

COMMUNITY'S

Or, Standard

▲ PERIODICAL DEVOTED TO THE POLITICAL.
CONDITIONS OF MEN; CONTAINING
AND DOMESTIC



JOURNAL ;

Of Truth.

MORAL, SPIRITUAL, RELIGIOUS, AND PHYSICAL
HISTORY, SCIENCE, ARTS, FOREIGN
INTELLIGENCE, ETC.

PART I.—VOL. I]

For the week ending Saturday, June 13th, 1857.

[PRICE 1D.]

TO OUR READERS.

WHEN laying a new periodical before the public, but few observations are necessary to be made by way of address; suffice it therefore to say, that the proprietors of this journal call upon a generous public to give them a portion of their patronage and support; and, at the same time, pledge themselves to pay the strictest attention to the editorial, and every other department connected with its publication, and to endeavour to maintain strictly the title affixed at the head; and thus produce a journal which cannot be surpassed for facts and intelligence, and which shall be increased in size as soon as its circulation will warrant such a step: and, as the rights of man will be duly and fearlessly advocated, we commit its pages to the careful perusal of all, with fervent and buoyant hopes of success.

POLITICAL RIGHTS AND INCREASING DEPRAVITY.

What are the political rights of man; or, from what source does the increasing depravity of youth, maturity and old age owe its origin? The rampant increase of crime and wickedness, in all their varieties of form, call aloud upon every honest, virtuous, and well-meaning individual, to search with ardour for the cause of these evils before endeavouring to devise a remedy. If every man possessing a sound intellect, was permitted to have a voice in sending their law-makers to parliament, many of the evils which now exist would be speedily erased. For men whose capacity in life makes them eye witnesses of the depravity which rages in every locality, would use their exertions to pluck the rising generations from this state of ignorance, and then, on attaining manhood, they would learn to appreciate their political rights and privileges; and thus the nation would become instructed in the path of virtue and morality, instead of growing as a monster in vice and crime. But those who are now entrusted to frame the laws, which they endeavour to compel all to obey, are utterly separated from the moral

and social conditions of nine-tenths of the people. They never penetrate the crowded labyrinths of poverty, vice, and crime; nor are their ears accustomed to hear the volumes of ignorance and wretched elamour which ascend continually from these dens of infamy. No! they keep themselves aloof, and are contented to live in luxury and idleness, heedless of the squalid wretchedness and ignorance which are now so prevalent in every part of the kingdom; and assemble in parliament, make long speeches upon the prosperity of the country, and the condition of the people; and only scoff at the journals which endeavour to lay the true state of the people before them.

All this and much more evil arises through the present system or form of government; for the men who are now sent to parliament to represent the people, are directly opposed to the interests of that people; when, if the people were universally consulted, they could send men who would duly study the welfare of the masses, and not the individual interest of the men who hold the power of the nation, and to whom the present members act with obedience and servility only becoming to an American slave. Then away with property qualifications for members of Parliament! Away with the present jobbery of buying and selling votes! The people are the source to which the nation owes its wealth and power, and they should demand their political rights, retrenchment, universal suffrage, disqualification by property, paid members of Parliament, and vote by ballot. Crime and poverty would then decrease, and the nation would flourish in wealth, strength, and commercial enterprize.

J. B.

THE COMET PANIC

Our readers may readily perceive that we do not place much faith in the destruction of the earth by the great comet which is predicted by a French writer to come in collision with our globe on the 13th of June, 1857; for, through a circumstance over which we have no control, the first part of this journal was decided to be issued on

that specific day; therefore, should the world really be destroyed, our subscribers will pardon the discontinuation of this journal, with our seeming effrontery for presuming to select such a day. But, to return to the comet.—For the last several months the public papers have teemed with accounts describing the confusion and consternation which exists amongst the inhabitants in parts of France, Germany, Africa, Asia, and other parts of the world; and even in our own land excitement has prevailed to a considerable extent, until learned men have given lengthy lectures, clergymen have preached long sermons, and others have written pamphlets upon this absorbing subject; and though the lecturer, the parson, and the writers have entered into minute details as to the origin and results of these phenomena, yet each of them has left their readers and hearers in the same state of mysterious wonder and ignorance as to the result of the object or subject referred to. They merely state that from the past experience of eminent learned men, comets have invariably been the forerunners of some terrible calamity or epidemic; and this we have history to confirm, and is generally known amongst the reading community: and though these gentlemen have endeavoured to show the people the improbability of such a catastrophe, yet they acknowledge it is possible such may occur, and even refer their readers to the ancient scriptural prophecies of Daniel, Ezekiel, St. John, and other prophets, to prove that the time of the end is near, and state that the said prophecies declare that signs and wonders shall manifest themselves, and calamities visit the earth before the end. But, though the end may be nigh, no one hath power to know it, not even the angels in heaven. Still, notwithstanding these assertions, the clergymen in their sermons, bid their congregations to be watchful; while the lecturers and writers believe a change is near at hand, and therefore, after all the arguments they have enforced to caution the people against believing in the coming calamities, they leave the people in the dark as much as ever, and their lectures, sermons, and pamphlets, are calculated to produce more excitement and alarm in the minds of the people than they would otherwise have had. Still, they accomplish a great work, unknown to, or unintended by themselves; and, though we, for many reasons, do not believe in the destruction of the world, at all, yet we firmly believe that a great and marvellous change is working; and, ere a few years have elapsed, the world will prove these facts; for, prior to the end, the scriptures declare there shall be wars and rumours of wars; for nation shall rise against nation, class against class; the father against the son, and the son against the father, and divers other signs shall manifest themselves; and when these things shall come to pass, know ye that the end is nigh.

THE OUTCAST FAMILY;
OR,
THE VICTIMS OF TREACHERY;
OR,
SCENES IN REAL LIFE.

CHAPTER I.—*The Desolate Home.*

In the county of Cambridge, on the road leading from the market town of Haverhill to the popular racing

town of Newmarket, about mid-way, or six miles from the last-named place, stands the romantic little village of B—— Green. The place itself, in the summer season, presents a cheering aspect to the stranger; for, at both entrances, the tall and waving poplars, with the lofty spreading ashes, stand out in bold relief above the houses, as if to give a hearty welcome to the wayfarer, as he enters this rustic but rural place. Its gardens, set out in the best of order, and adorned with the most innocent flowers and shrubs; while, in the centre of the village, is a large green, or common, on which numberless geese and donkeys, belonging to the peasantry, may be seen grazing. The whitewashed cottages, with their thatched roofs, covered with green moss, or the brown tinted houseleek, with the creeping honeysuckle and roses clustering around their doors and windows, present a scene rarely to be met with in any country but England; and yet, in this seeming earthly paradise, endowed so richly with the beauties of nature, that most hideous of all monsters, poverty, stalked about with all its ghastly horrors, although, during the summer months, it is but little heeded, though keenly felt. But, when the summer, as if weary of its long display of grandeur, begins to wane, and the autumn winds drift its luxuriant foliage from vegetation, then the poor peasant feels the horrors of the approaching winter with renewed dread and anxiety; for, in the villages, the intensity of the cold is felt with far more keenness by the peasantry than by those who inhabit the crowded localities of towns and cities, for there are no lofty buildings to shelter the frail cottages from the blast of the chilling wintry storm. No, their mud walls, and thatched roofs, with their ground or brick floors, are frequently saturated with wet, so that the lord of the manor, or squire, who owns them, would not deem them suitable places even for his horses, cows, or pigs; and yet receives a rent from the peasant for such miserable hovels. The village of B—— Green is remarkable for clay-walled cottages and thatched roofs, and in one of these miserable hovels dwelt the family concerning whom this narrative is written.

In the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty-six, there was then living in the parish of B—— Green, amongst other families, two, whose names were respectively Seargent and Smith; but, as the latter-named family will figure more conspicuously in these columns than the former, we will leave the Seargents for the present, and describe the family of the Smiths.

James Smith was a man about thirty years of age, proportionately built, and had been a farmer's servant, and continued to earn his living by agricultural labour. About 4 years prior to the time from which this narrative is dated, he was married and settled in this parish; and, at the time of which we are writing, he had a wife and two small children, and in the winter of 1826 and 27, we find poverty raging in the house of Smith, and many others in the village; for there was a hard frost upon the ground, labour scarce, and provisions high; and at such a time poverty in the agricultural districts is extremely severe.

The cottage where Smith resided was only separated by a wooden fence from a capacious farm yard, in which pigs and poultry could be seen in superabundance; and, although Smith and his family had passed days in this

cottage, in that severe weather, without fuel or food for himself or family, yet he did not attempt to satisfy their wants by dishonest means, until driven by desperation to the last extremity. It was about seven o'clock on a Saturday night in the month of January, 1827, when Smith and his wife, with a child on each of their knees, sat huddled together in one of the spacious chimney corners, without fire or without light, the children crying for food, and poor Mrs. Smith half famishing herself, vainly endeavouring to console them. At length, during the interval of the child's cries, which had just ceased, Mrs. Smith said—"Do you think, James, he has come home yet?" This was addressed to her husband, who said—"When I was there at six o'clock, Mrs. P. told me he had not returned from Cambridge market, and she could do nothing for me herself." Mr. P. was the parish overseer, who was a farmer in the village, and who had gone to Cambridge market, and at six o'clock, when Smith went for relief, he had not returned; hence the conversation between Smith and his wife. "I tell you Hetta," he said, addressing his weeping wife, "I shall not stand it much longer, whether he comes or not, you, nor my children, shall starve no longer, for food and fuel I am resolved to have this night by fair means or foul, and neither of the shops will trust me any more, so the only course I have, if the overseer refuses me, is to"—. Before Smith could finish speaking, heavy footsteps were heard in front of the house, and the next moment the door opened, and a man with a firm clear voice said as he entered—"Hallo! Jim, what no fire or no light a cold night like this! Why it will make icicles of you before long! What in the world ails you all, you are all crying, have you no firing or no candle?" "No," said Smith, half choking, "and what is worse, we have no food, and our children are dying for want." At the sound of these words the new comer groped his way till he found the table, on which he threw a half crown, saying, as he did so, for he was familiar with them—"Here, Hetta, girl, go and fetch as much to eat as that will buy, and while you go I will fetch some wood and we will have a fire and light, and drive this freezing air out of the house." "James was just going to the overseer," observed Mrs. Smith. "Don't bother with him," said the new comer, "but do as I tell you, then you will be able to set about any thing in earnest, but a man has no heart with a hungry belly." With these words he left the house, and in a few minutes returned with a faggot of sticks, and after a little further conversation Mrs. Smith went to the village shop and purchased bread, bacon, &c., sufficient for a substantial meal. The fire was lighted, a thin candle burnt upon the table, and that wretched cottage now exhibited a cheerful appearance. The new comer, or timely friend, we beg leave to introduce as Samuel Seargent, one of the family before alluded to; whether he was a real friend or not will be seen in future chapters.

CHAPTER II.

Temptation, or the First Adventure.

WHILE the fire is blazing, and Mrs. Smith is preparing their heaven-sent meal, we will here pause to describe the interior of the cottage and the appearance of Sear-

gent. The cottage itself was remarkably clean, and showed every symptom of industry; the walls white as snow, and the white bricks of the floor were washed scrupulously clean, and the furniture consisted of a few articles of ancient origin, which were bright and free from dust. Mrs. Smith, herself, notwithstanding her care-worn features, was remarkably clean, and symptoms of rustic beauty and cheerfulness might be traced in her countenance, which now, through poverty, were faded, pale, and wan. The man Seargent, was about twenty-two years of age, of the middle height, and of athletic stature, features broad, with a fierce expression, though lively in his conversation. Before Mrs. Smith had pronounced supper ready, Seargent and Smith had entered into conversation, in which Smith related the sufferings of himself, wife, and family, through the severity of the weather preventing him from work, to which Seargent listened with profound attention, and exhibited great sympathy for their position. A proof of his sincerity they had already witnessed. Seargent, himself, was a man who, ever since he had reached maturity, had formed a dislike for work, and obtained a living no one knew how, though many suspected, while others knew that he obtained much by the catching of game, and was therefore known in the parish as a notorious poacher. During the last few weeks, while Smith, through the frost, had been unemployed, he and Seargent were frequently seen in company together. This caused much ill feeling in the parish against Smith, who, up to this time, had been looked upon as a steady and industrious man, but who was now fast losing his character and good estimation of his neighbours. Mrs. Smith frequently remonstrated with her husband on account of the intimacy he had formed with Seargent; but he said "he had never seen anything wrong, with the exception of Seargent now and then catching a hare, or shooting a pheasant, and he did not think that was any real crime." "But they will make a crime of it if ever you are caught with him," said Mrs. Smith, "so pray leave his company before you get into any trouble." Poor woman, little did she think what grief, anxiety, troubles, and misfortune her husband's acquaintance with this man would bring down upon himself and his wife and family; and little also did he himself think of the terrible period of suffering and escapes, both at home, abroad, on sea and land, which awaited him, and that these sufferings would be experienced in company with that man who had allured him from the path of virtue and morality, to follow that of vice and crime. But so it was; and, as these columns are perused, our readers will have to follow them to the prison, from thence again to the native village; after which, through crime, to the dock-yard and convict hulks, and from thence across the stormy ocean, to a land of terror, now known as Botany Bay, where many perilous adventures occurred; their escape and flight through the bush; encounters with savages; the death of one, and the arrival of the other at a port where, after many privations and singular occurrences which will be duly described, he embarked on board a Dutch vessel bound homeward, and, after a tedious voyage, was wrecked upon the coast of Ireland, taken up by Irish fishermen, his life barely saved, and borne to the fisherman's hut, and survived for a few weeks without making known the

abode or locality of his friends, employing his time, while able, in writing; and, after about eight weeks, he died, from the effects of the shock he received during the wreck, and under his head was found a brief sketch of all his perilous adventures, on the outside of which was the address of his own wife, to whom the fisherman kindly forwarded by some person whom they could entrust, to this country, and in due course it was forwarded to his friends, from whom the author of this narrative received the particulars, he being a native of that village and well acquainted with all the circumstances connected with the facts, which will be duly recorded.

Having thus far introduced the subject of the narrative, we will now return to Smith's cottage, in which we left Mrs. Smith preparing supper, and Seargent and Smith in conversation, their chief topic being on the circumstance of the sufferings of Smith and his family, to which Seargent, after several unimportant remarks, said—"You are a fool, Jim, to sit here and allow yourself and wife to perish with cold and hunger, while there is plenty of meat wants eating and wood wants burning; the fact is, I have made up my mind not to be hungry, nor yet be without money, while there is a hare or a pheasant in the woods, and when there is not, why, I will find something else." "This may do very well for you," said Smith, "being a single man, but I have a wife and two children, and dare not run any such risks." "I tell you," said Seargent, "that your wife and children are the very things that should arouse you and make you forage out both for fire and food. But I see our supper is now ready, and with that and a quart of ale each from the White Hart, we shall be enabled to devise some plan to provide your house against want, for the next few days, at any rate." To these remarks Smith made no reply, and his wife did not notice or hear them, apparently, and, drawing round the table, they all partook of a hearty meal in comparative silence. As soon as the supper was ended, Seargent arose, and patting Smith upon the shoulder said—"Come my lad, let us go to Mr. Lacy's and have a pot of his best, and we can talk over a few things to ourselves." On hearing this, Mrs. Smith laid her hand upon her husband's shoulder and said, looking imploringly as she did so, "Oh, James, let me beg of you not to leave the house."

(To be continued in our next.)

IS SPIRITUALISM TRUTH OR ERROR?

To the Editor of the Community's Journal.

Sir,—This subject is engrossing much attention in this country, and in other parts of Europe and America; and though none of the public leading journals, with the exception of the "Morning Advertiser," have given it any publicity, either advocating it or ridiculing it, yet it is fast gaining ground: and the "Daily Times," a few weeks since, had an article upon the subject, not ridiculing it, but merely stating that it wished the Yorkshire men would devote their time to something more advantageous, or that the spirits would reveal something for the future, to compete with the electric telegraph, or painting by sunbeams, or anything that would prove of real service to the nation in future, instead of meddling with the past, or things which are useless to know. But

whether the editor of the "Times" ever saw any spiritual revelations on the future, I cannot say, but learning that you are about to issue a new periodical, to be devoted to the general instruction of man, on all matters of importance, I beg leave to be permitted a small space in your journal for the insertion of a few facts connected with spiritual manifestations which cannot be denied.

I have three pamphlets before me containing spiritual revelations on the late war with Russia, in which can be traced the most positive proofs of their truthfulness.

In one, bearing the date, Oct. 1853, it is positively stated that war, or hostilities, would really occur, in defiance of the newspaper assertions to the contrary.

In another, it is declared that England would be compelled to render her assistance to the Turks; but this should only for a time impede the progress of the Northern chief.

In another, bearing the same date, which is given in reply to a question, "Why England withholds her assistance?" it is declared "That the men who then governed the country were acting treacherously, and that their conduct would ultimately be held up to universal exposure and ridicule, and each of these are facts which every honest man will not deny. There are many others quite as striking and quite as truthfully fulfilled. In one, bearing the date of June, 1854, in answer to a question as to whether the Emperor Nicholas was the man decreed by heaven to carry out the events portrayed in ancient prophecy, in which it is positively declared that ere another winter had fled his body should return to that from whence it came. Now it is well known that, in the following February, the Emperor Nicholas died, which demonstrates the truth of spiritual manifestations beyond all doubt. I could say much more upon the subject if you could permit me space, but suffice it for the present that the language of the revelations, and the spiritual poems contained in these pamphlets, are of so beautiful a nature that any person of unprejudiced mind, who would carefully read them, would no longer allow a doubt to exist in his mind as to the truth of spiritual manifestations. The books should be read by all earnest seekers after truth on this absorbing subject, and the pamphlets give every instruction as to their origin and genuineness of dates, and trusting that you will allow me a space in your next issue for a few further remarks on this important topic.

I remain, dear Sir, yours respectfully,

A friend to truth,

Birmingham, May 25, 1857.

W. W.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

A private telegraphic despatch received in Paris, from Trieste, states that the native town, Rangoon, was totally destroyed by fire previous to April 11th. The loss, it is said, will fall principally upon the natives.—*Paris Paper.*

Cost of Royalty—Do the people of England, generally, know that to support royalty it costs them yearly one million pounds sterling, and that the nett income of the queen is £385,000 per year; and yet, with all this, the country is called upon, and in fact is made to pay to the Prince of Prussia £40,000 as a marriage dowry, for

wedding the princess royal of England. When will this injustice cease? The people now know, let them take steps to check such extravagance.

An Infant Soldier.—A letter from St. Petersburg, of the 15th, states, that the new-born Grand Duke has been named chief of the second battallion of riflemen of the regiment of infantry of Tobolsk. The young prince has also been inscribed on the muster rolls of the regiment Preobajenski of the first regiment of artillery, and of the rifle regiment of the Imperial households. All these troops belong to the body guard. The gallant officer is about four weeks old. What a species of royal nonsense is this.

Life amongst the Mormons.—The New York correspondent of the "Daily News" writes as follows: "The last accounts from the Great Salt Lake represent matters in that quarter as being most unsettled, and contain a narrative of startling facts, shewing that unmitigated treason, murder, arson, robbery, and forcible debauch, are every day incidents of Mormon life, and that not an effort is made to check the perpetration of any of these terrible crimes. Brigham Young was at Great Salt Lake City, organizing a secret expedition to somewhere in the north, for some purpose unknown to the Gentile world. This fact is corroborated by a despatch from St. Louis. His negotiations with the chief Poh-Utah for his co-operation in the plans of the expedition, fully explain the statement that he had been treating with the Indians for safe conduct out of the country. Women were becoming scarce in the territory, and the Mormons are consequently resorting to mere children to replenish their harems; while the most fiendish oppression is resorted to for the purpose of forcing reluctant females to become the 'spirituals' of Mormon Turks." We think the above ought to prove a timely warning to the Latter Day Saints now residing amongst the Gentiles, as their future prospects in the Great Valley betray symptoms of their overthrow. The same account reminds us of a series of revelations from the spirit of Joseph Smith, contained in a work by J. G. H. Brown, the Nottingham medium, price 1s., in which the spirit of Smith foretells the entire overthrow of the Mormons; and from the above paragraph, these predictions have every likelihood of being fulfilled, and should be read, especially by the Mormons.

Riots in Belgium.—A series of outbreaks have occurred in Belgium in consequence of a law attempting to be passed, giving the distribution of all charities into the hands of the clergy. This proved obnoxious to the people, who paraded the streets in disorder, shouting and hissing, till at length they assembled round the palace of the bishop, smashed his windows, amidst yells, groans, and hisses; but the bishop made his escape, or he would have suffered severely. The military were called out, who, with the assistance of the police, dispersed the mob. Some prisoners were taken, but the result is not yet known.

Spain.—Some serious riots have occurred in Granada in consequence of the high price of provisions. The female population chiefly endeavoured to excite the males to insurrection, who, however, did not appear to respond to their wishes. A detachment of troops were

marched into the town, and several points occupied, and a body then marched to the Plaza Nueva, who, after endeavouring to disperse the people in vain, opened fire upon them, four were wounded, the remainder fled to their homes; and at nightfall the Captain General proclaimed the city in a state of seige, threatening death to any who made use of arms, and ten years in the chain gang to others who were convicted of acts of violence. Owing to his exertions tranquillity is again restored.

A British Schooner fired into by a French Man-of-War, and an Englishman killed.—A British schooner, commanded by Captain Evans, who was beating about the Belle Isle coast in consequence of contrary winds, put into this port, where a French man-of-war was lying at anchor. The French captain hailed but was not understood by the British commander, who shouted we are from Liverpool. But at the same moment a shot from the French ship wizzed above the schooner's deck. British colours were displayed but to no effect. Another shot was fired, which created much excitement amongst the crew of the schooner, and while three of the crew were stowing away the main-sail, the third shot came and struck James Williams, one of the three men, who fell down dead. Communication was at once made to the French commander, who sent their doctor on board, but the poor man was killed upon the spot. This circumstance occurred on the 24th of May, and the inquest has not yet sat upon the body; therefore, how the affair will end is not yet known.

China.—The latest news from China is not of a very favourable nature, notwithstanding the apparent stillness and inactive operations of the British forces, the Chinese themselves are active in their preparations for defence and no material advantage has been achieved by the arms of England, although a few dastardly and bloodthirsty exploits have occurred in the destruction of a few Chinese war junks by the boats of the English. Still it is stated that the Yellow Dragon of China bids defiance to the British Lion, and before any peace can be anticipated thousands of lives are likely to be destroyed, so that the affairs altogether in this part of the world bear a cheerless and hopeless aspect.

France.—Great excitement is now prevailing in Paris in consequence of the great election which is to come off on the 21st of this month, June. But according to newspaper reports, the universal suffrage, as will be there employed, will be little better than a mockery, as there are so many government candidates to be elected, who must obtain seats in the legislative assembly. The voters can only give their votes to these specified personages; therefore the suffrage will be of little avail to them under such restrictions, as the result will ultimately prove.

AN ADDRESS TO THE MEMBERS FORMING THE COMMUNITY OF THE GREAT ORGANIZATION.

To the Editor of the Community's Journal.

Sir,—We, the spiritual circle established at Nottingham, having received instructions for the foundation of the Great Universal Organization, by enrolling members

who will pledge themselves to resist all worldly delusions, and to unite their energies solely for the welfare of their fellow creatures and the glory of God, each member being in possession of a printed code of rules, and large numbers having enrolled themselves from various parts of the kingdom, seeing that the object of enrolment is, that they may receive truths and lead lives of justice and honour, and be a people prepared for the Lord; we, learning that your Journal is to be devoted to the moral and spiritual conditions of men, and having an apropos title to our great cause, beg leave that you will admit a space in your columns for a few words to the enrolled members of the Community, and the non-enrolled of our fellow creatures, so that your journal may become an organ for diffusing the great and glorious truths our members are instructed to advocate; and, at the same time, that our members may receive instruction themselves, as we now find that the increasing numbers make it impossible to correspond with them privately; and as the principles we are pledged to advocate are founded on truth, reason, justice, and honour, we have no wish to conceal them from public scrutiny.

The enrolled members therefore who reside in the different districts of the United Kingdom are respectfully informed that, for the future, instead of putting them to the unnecessary expence of postage in sending their weekly contributions, one person will be appointed by the committee to preside in the principal town of each district, with full authority to enroll members and receive their contributions and post them in one remittance to the circle at head quarters. And that no amount, however small, if only one penny per month, can be refused; and that whoever shall enroll themselves and be unable to continue their payments, such person shall not be excluded, but shall be entitled to participate in all the privileges to which the members will be entitled, as specified in the printed rules, after the coming change is apparent. And that no member, either male or female, shall be connected with any political association; neither shall they participate in any civic demonstration, strife, or contention; nor shall they assist in breaking the national laws, or act in defiance of worldly authority, nor connect themselves with religious communities of the present day, and thus be allured into bigotted ignorance and hypocrisy, but to unite themselves in the fear of God, with true charity towards all men and endeavour to lead their neighbours in the path which leadeth to happiness and rest. And that they may be instructed in the fear and love of God, and be endowed with wisdom and understanding, so as to comprehend and appreciate the great and glorious truths of universal worship, each member will be in possession of a printed code of Divine Ordinance or worship, consisting of hymns, prayers, and exhortations, revealed from heaven for the special purpose, that the head of every family may make his house his church, and so be a people prepared for the Lord, and thus the members may see that the only object of the Organization is to prepare the minds of the people for the coming change which is near at hand, and avoid the possibility of enveloping themselves in political or social contention, but to live and labour for the glory of God and the welfare of their fellow creatures, and to remember that the

funds contributed will be devoted to spreading the great truths into every corner of the kingdom. So that all classes, independent of their grade, station, position, or creed, may be instructed in the path of wisdom, and avail themselves of the blessings God has ordained for them to enjoy. And to prove to the world that no person connected with the circle or community shall appropriate the funds to any or all of their individual uses, the books will be left open for their inspection, upon reasonable grounds being given for this inconvenience, and a balance sheet will be published in the columns of this Journal, at intervals, to show the amount of each contribution, and that it is expended only in the cause for which it is contributed. And any member can receive all necessary information in connexion with the community on application to the address given on each of their printed code of rules in order that the readers of this Journal who have not heard of the Great Organization, or who do not understand the meaning of the coming great change they are respectfully referred to the "Scriptural Magazine," and "Warning Message from the World of Spirits," in which all the calamities which are decreed to fall upon the earth prior to the coming of Christ and His glorious reign are duly portrayed.

With these words I bid adieu to the members till the next issue of this journal, when further instructions will be given in compliance with information received by the circle.

And now, dear sir, trusting that you will pardon me for thus far occupying a space in your journal, and hoping a space will be allotted to this cause in your next issue,

I subscribe myself,

Yours respectfully,

J. G. H. BROWN, *Medium*.

(Signed) T. P. SLEATH, *Secretary*,

In behalf of the Spiritual Circle held at Walker Street, Sneyton, Nottingham.

A MILITARY EXECUTION.

CHAPTER I.

Severity of Martial Law.

About the year 1836, or during the period that General Sir Lionel Smith commanded the forces in the Windward and Leeward Islands of the West Indies, the exact date I do not now remember, but the 89th, regiment of Foot was, at the time in question, stationed on the Island of Barbadoes, their head quarters occupying a position known as the Stone Barracks. This regiment at the time was noted, by the other troops in the garrison, as remarkable for its strictness in discipline and severity of the officers, who exhibited much unnecessary tyranny over the men, and this tyranny existed in every rank from the lance corporal to the colonel of the regiment; and as the men chiefly consisted of the sons of the Emerald Isle, and who freely indulged in the new and cheap rum, they were frequently excited, and much addicted to bloodthirsty acts amongst themselves and other soldiers of the garrison, to whom the regiment was known, by the somewhat appropos appellation, as Lord Blancy's

Bloodhounds, on account of their, at some former period, being commanded by a Nobleman of that name. In one of the companies of the 89th regiment, was a man named Spruen, a native of Ireland, he was about 26 years of age, very active, and when sober, a clean, industrious, and an obedient soldier; but when under the influence of drink he was violent and abusive, frequently in trouble and doing punishment drill, or serving imprisonment, and had gained for himself the obnoxious name of an habitual drunkard. The eyes of every non-commissioned officer and officer of the regiment were upon him, and Spruen seldom had the liberty to mingle or enjoy himself with his comrades. At length however his conduct having somewhat improved he was released from confinement, and in the evening went out with his comrades and he, after a lengthy confinement drank deeply of the intoxicating liquor, fell out with his comrades, who left him until he was brought in by an escort, placed in the guard room, and the next morning being for guard, was found a prisoner in the guard room, for being drunk when for duty. On being brought before the commanding officer he remonstrated with him on the consequences of his conduct; to which Spruen listened attentively, and was about to promise better conduct, when the adjutant stepped forward and began describing Spruen's character, as being deserving of severe punishment. At this Spruen became excited, raised his left hand, pushed the adjutant aside, saying as he did so; "Stand back, sir, when you are called upon it is time enough for you to speak." At this, the adjutant appealed to the colonel, and sergeant-major, who, with other persons, were present, saying;—"You are witness that this man has struck me in the execution of my duty, as the adjutant of the regiment." They assented to his appeal, and the adjutant demanded that he should be sent back a prisoner to the guard room, and that a general court martial should be applied for, which was accordingly done. The court assembled, and Spruen arraigned for the most serious crime a soldier can commit, viz:—striking a superior officer. The witnesses swore to the offence being committed, and, as one of the witnesses was the Colonel of the regiment, the prisoner was found guilty and sentenced to be shot to death by musketry. On his trial Spruen declared that he did not strike the adjutant, nor had he any intention to injure him. Two witnesses on his behalf, swore that he did not strike but merely pushed the officer with the back of his fingers, open-handed; but the colonel, the sergeant-major, and the adjutant himself, swore positively that he was struck, and their oaths counterbalanced those of Spruen and his witnesses, and though he pleaded innocent to the charge of striking, the court found him guilty and sentence of death was passed upon him, as above described, and he was accordingly conducted to the condemned cell to await the verdict and sentence of the court being approved by the home authorities. The garrison of Barbadoes is beautifully situated in an elevated position some three hundred yards or more to the right of Carlisle Bay, as you enter, which is the main port or harbour of the Island. The garrison consists of three large barracks known as the New Brick Barracks, the Artillery Barracks, Stone Barracks, and arsenal, enclosing an area of some hundred and fifty acres,

the centre of which is called the Savannah, a grassy plain, and used as a drill ground. On the main road leading from the town of St. Anns, through the garrison towards Ostend, is the Commissariat Stores, to the right; a few yards further, is an elevated spot, to the left, on which stands the Artillery Barracks, the Garrison Office, and the main guard house; while immediately to the right, opposite the main guard house, is a road leading to the sea coast, and the dock yard; while to the left of this road, and at the back of the Stone Barracks, is the sandy beach which lies for a considerable distance between the sea and the government buildings, and this piece of sandy waste, overrun with prickly pear bushes and other shrubs peculiar to the climate, is used as the garrison burial ground. I have thus far described the garrison of Barbadoes, so that the reader may understand how the troops were formed on the day of execution. After Spruen's conviction and condemnation, he exhibited the most reckless hardihood, for it was generally believed throughout the garrison that he would not suffer death, but escape with transportation for life, and he himself believed this to the very last. For several weeks during his confinement, the Roman Catholic priest paid him daily visits, exhorting him to prepare himself for death, but Spruen still maintained his belief in having his life spared, for much sympathy was manifested for him throughout the garrison, and few there were who believed him guilty of the charge for which he was condemned to die. During the interval which elapsed from his trial and the arrival of the packet which would bring the news and seal his fate, the officers of his own regiment, and other officers of the garrison, drew up a petition in behalf of the condemned man, and sent it by a deputation to the general, knowing that he had the power even should the sentence be approved of, to relieve or respite; and the petition prayed that he, the General, Sir Lionel Smith, would spare his life. Sir Lionel Smith was a man of calm and cool deliberation, a strict disciplinarian, stern in purpose, and when once decided, never swerved from what he considered a just decision, and on reading over the petition, without making any remarks upon their request, he simply enquired in a cool deliberate voice, "Were the officers who formed the members of the court which tried this man, gentlemen, and worthy of bearing his Majesty's commission?" This was a question which the deputation were unprepared for, but which they felt compelled to answer in the affirmative. "And did those gentlemen do their duty?" enquired the general, sternly; "They were sworn to do so." This question also somewhat staggered them, but to save the honor of the court and the service, they answered again, "Yes." "Then," said Sir Lionel Smith, "what would you have me do? You have tried this man, and, judging that the evidence against him was truthful, in justice to the service, to martial law, and the articles of war, you have found him guilty, and as his crime, according to the articles of war, merits death, you have sentenced him to die, and have done your duty only, as you acknowledge, and now appeal to me to neglect mine, an officer as I am, appointed by the crown to see the law executed in all cases, according to the nature and degree of the offence. Therefore, if they were gentlemen who tried him, and have done their

duty, I will do mine, and will make this particular case as an example for the future. If you had wished not to take the man's life, he could have been punished otherwise, by regimental authority, without bringing him to my notice at all; but as it is carried thus far, the man must die; and your petition must remain unheeded. So, gentlemen, I bid you return to your quarters, and endeavour to keep your men orderly for the future." A few days after this the red cross of St. George was hoisted upon the flag staff of the garrison, which was a usual custom, denoting that the packet, or mail ship, was in sight; and about two o'clock in the afternoon she entered the harbour, and anchored within pistol shot of the guard ship. The mails were speedily landed and the whole garrison was on tiptoe, anxious to learn whether Spruen would really be executed or not. About four o'clock in the afternoon, the General and his staff were seen to gallop up to the garrison office, where, on entering, they remained about half an hour; after which they rode round the garrison and returned to the general's residence. No sooner had they left, than the bugler on duty sounded for garrison orders, at which the excitement grew stronger; for each regiment knew that upon the return of the non-commissioned officer, who obeyed the summons of the bugle to receive the orders, they should learn Spruen's fate.

CHAPTER II. *An Awful Scene.*

It was about six o'clock in the evening, when the orderly room clerks of the different regiments were seen to leave the garrison office with their parchment-covered books under their arms, for they had been detained longer than usual; and as each of their countenances were impressed with gloom, they bespoke the pending fate of Spruen; and that evening, on evening parade, the orderly sergeant of every company, in each regiment in the garrison, after calling the men to attention, bid them pay particular attention to general orders, opened the book and read as follows:—

"General Orders, Head Quarters, St. Anns, Barbadoes.

[To be continued in our next.]

India.—From the nature of the latest news received from Bombay, it is now demonstrated beyond all doubt that Russian intrigue is the sole cause of the mutinous conduct which is now manifesting itself among the native troops of India, and although the Indian people are slow to be provoked or impulsed, yet it will be remembered that during the siege of Sebastopol, Russian agents were actively employed in different parts of India circulating the gold of the Czar amongst the native troops, and creating disaffection amongst them, and that since that period secret conspiracies have been existing for the purpose of organizing a general revolt, and exterminating all the Europeans. The consequences are that several regiments have already been disarmed and disbanded, though mutiny still prevails. So that, from the past and present aspect of affairs, it is plain to be observed that the people of India, generally, are weary of the British yoke, and that there is no sympathy with them towards England; but that they have been led to believe that there is no greater power or nation than England in the world; hence they have hitherto submitted to her rule.

But the late failures and blunders which occurred during the Russian war have the effect of greatly altering their opinions; for the imbecility of the officers and commanders of our Crimean army has been largely circulated through our Indian possessions, and the Russian agents have availed themselves of these facts to inspire the people of India with a hope, at some not very distant period, of freeing themselves from English tyranny, and they now see and believe that there are other as great military powers in Europe as England, and when they feel full confidence of this, and can ensure support from any other nation, whom they believe to be more powerful, India will become of little value to this nation, though no doubt thousands of lives will be sacrificed, and millions of treasure expended, which however will only have the effect of weakening this nation's resources in a variety of ways.

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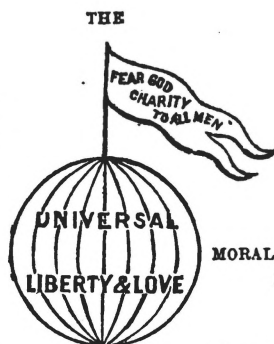
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COMMUNITY'S

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CONDITIONS OF MEN; CONTAINING
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JOURNAL;

Of Truth.

MORAL, SPIRITUAL, RELIGIOUS, AND PHYSICAL
HISTORY, SCIENCE, ARTS, FOREIGN
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PART 2.—VOL. 1]

For the Fortnight ending Saturday, June 27th, 1857.

[PRICE 1D.]

POLITICAL VIEW OF THE ABSURD NOTIONS OF THE FOLLOWERS OF FATHER MATTHEW IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO DETER DRUNKEN- NESS UNDER THE EXISTING LAWS.

ALTHOUGH it must be acknowledged that Father Matthew and his followers have done much good in many parts of Europe, in establishing societies of total abstinence from all intoxicating drink, yet much wickedness has been caused which would not have otherwise existed; for it is well known that many persons who have signed the pledge, and have for a time refrained from this moral evil, have broken it, and plunged themselves again headlong into the vortex of debauch and intoxication, and, upon reflection, have discovered that they have broken the pledge which they made before God, and that now redemption is impossible. Hence, heedless of all consequences, they continue to revel in their headlong career of vice. This is especially the case in Catholic countries, where the people believe that, to break a solemn pledge, is to incur eternal perdition. Protestant England thinks otherwise, and will break the pledge and sign it over and over again without remorse. No doubt, as before stated, much good has been done by total abstinence, yet how feeble and frail are the efforts of the disciples of Father Matthew against the law-sanctioned and existing evil. Let our rulers be first taught to uproot the cause of drunkenness, before they enforce laws which punishes it as a crime: the evil would then wear itself out, and die a natural death. It may be asked—What is the cause of drunkenness? Or, Cannot a man control his own propensities? The answers are obvious and plain to the understanding of every person of sound mind. First, let the corn be grown free of tax or duty; let it be transformed into malt freed from the same burden, and sold at a rate within the reach of all who choose to purchase it, and the result would speedily manifest itself. But No, say the men in power, this would decrease the income of the revenue, and, rather than do

this, other means are resorted to. Secondly, a law is made encouraging the sale of licenses to any persons who have the means of purchasing them. The prices of these licenses are fixed at no moderate rate, and for which the persons are compelled to pay in advance, authorizing them to sell to the industrious classes the intoxicating drink, for which, after the purchasers are deprived of their senses through imbibing it, the same rulers have framed laws to punish them. Again, the vendors of this obnoxious beverage are subject to many restrictions; for, although they have purchased the license which authorizes its sale, they are limited to hours of business; and, as there is so much competition permitted, they have the greatest difficulty to pay their way and live. The result is, they are compelled to fit up large rooms, or places of attraction, in the most costly manner, in which every species of gambling, vice, and amusement is permitted for the purpose of attracting the unwary into their dens; and as these places all endeavour to rival each other in their attractions, their proprietors are forced to expend large sums of money, which would otherwise be avoided. Thus, these places are made the resort of the idle and the vicious, as well as the hard-working and well-disposed mechanic or labourer, who, after receiving his week's wages, is allured thither, where he squanders the resources upon which his wife and family should exist; and, after remaining there till the limited hours are expired, he is turned into the street, his brain bewildered and excited until he quarrels with his associates or others, is arrested by the police, taken before the magistrate, and either fined or imprisoned; and yet the people are so infatuated, that they cannot see how this atrocious scheme works upon them, to the enrichment of the government, and the people's dishonour, disgrace, and starvation. Let our rulers abolish the traffic of license selling, prohibit the sale of intoxicating drink by every individual, repeal the duty on malt and hops, and all other intoxicating liquor, so that all who wanted it should manufacture it

themselves, and no one be allowed to sell it under pain of a heavy penalty or imprisonment, and drunkenness would soon be unheard of; for there would be no places of allurements, and men seldom like to get drunk at home; and, as the men are chiefly engaged in their daily labour, the good wife would take care not to make sufficient to be indulged in to excess, and then the working man's home would be a palace instead of a den of wretchedness and misery; and until the people detect this scheme of the government in fleecing them of their earnings, for the purpose of swelling the coffers of the revenue, by which the state is enriched, the efforts of Father Matthew and his disciples will have but little effect. Drunkenness will be still encouraged and continue to exist. Therefore, to attempt to restrict men from drinking while the sale of the drink is sanctioned and encouraged by law, will result in the production of crime and wickedness in a variety of ways. It is surely hard, that, after a man has lavished away his earnings in support of the government, to the detriment of himself and family, there should be a law to inflict punishment upon him. And now let me ask, Will the next reform bill on the Maine Liquor Law in any way ameliorate the condition of the working classes?

J. B.

THE OUTCAST FAMILY;

THE VICTIMS OF TREACHERY;

(Continued from our last).

"Consider," she said, "you have no money, and what will be thought if you are seen at a public-house, when it is well known that you have no work." "Never mind that," said Seargent, before Smith had time to reply, "I have money, and I will share it with him, and never mind whether I have work or not." "I would rather not go," said Smith, "for there are already things said about you and me which are not true, and folks will say anything; so you go and enjoy yourself, and I will go to bed." As he said this, the countenance of Mrs. Smith brightened up with a smile. At the same moment, however, it became overcast with gloom, as Seargent said, "I tell you what, Jim, you have not the pluck I thought you had, or the friendship in you either, or you would not refuse to go and smoke a pipe, and drink a glass of ale with me. What can you be frightened of, I care nothing for what is said of me, and while you do so, you may perish with cold and hunger, and those who talk will not assist you. Look at the condition in which I found you to night! Why, man, you might have all been dead before any of those whom you fear will talk about you would have come forward to have saved your lives." Smith was perfectly convinced of the truth of of this statement, and listened to his persuasions heedless of the supplications of his affectionate wife. He followed Seargent to the door, closed it after him; and,

as the sound of their heavy footsteps were heard to die away in the distance, many were the bitter reflections which crossed the mind of that poor and wretched woman. Not that she feared that her husband would willingly offend against the laws, he had already resisted so much temptation in the midst of poverty, but she feared that the company with which he had connected himself might allure him into vices which he would otherwise have avoided. The "White Hart," the principal ale-house in the village, was situated not more than a hundred and fifty yards from Smith's cottage, and is one of those old-fashioned cross country inns rarely to be met with in the present day. It is a low thatch-roofed building, its rooms very spacious, consisting of one parlour, tap-room, and kitchen on the ground floor, with a small neatly-furnished bar adjoining the taproom; while the upper portion of the house contains numerous sleeping apartments only one story high. Its external walls are white, while a row of gigantic sycamore trees almost hide it from the passer-by; and the same house is to this day kept by the person who occupied it for at least twenty years prior to the date from which this narrative opens. Its internal appearance always presented a cheering aspect, and the host and hostess were remarkable for their kindness, civility and benevolence. As Smith and Seargent entered the taproom, they found but few persons there, none of whom were particular acquaintances or associates of the two last comers; therefore, as a large fire was burning, consisting of logs and coal mixed, they seated themselves at an unoccupied table at the far side of the room; Seargent at once ordered beer, tobacco, and pipes. As soon as they were served, and they had drank a couple of glasses each, Seargent at once entered freely into conversation both with Smith and other persons. Amongst the company present, were the village schoolmaster, tailor, principal shopkeeper, and the gamekeeper of the manor; who, being a single man, resided at the old "White Hart." The keeper, knowing the character of Seargent, though as yet, he had been unable to detect him, eyed him suspiciously, for he knew that Seargent had been once in prison for poaching on the adjoining grounds. The schoolmaster, noticing the glances which were cast upon Seargent by the keeper, turned abruptly upon Seargent and addressed him thus: "Well, Sam, how do you find business these cold times?" "My business is always right when I like to look after it," said Seargent; "the fact is, I can always get enough to find me in bread, cheese, and beer, pay my lodgings, and treat a friend also, now and then," looking towards Smith. "You are a lucky fellow," said the schoolmaster, "for there is many a man in the parish who works hard and cannot do that." "Then they are fools," said Sam, "for they could have it for fetching; and while I can I will never do without." At this they all laughed heartily, and, when the laughing had ceased, the keeper, a very shrewd though a very still man, remarked: "You will try your luck once too often, you are sure to be caught at last." "When you catch me you shall have me," said Seargent. board, washing, and lodging, even with the treadmill, is better than working for the farmers at this time of the year, and starving for your pains." Their jug had by this time been replenished two or three times, and Smith

began to be more talkative, and coincided with all Seargent's remarks, and many significant glances were directed towards them, though but few other remarks were made. It was now half past nine o'clock, and the company, which had during the evening increased, now retired, leaving the two friends and the gamekeeper alone in the house, who, it appeared, had been indulging somewhat freely in his glass, which did not pass unnoticed by Seargent. They accordingly emptied their glasses, bade the keeper good night, and left the house. No sooner had they retired, than Seargent said: "Old S., meaning the keeper, 'is drunk, and will not stir out to night, and I have just thought of a plan; will you join me?'" Smith was excited with the influence of drink, and recollecting the substantial supper Seargent had provided for himself and family, and being of a grateful disposition, seized Seargent by the hand, shook it heartily, and said, "Yes, my lad, I will go through fire and water with you." "Well spoken, Jim," said Seargent, returning the grasp of the hand, "now listen and be ruled by me, and neither yourself nor family will suffer long from hunger or cold. That old fool is now too far gone to stir out of his kennel a cold night like this; and as the moon and stars are bright, and the ground frozen hard, we can get over it quick; so come along with me, and we will soon be in possession of that which will keep us for one week, any how," and as he said this he turned to proceed at once. "But where are you going," said Smith, with an enquiring tone of voice. "To the old Park Wood," said Seargent, "where there is plenty to be got; it is no use going where there is nothing." "But I have nothing with me either to kill game or to defend myself with, in case we should be interrupted," said Smith. "There is no danger to be feared on that head, while Old S. is snugly seated by that fire yonder," said Seargent, motioning with his head towards the house they had just left. "And look you here," as he put his hand under his capacious velveteen coat, and drew forth the muzzle of a gun barrel, "I have the little piece which will do the work I want her to do, and in my other pocket is a bag, which, if we fill, we may be satisfied with our night's work." Seargent invariably carried a gun, which he could instantaneously take in pieces and conceal both barrel and stock in his coat. It had been carefully made for the purpose, so as not to attract notice. "And I have plenty of powder and shot, which I am seldom without; so let us away at once, the sooner we obtain our load, the sooner we shall return." Smith, without further hesitation, set out on his first adventure. The old Park Wood was not more than a mile from the village, and lay in a southern direction, near to the bottom of a spacious lawn, which lies in front of a farm known as the Wick Farm; and as a public foot road leads across the lawn, and by the side of the wood to a village called Carlton, there was no danger of trespass till they arrived at their destination. The Park Wood, and nearly all the parish of B. Green, was at that time the property of a squire named R., who resided at Thetford, a distance of some thirteen miles from the parish, and was considered a good and benevolent man, but strict as to punishing individuals according to law, who destroyed game. No sooner had Seargent and Smith reached the wood than they entered,

and Seargent being well accustomed to the different paths leading through it, which are chiefly used by the keeper, he soon reached that part of the wood which was devoted to the growth of fir trees, and which served as a preserve for the pheasants, and where he well knew the keeper used to go every day to feed them during the winter season, while the thick fir trees formed a substantial cover for them at night, which, though they were very high, were a considerable distance apart. As soon as the two poachers had arrived, Seargent drew forth his gun, and, after fastening it together, loaded it, and then giving Smith the bag, directed him to go cautiously to a tree a few yards distant, and shake it violently. He did so, and the same moment the loud crow of two pheasants was heard, the next moment the report of the gun echoed through the wood. Two pheasants fell to the ground, one of which Smith had difficulty in catching, it being only wing-broken. They were, however, secured, and both put into the bag by Smith, by which time Seargent had reloaded the gun. The first report had aroused the feathered inmates of the wood, who left their several places of repose; but as the night was bright, and the pheasants dark, they were easily detected as they alighted on their new resting places. Leaving Smith and Sergeant to continue their ravages amongst the pheasants, numbers of which they killed, we will return to the old "White Hart" public-house, where it will be remembered, they had left the keeper, as they supposed, too far gone in drink to stir out that night.

CHAPTER III.

The discovery, temporary escape, arrest, and committal to prison.

No sooner had Smith and Seargent left the neighbourhood of the "White Hart" than another person, not yet introduced to the reader, entered. The new comer was a small freehold farmer, named G—, who resided within a short distance of the public house. As he neared the public house he distinctly saw two men talking, and as he paused to listen he at once recognized the voice of Seargent, as they left the shade of the trees he distinctly knew them both, and when they had turned the corner of the paddock which was immediately in front of the house, he entered, but he had not been able to understand what they said. As soon as he was seated he turned to the keeper, who appeared to be drowsy, and said, "Mr. S., I think you ought to be on the look out, for I have seen two rather suspicious characters making off towards the Wick Farm." "Have you" said the keeper sharply, "and who are they?" "That fellow Seargent and Smith," said Mr. G. "Why it is not more than a quarter of an hour, if so much, since they left here together," said the keeper. "Possibly not," said Mr. G. "but they are gone in the direction I tell you, and mark me they are after no good." After a few further remarks, the keeper arose, looked at the clock, and said, "It is about half an hour since they bade us good night," and taking his hat, he went to the door, walked out to the open space in front of the house and paused to survey the appearance of the night, at the same moment the report of a gun fell upon his ears. His experienced and quick ear at once recognized the direction from which the sound came, and entering the

house he seized his gun, and without speaking to the host or hostess, or to farmer G., hurried off in the direction of the old Park Wood, without answering to the interrogations of the farmer.

[To be continued in our next.]

TRUTHS OF SPIRITUALISM DEMONSTRATED BY FACTS.

To the Editor of the Community's Journal.

Sir,—With your kind permission I will, in this number of your Journal, lay before your readers a spiritual poem copied by me from one of the pamphlets from which I extracted the fulfilled predictions which appeared in the columns in your first impression, so that they who are unacquainted with spiritualism may see how beautifully their past grievances, present wrongs, and future happiness, are portrayed by divine permission through Celestial Angels that the people of the earth may know of the great change that is coming. The poem alluded to, and which is hereunder given, is acknowledged by all persons, with whom I have conversed upon the subject, to be one of the most sublime and pathetic effusions ever written, and is quite beyond all earthly or human ingenuity, skill, or imagination, for no man could frame such language or convey so much deep pathos of meaning, in so few words, as the following lines will show.

THE POEM.

- 1 The Lord hears the cries which ascend from each nation;
His anger is kindled the tyrants shall find;
For the wrongs they have heaped on His helpless creation,
Their power shall be scattered like chaff in the wind.
- 2 From East to the West all shall feel his displeasure,—
His will and His pow'r acknowledged shall be;
His wrath and His vengeance shall fall without measure,
On all who shall scoff at His holy decree.
- 3 Can Britain say, Lord, thy decrees have been heeded—
Thy people are happy, contented, and free;
We give to the poor whereso'er it be needed,
To relieve their distresses and glorify Thee?
- 4 Their wants all condemn thee thy riches acknowledge;
Thy laws are all grinding, thy people are slaves;
Thy chains of oppression which hold them in bondage,
Deprive them of rest till they sleep in their graves.
- 5 Then war and destruction, shall fall on each nation,
Which holds back the promise of Christ sent from God,
Who purchased His creatures' eternal salvation,
And washed out their sins with His own precious blood.
- 6 But lo! He will come and establish His kingdom;
His saints and His martyrs around Him will stand;
His laws will bespeak His love, friendship and freedom,
When man shall be equal all over the land.
- 7 Then poverty, crime, with vexation and folly,
And every evil mankind doth endure,
Shall flee from the earth, for the Lord He is holy—
His laws are all justice, His people are pure.
- 8 And then no more threats of eternal damnation;
His people all happy henceforward will sing
Their praises to Christ, who hath wrought their salvation,
And fall down and worship their Saviour and King.

- 9 Hosannah to Jesus the greatest of Princes,
All evils are vanquished—His people are free;
The world now convinced of His mercy and kindness,
Will worship and praise Him in sweet unity.

The subjects of the past to which this poem alludes, are so faithfully yet beautifully depicted, that to deny them is impossible; while the present aspect of the affairs of the nations of the earth, and the oppressive laws which the rulers of the people have imposed upon them, are described in language which, in like manner, defies contradiction or doubt. The interrogations which are addressed to Britain, or the land of free Old England as it is called, are not left to the nation itself to answer; but the answer is given in the next four lines, in language which carries with it the brand of dishonour and disgrace to the wealthy and influential persons who rule and govern the nation.

But as space is limited, I will not make further comment here, but in your next issue, will give further evidence as to the truth of spiritual manifestations on the biography of man beyond the grave, which is a subject that the general reader has a right to be fully acquainted with, that the superstitious notions and dread of eternal punishment may be erased from their minds; and thanking you for giving my last communication publicity,

I beg to remain,

Yours very respectfully,

Birmingham, June 18, 1857.

W. W.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

France.—It is said that the Prince Napoleon will leave Paris on the 10th July, for his visit to England and the Manchester Exhibition.

Russia.—In the ordinary correspondence from Odessa of the 20th May, it is announced that the Governor General of New Russia has received orders from the minister, to fix the end of the month for the last term of the residence of foreign merchants at Sebastopol, after that period none can remain. The Russians are labouring with activity at clearing out the port and raising the ships. The fortresses of the south side are, it is said in this letter, completely repaired.

Italy.—A letter from Naples, after alluding to the tyranny of Austria and the murmurings of the people, and Napoleon not moving a finger to relieve the woes of Italy, or to encourage on this side the Alps the hopes which he has forbidden to the French, goes on to state, England sees all this and allows it—England makes promises and does not keep them—England is free and she enters into a league with the enemies of liberty—England is strong, but she bows before the arrogance of tyrants, and this condemnation falls always upon your people, not upon your government and not upon your court.

America.—The New York Tribune has the following:—The British, in China, having plunged themselves hot headed into a disgraceful war with the peacefully disposed Chinese, are now suffering temporary inconvenience for their persons and their commerce, consequent upon their rash proceedings. But instead

of taking the lesson to heart, they pretend to be exceedingly astonished and indignant at the system of warfare adopted by the enemy, as if the policy of the Celestials was to be utterly changed, and their hereditary system overturned in order to fight the outside barbarian with his own weapons. With holy horror John Bull throws up his hands, exclaiming "We are poisoned," our factories are levelled to the ground, a price is set upon our heads, as if poor John Chinaman was not to use his only means of defence and revenge against the unprovoked assault upon his life and his habitation, by civilized christians under protection of impenetrable bulwarks and behind bristling cannon. The fact is, that the bullying spirit of British warfare, has, in this instance, failed to corner the untaught heathen of the Eastern world.

Income Tax.—A return has been issued, shewing that the net amount of the income tax for last year, ending 5th April, for Great Britain, was £15,261,522; and for Ireland, £1,283,986.

Spread of Catholicity in London.—Cardinal Wiseman, in a pastoral just issued to the several Roman Catholic congregations in London, announces that, within the last twelve months, no less than seven religious edifices have been opened in his diocese, and others are now in course of building. Amongst other institutions founded, has been an hospital, presided over by the Sisters of Charity, who served in the East during the late war.

Smoking in the Workhouse.—A momentous question to a few poor old creatures was recently discussed by the Oxford Board of Guardians. It arose in a debate on the workhouse estimates, the disputed point being, whether the sum of £40 a year should continue to be allowed for expenditure in snuff and tobacco, for the comfort of aged paupers. The item was objected to by a Rev. J. B. Price; but, to the honour of the cloth be it recorded, that other clergymen were present, by whose better nature that curmudgeonly objection was over-ruled. Among them, we have the pleasure of mentioning the Rector of Exeter and the Provost of Queen's. Political economists need not be shocked in ruminating on this intelligence over their claret; the nicotian luxuries are not allowed to any of the paupers under sixty years of age. These indulgences are granted only to poor, feeble old creatures, whom a pipe and a pinch of snuff will just enable, with some little comfort, to puff and sneeze their lives out.

TO THE MEMBERS FORMING THE COMMUNITY OF THE GREAT ORGANIZATION.

To the Editor.

Sir, In this number of your journal I only solicit a small space for the purpose of inserting a notice to the members of the Community, through the medium of your columns, as follows:

The members of the Community of the Great Organization residing in the different towns and districts, are respectfully informed, that with the third number of this journal a balance sheet will be published, containing an account of the number or strength of members of the Community, with their rapid increase, the total

amount of contributions received from the date of the first enrolment to the present period, with the amount of expenditure, and how it was expended, with the number of books distributed in each district, and the cost incurred in their distribution, and all other particulars connected with the organization and its object. Also, the members are informed that the fourth number of this journal will contain startling information and instruction to all classes of society, both on private and public matters connected with future events; and trusting that the members will continue steadfast in the cause, and use their exertions to impart their knowledge to their several friends and acquaintances, soliciting them to rally round the Standard of truth, and be united in heart and soul, with a pure feeling of charity, love, affection and compassion towards all men. I now leave them till the next issue, and address myself to the Editor, whom we sincerely thank for the indulgence of thus making known the sacred truths through these columns. Therefore, sir, hoping that your efforts may be crowned with success, and the principles you advocate received and appreciated, and your journal enjoy a large circulation,

We subscribe ourselves, in behalf of the Community and the Spiritual Circle,

Yours very respectfully,

J. G. H. BROWN, *Medium.*

T. P. SLEATH, *Secretary.*

*Walker-street, Sneinton,
Nottingham, June 22nd, 1857.*

A MILITARY EXECUTION.

(Concluded from our last).

- No. 1—That all the troops in the garrison (sick in hospital excepted) shall be under arms in review order, on their respective parade grounds, at eight o'clock to morrow morning.
- No. 2—The commanding officers of regiments are requested to march up their several corps to the places hereunder appointed, where directions will be given for their formation.
- No. 3—The formation must be completed at nine o'clock precisely, and the commanding officer of regiments will be held responsible for any delay or disobedience of the above order.
- No. 4—The execution of the condemned man Spruen, is decided shall be carried into effect at ten o'clock to morrow morning.

(signed)

GENERAL SIR L. SMITH,

Commander-in-chief of His Majesty's forces in the Windward and Leeward Islands of the West Indies.

Great was the sensation produced through the different regiments on hearing the last clause of the General Order read, for up to this period it was generally believed that the man's life would be spared, and even now it was thought by some that he would be led forth to execution and then reprieved. Few however had much rest on that night, for the thoughts of the morrow preyed heavily upon their minds. The man Spruen himself, up to this period had exhibited much callous recklessness believing he should escape with transportation; but the

narrator of this horrible tragedy can speak with confidence as to the great alteration which took place in his conduct after the General's visit to the garrison on the afternoon in question. For I, myself, was on duty on the main guard, says he, and being off sentry at the time when the General left the office, was one of the men appointed to conduct Spruen from the condemned cell to the garrison office, where he was warned, by the Provost Marshal in presence of other officials, to prepare himself for death, as his sentence would be carried into effect at 10 o'clock the following morning. He at first treated it lightly, though a shudder was perceived to pass through his frame, and he shook violently. And on being conducted back to the guard room several of the soldiers on duty met him and eagerly enquired how it fared with him. In answer to which, he merely smiled despairingly, and said, "Oh nothing! I am only to be shot to death by musketry in the morning," and threw himself carelessly upon a seat. His recklessness appeared to shock all parties present, and he was forthwith conducted to the condemned cell which was situated under the clock tower of the main guard, whose monotonous sounds caused him to reflect as each successive tick, tack, assured him that the hour of his death could now be counted by minutes. On being left to reflection he soon gave way to his feelings and sent for the garrison priest, who continued with him the whole of the night, and in the morning Spruen was an entirely altered man and looked forward to his pending fate with fortitude and calmness, and ate a hearty breakfast supplied to him from the mess room of the officers of his own regiment. As the clock struck eight the drums, trumpets, and bugles of the garrison gave notice that the troops were all on parade, and at a quarter to nine the first detachment consisting of his own regiment was formed in two lines, facing inwards, extending from each side of the prison door for several yards distance forming a complete avenue. The other regiments took up their position in succession in the same order. After the troops were formed another party was seen to enter the lines and advance within a short distance of the prison door. This party consisted of the band of his own regiment with their instruments muffled, with another band with their instruments clear. The next party which advanced consisted of four men bearing a coffin upon their shoulders, head foremost, to within a few yards of the cell door. The coffin was lowered and placed on two trestles brought for that purpose, the pall spread over it. Every eye was turned upon it and the most breathless silence pervaded through the whole assemblage.

As the clocks struck nine, the drums beat a continued roll, and, as this ceased, the prison door opened, and the condemned man, with the priest on his right and his comrade on the left, on whose arms he supported himself, as the imposing sight met his gaze. His tremor, however, quickly passed away, and he recovered composure and calmness. An escort, with drawn bayonets, was within a short distance, following close upon him. When all was ready, the four men raised the coffin to their shoulders, and the commanding officer gave the word "March." The band at once played the solemn and sacred strain used as the "Dead March," and moved slowly, but steadily, in the direction of the

burial ground, the skirts of which the two lines reached. The men with the coffin followed the band, and with firm steps, the man Spruen followed the coffin as chief mourner to his own funeral, accompanied by the priest, comrade, and escort as before, the troops filing to the right and left, and following in successive order, clearing the ground as they proceeded.

A military funeral is at any time an affecting scene, but, in this instance, it was doubly so, for grief was depicted on every countenance. When the procession reached the burial ground, it formed in a half-circle fronting the sea. The grave had been already prepared and was about six paces in advance of both flanks of the circle, as near the centre as possible. When the troops were halted, the bearers with the coffin proceeded in slow time round the rear of the circle, the wretched man and his attendants following; and on arriving at the extreme right, they wheeled and passed along the front or interior of the circle, the band still pealing forth its mournful strains. On arriving in front of the company to which he belonged, Spruen held up his hand, halted, and the band ceased; and turning to his company he delivered a short address, stating that, though he was innocent of the crime of which he was charged; yet he was now prepared to die, and would not change his position with any man upon the ground; for he would shortly be released from all the oppression he had hitherto to contend with, and that those who had brought him to this end would suffer many hours' reflection, but that he had made his peace with God, and could die with charity to all men. He then exhorted his comrades to take warning by his fate and refrain from drink, which had brought him to this melancholy end. He shook hands with several of his most intimate acquaintances, bade them farewell, motioned to the band to move forward, and with a firm step proceeded in the direction of the grave. Every eye followed him to the spot, and sighs and sobs might be heard through the ranks. On arriving at the grave, the coffin was uncovered and placed by its side; the bearers and the escort retired, leaving the priest and his comrade alone with him. Several minutes were now spent in prayer, during which time the sensation which pervaded it would be difficult to describe. At length, their devotions being ended, he shook hands with the priest and his comrade, pulled off his jacket, carefully folded it upon the lid of the coffin; then, taking off his boots, he handed them to his comrade, and was about to stand upon the coffin lid, but a few words from the priest brought him upon one knee, and the priest was about to blindfold his eyes, which he firmly resisted. Again shaking hands, the priest and his comrade retired, and, from three raps of the drum, twelve men were seen to leave the ranks and form in front of the grave, twelve paces distant, upon a line marked in the sand, and the youngest officer of the regiment to which Spruen belonged, moved forward to take the command of the party, who was arranged within twelve paces of Spruen's front, who narrowly watched their movements. At a given signal, the officer in a faltering voice, gave the word of command: "With ball cartridge, prime and load." But before this movement was completed, he fell in a swoon to the ground, and one of the firing party did the same, being overcome with

the awfulness of the situation. They were at once removed, and the garrison-adjutant resumed the command of the men who were waiting for orders. All the time Spruen looked on with more calmness than any other man present; and, as the ominous word "Ready" was given, the sudden and solemn click of the instruments of death, as they were pulled full upon the springs, smote every heart with terror. At the same moment Spruen dropped his hands to his sides, and pushed forward his breast, as if anxious to meet his fate. No sooner was the word "Present" given than a cloud of smoke enveloped the scene. A loud shriek followed, and the report of the musketry echoed amongst the shrubs, and Spruen's spirit had fled into that world where worldly troubles cease. The troops were again doomed to a heart-sickening scene; for, as soon as it was possible, the garrison-provost stepped forward and discharged a pistol through the head of the dying man, as he lay weltering in his warm blood, a victim of tyranny and ambitious revenge. The troops were then filed past in slow time, and marched to their quarters; after which his own comrades returned and paid their last homage to his remains, carved his name upon an adjoining tree, which has been made a custom amongst all other regiments to keep legible. The adjutant afterwards retired from the regiment. Such was the end of the unfortunate man, and such is the arbitrary power of martial law.

W. P.

Late of the 76th Regiment, and an eye-witness of the facts related.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The British Spiritual Telegraph.—We are happy to be enabled to announce to our friends to the cause of Spiritualism that, notwithstanding the discontinuation of the "Yorkshire Spiritual Telegraph," the efforts of Mr. B. MORRELL have been crowned with success, and that a new periodical will shortly appear as the "British Spiritual Telegraph," and which promises to far exceed the former in every department connected with its publication. For although Mr. MORRELL used every exertion with untiring zeal, yet he was unable to prevent the many defects which appeared in the pages of the Yorkshire Spiritual Telegraph, and we are certain that no one felt more concern or more anxiety for the welfare of the journal and the cause it advocated than that gentleman himself; but the new issue will be void of these defects, and, under his superintendence, we can confidently recommend its pages to the perusal of all earnest seekers after truth.

Another Mormon Defaulter.—Robert Wright of Mansfield Woodhouse, one of the saints of the Mormon Church, was apprehended at Sheffield on Tuesday last 16th inst, by Inspector Palethorpe of Mansfield. Wright was a member of an Odd Fellows Lodge, and being in possession of one of the keys belonging to the box in which the lodge funds were kept he managed to extract a bank deposit note for £218, and in company with two other Mormons whom he bribed, was enabled to get the note cashed at the bank. He remained in the vicinity for nearly six weeks after the cashing of the note,

and in consequence of several preparations he had made and his wife having already departed, suspicion was aroused and the robbery discovered, and he was arrested at Sheffield station when on the point of leaving for Liverpool, where he and his wife intended to embark, with other Mormons for the great Salt Lake Valley. His plans were, however, defeated, and he is now in safe custody.

A Forest on Fire.—The Circassia reports an enormous fire raging at River Heads Newfoundland, on the 29th of May. Thirty miles in circumference of wood were burning at one time, a great number of cattle and other property had been destroyed.

Cheering News.—The Comet has not made its appearance and M. Leverrier, a foreign writer, gives us the satisfactory information, that the world can exist 350 millions of years longer without danger of being held in solution by the advancing fiery sword.

The Mormon Chief rules the Comet.—At Southampton a Mormon preacher said in his sermon, a Sunday or two ago;—"Shall I tell you, my brethren, when the Comet shall come and strike this earth? When Brigham Young chooses to say the word, then will the Comet come and strike the earth." What shall we hear next from the Mormons?

Ancient and Modern Maxims.—In ancient days the celebrated precept was "Know thyself"—In modern times it has been supplanted by the far more fashionable maxim, "Know thy neighbour and every thing about him."

A Joke Retaliated.—A very dark complexioned man entering an Inn parlour was accosted by a fellow of notoriously bad character, who thought to make him the butt of a joke. As the black face of the weatherbeaten appeared in the doorway this fellow exclaimed;—"Mercy on us, how dark it grows," The other surveying him from head to foot, coolly replied;—"Yes, sir, your character and my complexion are enough to darken any room."

Destitution.—A correspondent who is in the habit of visiting different provincial towns, writing from Leicester says:—"That in no town has he ever seen so much poverty and destitution, as in Leicester, for the working classes, chiefly frameworkknitters, are literally experiencing gradual yet certain starvation." He states, that he visited several houses on Monday the 15th inst. and the inmates, some of them of large families, assured him that they had had no dinner on Sunday, and though it was nearly 11 o'clock on Monday morning, neither parents nor children had tasted food. Their appearance was truly wretched; for they were half naked and in the most destitute condition possible to conceive. The cause of such destitution ought to be investigated by the local authorities and the wretched condition of the industrious classes alleviated, for they it is who have produced the wealth which the manufacturers who form the municipal authority enjoy, and it is shameful and disgraceful that they should calmly look on and see the producers of their wealth and affluence gradually perishing from want.

A Truthful Joke.—A dissenting minister in — a few Sundays since, preached his farewell sermon to a crowded audience. It appeared that he had been appointed by the society to which he belonged to a more lucrative situation with a difference in his salary of some £50 per annum, and in the course of his sermon, he informed the congregation that the Lord had been pleased to call him to a more prosperous situation in another province, and lamented having to leave his old acquaintances. A shrewd person, on hearing him say he was about to obey the call which the Lord had made upon him, remarked to a friend near him, and said :—"Yes ! if you were not going to receive £50 more a year than your present salary ; the Lord might have called until he was as hoarse as a fatigued cuckoo, and you would not have stirred an inch."

The Sin of Government.—Unless those into whose hands we have committed the affairs of our country cease to swell the revenues of the state out of the vices of the people, and promptly apply every possible cure to those crying evils, they will peril the existence and betray the best interests of our empire.

NOTICE.

In part III. of this Journal will commence a new historical tale of startling and thrilling interest, and will be continued weekly. Its subjects will be gleaned from facts connected with past history, in which life in all its variegated forms will be faithfully depicted, so that lessons of virtue and morality may be learned from its perusal, and timely warnings given to youth ; so that vice, crime, or destitution may be avoided, as such, with their consequences, will be plainly portrayed. The new tale will be entitled "The Hut on the Heath ; or, the outlawed gang of the Devil's Ditch, and the herdsman's daughter." This tale, like the "Outcast Family," will surpass, in interest and amusement, any tales ever yet offered to the public in a Journal of this kind. For there is not only amusing anecdotes scattered judiciously at intervals through the natural course of events, but there are also heartrending scenes, exhibiting fortitude and composure rarely to be met with on the part of victims ; and the most atrocious and cold-blooded characteristics on the part of those who will form or figure the most conspicuously in these columns, both male and female ; and amidst all the scenes of horror and confusion the noblest virtues may be traced, and the most wholesome lessons of pity, patience, and resignation under the most distressing difficulties, will be shewn in the characters of the leading individuals connected with our story of "The Hut on the Heath."

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS. — Our readers are respectfully informed that "The Community's Journal," will in future be issued WEEKLY, the third number appearing on SATURDAY, JULY 4TH, and the succeeding numbers in due succession. The greatest attention will be observed to make the Journal an organ of useful, amusing, and valuable information.

N.B.—All letters of interest will be inserted if space admit the Editor not being responsible for the principles such letters advocate. Advertisements inserted on the lowest terms.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Part I, now Ready, in weekly numbers, price 1d., **The British Spiritual Telegraph**, a Journal devoted to facts on Spiritual manifestations which all persons should read.—All Communications must be addressed to "Mr. B. MORRELL, Keigley, Yorkshire."

ASTROLOGY.—The different branches of this science, as taught by Ptolemy, Cardan, &c., are explained, with various illustrations by modern authors, in "**A Plea for Urania**." Published by PIPER & Co., 23, Paternoster Row, London. Price 6s. cloth.

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Now publishing, in monthly parts, (part II. presented GRATIS with part I.) containing 64 pages, price 6d., **The Warning Message from the World of Spirits**. Part XII. now ready, 32 pages, with wrapper, price 6d. This work shews the state of man after death, with his progress throughout the spheres, and the sensation of death, as described by those who have experienced it ; the fate of Sir John Franklin and his crew, with a variety of other startling prophecies on future events. The concluding part will be published on the 30th of June.

The Scriptural Magazine, just published, price 2s. bound ; by post, 2s. 4d. ; or in 11 parts, at 1s. 4d. each ; or post free for 19 stamps. This work explains all the mystic passages contained in the New Testament, by giving their truthful interpretation ; also, explaining the Revelations of St. John, and the meaning of his vision on the Isle of Patmos, with a series of visions shewing the coming struggles of the nations of the earth, the great Babylon which has yet to fall, and all the terrible events which shall precede the second coming of Christ.

The above Works may be had of the Wholesale Agent, MESSRS. HOLYOAKE & Co., 147, Fleet Street, London ; or from Mr. J. SWEET, Goose Gate, Nottingham, the Local Agent ; or from the AUTHOR, Mr. J. G. H. BROWN, Walker Street, Sneinton, Nottingham, and all Booksellers.

N.B.—All communications for the Editor of this Journal must be addressed—"To the care of Mr. S. E. HACKETT, Printer, Maypole Yard, Market Place, Nottingham."

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