

SPECIAL CONFERENCE NUMBER.

THE
Lyceum Banner

(Founded 1890)

A MONTHLY RECORD

OF LYCEUM WORK AND PROGRESS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. A PAPER FOR THE
LYCEUM, SOCIETY, AND THE HOME.

Official Organ of the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

Issued for the Second Sunday in the Month.

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JUNE, 1901.

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The LYECUM BANNER.

A SPIRITUALIST MAGAZINE FOR OLD AND YOUNG.

VOL. XI.

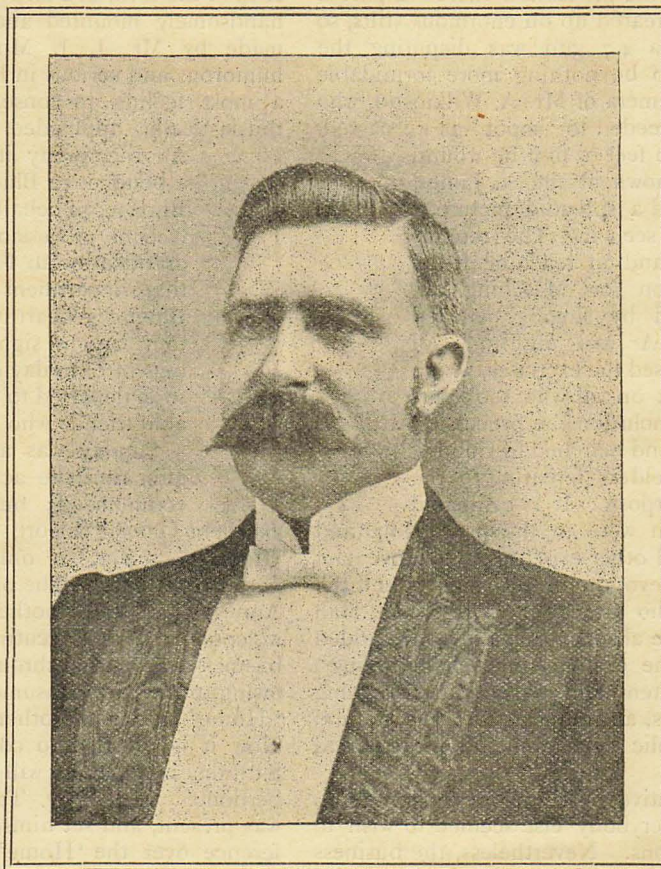
JUNE, 1901.

NO. 126.

The Twelfth Session of the Children's Parliament.

The Procession. The Conference. The Demonstration.

THE Eleventh Annual Session of our Children's Parliament has come and gone, though officially described as the twelfth (the exact number is as puzzling to fix as was the beginning of the present century), and in several respects the late gatherings were quite notable in character. The arrangements were carried out by a committee appointed by the inviting Lyceum, Cobden Street, Pendleton, under the superintendence of Mr. J. S. Bagnall as Secretary. But so busy was the committee that scarcely any one saw a single member of that hard working body! Mr. Bagnall's duties were arduous and continuous, and as he laboured under several difficulties he is deserving of all praise for the energy and good will which he displayed. One difficulty may be mentioned, that is, for some reason or other, the Milton Place Lyceum, Pendleton, refrained from any participation in the proceedings, though it is a member of the Union. Indeed, if the inner history of the obstacles our Pendleton hosts had to encounter were written, it would but add to the praises due to them for surmounting them, though in some cases, the disclosure of the difficulties would not redound to the credit of those who created them. However, as Sam Slick says, "human nature is a queer thing, and there is a mighty lot of it."



Our New President—Mr. Albert Wilkinson,
OF NELSON.

Well, a truce to grumbles, let us look on the bright side of things, for pleasure is there. To begin with, then, let us turn to the Procession on the Saturday afternoon. The weather was ideal, a bright sky, a shining sun, a soft breeze, Manchester at its best, in a word. The children, dressed in their prettiest, assembled under the grim walls of the cathedral, made a goodly showing, typifying literally, the old spirit and the new. The beautiful silken banners, flowers, Jubilee Lyceum Medals on many a breast, smiling faces and laughter everywhere, made a picture not easily forgotten. And, marvellous as it seemed to the elders who had borne the fight in earlier days, the Police at all sides to secure us a free passage in comfort and security. Shortly after time the procession was marshalled under the direction of Chief Marshall, Mr. A. H. Rocke, resplendent in his new uniform as Conductor of the Britten Memorial Brass Band, who headed the procession. The following Lyceums had notified their intention of joining the march, Pendleton (Cobden Street), Salford (Spiritual Church), Higher Broughton (Hilton Street), Patricroft, Royton, Oldham, Stalybridge, Ashton, Bury, Bolton, Middleton, Dearnley, Hollinwood, Blackburn, and Nottingham, which last named did not attend, nor did Bury, or

Blackburn, we understand. Oldham, Ashton, Pendleton, Stockport, and Stalybridge had their handsome banners with them, and beautiful they looked in the bright sunshine. The procession was preceded by two carriages, the first one containing the Executive, *i.e.*, Mrs. Jessy Greenwood, and Messrs. A. Smedley, president, Jno. Venables and J. J. Morse, past presidents, and for the final half of the journey Mr. A. Kitson, secretary. The second was occupied by Mrs. Kate Taylor Robinson, Mrs. M. Wilkinson, Mrs. Dora Singleton Moss, and a lady friend, whose name our reporter did not obtain. Headed by the Britten Band, the route taken was through Chapel Street, Salford, and straight out to Peel Park, Pendleton, which was duly reached, the strains of the leading band, and of the Oldham Borough Brass Band, enlivening the march. Crowds lined the side walks and hundreds gazed from windows, and here and there the children were greeted with sympathetic applause. Police kept the route, and officers accompanied the procession.

On arriving at the Park, the procession marched past a fearsome looking machine reared up on enormous stilts, so that one almost fancied a 4.7 gun was disputing the passage. It turned out to be nothing more formidable than the Cinematograph camera of Mr. A. Wilkinson, who beamed on us as he proceeded to 'shoot' as we passed. No casualties; but the 200 feet of film he wound off was 'developed,' and shown at the St. James' Hall the same evening, and a splendid picture it is said by those who have seen it. The rendezvous was the Band Stand, and on reaching it the Lyceums fell into position for Marching and Calisthenics, accompanied by singing, assisted by the Oldham band. A vast multitude of delighted spectators witnessed the exercises, which reflected the greatest credit on all who took part in them, and at their conclusion the procession reformed in reverse order and marched to Cobden Street Hall for tea. The elders repairing to the Town Hall for a like purpose. It is estimated that almost 1,000 children were in the procession, and considering the railway and other expenses, the above fact speaks volumes for the devotion of the officers and the interest of the children who attended. The Town Hall tea was quite good, and the absence of plates only added a pleasant variation to the customs of such gatherings. The Bandsmen of the Britten band looked quite fetching in their brand new uniforms, and allowing for a very natural nervousness at a first public appearance, they acquitted themselves very creditably.

After the tea, the Executive held a short session in an ante-room, which room everybody else seemed to wish to enter during the deliberations. Nevertheless, the business was carried out, and the President was at length able to take his place on the platform to conduct the entertainment; but various delays and hitches marred the success of the evening, and as no provision had been made for music, instrumental and vocal items were, of course, impossible. Indeed, no music was provided for any of the meetings, which, to say the least, was unfortunate, for it could have easily been otherwise if the friends had carried

their harmonium across from their hall. At the conference last year, at Newcastle-on-Tyne, the entertainment was really excellent. Mr. T. O. Todd had it in hand, he had specially trained his lyceum members for the purpose. Mrs. Todd and Mrs. Luckley also devoted their able energies, in the same direction, and the children all saved up their money to pay their fares from and back to Sunderland. The pantomime, which Mr. Todd wrote for the occasion, was hugely enjoyed, as its merits deserved. As our Union Secretary said at the time, the entertainment touched high water mark. The BANNER referred to the matter in its issue for July last year, page 77, and a lengthier notice that should have appeared was stupidly omitted by the then printers, for which omission, no doubt the poor editor was duly blamed. How often is undeserved censure inflicted in this life! Well, all one can do in such cases is 'to grin and bear it,' as did the dog in the fable. However, to return to Pendleton. During the evening a pretty presentation was made to our honoured ex-president. It took the form of a set of portraits of the entire Executive, handsomely mounted and framed; the presentation was made by Mr. J. J. Morse, who happily blended the humorous and serious in his remarks. Mr. Smedley made a most feeling response, and the entire audience enthusiastically applauded almost every word he said.

Another pretty incident was the presentation of a bouquet of Bluebells, by Amy Meakin, to Miss Burton, on behalf of the Bluebells' Groups in the lyceum procession, which will, no doubt, be a gratification to Flora Belle who is responsible for that department in this journal. Indeed, the Bluebells' heartily cheered the BANNER man when they caught sight of him. At last the proceedings of Saturday came to a close, and the visitors soon departed to the homes of the various hospitable friends who so kindly entertained them.

Sunday was another beautiful day, and soon after time the actual business of the conference commenced; but that is fully reported in the excellent Official Report, provided elsewhere by our able Union Secretary, so only a passing reference or two is permissible here. The opening invocation was given by Amy Bagnall, and another young lady voiced the public welcome to the Executive and Delegates. The routine business was carried through with reasonable despatch, but owing to the time consumed in dealing with the Lyceum 'Home' matter, the other business had to be abandoned. Now it is decided to commence the Conference on the Saturday night, there will be ample time for all that must be done. Mr. T. O. Todd, the editor of *The Keystone*, was present, and set himself right, as he said, to the Conference over the 'Home' matter, upon which he chivalrously declined to speak at the previous conference, because, he stated, Mr. Ainsworth was not present thereat, though his assertion that he had by so refraining lost the confidence of the Conference, was loudly dissented from by the delegates, which again goes to show the unwisdom of hasty conclusions, for no one, so far as the BANNER knows, ever said or thought anything of the kind about our energetic friend. Now, 'alls well that ends well,' as the

proverb has it. The election of Officers and the Executive resulted as shown in the report mentioned above, though after the contest for the presidency, no one had wit enough to move that the election of that officer be now made unanimous. It was to be regretted that Mrs. Greenwood was not re-elected, as now there is no lady on the Executive, for, as ours is a children's cause, a woman is really necessary on the Executive body.

In this month's issue of the BANNER, our readers will find a capital portrait of the new President, and to use an old figure of speech, "he is a fine figure of a man." The BANNER prevailed upon him to allow his picture to appear in the official organ, and it can be truly said that his manner is as pleasing as his presence is good. The BANNER wishes you, Mr. President, a happy and successful year of office, for the BANNER man congratulates himself that the Delegates accepted your nomination at his hands, and elected you to your honourable position.

The evening Demonstration Meeting was largely attended and quite successful. Mr. Wm. Johnson made a rousing speech, as did Mr. Todd in his accustomed vein. The President's address was kindly and thoughtful in tone, Mrs. Greenwood was graceful as usual, Mr. Morse was as full of inspiration as ever, and the clairvoyance of Miss Burton was pointed and satisfactory.

The proceedings were ably and fully reported by Mr. Isaac Pickthall for *The Two Worlds*, and a good condensed report was given in *Light*. A lengthy report appears in *The Keystone*, taken by our talented friend, Mr. Ernest Young, of Manchester. And reports of the Procession appeared in the following Manchester newspapers, *The Guardian*, *Daily Dispatch*, and *Courier*, all of which shows a notable change in the attitude of the public press towards the movement at large.

While this is, as far as possible, a faithful account of our late meetings, it does not claim to be exhaustive. If anything has been omitted, or anyone overlooked, we shall be glad in our next issue to rectify any errors our readers may bring to our notice. We have aimed to do justice all round, in return, we only bespeak a generous recognition of our effort to do our best, than which no one can do more. To act impartially is too often a somewhat thankless task; but, nevertheless, we have essayed it, and perforce must abide the results of our labour.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Mr. Alfred Smedley, the President, upon rising to give his presidential address was loudly and heartily cheered by all present. He said:

"BROTHERS, SISTERS, AND FELLOW-WORKERS, another year has passed and the all important needs of the Children have again brought us together for the transaction of the increasing business of our Union.

We have also to consider the best means for still more successfully carrying on the arduous, but noble work among the young.

The rather long delayed "New Constitution" is, as you are aware, now ready for final consideration, so that if possible, it may be adopted by this Conference. When this is done it will no doubt be the means of assisting your Executive, as well as the Lyceums in general, in carrying on the work more successfully.

There are also the questions of a permanent Secretary for the Union and the Lyceum Home to consider, all of which being extra work for this conference. I will therefore ask your patient and careful attention to the business awaiting our consideration.

From my own observation during visits to various Lyceums, I have noticed much to encourage us in our labours; for the movement among the children is certainly spreading and taking firmer hold on the affections of the people.

I noticed that the attention, order, reciting, singing, music, marching, and calisthenics were generally good, considering the age of the members. In some cases they were excellent, quite inspiring to witness. I would, however, say to some of the Conductors and officers—"Yet one thing thou lackest," viz., punctuality.

It is of great importance that all children should be taught punctuality. Whatever may be the appointed time to open your meetings commence to the minute.

If this is regularly done, and they are taught the importance of it, it will become a valuable habit; one of the first steps towards success in life will be created. I know it to be a fact in the commercial world, that a punctual time-keeper is often chosen to fill a responsible position in preference to a person who may have superior abilities, but who is not punctual.

There are a number of points in connection with the education of the young to which I might refer, but as we have so much work before us, time forbids.

One most important subject I must name, and that is the use of alcoholic drinks among the young. Oh! how many bonny, bright-eyed girls have been ruined with it? Their whole lives blighted. How many brave boys have been damned by it? Yes, hundreds of thousands have through it brought down their parents' grey hairs with sorrow to their graves. Mr. Gladstone once made the appalling statement that "Intemperance destroyed more than War, Famine, and Pestilence." And still it goes on. I pray you, my dear friends, in the name of, and on behalf of the dear and happy children, to do all in your power to save our young Lyceumists from the degradation, sorrow and misery that follow in the wake of drink.

If we fail in the performance of our duty in this matter, while worthily performing many others, we may at some future period of our existence, hear the unwelcome words—"These ought ye to have done, and not to have left the others undone."

A. P. NIELD.—Your favour to Flora Belle duly passed to her hands, but owing to pressure of conference reports this month she was obliged to hold your interesting communication over until July.

THOS. STUBBS.—Next month; we tried to squeeze a place, but could not manage it this month.

A SPECIAL MEETING of the South East Lancashire Lyceum District Council will be held in the William Street Spiritualist Church, Heywood, on June 8th, 1901. All Lyceums in the District are invited to send two Delegates. Business, to endeavour to form a new District Council on such a basis that it will be able to do the work of the District in a manner that will do credit to the Lyceum movement.—A. E. Kershaw, Sec., 28 South Bank Road, Bury.

OUR BLUEBELLS' PAGE

CONDUCTED BY

FLORA BELLE.

MY DEAR BLUEBELLS,

I do think brother Ted is a most unfeeling brother, but boys I do believe, think sisters are only made to be teased. He says he is sorry now, but that's always the way with folks after they have hurt your feelings, isn't it? But for once both Father and Mother scolded him, and took my part, so I did not feel hurt for nothing did I? Ted is looking over my shoulder and he is sniggering again, he says "you haven't told them what it is all about yet, so how do you think they will sympathise with you?" Well, dears, it was this way. Circumstances which I could not control prevented me going to Manchester to see that lovely procession, and when the Editor wrote and told me about it I just sat down and cried, I felt so disappointed. No, Ted, it wasn't because I wanted them to see Flora Belle, it was because the Editor told me that there were several Groups of my dear Bluebells' in the Lyceums, and that each member wore a little bunch of my flowers. I wanted to be there to thank them for thinking of me, and to thank Lilah's friend for marshalling them and looking after them. I was so pleased to learn, too, that she was presented with a bouquet of Bluebells. Well, it is all over now, and Ted and I are good friends again. Of course I got a lesson out of my vexation, for Father has such a way with him. He never scolds me, but what he does always hurts more. He brought me a book of Andrew Jackson Davis, and he pointed to the page he had opened it at, and on it I saw this:

"UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES KEEP AN EVEN MIND."

Which Father said was what Mr. Davis calls his "Magic Staff," so I made up my mind not to give way to disappointments in future, and told father I would not, then he kissed me, and I went away and cried because he made me feel so happy! Ted says "girls are funny," and I do believe he is right, don't you?

But Ted is just as funny as most boys, too. He keeps pets! rabbits. The craze took him a while since, and the first thing we knew of it was our grocer's boy brought a big box, "for Master Ted!" Shortly after in comes Ted with some short planks, and a parcel containing nails, hinges, wire netting, and things. It seems he had asked Father if he might keep a pet, and was told yes! But he never said a word to me! For several nights after he had done his lessons he was busy sawing, hammering and making a big mess at the bottom of the garden. He sawed a gash in his thumb one night, but he didn't mind it a bit, so he

said! He finished his work on the fourth night and invited us all to look at the house he had built. It was a fine one, too! There was a nice warm bed room for Bunny, a beautiful dry place, a feeding trough, a doorway of netting, and a solid door for the bedroom. He had made a slooping roof, covered with felt, to carry off the wet, and it stood on a nice firm bench he had built to hold it. He had actually painted it too! The roof was red, and the sides and front green. It looked quite gorgeous. The next afternoon he came home by the back gate. I saw he had a small sack, but I was too busy helping motuer to go out and see what he had brought in just then. After tea he asked us to come and see, and all of us going down we found two beautiful rabbits in the house, and on the front door, as he called it, he had painted, Flora House, Mr. and Mrs. Flora Bunny. He calls the lady rabbit Mrs. Flora and the gentleman rabbit, Mr. Ted Rabbit. My! what care he takes of them. The first thing in the morning, when he comes in at dinner time, and the last thing at night, he is looking after them. I always thought he was kind but now I am sure of it, for the Bunnies could not be better looked after if they were real babies. He is awfully proud of them, and brings school-fellows in to see them every day. They are lovely things, too. One is all white, the lady, the other is a pretty black and white one. Both are quite tame, and let me stroke them. Ted says he will write me a piece some time about them, so I won't say any more about them now.

Goodness! what's that? "Don't be silly," replies Ted, "its only the postman." In comes Mary with "a letter for you Miss," and sure enough it is! It is from Mr. W. Bagnall of the Cobden Street Lyceum, Pendleton, and it actually contains 29 more names for my Guild! Oh! thank you dear friend, and all the others, too. We are growing fast now, for one hundred are enrolled already! I will send you the cards and put all your names at the end of this letter, top. Won't some of my Bluebells' soon send me some letters, I am dying to hear from you, and to hear more about you all? Oh! dear me, I musn't say any more now, for I am sure this will fill up all the room our good Editor can spare me. So no more now from your loving sister,

FLORA BELLE.

Members of the Bluebells Guild.

PENDLETON (Cobden Street).

71 Hannah M. Sharples	86 Jessie Beswick
72 Harold Sharples	87 Ruth Broadbent
73 Wilfred Sharples	88 Elizabeth Pellowe
74 Annie Meakin	89 Florence Pellowe
75 Amy Meakin	90 Mary Jane Thorpe
76 Jack Bagnall	91 Nora Thorpe
77 Willy Bagnall	92 Florrie Sharp
78 Effie Bagnall	93 Amelia Sharp
79 Lance Bagnall	94 Polly Holden
80 Arthur Bagnall	95 Emily Holden
81 Frank Wilson	96 Frank Broadbent
82 Jim Kirby	97 Sarah Poole
83 Amy Griffiths	98 Frank Neild
84 Gertie Kadelbach	99 Roseana Moulding
85 Annie Beswick	

The LYCEUM BANNER upholds the cause of the children as ably as ever. The "Outline Lessons" should be of very great assistance to teachers in our lyceums and to those platform workers who have not sufficient time to prepare strictly original addresses.—*Psyche*,

Our Total Abstainers' Department.

EDITED BY ERNEST.

It has been truly said that without health life is not worth living. To that may be added that without moral stamina character is impossible. We admire the physique of a healthy boy or girl, the ruddy cheeks, the sparkling eyes, and the promise of manhood and womanhood they afford. We hope the promise will be fulfilled when youth gives place to maturity. Yet, how many pitfalls and snares beset the feet of the young in their onward march! Betting, gambling, vice in various forms, are eating into our national life on all sides, while the giant foe of all pure living—the use of intoxicants, towers over all other evils. Drunkenness is not only a vice that affects the victim, it is a sin against morals and all social progress. Religious teachers and social reformers recognise the foregoing statement, and among the poor and ignorant, as well as those in better circles of life, the vice of intemperance is being combatted on every side.

Spiritualists cannot afford to ignore the terrible evil wrought in our midst. Lyceum leaders certainly should not, for the young are committed to their care, and it is in youth that the deepest impressions are made on the mind. Evil communications corrupt good manners we all were taught at school, and the 'evil communication' that the drink habit conveys is most disastrous to virtue, honour and purity. Parents owe it to their children to set them a good example in this matter. Teachers must realise that they be blameless if they would accomplish lasting good among their charges. Our lyceums must come into line with this reformatory work if they are to put the principles taught us by the Spirit world into effective operation through the teachings of our schools. Let our leaders in our lyceums stand for total abstinence as the one sure thing that will aid the coming generation to live free from the awful degradation that drunkenness so surely leads to.

The ancient Spartans made their slaves drunk, that their bestial state might inspire with loathing the young men of that time. Nothing is more disgusting than a drunken man, unless it be a drunken woman, though there is a deeper depth still—a child overcome with alcohol. The 'drunks and disorderlies' of our police courts present the most saddening spectacle a lover of his kind can contemplate. Manhood wrecked, womanhood polluted, and one is almost compelled to quote the words of the poet, who may have had some such spectacle in mind when he penned his lines,

"Poor race of men, cried the pitying spirit,
Dearly ye pay for you primal fall;
Some flowers of Eden ye yet inherit,
But the trail of the Serpent is over them all."

I know that in a number of lyceums, this all important topic of total abstinence is given the place it demands. I would that it were so in every lyceum in the land. I know, also, that in hundreds of Spiritualist families total abstinence from intoxicants is the rule. Would that in every lyceum and in every home such was the rule. We cannot work too hard to make

it so. We must do our utmost to make our efforts for the young the means of preventing them falling into the slough in which so many have been engulfed. I was an attentive listener to Mr. Smedley's address, at Pendleton, and rejoiced that his sturdy plea for total abstinence met so pronounced a response from the delegates. I had a little chat with the Editor afterwards, and was delighted to find him in sympathy with that appeal, and on his asking me to take up the subject in the BANNER, I more than readily assented. Anything, he said, that is for the moral welfare and social improvement of human life, is welcome to the paper, and so the present writer steps into the gap, and hopes for many days to come to say his best on the question in these pages. Will my readers send me any temperance cuttings they may come across, as they may meet with items that I may not. Any little essays from our boys or girls, conductors or leaders, will always be welcome. Let us all unite in the good work that can only redound to the credit of Spiritualism, and help the world to a better life all round. Happy is the home from entrance to which the drink demon is barred.

ERNEST.

GATESHEAD—The Lyceum will celebrate its first anniversary on the date this issue of the BANNER will appear, *i.e.*, Sunday, June 9th. Great progress has been made since the work was commenced, and no doubt largely attended and in every way satisfactory gatherings will mark the interesting occasion. Gateshead is a liberal supporter of this paper.

THE LEEDS LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.—Next meeting to be held at Armley, at 3 30 p.m., on the 6th of July. Hoping that all delegates and Lyceum visitors will endeavour to be in time. It will be the annual meeting and election of officers' meeting at 3-30, tea at 5, and social at 7.—E. ROBINSON, Sec.

FLORRIE RICHARDS, Hollinwood.—Ever so sorry to disappoint you, but Aunt Editha was not able to write for the Groupites last month. She hopes to be able to do so next.

J. Tinker.—Will use the "Three C's" sent with "C" in your next. Please send early.

The BANNER congratulates "The Two Worlds" on its great improvement under the care of its new printers. It now looks bright and creditable in its new dress and type.

NOTTINGHAM, Gladstone Hall.—I am pleased to state that our lyceum has increased wonderfully of late. A few weeks ago a lady friend, Mrs. Knight, after attending two or three sessions, became so interested in our work that she offered two prizes for the two best recitations, to be competed for on the first Sunday in April. The day arrived, and so did Mrs. Knight, the books, and the children with their recitations, such a lot of them! Didn't we enjoy them. Of course the prizes were won, but four of the competitors were so close that we really did not know how to decide. Fortunately, another friend was present, Mr. Sales, and he had brought a book as a prize, too. So, as our lady friend promised to bring another book, each of the four winners were provided with a prize, which terminated in a happy fashion a most enjoyable incident.—Sam Sanderson.

FOUNDED NOVEMBER, 1890

Adopted as the Official Organ of the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union, May, 1891.

The LYCEUM BANNER:

*J. J. MORSE, Editor**FLORENCE MORSE, Associate Editor**Price 1d., post free 1½d.**Assisted by Lyceum Workers in all parts of the world.*

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THE LYCEUM BANNER

JUNE, 1904.

OUR MONTHLY CHAT.

Pendleton and After. ELSEWHERE the BANNER presents its readers with the Descriptive and Official reports of the late conference meetings, and the doings thereat. Mr. Kitson gives a really admirable report, which faithfully details the business side of the event. The editor deals with the points not properly within the official account. The two together offer a birds-eye view of all that occurred. Now it is all over what are the lessons to be learned? First the absolute necessity of more time for the work. Hitherto not quite six hours have been available for the transaction of the business of the conference, with the not unnatural consequence that on each occasion, at least for several years past, many things were scrambled through somehow, and others had to be abandoned. Mr. Morse's motion will prove invaluable for future gatherings, since it will provide at least three additional hours for business purposes. The BANNER regrets that Mr. Johnson's motion for a contribution of 5s. from each Lyceum, as a means of supplementing the financial deficit, was not passed, as it would have probably produced about £25, while the halfpenny levy will at the best only raise about £15. Surely each Lyceum could raise 5s. during the ensuing twelve months? The funds of the Union are, without doubt economically administered, but it will soon become a pressing matter for consideration as to whether the Lyceum contributions should not be raised by a halfpenny per head. There is too much pleading poverty among us, but not when "trips," "demonstrations," and "banners" are the questions asking for money. The best result of the conference was to bring us face to face with the necessities of the work, financially and otherwise.

Three Notable Incidents. THE conference received three notable object lessons. They should long be remembered. First was the handsome gift made by the late President of the entire edition of his valuable work, "Some Reminiscences," practically worth over £300 to the Union. Next was the presentation to the Union of the valuable property rights in those essential works, *The Manual* and *The Spiritual Songster*, which Mr. H. A. Kersey has handed over to the Union. The last was concerning the Lyceum "Home," and Mr. John Ainsworth's action thereon. In the two first cases unconditional generosity was the leading note. So far as Mr. Kersey's gift was concerned, as it involved certain legal contingencies, he, without hesitation, spontaneously offered to put the matter on a legal basis. But regarding the proposed gift of the "Home" to the Union, neither argument or persuasion would induce Mr. Ainsworth to follow a similar business-like course. His gratuitous affront to the Executive need only be noted, comment upon it is unnecessary. The unstinted generosity of the other two donors make a self-evident contrast to Mr. Ainsworth's giving-yet-holding attitude.

The President's Address. THE Presidential Address has now become an established feature of our annual conferences. The one delivered by Mr. Smedley was pointed and instructive, and full of the kindly enthusiasm of his warm-hearted love for the children's cause. Two points stood out clearly and distinctly—Punctuality and Temperance. Regarding the first named the Belper Lyceum sets an example to the entire country. Ten o'clock there means that hour, not even two minutes after it! We cordially commend his remarks on this matter to all our officers. The habits of youth become the methods of manhood, and punctuality has been described as the courtesy of princes. See to it, friends and co-workers, that you inculcate it in practice in our Lyceums. His stirring words upon total abstinence from alcoholic liquors for the young in our care struck a sympathetic chord in the minds of all present. No more soul deadening habit can be contracted in youth than the unhappily all too prevalent use of intoxicants, and Lyceums would do well to particularly emphasise that fact by all means in their power. Let us do our best to point the feet of our young men and women in the path of sobriety, and to that end no better means can be adopted than encouraging our young folks to absolutely abjure the use of all intoxicants, including tobacco, as well.

What is the Position of a Lyceum. THE question at the side of this note is an important one. We meet in Spiritualists' halls, in most cases under the care and with the consent of Spiritualist societies. Our officers and members are Spiritualists, and rightly or wrongly, our Lyceums are recognised as Spiritualist organisations, teaching the facts and philosophy of Spiritualism. This is all true of the American Lyceums as well as of our own. The system inaugurated by our honoured founder, Andrew Jackson Davis, was not denominational, it is true. But the fact remains that his plan has been adapted to, not adopted by, the Lyceums of the United States and of Great

Britain. In this country, at least, Spiritualism is rapidly assuming the character of a religion, and our Lyceums would thus appear to bear the same relation to our movement that Sunday Schools bear to the various orthodox bodies around us. The BANNER is of opinion that to destroy the Spiritualistic character of our Lyceums would be a fatal blunder. By all means let our system of teaching include all things that may benefit our young people, but let us consistently adhere to the distinctive character we possess as Spiritualist centres, nor sanction anything that would destroy the work the Lyceums have so far achieved. To withdraw the term "Spiritualists" from the title of our Union would destroy at once the work of years, and the gain would be worthless, for Spiritualism would assert itself in spite of the no doubt well meant attempts of would-be liberalists. The result would be not union, but dis-union.

TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS.

Will those friends whose favours we are unavoidably compelled to leave over until next month kindly bear with the delay? The numerous matters concerning the late conference occupy more space than was expected, which compels us reluctantly to leave out various things that otherwise we should have gladly inserted. Kindly send all reports and notices for the Monthly Record and Itemettes columns as early as possible.

OFFICIAL NOTICES.

The British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

PROPAGANDA MEETINGS.

TWO PROPAGANDA MEETINGS WILL BE HELD
IN THE
BROOK STREET LYCEUM, HUDDERSFIELD,
ON SUNDAY, JUNE 16TH, 1901.

SPEAKERS:—

Mr. ALBERT WILKINSON, President, Nelson.
Mr. ALFRED SMEDLEY, Past-President, Belper.
Mr. S. S. CHISWELL, Liverpool.
Mr. J. CLARKE, Nottingham.
Mr. A. E. SUTCLIFFE, Treasurer, Sowerby Bridge, and
Mr. ALFRED KITSON, Secretary, Hanging Heaton.

An Open Session will be held at 10 a.m., at which the above gentlemen will be present.

Propaganda meetings at 2 30 and 6 30 p.m. Special collections in aid of the Union's funds. Parents, friends, and children cordially invited,

ALFRED KITSON, Secretary.

REVISION OF CONSTITUTION: IMPORTANT TO LYCEUMS.

NOTICE.—All notices of amendment to the draft copy of the new constitution now before the Lyceums, must be sent to me not later than June 30th, to entitle them to be dealt with at the interim conference, as per resolution of the Lyceum Conference held at Pendleton on May 12th, 1901.

ALFRED KITSON, Sec.

The British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

OFFICIAL REPORT

OF THE TWELFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE,
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, PENDLETON,

MAY 12TH, 1901,

MR. ALFRED SMEDLEY, President, Belper, presiding.
MORNING SESSION.

The Conference was called to order shortly after 10 a.m. After the opening exercises Miss Bagnall, a member of the local Lyceum, stepped forward and gave a hearty welcome to the President, Executive, and Delegates to Pendleton. This was duly acknowledged by the President.

TELLERS.

The President appointed Messrs. J. H. Smith (Bradford) and Geo. H. Smith (Manchester), tellers for the day.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.

Mr. T. O. Todd (Sunderland) and Mr. Wm. Harrison, Sec, S.N.F. (Burnley), were invited to seats among the delegates as distinguished visitors, on the motion of Mr. Johnson (Hyde), seconded by Mr. Jonah Clarke (Nottingham).

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CONFERENCE.

The minutes of the last Conference were read and confirmed as a correct record, on the motion of Mr. J. Clarke (Nottingham), seconded by Mr. H. Holgate (Darwen).

A question was then raised by Mr. J. Knight (Bolton). *re* the financial grievance between the Knowsley Street and Bradford Street Lyceums at Bolton. He was agreeable to the matter being either referred back to the E.C. or to a sub-committee, the decision of the same to be final. The delegate from the Bradford Street Lyceum not being in a position to promise compliance, the motion was withdrawn. The President suggested that the best way out of the difficulty would be for them to withdraw the money and divide equally.

THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

The President, in the course of his Address, referred to the proposed new Constitution which had been submitted to them for consideration, and the appointment of a permanent secretary to attend to the rapidly increasing business of the Union. He pleaded for more attention to punctuality on the part of the officers. It was important that habits of punctuality should be inculcated in the children, and the best way to do this was for their elders to show them a good example. He also pleaded that more attention be given to total abstinence from all alcoholic liquors, the use of intoxicants being one of the chief snares to lead our boys and girls to ruin.

The address was adopted, on the motion of Mr. W. Johnson, seconded by Mr. J. H. Smith, the mover

suggesting that the Lyceums go to work to put the latter part of the address into practice.

It was decided, on the motion of Mr. J. W. Moss (Blackburn), seconded by Mr. Thomas Wright (Sowerby Bridge), that copies of the Presidential address be sent to the LYCEUM BANNER (the official organ), *Spiritual Review*, *Light*, *Two Worlds*, and the *Keystone*.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

It was decided, on the motion of Mr. J. J. Morse, Past President, and Mr. J. B. Tetlow (S.E.L. District Council), to take the Secretary's report and balance sheet (see LYCEUM BANNER for last month) as printed. Several questions were asked the Secretary concerning the printed returns, some of which showed a less total than the average attendance. On the returns being produced, the figures were shown as printed.

In answer to questions, the Secretary said that Mrs. Jessy Greenwood had promised £1 1s. od. and the Belper Lyceum had promised £1 0s. od.

He also explained, in answer to questions *re* finance, that the E.C. paid its visit to Bury during the heavy snow storm on Feb. 10th, 1900, the weather being such that people would not venture out, hence the small receipts, after paying for the hire of the Co-operative Hall, etc.

THE AUDITOR'S REPORT.

Mr. F. Chiswell submitted the Auditor's report, in which he referred to the increasing deficit in the General Fund; the satisfactory condition of the Publishing Fund; the correctness of all the accounts, and the increased secretarial duties. The report was accepted, on the motion of Mr. H. A. Kersey (Newcastle-on-Tyne), seconded by Mr. J. Clarke.

THE FINANCIAL DEFICIT.

Mr. W. Johnson (Hyde) moved that £10 be transferred to the general fund from the publishing fund in order to lessen the deficit. This was seconded by Mr. Taylor (Hollinwood).

An amendment was moved by Mr. T. H. Wright (Sowerby Bridge), seconded by Mrs. Raine (Bradford), that the sum of £20 be transferred. On being put to the vote the latter was lost.

A LYCEUM LEVY.

With a view to clearing off the remaining deficit Mr. W. Johnson moved, seconded by Mr. T. Norton (Bootle), that each Lyceum be asked to raise not less than 5s. during the current year.

Mr. J. Ramsbottom (Dukinfield) moved, and Mr. Wiggley (Belper) seconded, that each Lyceum be asked to contribute $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per member. The following were moved as riders—*viz.*, "1d. per quarter," "1d. per member," and "quarterly collections during the remainder of the year." On the motions being put to the vote, the levy of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per member carried.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE.

The Credentials Committee reported as follows:—Present: Officers and Executive Committee, 7; Auditors, 2; District and Council Visitors, 6; Delegates, 88; total, 103.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

On the Conference reassembling, the President feelingly referred to the passing on of Mr. John

Lamont (Liverpool), Mr. Thos. Geo. Dexter (Nottingham), Mr. Alfred Bodell (Belper), and Mr. James Swindlehurst (Preston). A resolution of condolence with the bereaved families was passed by the whole assembly rising to its feet, moved by the President, and seconded by Mr. J. J. Morse.

MR. H. A. KERSEY'S GIFTS TO THE UNION.

The President had great pleasure in announcing that Mr. H. A. Kersey had generously donated to the B.S.L.U. the stereo plates and all rights connected with the *Lyceum Manual* and *Spiritual Songster*. This very generous act was one they all felt very grateful for, as these publications were absolutely necessary to the Lyceum movement.

Mr. W. Johnson (Hyde) moved, and Miss A. Burton (Bury) seconded, that we accept Mr. Kersey's generous donation with our heartiest thanks. Appreciative remarks on the great service Mr. Kersey had rendered the Lyceum by publishing the *Lyceum Manual* and the *Spiritual Songster* at a time when the movement was friendless and languishing for such generous help, were made by Mr. J. J. Morse (London) and Mr. J. Venables (Walsall). Mr. Kersey expressed his gratitude for the vote accorded him, and added he was desirous of helping to build up the Union on a solid financial basis, and he desired his gift to be a means to that end. He wanted to see a secretary permanently engaged by the Union to look after its manifold interests and the movement in general. In answer to several questions, he said he had no objection to additions being made, so long as they were in the right direction. He thought the question as to a cheaper edition of the *Songster* was one which the E.C. should decide.

THE LYCEUM HOME.

The Secretary read a long report on the negotiations between the E.C. and Mr. John Ainsworth, *re* the "Lyceum Home," in which it was stated a sub-committee had visited the Home and discussed the *pros* and *cons* of the necessity of some legal agreement, but had failed to obtain anything from Mr. Ainsworth outside his original offer, that this had been roughly drafted as a memorandum of agreement and signed by Mr. Ainsworth, but when the same matter had been properly drafted he had declined to sign it, and, moreover, he had lately stated that if the Home was not maintained to his satisfaction, he would give the E.C., through its secretary, "14 clear days' notice to quit." Under these circumstances, the E.C. could not see its way to undertake the responsibilities connected with taking over the Home, and therefore, begged to report the whole matter to the Conference for its final decision.

Mr. Ainsworth asked permission to explain his position more fully.

On the notion of Mr. W. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Swift (Sheffield), it was decided that the "Lyceum Home" question be not re-opened for discussion.

The Conference then decided, on the motion of Mr. A. H. Rocke (Salford), seconded by Mr. J. Knight (Bolton), that Mr. Ainsworth be allowed 10 minutes to state his case.

Mr. Ainsworth then reviewed his position. He thought he had given sufficient evidence of his honesty in the matter. He had made a solemn resolve years ago that he would never take one penny for anything he did for Spiritualism, and he still adhered to that resolve. It was on the advice of his solicitor that he declined to sign the agreement. It was his solicitor's opinion that the "Lyceum Home" would not, in the present state of the movement, be adequately supported. That the scheme was 25 years before its time. He had been abused and misrepresented on every side; but his intentions were strictly honest. He wanted to see a Lyceum Home established, and he intended the children having one; but he refused to have any further correspondence with the present members of the E.C. on the matter.

The President again expressed his thanks to Mr. Ainsworth for his generous offer; he did not doubt his intentions; he understood Mr. Ainsworth's position, but, unfortunately, Mr. Ainsworth did not appear to understand the position of the E.C. As business men, they could not appeal for funds to support a 'Home' of which they had neither a tenancy nor right of way. The whole question could have been settled long ago if Mr. Ainsworth had signed, as an agreement, what he had promised. Nothing more was asked of him, but he declined. The Home would cost £2 per week to maintain. How could they, as business men, take such responsibilities without any agreement, and a threat of 14 days' notice to quit if it was not managed to his satisfaction. As to Mr. Ainsworth's will, that was a thing of the future. Suppose they were to agree to his terms, and he was to suddenly pass to the other side, with the will unsigned, all kinds of difficulties were likely to meet them by his relatives and heirs-at-law, and they could not help themselves. What would the Conference and the public say about their business abilities if such an event happened? They would say they were unfit to be trusted with the affairs of the Union.

Mr. A. H. Rocke moved, and Mr. W. E. Bennett (Sheffield), seconded,—“That this Conference accepts Mr. Ainsworth's offer if he will sign the agreement submitted to him by the E.C., and if not, the matter be dropped with regret.

Mr. Venables informed the Conference that Mr. Ainsworth had admitted to him that the will he had referred to was not signed. So it was valueless to them.

At Mr. J. J. Morse's special request, Mr. T. O. Todd was allowed 10 minutes speech on the question, seeing that he was the originator of the scheme.

Mr. Todd reviewed at some length the position of affairs, and said that the E.C. was in the same position with regard to this question that he was last year. Therefore, his position at that time was justified. He had to hold his tongue last Conference, because Mr. Ainsworth was absent, and it had lost him the confidence of the Conference (No, no). If the scheme had to succeed, the Union must have a right to use the Home for a stated time. The Lyceum children were wanting a 'Home,' and asking what the Union was doing for them. If they were determined to have a

Children's 'Home,' they had only to make an appeal and plenty of money would be forthcoming to maintain it.

Mr. A. H. Rocke's motion was put to the Conference and carried; and, as Mr. Ainsworth still declined to sign the agreement, the question was dropped.

AN INTERIM CONFERENCE.

Seeing that the time was far advanced, and there was the new Constitution to deal with, Mr. J. J. Morse moved, and Mrs. Raine (Bradford), seconded,—“That an interim Conference be held at Southport in August, to deal with the new Constitution, and that the question of engaging a permanent secretary be also deferred until then.” Carried.

With regard to notices of motion, the editor of the LYCEUM BANNER claimed priority of such, seeing it was the official organ of the Union. He did not object to them being sent to contemporary journals if their appearance were not in advance of the official organ. After Messrs. Johnson, Knight, and Hodson (Bloomsbury, Birmingham) spoke on the question, it was pointed out that the Conference had already decided that all motions be sent direct to the Union's secretary.

A NEW DEPARTURE.

It was next decided, on the motion of Mr. J. J. Morse, seconded by Mr. J. Clarke, that future conferences commence at 6 p.m. on the Saturday evenings preceding the Conference Sundays.

MOTIONS, RE THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

On the motion of Mr. A. E. Kershaw (Bury), seconded by Miss Stott (Oldham), it was decided that all Lyceums be notified “all motions to amend the new Constitution must be sent to the Union's Secretary not later than June 30th.”

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

President—Mr. Albert Wilkinson (Nelson) was elected President for the ensuing year.

Secretary—Mr. Alfred Kitson was unanimously re-elected Secretary for the ensuing year.

Treasurer—Mr. A. E. Sutcliffe (Sowerby Bridge) was re-elected Treasurer.

Auditors—Messrs. Frank Chiswell (Liverpool) and J. J. Bennett (Walsall) were re-elected as Auditors.

Executive—Mr. Jonah Clarke (Nottingham) was elected a member of the Executive, and Mr.

J. J. Morse (London) was re-elected to serve on that body.

NEXT YEAR'S CONFERENCE.

Mr. J. Venables invited the Conference to hold its next annual assembly at Walsall, on the second Sunday in May, 1902. The invitation was accepted, on the motion of Mr. W. Johnson, seconded by the President.

VOTES OF THANKS.

The usual votes of thanks to the President and retiring members of the E.C., local Lyceums, and Societies for their services were passed, on the motion of Mr. J. J. Morse, seconded by Mr. A. P. Nield (Bolton).

ALFRED KITSON, Secretary.

LYCEUM NOTES AND COMMENTS.

No. LXXXVII.

BY ALFRED KITSON.

I MUST apologise to those Lyceums who have had to wait so long for their copies of the *Lyceum Manual*, bound in morocco leather. As a number of these were for presents to Lyceum scholars, it has made the delay all the more difficult to bear. I am informed it has been caused by a certain portion being to reprint; otherwise, all orders are attended to on the day of receipt.

* * *

THE Lyceum Demonstration was a pretty sight. The beautiful banners, the white dresses, and flowers, the orderly appearance of the various Lyceums, made a deep impression on the thousands of people lining the route, and called forth numerous comments of wonder and admiration, which the writer heard personally, as he wended his way among them, struggling with his heavy load.

* * *

THE marching was watched with interest by a large concourse of people, who wondered how the children could do it so well after marching from Manchester. It was a pity their efforts were not seconded by a more lively, and inspiring selection of music. The pieces were not at all appropriate to the occasion; they lacked "go" and "life."

The same remarks apply to the selections for the calisthenics.

* * *

It was noticed that a few Lyceums were still using the old series of calisthenics. Perhaps these will bring themselves into line by the time another demonstration is arranged for. If so, then all may commence and finish simultaneously, as if they were the members of one great Lyceum.

* * *

THE Conference was the best attended that has ever been held. It is a pity we cannot add, it was also the most harmonious. There was a heavy, depressing feeling, which was painful to those who were sensitive. And the quibbling spirit manifested made matters worse. And, yet, in spite of these drawbacks, good work was done, and the air cleared of certain untoward elements. So that we may look for a brighter atmosphere in the future.

* * *

MR. Kersey's splendid gift of the copy-right, stereotypes, &c., of the *Lyceum Manual* and *Spiritual Songster*, shows how deep his interest in, and concern for the consolidation and upbuilding of the Lyceum cause is. Perhaps no one knows better than the writer, how much the Lyceum movement is indebted to Mr. Kersey for its present position, by compiling and publishing these two valuable books at a time when the cause was languishing for them. Truly the new century is being ushered in, and marked by the generous acts, of generous hearts, which

have fallen like a sweet and fragrant benediction on grateful hearts of Lyceum officers, who will redouble their efforts for the advancement of the Lyceum cause.

* * *

A SMALL batch of "Sage Churchianity" have been sent to each Lyceum Secretary. It is an excellent tract, by our past President, written in reply to a Rev. Mr. Sage. Mr. Smedley has given further evidence of his generous nature by presenting 7,000 copies to the Union for free distribution. Lyceums can have quantities by sending postage for them.

OUR LEADERS' DEPARTMENT.

Special Lyceum Lessons.

NOTE.—The following excellent idea for helping our Leaders in giving Lyceum Lessons will be continued each month until Mr. Tinker has completed the entire series.—EDITORS.

AN ALPHABET OF SPIRITUALISM FOR LYCEUM SCHOLARS.

By J. TINKER.

A.

ASPIRATION, ABILITY, ART.

Aspiration.—*Lat. Aspiratio*, to break to; a panting after. "As one in a race pants with his efforts to reach the goal, we aspire to high attainments." (J.T.) "Our aims are immeasurably higher than the broadest coin. We have nothing in common with worldly wealth. The angels come to take the hand of their brother man, and point him heaven-ward. "However high the attainments of mind, however exalted its aspirations, still higher can it attain. The wisest have a meagre knowledge. Man looks upward to the unknown with humiliation, and the angel from his starlit home looks upward likewise; and, when he beholds the wisdom beyond, the knowledge he has acquired becomes an insignificant leaf from an interminable forest. Thus for ever." (Phil. of Sp., p. 201.), Man. 112.

Ability.—*Lat. Habilitas*, to have or hold. Those powers which a person naturally has, fitness, power to perform. "What a man does that he has. What has he to do with hope or fear? In himself is his might. . . . Each man has his own vocation. His talent is the call. He has faculties silently inviting him to endless exertion." (Emerson). "You cannot tell what you can do until you try." (Old Saying). "Envy not the merits of another, but improve thy own talents." (Man. 125). "No one can do what he has not the natural faculties to do, neither can natural faculties become abilities till developed by exercise and training. In every rank of life there is the call for men of ability—able to do their work; not half do it. There is a plentiful supply of 'fledgelings' and 'flatterers,' in senate and in shop, in the churches and on Spiritualist platforms. Many have the power to attempt; few are 'able to do.'" (J.T.)

Art.—From Latin, *Artem*—skill in joinery or fitting. The fit expression of the beautiful and the true. "Picture and sculpture are the celebrations and festivities of form. But true art is never fixed; it is ever flowing. The sweetest music is not in the oratorio, but in the human voice when it speaks from its instant life tones of tenderness, truth, and courage. All works of art should not be detailed, but extempore performances. A great man is a new statue in every attitude and action." (Emerson). "Elevated and beautiful thought beautify the face and sparkle in the eye. 'The body is plastic to the touch of thought.'" (Philos. of Spirit). "Be an artist, mould thyself and thine into objects of truth and beauty." (J.T.).

Illustrated aspiration, ability, and art, with pictures of songsters and a Gothic cathedral a maiden of cheerful intelligence, and some beautiful fruit. These were contrasted with the picture of a tiger. What kind of aspiration, ability, and art were expressed in the tiger? Who could imagine the song of a tiger?

B.

BROTHERHOOD, BRAVERY, BEAUTY.

Brotherhood.—Anglo-Saxon, Brodher, one of the same brood or breed, having the same parents; one of a society with the same objects. "God hath made of one blood all nations of men." (Acts 17, 26v.). "All men are my brothers, all women are my sisters." (Manual 103). Also Manual 37, 38, 103, 208, 136, 218.

Bravery.—Fr. Brav, Gaelic Breg; fine, daring, fearless, from the idea of "breaking folk." Bravery is a dashing effort of physical courage, an instinctive boldness at the time of danger; courage is a mental quality of the will which persistently performs duty at all costs and terrors. See notes to come on courage.

Beauty.—Fr. Beauté, an assemblage of qualities of form and colour which greatly please the beholder. "All beauty warms the heart; is a sign of health, prosperity, and the favour of God." (Emerson). "Wherever snow falls or water flows, or birds fly; wherever day and night meet in twilight; wherever the blue heavens are hung by clouds or sown with stars; wherever are outlets into celestial space; wherever are danger, and awe, and love—there is Beauty." (Emerson). Man. 52, 31. 217, 308.

Illustrations of brotherhood by portraits of different races, anecdotes of unbrotherly action; portraits of brave policemen, pictures of Victoria and other crosses of honour, and anecdotes of brave deeds done in saving life, teaching that 'tis better to save life than to destroy it, portraits of beautiful ladies, the infant Jesus, and a Puritan maiden, for "Beauty is the flowering of virtue."

(To be Continued.)

THE LIBERTY GROUP

Our Calendar of Saints.

INTRODUCTORY.

THE BANNER is indebted to Mr. James Hargreaves, the Hon. Sec. of the Freckleton Street Lyceum, Blackburn, for the following excellent summary of historical facts and

information, which he presented as a lesson to the Lyceum at an open session held on Sunday, May 4th, 1901. It was received with so much favour by a crowded audience that we are pleased to give it the wider publicity that its merit deserves, in the hope that other Lyceums will find it equally useful and instructive.—EDITORS.

RELIGIOUS SAINTS.

"To know their achievements is to know the history of civilisation."

Budda, who lived in the 6th century, and was known as "The Light of Asia" and the Indian Christ; Professor Max Muller now in the Summerland, but a great authority on these matters, estimated his followers at 480,000,000.

Zoroaster lived in 6th century also, and founded the Persian religion, also the Zend Avesta, which is the Bible of the Zoroastrians.

Mahomed.—Brn. 570, passed on 632, conqueror and prophet, was the founder of the Arabian religion, and power which threatened to subdue the Christian world.

SAINTS OF PHILOSOPHY.

Socrates.—Brn. 469, P.O. 399 B.C., was a philosopher of ethics. His life, death, and teachings have left deep impress on civilisation.

Plato.—429-348. Emerson says "Plato is philosophy and philosophy is Plato."

Aristotle.—384-322. Greatest of philosophers, and was the founder of analytic philosophy.

Descartes.—1596-1650. Represented the world against Scholasticism, re-examined all questions, discarding authority of great names.

Bacon.—1561-1626. "The Father of Experimental Philosophy." From Bacon dates the origin of the industrial sciences.

Kant.—Brn. 1724, P.O. 1804. Born at Konigsburg. His Critique of pure reason gave him a world-wide reputation.

Spinoza.—1632-1677. Born at Amsterdam, and was of Jewish descent. His philosophy pantheistic—which means that the universe is God.

Spencer.—Herbert Spencer, philosopher and leader of the evolutionist school, born at Derby 1820. For eight years a civil engineer, and from 1845 to 1853 was sub-editor of the *Economist*.

SAINTS OF POETRY.

Homer.—Lived 9th century, B.C. "The Father of Poets." Homer's "Iliad" has been called the bible of heroes.

Goethe.—1749-1832. Poet and philosopher. The greatest of German authors.

Shakespeare.—1564-1616. The prince of poets and greatest of dramatists.

Here the Secretary recited "The Seven Ages" from "As You Like It."

Longfellow and Tennyson, who both wrote Spiritualistic writings, and the former's "Psalm of Life";

"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time,"

shows the expression of the writer.

Whittier.—The American poet and writer.

(To be Continued)

NORTHAMPTON.—We have re-formed our lyceum, and, on opening it on Sunday, April 26th, we had twenty-one children present. Since then seven additional members have joined, which shows we are making progress. At our opening, Mrs. Coles spoke a few words to the children, who most attentively listened to her. Mr. H. Clarke, of Leicester, and Mr. Ward, of Wisbech, have also addressed the lyceum. Mrs. Coles gave a coffee supper on the 28th ultimo, which was quite a success. Our officers are—Conductor, Mr. Coles; Treasurer, Mr. Rathbone; and Secretary, Mr. F. Smith.—F.S.

BATERSEA, LONDON.—The Third Anniversary of this lyceum was held on Sunday, May 5th. The officers had decided to make special preparations in the training of the children in singing for the occasion. New hymns and pieces had been selected, and a very successful result was achieved, the children doing great credit to their Conductor, Mrs. Boddington, and the friends who assisted her. The church Committee kindly granted the use of the building for the evening service, and permitted us to retain the entire collection taken up. Mrs. Boddington presided at this service and gave a short account of the teaching in our lyceum. The Secretary and Conductor gave short encouraging reports of the work and expressed their entire satisfaction with the proceedings of the day.

The Annual Business Meeting was held on Sunday, May 12th. Mr. H. Boddington spoke of the mutual good feeling among the workers, and announced his intention of retiring from the Conductorship, that he might be free for open air work in Battersea Park, and on Clapham Common.—I. Imison, Secretary.

In Memoriam.

MISS M. E. CROASDALE, ACCRINGTON,

MAY 8TH, 1901.

The China Street Lyceum, regrets to record that on May 8th, our late Assistant Conductor, Miss M. E. Croasdale, passed into spirit life, after many months of severe suffering. As a worker in our lyceum, she earned the respect of all who knew her. The laying aside of her mortal remains took place on the 11th, at the Cemetery, in Spiritualistic fashion. Over 70 members of the lyceum, wearing white badges, walked in procession in front of the hearse. The favourite hymns of our sister were sung at the graveside. Our Conductor, Mr. Holmes, conducted the ceremony. Wreaths were sent from the family, the lyceumists, and friends. The lyceumists showered a quantity of flowers on the coffin after it was lowered into the grave. On Sunday, the 12th, a Memorial Session was held in the lyceum. Mrs. Pedley and Mr. W. Edwards spoke feelingly on the merits of our arisen sister.

The "Lyceum Banner" Letter-Box,

An Alphabet of Spiritualism; Hints to Leaders.

DEAR EDITORS,—As a Conductor of a Lyceum, I was thinking what brief sentences I could put before the children to teach them our essential principles, and was impressed with the importance of "Three C's." These were:

"Charity,—Chastity,—Courage."

I told the Lyceum of these "Three C's," plainly explaining their meaning, and getting the children to repeat the words aloud. Some weeks afterwards, I asked them what the "three C's" were, and several children replied. The idea seemed to be successful, and I wondered if I could construct an alphabet of qualities in a similar way. I have done so, and each week I name three qualities. In the afternoon, they form the text for a lesson to one of the Groups, with illustrations by pictures from magazines, and extracts from newspapers and other sources.

Having unexpectedly to speak at a gathering of lyceumists in the presence of Mr. J. J. Morse, the editor of the LYCEUM BANNER, I briefly made use of the 'A B C's' above described, and he requested me to send them for use in the BANNER. I do so with the hope that the Leaders may find them useful, more in the way of suggestion than direct reading. I hope to be able to continue them each month until the 'alphabet' is completed.

Fraternally yours,—J. TINKER,

Higher Broughton, Manchester.

'WHO DID IT FIRST?'

SIR,—Will you allow me space in your next issue to contradict the report circulated concerning the first Spiritualist marriage in England conducted by a lady. Neither of the ladies whose names have been mentioned is entitled to the honour. I send you a cutting from "The Two Worlds," by which you will see that a marriage was performed by my sister, Mrs. E. H. Britten, which I may add is not the first she officiated at in this country, but, as I can only give you the authentic date of this one, it will suffice to show that neither of the ladies mentioned in the various papers are entitled to the claims made for them. The fact I offer is as follows:—

On the third of March, 1897, my sister, Mrs. Emma Hardinge Britten, united in marriage, Mr. James Frederick Moulding with Miss Mary Holt, at the Spiritual Church, Cobden Street, Pendleton, Manchester. I attended that service, and the church was crowded to repletion, there not being even standing room left. The service from first to last was unique, solemn, and impressive, as many can testify who were present.

MARGARET WILKINSON.

1087, Chester Road, Stretford, Manchester, May 6th, 1901.

NOTE.—Mr. James Hargreaves, Hon. Sec of the Freckleton Street Spiritualist Society, Blackburn, informs us that on July 22nd, 1886, Mrs. E. H. Britten united in marriage, in the Public Hall of the above town, Miss J. Farmery to Mr. R. Round. While on October 26th, 1891, Mrs. Craven, of Leeds, performed the marriage ceremony between Miss Annie Blackburn and Mr. Harry Ward,

The British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

INSTITUTED AT OLDHAM, MAY, 1890.

OFFICERS, 1901-1902.

President : Mr. Albert Wilkinson, 10, Percy Street, Nelson. Past President : Mr. Alfred Smedley, Park Mount, Belper.
 Treasurer : Mr. A. E. Sutcliffe, 18, Sowerby Street, Sowerby Bridge.
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 Secretary : Mr. Alfred Kitson, Bromley Road, Hanging Heaton, near Dewsbury.

List of Lyceums and Lyceum Secretaries in the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

- Accrington**, Albion st., 10-30 a.m., Miss Alice A. Edwards, 76, Omerid st.
 ,, Argyle st., 10-30 a.m., Miss N. Case, 52, William-st., Clayton-le-Moor.
 ,, Bridge st., 10-30 a.m., Mr. J. J. Linsey, 6, Jacob-st
 ,, China st., 10-30 a.m., Mr. Wm. Fish, 8, George st., Oswaldtwistle
Armley, Theaker lane, 10 a.m., Mr. W. Brett, 15, Bardon Mount, Whingate road.
Ashington, nr. Morpeth, 10 a.m., Mr. J. J. Douglas, 38, Fifth row
Bacup, Princess street, Mr. E. Riding, 12, New-church road.
Barnsley, George Yard, 10-30, Mr. Jos. Rodgers, 4, Dillington sq., Warshor' Common nr Barnsley
Barrow-in-Furness, Lyceum hall, Mr. J. Jones, 4, Mapus st.
Barry Dock, Atlantic hall, Mr. A. E. Taylor, 82, George st.
Batley Carr, Town st, 10 and 2, Mr. H. Holdsworth, 97, Cave buildings, near Dewsbury.
Belper, Jubilee hall, 10 and 2, Mr. J. Hawkins, Marsh lane.
Birmingham, Bloomsbury, Oddfellows' hall, 11 a.m., Miss M. Rudder, the Hollies, Aston In. Aston B.S.U., Bristol Street Board Schools, 2-45, p.m., Miss E. Cattell, 279, St. Vincent st, Ladywood
 ,, Smethwick, Central hall, cape hill, 2-45, p.m., Mr. H. Knible, 146, Bristol st, Birmingham.
Blackburn, Freckleton street, 9-30 and 1-45, Mr. James Hargreaves, 31, whalley new road.
 ,, Northgate, 9-30, Mr. T. E. Hollinhead, 24, Edmundson street.
Blackpool, Albert rd, 9-30., Mr. F. Mewis, 12, Maybell Avenue.
Bolton, Bradford st., 10 a.m. Mr. E. Pilkington, 72, Union st., Tonge Moor.
Bolton, Knowlesy st, 10 and 2-30, Miss Maud Spittle, 57, Essington st.
Bootle, Liverpool, Stanley hall, 11 a.m., Miss E. Norton, 4, St. Catherine's road.
Bradford, Rebecca st, 10 a.m., Mr. A Windle, 9, Tile st., Manningham.
 ,, Otley rd., 10 a.m. Mr. F. Priestley, Nuttall rd.
 ,, Temperance hall, 10 a.m., Mr. H. Downey, 26, Marshland place, Leeds road.
 ,, Sunbridge rd, 10-30. Mr. H. Anderson, 31, Gale st., Princeville.
 ,, St Paul's spiritual church, Laisterdyke, 10 a.m Mr. R. Lewis, 8, wakefield road.
 ,, Tong st, Dudley hill, 10 a.m., Mr. Fred Wilkinson, 81, Holme lane, Dudley Hill.
 ,, West Bowling, Parkside rd., 10 a.m. & 1-45 p.m., Mr. J. Lightowler, 13, Chellow st, Manchester rd
Brighouse, Martin st, 10 a.m., Mr. G. Crowther, 3, Rogerson square, Waring Green.
Burnley, Hammerton st, 10 a.m., Mr. Edward Hall, 9, Read street.
 ,, North st, 9-30, Mr. Thos. E. Chadwick, 104, Cleaver street.
 ,, Guy st, 10-30 a.m., Mr. W. A. Nutter, 41, Hulme st., Padiham rd.
Bury, Georgiana st., 10 a.m., Mr. Thomas Carter, 45, Wyndham street.
Carliff, St. John's square, 2-45.
Castleford, T T Liddle, 7, Kingstone villas, Glasshaughton near Castleford.
Cleckheaton, walker-st, Northgate, 9-45, Mr. Wm. Jackson, shaw-st, Moor bottom.
Colne, Cloth hall, 10, Mr. Harry Cotterell, 17, Mason street.
Crook, co. Durham, Old Crown rooms, 10-30, Mr. R. Shevels, 12, Arther street
Darwen, Church bank-st, 9-30, Mr. W Pearce, 41, Argyle street.
Derby, Midland-rd, 10-30, Mr. Ernest Shepherd, 48, Molineaux-st.
Dewsbury, Bond st, 10 and 1-45, Mr. J. Wallace, Aisthorpe, Highfield cottages, Hanging Heaton, near Dewsbury.
Dukinfield, Astley road, 10, Mr. Joseph Churchill, 16, Gasford st., Ashton-Under-Lyne.
Elland, Newcombe st., 10, Mrs Fred Smith, 28, Catherine st.
Gateshead, St Cuthbert's hall, Bensham, 2-30, Mr. J. W. Secker, 94, Bensham avenue.
Glasgow, Assembly Rooms, 136, Bath st, Miss Jeanie Welsh, 228, Main st., Anderston.
Great Harwood, nr. Blackburn, Cambridge st., 10, Miss L. Bell, 75 Clayton st.
Halifax, St. Paul's, Alma st., 10 and 1-15, Mr. T. Woodhams, 31, Crossley terrace, Hanson lane. Craven st., 10 and 1-15 (Secr. as above).
Heaton, Spiritual Institute.
Heckmondwike, Church st., 10 and 1-30, Miss F. Kershaw, horsfall buildings, Norrithorpe, Liversedge.
Heywood, William st., 10 a.m., Mr. George E. Taylor, 23, Clay Bank st.
Higher Broughton, Salford, Hilton st, 10-30 and 2, Mr. R. Davis, 14, Malboro' road, Hightown, Manchester.
Hollinwood, Byron st., 10-15, Mr. Fred Snape, 01, Chapel rd.
Horwich nr. Bolton, Beatrice st, 10-30, Mr. Chas. Turner, 21, Watts st.
Huddersfield, Brook st., 10, Mr. H. L. Westery, 11, Manchester rd.
 ,, St Peter st., 10-15, Miss F. Brown, 16, Field-house rd.
Hull, Granville hall, Silvester st., Mr. B. H. Coghill, Frederic s terrace, Barnsley st.
Hyde Mount st, 10, Miss E. Kershaw, 13 Orchid street.
Keighley, Heber st., 10 and 1-30, Mr. Charles Webber, 26, Corn street, Ingrow.
Lancaster, Athenaeum st, St Leonard's gate 10-30 J. Horne, 9, S'ban st.
Leeds, Castle street, 10 a.m., Mr C. Levitt, 74 Geldard-road
Leeds, Psychological hall, Grove house lane, 10, Mr. Dan Nevison, 11, Sedans place, Camp rd.
Leicester, Queen st., 10-30, Mr. W. A. Griffin, 18, Shakespere are st., Aylestone.
Leigh, Newton st, 10-30.
Liverpool, John Lamont Lyceum, Eaton hall, Breck rd., Everton. 11 a.m., Mr. Arthur Crowther, 218, West Derby road.
 ,, Daulby hall, Daulby st., 11 a.m., Mr. W. Robinson, 314, Scotland rd.
Liversedge, Carr st., 10, Miss Julia Hirst, Well fold, Littleton.
London, Battersea park, Mr. J. Imison, 8 Glycena rd., Lavender hill, s.w.
Macclesfield, Cumberland street, 10 a.m., Mr. Geo. Challinor, 43, Peel street.
 ,, Surrey Masonic hall, Camberwell, new rd. 3 p.m. S. D. Smith, 237, Southampton-st., Camberwell
Manchester, Collyhurst st, Oldham rd., 10, Mr. J. H. Horrocks, 1 Marsh st., Ancoats.
 ,, Harpurhey, Rochdale rd, 10-30 Mrs. A. Pollard, 172, Rochdale rd.
 ,, New Ardwich, Thompson's Assembly Rooms, 10-30 a.m., Miss Creer, 7, Mornington street Longsight.
 ,, West Gorton Labour Hall, 24, Grey st., 10-30, Miss F. Roughedge, 19, Tolben street, Hyde road.
 ,, Tipping st., Ardwick, 10-30 Mr. G. Vernon, 73, Mytton st., Hulme.
Middlesboro', Newport rd., 10 a.m., Mrs. Jane Nixon, 1, Oliver st., Linthorpe, Middlesboro'.
Middleton, nr. Manchester, Gilmour st., 10-15, Mr. Jas. Ellidge, 23a, Taylor st.
Millom 10 and 2, Mr. J. Dixon, 16, Duke st.
Morley Church st., 10 a.m., Miss E. Thewlis, Webster house, Bank st,
Nelson Every st, 10 a.m. Mr. Fred Allsup, 33, Elizabeth st.
Newcastle Northumberland hall, High Friar st. 2-30, Mr. G. Martin, 205, Clara st., New Benwell N-on-T.
New Hirst, Ashington, Miners Hall, 2 p.m., Mr. R. Johnstone, 11, Clyde st., near Morpeth.
Normanton Queen st, 10 a.m. Mr. E. Mosley, 34 Goodhope row, Pontefract road
Nottingham Gladston hall 2-30, Mr. S. Sanderson, 21, Hollow Stone.
 ,, Cobden hall, 2-30 Miss C. E. Amos, 2, Streeton sreet, Union road.
Oldham, Bartlam place, 10, Mr. F. Mellor, 6, neath st.
Parkgate, Temple, Ashworth-rd, 2-30, Miss F. Storey, 165 Rawmarsh-rd, Lime Kilns, Rotherham
Patricroft, 10 a.m., Mr. M. Edwards, 17, Hampson st.
Pendleton, Cobden st., 10-30, Mr. Wm. Bagnall, 20, Brook st
 ,, Milton place, 10-30.
Rawtenstall Back ormered st., 10-30, Mr. J. T. Wainmsley, 25, Alma cottages, Clough fold
Rishton Near Blackburn, 10 a.m., Mr. A. Mason, 36, clarke st.
Rochdale Regent hall, Regent st., 9-45, Mr. J. Firth, 20, Malvern st.
 ,, Penn st, 10, Mr. J. Howarth, 3, Shepard's yard, Summer st, 10, Mr. Charles Addy, 22, Hume st.
Rockferry Union st, 11 a.m., Mr. J. Halliwell, 41, Grove road, Birkenhead.
Rothwell Nr. Leeds, 10 a.m., Mr. R. Ward 3, Craven yard, West parade, nr. Leeds.
Rotherham, Temperance hall, Mr. T. Burton, 20, Clifton terrace
 ,, Craven yard, West parade.
Royston, Union st, 10 a.m., Miss S. E. Halliwell, 114, Edge lane, Oldham rd.
Salford, Chapel st., 10-30, Mr. A. H. Rocke, 47, West clothes st, Eccles new rd.
Sheffield Attercliffe, 10-30, Mr. B. Worboys, 67, Attercliffe Common.
 ,, Hillsboro' 10-30, Mr. J. H. Appleton, 11, Hinchcliffe walk.
 ,, Music Hall, Surrey st., 10-30, Mr. J. Caunt, 1, Gower st.
 ,, Langsett rd., 9-30 and 1-45. Mr. W. E. Caswell, 31, Topham st.
Skipton Temperance hall, 10 a.m. Miss Bailey, 9, Firth st., Middleton
Slaithwaite Laith lane. 10-30. Mr. Frank Cock, 46, Laith lane, near Huddersfield.
Southport Forester's hall, 10 a.m. Mr. Thos. H. Archer, 12, Lard street.
Sowerby Bridge The Lyceum, Hallins lane, 10 a.m., Miss Dewhirst, 51, Tuel lane.
Stalybridge, 10-30. Mr. J. Croisdale, 43, Melbourne st.
Stockport Spiritual hall, wellington rd. Mr. J. Marstone, 223, Chestergate.
Todmorden, Sobriety hall, 10 a.m., Miss J. Turner, 11, Pavement st., Rochdale rd.
Wakefield, Queen street, Mrs. Bruce, Twins place, Thornes lane.
Walsall Central hall, 2-30, Miss Flint, Adam's row
Warrington, Bewsey st., Mr. Wm. Massey, 34, Manchester rd.
West Vale Green lane, 10. Mr. G. E. Baker Cross hill, Greetland, near Halifax.
Wisbech, Ruby st., 2-15, Mr. Wm. Hill, Junr. 3, Queens rd.
Yeadon, Town side, 9-30, Mr. J. H. Hardaker, 20, Town st.
Ashton under Lyne, Burlington street, 10, Mr. R. W. Walker, Pelham st.
Dearnley near Rochdale, 10-30, Mr. James Holt, 533, Halifax rd., Small Bridge, nr. Rochdale
Grimsby Freeman st., Mr. C. Wright.
Leicester Gratton st., 10-30, Miss F. Sibson, 17, Derwent st.
Manchester Bradford, Victoria st., 2-30, Mr Thornily, 67, Wellington st., Bradford.
 ,, Hulme, Mr. Wm. Lamb, Junr., 56, Radnor st.
Nelson Pendle st., 10-30, Mr. John Crabtree, Rupert st., Spring Bank.
Openshaw Granville hall, 2 p.m., Mr. C. Tuheman, 188, Grey Marr Lane.
Preston Central hall, 9-45, Mr. J. Dawson, 7 Springfield rd.
Plymouth Oddfellows hall, Morley st. Mr. R. Forbes, 5, Stoke road, Elldad.
Quarmany nr Huddersfield, 10-15, Mr Sam Mellor Leymoor Bottom, Lockwood, near Huddersfield.

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