Editors of the following Spiritualist papers for the courtesies rendered the N. S. A. through their columns: The Banner of Light, The Progressive Thinker, The Light of Truth, the Sunflower, the Philosophical Journal, and the Liberator.

We recommend the Library feature of the work and recommend its continuance and extension as opportunity offers.

We recommend that where societies are unreasonably negligent in reporting to the N. S. A., that they be recommended to the special notice of our missionaries, State Associations, or Sister Societies, and that the utmost leniency be extended them until official notice of their non-existence reaches the Secretary.

We recommend on part of the N. S. A. that an effort be made to establish circuit speakers and mediums.

We heartily endorse the recommendation of the Secretary regarding the position held by our brother Hudson Tuttle. In this connection we recommend that an appropriation be made for the continuance of this work.

We heartily recommend the continuance of the Lyceum work, and the appropriation therefor.

We recommend on part of the N. S. A. a

careful investigation of all cases of alleged persecution and that aid be rendered wherever found necessary.

We further recommend that an especial effort be made on part of the N. S. A. to increase the mediums' defence by every means possible.

We note with pleasure the following:

1. The attitude of Spiritualists toward the possession of temples or churches.
2. The action of the Board of the N. S. A. by suitably marking the grave of the "Fox Sisters."
3. The action of the N. S. A. in aiding worthy mediums.
4. The generous donations of books to the N. S. A. free library.
5. The action of the Mass. State Association in publishing a list of suitable books for beginners.
6. The report of the Secretary of the hearty co-operation of the officers of the N. S. A. and of the officers of the Secretary's offices.

Last, but not least, the general demand for the distribution of tracts and pamphlets, and trust that the ability to supply the same will keep up with the demand.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

E. G. Reilly, Chairman,
Mrs. Elizabeth Schaus,
F. Shaw Gillespie,
Oscar A. Edgerly,
Mary J. Stephen,
Committee.

Report of Auditing Committee.

Your Committee have carefully examined the books and accounts with vouchers of the Secretary and Treasurer and find them correct in every detail as set forth in the printed report. Their clear and accurate statements we most thoroughly appreciate, and recognize the arduous labor of the Secretary and Treasurer. We desire to suggest that it is important that both be retained in their present positions for the ensuing year.

Dr. B. O'Dell,
H. H. Simpson,
F. H. Morrill,
Helen L. P. Russeque,
Geo. Leander Randall,
Committee.

Report Committee on Amendments.

Mr. President and Fellow Delegates: Your Committee on Amendments has carefully considered the proposed Amendments and respectfully suggests the following Amendments for your consideration:

1. Under head of Unfinished Business, Constitution, Article X, change the word "thirty" on fifth line, to "sixty," and your Committee respectfully recommends this Amendment to be adopted.
2. Your Committee respectfully suggests that a new Article be inserted in the Constitution to be called Quorum, and which shall consist of the proposed Amendment.

QUORUM.

A Quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of the majority vote of duly accredited Delegates, with the added clause, after "Delegates present and voting."

And this Article be inserted in place of Article X and Article X to be called Article XI.

AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY VOTE OF THE OHIO STATE ASSOCIATION.

Resolved, That the Officers of the National Spiritualists' Association shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, who shall be Trustees, and, with five others, constitute a Board of Nine Trustees, who shall have charge of the business affairs of the Association, and shall be chosen, by written ballot, by the duly accredited Delegates present at the regular annual Convention. Beginning with the Convention of 1903, the Officers of the Association shall be chosen in the following order and for the terms hereinafter specified: Two Trustees for four years, two Trustees for three years, Secretary, and one Trustee for two years, the President, Vice-President and Treasurer for one year. The President shall be elected annually in company with the two other officers as named in this article.

Your Committee sees no good reason for substituting the Amendment for Article 4th, and recommend its rejection.

All of which is respectfully submitted.
A. A. Kimball,
Tillie U. Reynolds,
Viola A. B. Rand,
Sarah Charles,
Geo. Mostom,
Committee.

Vice-President's Report.

To the Members of the Board of Trustees of the N. S. A.:

I herewith submit my report as acting President during the absence of Brother Barrett. On January 9, 1903, I received a communication from Brother Barrett informing me that he would be compelled to vacate his position for an indefinite period on account of the condition of his health, and asking me to perform his duties during his absence. I immediately wrote him that I would comply with his request so far as it was in my power to do so.

On Jan. 10, I received a communication from Brother Barrett and enclosed a communication from Brother Geo. W. Kates and his good wife complaining that they were refused half rates on some of the railroads they were compelled to use in their missionary work. I also received one of a similar import from Brother and Sister Sprague, through Mrs. Longley.

I immediately placed myself in communication with the Inter-State Commission. In that letter, I asked them why they discriminated against our Missionaries in this matter. In due time I received a communication from the Secretary of that body very politely informing me that they did not discriminate against us as Spiritualists, but that they would not make any rebate to the missionaries of any religious organization. The communication stated that they would only give half rates to regularly ordained ministers of congregations after they had complied with the conditions named by the various railroads over which they desired to travel. I then wrote to Mrs. Longley and stated the facts to her and the ex-committee, and in that letter requested our Treasurer, Mr. Mayer, to look into the matter in behalf of the N. S. A. In a short time I received a letter from him stating that nothing had so far been accomplished. I have no comments to make and leave the whole subject-matter in your hands.

On January, 23, Mrs. Longley wrote me in reference to the appointment of Mr. James S. Scarlett as a missionary for the N. S. A. for the state of Massachusetts. I approved of the suggestion and recommended his appointment to the Ex-Board, and from what I hear of his work, I think we will have no cause to regret our action in the matter.

On January 12, I received a communication from Jones Goldsmith of Evansville, Indiana, asking me why Mr. Frank T. Ripley had not been endorsed by our President so that he could get clerical permits to enable him to get half rates on railroads. I thought that Bro. Barrett probably had some good reason for not endorsing him. I wrote Mrs. Longley for information on the subject. I received

a reply from her stating that Mr. Barrett had the matter under consideration and that he alone was authorized to perform that duty.

April 2, I received a letter through our Secretary with an appeal to the N. S. A., to assist the Whitewater College in paying off its indebtedness amounting to \$442.00. This appeal was made by our good sister and co-worker Mrs. C. L. Stewart. Now, while I have a great deal of sympathy for such institutions, and all those who are engaged in such educational work, yet with the information I had in reference to the College, I advised the Board to consider the matter carefully, and for the reason that we have quite a number of old worn out workers to look after and care for, it would be a disgrace to neglect these old pioneers and leave them to the cold charities of the world. I was not opposed to giving them something, but not the amount they asked for.

Some time since I received a letter from the Secretary in reference to erecting headstones over the graves of Margaret and Kate Fox. I was informed that the cost would be nominal. This has been too long neglected. I gave this matter my hearty approval and recommended to the Ex-Committee the adoption of the plan proposed by Mr. Merritt.

With this brief outline of what has transpired during Brother Barrett's absence, I will close my report knowing that if I have omitted anything it will be found in the journal of our careful and efficient Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed: Thomas M. Locke,

Vice-President.

Special Committee Resolution.

In consideration of the long, valuable and valiant service of Dr. Andrew Jackson Davis, to the cause of Spiritualism, not only in its influence in America, but throughout the entire civilized world:

Be it resolved: That we, the delegates assembled in the Eleventh Annual Convention of the N. S. A., do hereby acknowledge the great service which he has rendered, not only to the cause of Spiritualism, but as well to the general upliftment of human interests, that we look to him with profoundest feelings of thankfulness for his valuable books, filled with scientific, religious and philosophical instructions, to his long and useful life, devoted to human progress, as well as to his staunch and constant devotion to the highest and best in Spiritualism, and furthermore that this Convention extend to him its hearty congratulations for his good health, and its most earnest and sincere thoughts for the continuance of mundane life and its fullest enjoyment.

Hon. Charles E. Schirm,

Rev. F. A. Wiggin,

Dr. Geo. A. Fuller,

Committee.

To the Universalist National Conference.

Brethren:

We, the Spiritualists of America in National Convention assembled, hereby extend to the officers and delegates of your General Conference, our fraternal greetings and assurances of hearty good will.

May peace and harmony prevail in all your deliberations and all your efforts to aid your fellow men, be crowned with success.

Yours in bonds of fellowship,

The National Spiritualists' Association.

By the Secretary.

By the President.

Hunting in the Maine Woods. Law Off on Moose, Oct. 15.

The rush is on! Hundreds are now journeying towards the Maine woods. The sportsman who has tired at blazing at the numerous deer, is now waiting for a shot at the big fellows. The law was off on Moose last Thursday, and this giant of the forest, the king of the Maine woods, is crashing through the brush of the celebrated Moosehead, Aroostook, Bangor and Washington County Regions, pursued by the enthusiastic Nimrod. Get your gun and enjoy a week or two in Maine's timberlands. Health and sport await you. Send a two cent stamp to the General Passenger Department, Boston & Maine R. R., Boston, for the beautiful illustrated booklet, called "Fishing & Hunting." It tells all about the game region of Maine and New Brunswick.

Announcements.

The Boston Spiritual Lyceum will open for the fall and winter on Sunday, Nov. 1, at 1.30 p. m. at Berkeley Hall, corner of Berkeley and Tremont Sts. As we intend to have it a Lyceum for spiritual advancement, we hope that all interested in that line of work will join with us to help carry on the good and noble work. Let us have a full attendance at that time and place.—J. B. Hatch, conductor; E. B. Packard, clerk; W. J. Colville, Dr. George W. Cairns will speak in the Odian Hall, St. Louis, Sunday, Nov. 1, for the Spiritual Society, by invitation of the pastor, Prof. W. F. Peck.

Lynn Spiritualists' Association, Cadet Hall, Alex. Caird, M. D., president. Services at 2.30 and 7.30. Sunday, Nov. 1, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Kates, missionaries for the N. S. A., will begin a month's engagement with this Society. Mr. Kates is well known all over the country as one of the most able lecturers engaged in the work and Mrs. Kates is one of the finest test mediums before the public. Circles will be held from 4 to 5, followed by supper, song service and concert by Chase's orchestra. Mr. and Mrs. Kates will also be present every Wednesday during the month at the Ladies' Social Union, Mrs. Dr. Caird, president, which meets in the lower hall. A circle is held at 3, supper at 6.15 and test seance in the evening. A cordial welcome is extended to all mediums and friends.

E. J. Bowtell gives chess lectures at Unity Hall, Main St., New London, Conn., on Sundays at noon and holds parlor meetings at the residence of Mrs. M. Williams, corner Warren, off Coleman Sts., on Wednesday evenings. Sunday subjects announced are: Oct. 18, Divine Power in Man. Thought Force, Will Force. 25, Power of Silence. Nov. 1, Self Reliance. Trust in God. Unseen Helpers. 8, Practical Methods of Self Development. 15, Psychism, Occultism, Mysticism. 22, Obstacles and Way of Progression. 29, The Soul's Triumph. Address 26 Pequot Ave., New London, Conn.

W. J. Colville commences a series of lectures in San Francisco and Oakland, Cal., Sunday, Nov. 1, when services will be held in Flood Bldg., Market St., San Francisco, at 3 p. m. and in Loring Hall, 11th St., Oakland, at 7.30 p. m. Subject in both places "Ideals and How to Realize Them," followed by impromptu poem. All letters, etc., for W. J. Colville till further notice can be addressed Room 11, Flood Bldg., Market St., San Francisco.

Mrs. Clara B. Strong, president of the Sunshine Club, holds public circles as follows: Sundays at Armory Hall, 67 Warren St., Roxbury. At 11 a. m., morning circle; 12.30 p. m., Sunday School; services 3 p. m. and 7.30 p. m.—A. M. S., sec.

Mrs. Lizzie D. Butler of Lynn, test medium, will serve the First Spiritualists' Society, Fitchburg, Mass., Sunday, Nov. 1.