

The LYCEUM BANNER

A SPIRITUALIST MAGAZINE FOR OLD AND YOUNG.

"In things Essential, Unity—In things Doubtful, Liberty—In all things, Charity."

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MRS. HITCHCOCK.



MRS. HITCHCOCK, whose likeness appears above, was born May 29, 1829, at Hollington, Derbyshire. She attended a village school for some years when a child, but her education was almost nil. She began to earn her own living when she was ten years of age. Was married to Jeddiah Hitchcock, a stone mason, in 1854. The marriage proved a very happy one, and they worked together as one in the temperance cause and vegetarianism for many years, as well as in the cause of Spiritualism.

They were, during the early part of their married life, members of the U.M.F.C. at Belper, he being for some time a local preacher. Their attention was first drawn to Spiritualism about 41 years ago, in Nottingham, where they had gone to reside, having met with a person who was a good clairvoyant. Shortly after this, meetings were held at a Mr. Turner's house, in "The Meadows."

The Hitchcocks attended these meetings, and Mrs. Hitchcock's hand was soon influenced to write and

draw, the drawings being of a very curious and interesting nature, some of them like designs for wall papers, human faces being drawn in the curves all over the paper. She developed into a personating and test medium, and was visited by large numbers of strangers, many of whom received wonderful tests through her. The exercise of this phase of her mediumship was the means of convincing very many sceptics in various towns of a continued life after so-called death. Her deathbed scenes were of a most remarkable and startling character.

In 1867 a large house, with grounds, situate near St. Ann's Well-road, was taken by Messrs. Hitchcock, Bilson, and Storer. Mr. Bilson, who was an old schoolmaster, opened a day school in the two large central rooms, the two end portions of the house being occupied, one by Mr. Hitchcock and the other by Mr. Storer. In these central rooms, in 1867, England's first Children's Progressive Lyceum was opened, A. J. Davis's "Lyceum Manual" being used. This was carried on for a number of years, till it had to be relinquished *for want of workers*. Oh! this want of workers in every good movement. What blank and blurred pages will be found in "The book of Life" on the other side!

At a meeting in the "Long Row Room" she was controlled by a foreign spirit who displayed great energy whilst striving to let his audience know what he wished to convey to them. A strange gentleman who was present asked if he might ask the lady a question. Permission being given he addressed her in a language that was unknown to the audience. The control immediately replied, and appeared delighted to be able to make himself understood. The gentleman informed the audience that the "lady" had held an intelligent conversation with him in the Hindustani language, which he understood well.

These meetings were the means of convincing many of the truth of Spiritualism. We understand that on several occasions, when in a circle of friends where the conditions were very good, she was transfigured whilst in their midst. The writer witnessed this striking and beautiful phenomenon at one such meeting, and will never forget the scene. Both Mrs. and Mr. Hitchcock were most zealous in the performance of the duties they were ever ready and willing to undertake. In this town, as in Nottingham, where they spent a number of the latter years of their earthly life, they are remembered and spoken of in the highest terms by a goodly number of friends, as earnest, conscientious, and disinterested workers in the Cause they had at heart, both of them passing to the higher life in full satisfaction with the part they had chosen here.

ALFRED SMEDLEY (Belper).

ENGLANDS' FIRST LYCEUM.

In compliance with the Editor's request, I herewith pen a few facts concerning England's First Lyceum, which was formed under more difficult circumstances than prevail to-day

I am pleased to learn a portrait of Mrs. Hitchcock is to appear in *THE LYCEUM BANNER*. I much regret I do not possess a portrait of Mr. Hitchcock, nor do I know of the existence of one. Living as I did for several years under this roof in the "old mansion," and afterwards marrying his only daughter, I do not remember him ever sitting for his photo. If any reader should possess his portrait I am sure hundreds of your readers would be delighted to see it in *THE LYCEUM BANNER*.

Both he and his wife adopted, over 50 years ago, our "four-fold pledge." Both of them were fond of reading, and the works of Mr. A. J. Davis had quite a fascination for them. Seeing his "Lyceum Manual" advertised, they obtained a copy, and about a dozen of us met weekly to read and study its teachings, and ultimately ventured to start, in 1867, England's first Lyceum in a room in Robin Hood's Chase, Nottingham. I know they would rejoice were they with us to-day, as no doubt they do in spirit, to see such grand results from such an insignificant beginning. Over 140 Lyceums; 8,000 to 10,000 members; a Lyceum Union; a Lyceum Home; a Permanent Secretary; and a lovely *LYCEUM BANNER* (though a paper one, yet very useful to the cause); all these in 36 years' time is something to rejoice over and to be proud of.

It is only right and due to the late Mr. James Burns to say that he did much to encourage and stimulate the early workers. He gave us our first lesson in calisthenics, and helped on several occasions to collect funds for various purposes.

It should be stated here that Mr. Hitchcock was not the first conductor, but Mr. Bilson, who lived in part of the "mansion." He had formerly been a schoolmaster, and was also a great admirer of Mr. Robert Owen. Our morning session was devoted to secular education, members' ages varying from 5 to 75 years, some of the latter starting with "pot hooks," and ending by being able to write their own names. In the afternoon session we formed groups, each one being double—"Fountain" and stream groups combined, etc. We sometimes did our marching on the grass plot in front of our Lyceum, where our movements could be seen by the passers-by, who appeared much interested. "Penny readings" were held fortnightly, and then weekly, on Saturday evenings, and were crowded. This helped us to provide the means for flags, badges, etc.

In "Human Nature," for October, 1868, the late Mr. James Burns wrote: "It is a pleasure to be able to record that everything connected with the first annual picnic of the only Children's Progressive Lyceum was of a most satisfactory nature." The conductor at that time was Mr. Hopwell, who is still with us, and is a member of the Gladstone Hall Society.

After some years of useful work Mr. and Mrs. Hitchcock left the town and returned to Belper. From various causes the interest flagged, and England's first Lyceum ceased to be. But during the time our society met in the Morley Hall, it (the Lyceum) was re-opened in 1885 or 1886, and after several years of useful work a few withdrew, which resulted in the forming of the Cobden Hall Lyceum. The two to-day are working harmoniously

together side by side, and in June last held their united "outing" at Plumtree, a most pleasurable time being experienced by all. J. J. ASHWORTH, Nottingham.

A Special Report from the Auckland, New Zealand, Lyceum.

To our co-workers in the old land, we, the officers and children of the Auckland Lyceum, extend our warmest greetings. No doubt, dear friends, a brief account of our short history will interest you. Eleven weeks ago, the members of our Society unanimously decided upon the formation of a Children's Progressive Lyceum. Twelve adults and eight children assembled on the following Sunday. The rain poured down, giving us the feeling of a bad omen for our new venture. This feeling quickly vanished under the cheering guidance of angel ministry. Our numbers have doubled, as the following extract from the roll book will shew:—1st Sunday, 20 present; 2nd Sunday 32, 3rd 48. The highest yet attained is 69. The last two sessions were noticeable for a great increase in the attendance. I may add, with all due modesty, we are improving every session, not only in point of numbers, but also in Lyceum routine. We are pleased to say that the *English Lyceum Manual* is our ruling guide, in co-operation with the *Spiritual Songster*. Our position is secure while we adhere to those splendid works. The Morse Trinity has been in our midst on two occasions. Miss Morse addressed the Lyceum in terms of inspiring thought and consolation. This good soul gave to the attentive hearers a brief outline of the history of the Lyceum Movement. In dwelling on those inspired advocates whose names must ever be associated with the Children's Progressive Lyceum, our distinguished young friend referred at length to the labours of Andrew Jackson Davis, H. A. Kersey, and Mrs. Emma H. Britten. In bidding us adieu Miss Morse sincerely thanked the members one and all, for the hearty good will in which her visit had been received.

We record the visit to the Lyceum of the children's friend, Mr. J. J. Morse. There were 69 present when this noble mind honored us with his presence. He spoke to us of the doings of Lyceums both in England and America. He was most lavish in his praise at the attempt made by the Society's members to promote this good work. We mark the Morse visit as an epoch in the Lyceum history.

Our choir and calisthenic classes show up in marked improvement. The children of this city being so unaccustomed to Lyceum procedure have taken very kindly to the work. We celebrated our first picnic on New Year's Day. And as soon as weather permits, a photo in commemoration of the inauguration of the Auckland Lyceum will be taken. To those included in the picture, a feeling of gladness will be given at the thought that by their unselfish aims the noble work of helping the cause of the little ones was begun.

Arrangements are being made to enter the B.S.L. Union, for by so doing the cause will be strengthened. Hoping the "All-Good" will shower His blessings on the cause of the children, I have the pleasure, on behalf of the Auckland Lyceum, to sign myself.—Yours fraternally,

W. NORTON-TAYLOR, Conductor and President, A.S.S.



MY DEAR BLUEBELLS,—

Oh, we have had such a delightful week. By we, this time I mean Bob, Ted and I. Yes! actually Bob is here again on a visit. I daresay some of my Bluebells would like to know why I did not mention last month that he was coming. Well, it came about in this way. About a fortnight ago Ted had gone to see that his pets were all right for the night, when mother said, "Flora, have you forgotten that it is Ted's birthday next week. We must not forget him. What do you think he would enjoy best of all for his birthday?" Now I was very glad mother asked me some more questions, because I had been working a pair of slippers for him and though they were nearly finished, I had only had time to do a very little bit at a time, because if they had missed me they would have wanted to know where I had been. I said, "yes mother, I have been thinking of a plan which I think will just suit. Suppose we write and ask Bob to come very early on that morning and stay for a few days, you know they enjoy being together. We might tell him that Ted knows nothing about it, as it is to be a surprise for his birthday. "Bravo, Kitty, said father, that will do splendidly. You can write while Ted is out to-morrow." Just then we heard Ted coming, so we had to leave off talking about it. As soon as ever Ted had gone out next morning I wrote the letter asking Bob to come in time for breakfast. Two days later the reply came. Bob promised to come by eight o'clock. Mother and I were very busy all the week but we managed so that Ted did not suspect us. When the morning came I was up very early and off to the station. When the train came in Bob was there all right and had such a large hamper. He let me peep in, and what do you think was in it, why! four such beautiful rabbits. Oh, they were fine ones! When we got back mother went to waken Ted, she had let him sleep longer than usual, so that Bob and I might get in without his hearing us. The breakfast was nearly ready and just at Ted's corner there were ever so many parcels. I went to fetch my present which I had finished the night before. Ted was not long before he was down, but before he came Bob hid himself under the table. "Many happy returns of the day, Ted," said father, mother and I altogether. "Thank you all," he said. He then looked at the table and saw all the presents. The

first parcel he opened was a beautiful watch and chain, on a note was written "from father." Next a silk muffler, a book, and a pair of new gloves from mother. Then the slippers came as a surprise to all. Another parcel contained a silver pencil case, another a box of tools. I really can't remember all the others.

Bob had been so quiet all this time, only once pinching my leg when I got too near the table. Mother then asked how he would like to spend the day and he said, "I wish Bob was here, then it would be jolly!" "Suppose I whistle for him, said father. This is an old joke, because when Ted was quite little he believed father could get anything he liked, if he whistled for it. "You might, if it would do any good" replied Ted. Father whistled and at that instant out came Bob from under the table. Ted stood several seconds unable to speak. Then jumped up several times, then rushed at Bob and hugged him. He had forgotten all about breakfast in his excitement. Before we sat down Bob took Ted to see the new pets. I do wish all my Bluebells could have seen brother Ted at that moment, I think I shall never forget it. Mother called us to breakfast at that moment. But I must stop, I have already taken up all the space the editor allows me, so I will tell you all about the sayings and doings of Bob and Ted next month. I shall also have to leave over one or two letters I have received. There are a few more names from Blackburn for which I have to thank our good sister Bluebell, Kate Smith.—From your loving sister

FLORA BELLE.

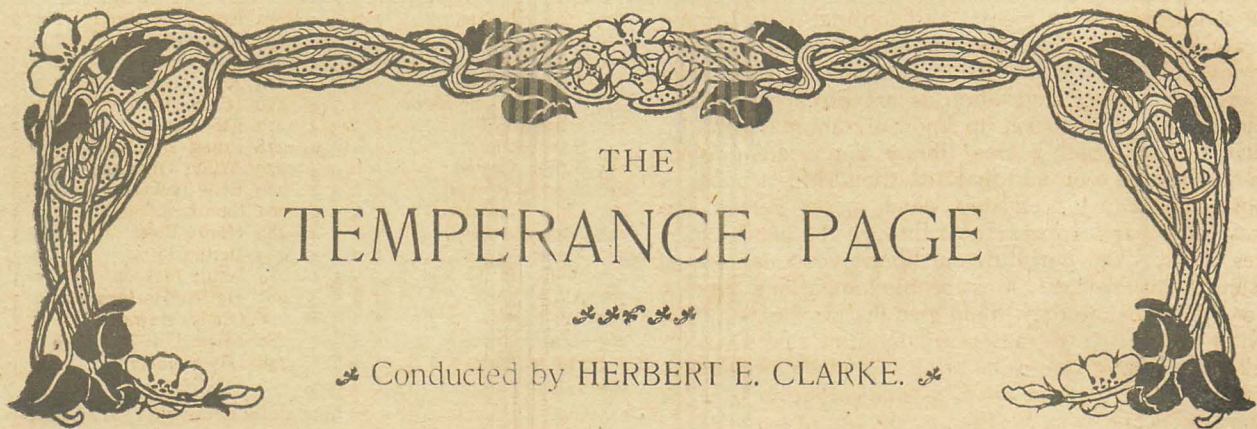
Blackburn St. Peter Street.

1435 Nellie Carter	1437 Richard Harrison	1439 Arthur HARRISON
1436 Lily Harwood	1438 John Harrison	1440 John Riley
		1441 Alfred Carter

CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR EDITOR,—As it is impossible for me to reply personally to the large number of kind letters I have received during the past two weeks, from known and previously unknown friends all over the Country, I ask for a small space in the columns of the BANNER for the purpose. For all their kindly expressions and good wishes I heartily thank them one and all, and remain your and their sincere friend

(MRS.) SELINA SMEDLEY.



THE
TEMPERANCE PAGE

Conducted by HERBERT E. CLARKE.

THE subject of practical reform in temperance is indeed a wide one, and it would be impossible in the small space at our disposal to approach anywhere near an adequate treatment of it. But I may hope to bring before your notice one or two of the most salient points in the question. It is clear that theory is incapable of bringing about by itself all those improvements in the condition of the working classes, which we in our moments of optimism believe to be at hand. It is necessary that some working trial should be made, so that we may find out which is the best way to attack the situation.

Perhaps the first which suggests itself is that of signing the pledge, and this, I am convinced, is a factor of great importance. Unfortunately, one meets a number of people who fail to discover how the pledge movement can be one of reform, and I am acquainted with a number of teetotalers who refuse to join us in our Fourfold Pledge.

But I believe there are indisputable reasons why these good people should sign the pledge. The most apparent of these is that by massing ourselves together we present a bold front; which means encouragement to individual members and enthusiasm to the whole. Many people, also, do not understand to what extent we are indebted to pledges for the strengthening of our resolution. This aspect of the matter I indicated to you some months back.

But the argument of our opponents is that the signing of a pledge does not convert an unscrupulous man into a conscientious one, and this charge is justifiable in a degree, but it does not and cannot deny the advantages to be gained by signing the pledge. That so many men break the pledge in a year has absolutely no weight as far as the pledge is concerned. The fault is in the back-sliders themselves. Let us therefore turn our attention for a few minutes to the consideration of some methods of reform for these individuals.

The power to which we must first appeal is education, and a more liberal form of education than that which has been meted out in the past. Many of us must entirely alter our views regarding school life. The system of "cramming" must be condemned as a radically wrong system; learning should be acquired in a natural way according to the dictates of the developing mind and reason. The view of the teachers of the future will not be: "How much can I make Johnny Jones learn in a year?" but: "How best shall I train Johnny Jones' mind that he may be capable of viewing all matters in a logical and unbiased manner, that his sense of the beautiful may be quickened, and that in future years he may be able to

think and act in accordance with the onward march of the world; in short, how shall I make of him a true and worthy citizen?"

The system of persistently forcing present views on debatable subjects upon the minds of school children is unjustifiable, since it stultifies independence of thought, and possibly implants ideas which future progress and discovery will necessitate their leaving behind as false or old-fashioned. If the ideas *must* be forcibly impressed upon the children, let them be such as shall never grow old or erroneous. Teach the young the value of abstaining from tobacco and intoxicants, teach them to abhor the dishonourable practice of gambling, and encourage them to clothe clean thoughts in clean language. Above all let our educational system be a natural one, and let the learning acquired be that which is most in accordance with the tastes and highest sentiments of individual scholars. So shall it be that when the children leave school, they will be the better prepared for and guarded against the temptations which await them.

Then we have to consider the measures by which our public institutions may be improved, in order that fewer allurements to evil may be thrown across our paths. Less provision must be made for the satisfaction of passionate cravings, especially in the consumption of alcoholic liquors.

Many efforts have been made to arrive at this end, and I have already devoted a short space in this page to an examination of one scheme which professes to be doing good work—that of the Trust Public Houses—which, however, does not deserve the confidence of the Total Abstinence Movement.

It seems to me that a permanent improvement in the sobriety of the nation is not to be gained by merely altering the taste of the people, as by teaching them to prefer coffee or cocoa to beer, for this is a very morbid sort of reform. Until we have clearly led the nation to recognise the disastrous and degrading effect of consuming intoxicants, we appear to have made but small headway towards a complete triumph. The signing of a pledge should be the outward and visible sign that the signer has duly and conscientiously recognised the evil of the drink traffic, and that he promises to offer his support to a cause of protest against it.

We hear a good deal nowadays of "counter-attractions" to the public house, and we admire the efforts put forth in this direction. But while we offer a counter-attraction to satisfy the physical wants, we would also like to throw in

some satisfaction to the mental and spiritual wants of men and women. We have not yet enough museums, art-galleries, public parks, and free (good) music; moreover our evening schools and libraries are not always within reach of all. I have yet to know of a more general incentive to good than a free library and reading-room. Men and women soon find that the friendship of books is a close and lasting friendship which never fails in the darkest hours, and carries them through the harsh experiences of life. Yet, how little our libraries cost us in comparison to our cellars! Most people look a long time at the best book before they would give the price of a bottle of wine for it! It is rather sad to think that when we speak of a public house, we think of a place for the sale of drink. I am glad, however, to know that on all sides public houses are rising for the supply, not of beer, but of books.*

It is very pleasing as one goes from place to place to see what a great amount of good may be conferred by a sincere and well directed movement. By the side of the docks at Liverpool are numerous eating-houses, small, but in most cases cleanly. Here, at dinnertime, scores of dock labourers are to be seen enjoying their bowls of soup and other frugal fare. To a visitor, and especially to one interested in the direction I am, this must appeal very forcibly. No drunken "rowdism" here, only a comfortable gathering of working men, enjoying, as only the workers can, an honest and nourishing meal. There is plenty of room for such places in old England, and I am convinced that their advent will be hailed with joy by thousands of working folk. We have amongst us a great amount of sorrow and misery resulting from unhappy home life. This, perhaps more than anything else, tends to the insobriety of the race. For this reason it becomes our duty to endeavour with might and main to offer a true respite to sad souls suffering under this misfortune, by giving to them a safe road to happiness in their social intercourse. I have pointed out one or two of these roads, but surely the greatest treasures with which we can be blessed, are affectionate family ties, and all that goes to make "home, sweet home."

The following list of names comes from Armley, and I must tender my heartiest congratulations to this Lyceum on providing a record number of names. The Latin proverb says:—"Let him who has earned it bear the palm." So Armley, bear the palm! But remember that now you have offered a challenge, which I feel will soon be accepted on all sides. "A word to the wise sufficeth."

*Lord Avebury on "The Use of Life."

ARMLEY LYCEUM.

222 Henry Wm. Brett	1 2 3 4	256 Elsie Lambert	1 2 3 4
223 Francis Hirley	1 2 3 4	257 Herbert Dightam	1 2 3 4
224 Gertrude Dightam	1 2 3 4	258 John Pawson	1 2 3 4
225 Fred Pinder	1 2 3 4	259 Fred Barber	1 2 3 4
226 Arthur Pinder	1 - 3 4	260 Clifford Boston	1 2 3 4
227 Ethel Hill	1 2 3 4	261 Joseph Yates	1 2 3 4
228 Sarah Batty	1 2 3 4	262 Annie Ingle	1 2 3 4
229 Jessie Alexander	1 2 3 4	263 Ada Singleton	1 2 3 4
230 Priscilla Ratcliffe	1 2 3 4	264 Richard Yates	1 2 3 4
231 Nellie Williams	1 2 3 4	265 Alice Raggett	1 2 3 4
232 Joseph Pitts	1 2 3 4	266 Carrie Parish	1 2 3 4
233 Leonard Watkinson	1 2 3 4	267 Gladys Raggett	1 2 3 4
234 Hilda Batty	1 2 3 4	268 Frank Spencer	1 2 3 4
235 Ethel Lee	1 2 3 4	269 Eliza Lee	1 2 3 4
236 George Woodall	1 - 3 4	270 Irvine Barraclough	1 - 3 4
237 Ernest Williams	1 2 3 4	271 Alex Yates	1 2 3 4

238 Herbert Brett	1 2 3 4	272 Edgar Meadwell	1 2 3 4
239 James Buckle	1 2 3 4	273 Sam Sykes	1 - 3 4
240 Louie Batty	1 2 3 4	274 Emily Settle	1 2 3 4
241 Fred Dightam	1 2 3 4	275 Rose Heeley	1 2 3 4
242 Edward Longbottom	1 2 3 4	276 Harry Jackson	1 2 3 4
243 George Hill	1 2 3 4	277 Lily Stracey	1 2 3 4
244 Sam Settle	1 2 3 4	278 Ernest Dightam	1 2 3 4
245 Mabel Thorpe	1 2 3 4	279 Arthur Dightam	1 2 3 4
246 Agatha Thorpe	1 2 3 4	280 Elsie Jackson	1 2 3 4
247 Clara Singleton	1 2 3 4	281 Sam Lee, junr.	1 2 3 4
248 Alice Stockwell	1 2 3 4	282 Henry Brett	1 2 3 4
249 Maud Pawson	1 2 3 4	283 Bertha Pitts	- 2 3 4
250 Walter Pitts	- - 3 4	284 Willie Jackson	1 2 3 4
251 Alice Hoole	1 2 3 4	285 Herbert Hargreaves	1 2 3 4
252 Ada Settle	1 2 3 4	286 Gladys Burnnett	1 2 3 4
253 Ada Ingle	1 2 3 4	287 Lizzie Hill	1 2 3 4
254 Frank Pinder	1 - 3 -	288 Lily Spencer	1 2 3 4
255 Lillian Hoole	1 2 3 4		

1 signifies that they abstain from all intoxicants; 2, from tobacco; 3, from gambling; and 4, from using bad language.

Unavoidable errors creep in sometimes in the spelling of names. I shall be much obliged if friends will inform me of any such mistakes. In last month's list from Belper I regret to find No. 213 missing, to which Mr. Harry Ford's name should have been affixed. Also I should be glad to learn whether 186 and 196 are one and the same or not?

In Memoriam.

Muriel, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thewlis, of Oldham, who departed on June 28th, aged 2 years and two months; and was interred at Greenacres Cemetery, Oldham, on July 1st. The ceremony was conducted by Mr. Chas. Brierley, Conductor of the Coronation-street Lyceum, Oldham, assisted by Mr. Newby.

A. GOULDEN, Sec.

In Loving Remembrance of the late Robert Isaac Eddison, of Dearnley, who departed this life September 10th, 1902; aged 28 years.

RISHTON, our Lyceum has sustained a great loss through the physical death of Bro. Briscall, on August 30th. His remains were interred on September 5th, at Wortley, Leeds, where he went to undergo an operation. Mr. J. T. Ward, of Blackburn, officiated at the funeral. Mr. Briscall was Lyceum Conductor for two years, and his valuable services will never be erased from our memory, and in recognition of it we have decided to have an engraved portrait of him hung in our Lyceum.

His work was love, his motto truth,
He laboured oft in pain;
Too well we know it is our loss,
But 'tis our brother's gain.

JAMES EDWARDS, Sec.

GATESHEAD.—Passed to the higher life Mr. Hunter, on September 13th, and was interred at Gateshead. He took an active part in the early days of the Newcastle Lyceum. He leaves a son and daughter to continue his good work in the Lyceum movement.—P. HERD. [We well remember Mr. Hunter's genial features at the Lyceum Conference held at the Psychological Hall, Leeds, in 1887. Ed. L.B.]

OLDHAM, (Coronation-street.) Passed to the higher life Mr. H. Taft, on September 15th; aged 69, and interred in the Greenacres Cemetery September 22nd. Mr. H. Taft was one of the oldest and most highly respected Spiritualists in Oldham, and was ever ready to help the suffering and needy whenever possible.

C. BRIERLEY.

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THE LYCEUM BANNER:

ALFRED KITSON, *Editor.*

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THE LYCEUM BANNER.

The Christian Objector Answered.

LYCEUM RECITATION.

YOU tell me very candidly that Spiritualists are low,
Far lower than the Adventists, and think perchance you
know;

That of all the creeds and isms ours is the very worst;
That Satan is our leader and has been from the first.

You say 'tis fraud and black-art, and everything that's bad,
And seem to me so deluded it makes you very sad;
That the name of God will scatter phenomena away;
That in our spirit circles we never dare to pray.

And many other charges that are equally absurd.
Without a single grain of truth, they are upon my word;
I wish you would investigate before you talk so loud,
I think we're just as civil as any other crowd.

Perhaps you never read what the lowly Jesus spake,
Or else you're sadly blinded, I prithee, friend awake;
Go read with understanding, throw prejudice aside,
You'll find he was a medium, to spirits close allied;

For he healed the sick, the lame and blind and other
evils, too,

He said that true believers the same shall ever do;
That greater things should yet be done; that truth should
yet prevail,—

We see his words fulfilling and the day we gladly hail!

Read the prophecy of Joel in the Hebrew's book divine,
He told of this phenomena, so common in our time,
And in the book of Samuel the same you there may view,
And Abraham and others talked and ate with angels too!

Then turn again, my friend, to the pentecostal day,—
That was a grand old seance in quite a modern way;
Those cloven tongues, like fire, and the languages so
strange.

Was that the work of Satan, was that sulphurous flame?

Go read St. Paul's epistle to Corinthians the first,
Was he teaching a delusion to flocks that were athirst?
Were all those spirit teachings a delusion and a snare?—
Go search your sacred Scriptures, you'll find it everywhere.

You may call it all delusion or call it what you may,
Say Satan is unchanged and roaming every way;
Say the Bible will give creeds to every one who looks,
Although you call it sacred and chief of all the books.

If you study well geology, no doubt you will agree
There are many contradictions, as all may plainly see
And the burning lake of sulphur (of that there is no doubt)
That Beecher, with his learning, has knocked the bottom
out.

And now I'd like to ask you a simple question plain:
How can there ever be a fraud unless a truth remain?
I think that A. B. Richmond, a lawyer grand and bold,
Has given you a precept as good as ever told.

Go prove it all delusion or of satanic power;
Or else receive the blessed truth, 'twill lighten every hour;
'Twill give you peace that passeth not, 'twill be a joy for
aye,

To know that loved ones come again and often with us stay.

You say we are the lowest—Jesus was lowly, too;
He had not where to lay his head, his riches they were few;
And yet he talked with angels, in garments shining white,
And likewise was transfigured upon the mountain height.

And the prophecy he gave is ours the blessing great;
We can see and talk with angels and learn our future state;
And we know that we shall join them, our loved ones
over there,

And the knowledge we have gained, with you we gladly
share.

They tell us they have never died, 'twas only higher birth,
And from their happy homes above they all return to earth
To bring us words of comfort, to bring us words of cheer,
To let us know they love us still, to dry the mourner's tear.

They tell us of the seeds we sow, that will the harvest be,
And warn us to live pure and true, from evils ever free,
And as we do to others here so shall we reap above,
Of all our many missions here the greatest one is love.

To "love thy neighbor as thyself," a maxim very old.
Of greater worth to mortals than many pounds of gold;
And in this age where reason can hold its mighty sway
We have no inquisition, we can speak in open day.

The day of persecution by the orthodox is past,
Of all those horrid murders, I trust we've seen the last;
The day of superstition with all its horrid train,
Has gone from us forever and will never come again.

For truth is fast dispelling the dogmas of the day,
Education is so general, they can no longer stay;
We bid them go with gladness, the time of joy is near,
When all the earth from east to west, the truth will gladly
hear.

Sturgis, Penn.

MRS. WM. LIDDICOAT.
From the *Sunflower*.

LYCEUM NOTES AND COMMENTS.

By ALFRED KITSON.

OUR Smedley Special No. was a big success. We received several late orders we were unable to supply. Moral: Order early and save disappointment.

Words of praise and congratulation have reached us from many readers. "It is the best issue ever printed;" "It is a credit to the Editor, contributors, and printers;" "God bless Mrs. Smedley for her generous gifts to the Children's Progressive Lyceum," are a fair sample of the comments.

Our thanks are also due to Mr. Alfred Smedley, who is deeply interested in THE LYCEUM BANNER, and in order to make it as presentable to our readers as possible, has generously promised to defray, for twelve months, the extra cost of the better quality of paper used, and the wiring and cutting of each copy. We are sure our readers will join us in our grateful thanks for his kindness.

The descriptive article of "England's First Lyceum," by Mr. Ashworth, furnishes the reader with valuable historical information. At the same time it should be borne in mind that the Lyceum movement has been to build up, books to compile and publish, during those last 21 years.

Next month we shall give a portrait and sketch of the late Mr. Alfred Bodell, of Belper. Those desiring extra copies should order early.

"The Lyceum Recitation" should be a favourite with all Lyceum reciters. We hope it will be made good use of.

During the past month we have had the pleasure of visiting four Lyceums. The Lyceum services at Walsall deserved better appreciation. There was a beautiful display of flowers and plants. The children sang very sweetly, under the able tuition of Mr. J. J. Bennett. Councillor J. Venables made an excellent chairman.

Morley Lyceum is looking up. They have a neat hall. The open session was splendid. The attendance at the services exceptionally large. Miss Burton's gift caused the hall to be too small to hold all who sought admittance.

Hulme Junction, Manchester, Lyceum is held in a large hall, which gave us a pleasant surprise. The walls are neatly decorated with floral and other devices. We noticed the portraits of Mrs. Emma H. and Dr. Britten facing the rostrum. The house at Hydesville is another attractive picture, all are the handiwork of Mr. Wm. Lamb, the presiding genius of the Society. We hope to see a full Lyceum on our next visit.

Another pleasant surprise awaited us on reaching Princess Hall Lyceum. The hall is well lighted and wears a cheerful appearance. There were good gatherings. The familiar faces of friends from Tipping-street; Harpurhey; Salford; Patricroft; and Middleton, lent a charm to

the occasion. The open session, conducted by Mr. Rustall, was hearty and harmonious, reflecting great credit on the officers. The time on both occasions was far too short for the good things in store.

We beg to draw our readers' attention to the complete list of books written by Mr. Andrew Jackson Davis (see advt.). It will be seen that a good reduction in their prices has been made, thus giving our readers a splendid chance of purchasing them. We anticipate receiving many good orders for Lyceum libraries. A good reduction will be made to those ordering the complete set of 29 volumes.

WHAT SPIRITUALISM STANDS FOR.—Spiritualism stands for the opening of the eyes of the spiritually blind; it stands for the voice that gives the message of peace and comfort from the realm beyond this earth; it stands for the opening of the door of communion between the two worlds; it stands for the uplifting of human hearts, and for the exaltation of human lives that are in shadow; it stands for peace on earth, goodwill to all men; it stands for fraternity of fellowship; it stands for the onward march towards a higher and better and more divine perfection of the human race.

"SKIMMING" IT.—If you are going to give a pan of milk, don't skim it first; which means: if you are going to do a favour, don't spoil it by an ungracious word, or manner. Haven't we noticed how much of this "skimming" goes on in daily life, Tommy shuts the door at Bridget's request, but he grumbles at having to leave his top. Susie goes to the door when she is sent, but she departs with a protest that "it is Tommy's turn." And so all day long people who love each other, and who at heart are glad to be able to serve one another, "skim" the sweetness from every service they render by their ungracious words. Don't take the cream off the milk of human kindness when you are giving it to another one to drink.

PERMANENT SECRETARY FUND.

List of contributions:—Mr. and Mrs. Veary, 10/-; Mr. and Mrs. Nurse, 2/-; Mr. Robertson, 10/-; Brighthouse Lyceum, 20/-; Mr. Hargreaves, 20/-; Glasgow Lyceum, 6/-; Hollinwood (Byron-street) Lyceum, 3/-; Mr. Coup, 5/-; Bacup Lyceum, 10/-; Mr. Ringrose, 5/-; Bury Lyceum, 2/-; Halifax (Alma-street) Lyceum, 10/-; Wigan Lyceum, 10/-; Mr. Kitson's services at Walsall 5/-, and Princess Street, Manchester, 5/-; Mrs. Greenwood's services at Halifax, 5/-, books sold at Keighley, 1/6, and Halifax, 1/6.

The following have promised to be "Helpers" since last issue of the BANNER:—Mr. Mason, Burnley; Miss Whitaker, Keighley; Miss Strömberg, Glasgow; Miss L. Mortimer, Batley Carr; and Miss Clarke, Nottingham.

I am thankful to all who have so gladly contributed to our fund and sincerely hope those Lyceums who have not yet done so are only waiting the opportunity to raise a subscription in their own way. I have promises from Burnley (Hammerton-street), Great Harwood and others to that effect. It only means determination.

Sincerely yours,
JESSY GREENWOOD, Sec.

REPORTS.

YORK, HIGH OUSEGATE.—On Aug. 8th, we gave our Lyceum children an outing to Scarborough. There was a good muster of children, as well as adults. The weather was splendid. Another treat is also in store for them which will be held in a large field, when races, skipping and other amusements will be indulged in. I am pleased to say our membership still increases. Considering the short time our Lyceum has been started, we are doing wonderfully well, and hope to continue—F. LUMAN.

BOLTON, BRADFORD ST.—On Aug 30th, I attended this Lyceum. The session starts at 10 a.m., and is continued to 12. Despite the wet weather there was a very good attendance. The Conductors worked together harmoniously, and a bright helpful session was the result. After the silver chain recitations a very pleasing change was made by several little girls reciting in turn. I hope when I next visit them the boys will come forward and show how well they can recite. The marches were different from those of my own Lyceum, (Blackburn, St. Peter st.) and were well done. Mr. Billsborough, late of Lancaster Lyceum, conducted the marching and calisthenics. As speaker for the day I was called upon for a few remarks. Their groups were formed. Liberty group, led by Mr. Garnett, had a lesson on "Facts and Faith," and a most profitable half-hour was spent. Our friends have a room suitable alike for Society and Lyceum, and I would say to them study and persevere, and you will grow in knowledge, harmony and usefulness.—Reuben A. Webb.

HIGHER BROUGHTON, HILLON ST.—Our Lyceum attendance is becoming more satisfactory week by week. We shall celebrate our Anniversary on Oct. 11th. Speaker Mr. J. H. Smith. Miss Rotheram will give clairvoyance. We hope to have a real good time. A hearty invitation is hereby given to "old friends and new, tried friends and true," to be with us on the above date.—(Mrs.) P. Boyden, Sec.

GLASGOW.—We are still growing—growing not only in members but in the quality of our teachings. Groups are now formed, led by competent Leaders. Our Liberty group comprises nearly 20 members, several of them have already given evidence of intellectual abilities of no mean order. Essays have been given by the Misses Sudall, Hunter, Strcberg, and MacDonald which were highly creditable. Average attendance 45. (Are you satisfied, Miss Burton?) Our ambition is to unfurl the Lyceum Banner which on festive occasions will show to the public that Spiritualism is fast becoming a power in Glasgow.—Cor. Sec.

GATESHEAD, ST. CUTHBERT'S HALL.—On Sunday Sept 6th, we celebrated our 5th Anniversary, Mr. H. A. Kersey presiding, Mr. T. O. Todd being the speaker for the evening service, when a nice little address was given, much enjoyed by both children and adults. Mr. Kersey (uncle Harry) also gave a few words of encouragement and advice. The children delighted the audience with their singing and recitations, in which a great improvement was shown. The services were continued on the 10th, Mr. J. Stephenson of Gateshead presiding. A most interesting programme was presented, but owing to the state of the weather the audience was small. Our hearty thanks are due to Mr. Elliot who so ably conducted the singing.—P. Herd, Sec.

OLDHAM, CORONATION ST.—Alfred and Robert Hindley, two of our Lyceum sceolars, who are shortly leaving us for Ameria, were presented, one with a LYCEUM MANUAL, and the other a book of poems. We hope they will be the means of helping to spread the Lyceum work in their new home. We wish them a safe and speedy voyage, and prosperity.—C. Brierly, Con.

MORLEY.—On Saturday Sept 12th, we celebrated our Lyceum Harvest Festival with a Tea and Service of Song, entitled a Terrible Lesson. Miss Burton was the reader. Mrs. Rogerson presented a framed picture of her late husband, Mr. Rogerson, to the Society, which was suitably acknowledged. On Sunday we held our Harvest Festival. The day was commenced with an Open Session, friends from Batley Carr and Armley Lyceum being present. A pleasing feature was the presentation of flowers, (button holes,) to the officers. A most enjoyable session. Miss A. E. Burton spoke well for the children's cause both afternoon and evening. The Hall was full in the afternoon and packed in the evening, many having to go back before service time. Mr. A. Kitson presided in his usual able manner. Miss Burton kindly consented to hold an after meeting for the benefit of those unable to gain admission to the service. On Monday evening the room was full again to hear Miss Robinson of Huddersfield. Mr. J. Kitson, Dewsbury, presiding. A sale of fruit etc., brought a most successful festival to a close. J. H. Dews. Sec.

HOLLINWOOD, BYRON ST.—On Saturday Aug 22nd, we had a social and supper, it being the farewell of Mrs. Greenlees and daughter; and Mr. and Mrs. Hobson and daughters, who, we are sorry to say, are leaving us for Canada. May health and prosperity attend them, is the sincere wish of both Lyceum and Society. I am sorry to say we shall shortly lose six more Lyceumists who are going to Canada. Suitable presentations were made to Mrs. Greenlees, and Mr. and Mrs. Hobson, by Mrs. Ditchfield, on behalf of the Society and Lyceum. The recipients said they would do their best to spread the cause in their new homes. Miss Greenlees and Misses Hobson were each presented with a copy of the LYCEUM MANUAL by Mr. Fred Snape, our assistant conductor, in the unavoidable absence of the conductor. These will be treasured and used in their new homes. We are indebted to Miss Bancroft, who rendered three songs, and Mr. Bloor who favoured us with a good Lancashire recital, and also Mr. Cartwright for his splendid gramophone selections. The rest of the evening was spent in games and dancing.

Wm. A. Bate, Sec

ASHTON-UNDER LYNE.—On Sunday Sept. 6th, we held our Open Session and Harvest Festival. The room was beautifully decorated with seasonable fruit, flowers, corn and vegetables, for which we desire to tender our thanks to all who contributed. Miss Platt presided at the organ and piano in her usual efficient style. The collections were good. The programmes consisted of hymns, solos, recitations, musical readings, silver and golden chain recitations. The following took part, Aleck Plenderleith, Jessie Plenderleith, Miss S. T. Dransfield, Mrs. Dixon, Mr. Plenderleith and Mr. Dixon.—James Smith, Sec.

BLACKBURN, NORTHGATE.—I am glad to report our Lyceum is doing exceedingly well. There were 75 present out of 86 at our last Sunday morning session. Room not large enough. Average attendance capital, everything working smoothly.—T. E. Hollinhead.

DEARNLEY.—On Saturday Sept. 5th, we had a geological ramble to Ashworth Valley, where we were joined by Lyceumists from Regent Hall, Rochdale and Heywood. The affair was conducted by Mr. J. A. Warwick, of Rochdale, who explained to an interested gathering the formation of rocks. After tea we had a ramble through the valley, where Mr. Dickinson, of Bury, gave us a very instructive lesson on Botany, not forgetting the medicinal properties of some of the specimens. Our gathering was enlivened by singing Lyceum hymns. When we reached Bamford we had another good sing. Mrs. Warwick spoke a few words of encouragement. It was one of the most enjoyable days we ever spent. Mr. Warwick should be kept very busy, he is willing to help our Lyceums all he can in instructing them in the wonders of nature.

On Sunday 20th, we held our Open Session, when we had a very good audience. In the evening our speaker, Mr. H Towler, who is Conductor of our Lyceum, spoke some encouraging words to the Lyceumists. Miss Pratt, a Lyceumist from Dukinfield gave a few clairvoyant descriptions, which were very successful. Being only a girl we think it is encouraging to Lyceumists.—Ben Butterworth, Sec.

Report of Lyceum Work at Leicester, (Queen Street.)

At the Lyceum Session, held Sunday Aug. 2nd, Bro. W. Wright, the conductor, gave a brief outline of the history since its foundation some five-and-a-half years ago, expressing his pleasure at the continued increasing progress they were making.

He alluded to the founding of the Lyceum by the late Mr. C. Place, who gave himself heart and soul to the work. A short time after they commenced their meetings they could muster an average attendance of 40 to 50 scholars, and he was pleased to say that they had made such good progress that their average attendance was about 100.

But though they were strong and vigorous to-day they had had their ups and downs, there being many things to contend with which could not have been surmounted except by a steady determination to succeed and carry on the good work. At the same time they had had much to be thankful for.

Their first blow came in the passing away of their leader Mr. C. Place, and for a time things looked gloomy indeed. Bro. Wright then gave an account of how he received personally a clairaudient message from his old friend Mr. Place, the words being "feed my lambs." This filled him with a determination to carry on the work and he was proud to say that he had been their conductor for a number of years, feeling that it was a duty that he owed to his departed friend as well as to themselves.

Some time after taking up the work of conductor, the outlook seemed particularly dark. There appeared to be a total lack of enterprize and enthusiasm necessary to carry on such a work as theirs: and he could well remember how on one evening some 12 of them were gathered together and actually discussed the abandonment of the whole thing, to such a low ebb had they come.

But just at the most critical period a visit from their old friend Mr. J. J. Morse put new life into them and they determined to go on with the work.

They joined the Lyceum Union soon after their restitution, and their first anniversary was conducted by Mr. Venables, Walsall, who was President of the Union at that time.

They were considerably indebted to Mr. Venables, Mr. H. Clough, the old Leicester pioneer, the late Mr. J. Swindlehurst, Mrs. S. Clarke, Nottingham, Mr. Smedley,

Belper, Mrs. Greenwood, our own pastor, Mr. G. H. Bibbings and others for the interest they had taken in their doings and for the kind services they had from time to time rendered them: and he was also glad to tell them that he occasionally had communications from their own workers who had been obliged to leave their midst, stating the interest they still took in those left behind.

Their thanks were also due to their good friend Mr. Tye, who for so long had presided over the organ, he considered the music one of the most important features of the service.

In a few appropriate words Bro. Wright impressed upon the children the desirability of learning to *live* well and not learning to *die* well, that would follow as a consequence of well living, closing with the well-known lines of the Rev. John Page Hopps—

Faint not, O brother worker,
Though toiling seems in vain;
Thy every feeble effort,
Brings brightness in its train, etc.

JOHN G. N. SNOW, Sec. Queen St. Spiritual Hall.

Little Restless.

LITTLE restless, Little restless,
Noisily tramping through the house,
Or if deep in any mischief,
Then as quiet as a mouse.

Little restless, little restless,
Ever running in and out,
Now with sudden cry of anger,
Now with sudden joyous shout.

Little restless, little restless,
You are weary now of play;
You have laughed, and romped and shouted
All the sunny summer day.

Little restless, little restless,
It is time "Night, night" was said,
For the white lids hide the blue eyes,
And down droops the golden head.

So "good-night" to little restless,
And we peace have for awhile;
May the morning wake our restless
With the same glad happy smile.

Tweed Green House,
Whalley Range

KATE TAYLOR-ROBINSON.

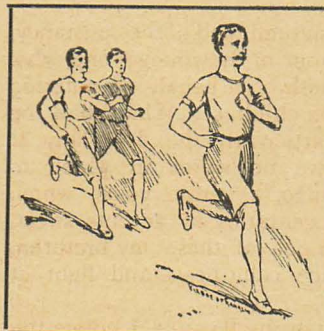
BURY.—Our monthly Open Sessions were held on Sunday, September 6th. Misses Ellis, Chadwick and Ogden favoured us with solos, and Misses S. Golding and Daventry with recitations. Miss A. Clough conducted the marching and calisthenics in her usual graceful manner. Our library now comprises 214 books. We have commenced a Football Club in connection with our Lyceum, and shall be pleased to arrange matches with other Lyceums. E. J. BARNES.

RISHTON.—On Sunday, September 6th we held our Open Session. Two of our young Lyceumists, Misses Lily Eccles and Ellen Duckworth rendered one of our dear brother's favourite hymns, No. 347 in *Lyceum Manual*, "Shall we know each other there." Also a solo by Miss Emily Brown, and a recitation by Miss Lily Mason. Mr. George Haworth gave a few stirring remarks to Lyceumists and learners. Mr. Booth, Great Harwood, also spoke very encouragingly.—J. EDWARDS

MILLOM.—We held our school treat on Thursday, September 3rd, driving round by Whisham Valley in waggonettes. We returned to tea at about 6-15 p.m. We had a pleasant evening in the school. Miss Chadderton, of Oldham, gave an amusing reading, entitled, 'Love and Tar.' Songs were sung by Misses E. A. Dixon, M. A. Coward, Mrs. Weeks and family, Mr. R. Tyson and Mr. J. Cairns. Recitations were given by Mrs. Dixon, Miss Cairns, and Mary A. Dixon, the organist being Mr. J. Weeks. We heartily thank all those who assisted in making the affair a success. A pleasant evening being brought to a close by games and dancing.—T. E. TYSON, Sec.

well as young gentlemen. The young ladies will, I feel sure, do their very best to increase the number of your sincere friends, and as they anxiously wait for your arrival on the first Sunday in each month, their bonny bright eyes will grow brighter still at the sight of your ever welcome appearance. As for the supplement, that is certainly "a feather in the cap" of the "Rydal Press," which the public will not be slow to note. As I look at the faces of the trio

Ben is" replied Tommy, and his friends present agreed with him. He then said, "now Uncle Amos, its time for us to go, before we start let's give three right hearty cheers for pretty MISS BANNER, the Editor and all his assistants, and the Printers." So its, hip, hip, hurrah! Hip, hip, Hurrah! Hip, hip, hurrah! Hip, hip, hurra—h!! "Good Night Uncle, we shall come to see you again" said Tommy as they left,



Our Boy's Special



THE month of harvest! What lessons of importance we may learn from the agricultural world around us at this season of the year. Sturdy forms with busy hands may be seen all about us, garnering the produce of the varying seasons that have passed since the seeds were so hopefully sown in the early spring. Anxious faces and doubtful expressions, remind us again that though nature seems to offer her abundant gifts of vegetable growth, there is yet cause for danger, lest through misfortune, we should lose the value of her ripened growth, ere we can safely convey it beyond the power of atmospheric change to destroy its goodness.

So it is with human progress and happiness. Constantly in the springtime of life are the seeds of love and sympathy being sown in the young heart, by sturdy loving parents, guardians, friends, who watch with interest the growth of those seeds, and their productive power of nourishment to all who may be fortunate enough to partake of the refined grain. How anxious the loving parents, &c., watch the effects of the bitter blasts of adversity, whose clouds anon darken the atmosphere, over those young hearts. How prayerfully those dear sowers look towards the eastern horizon of life, to catch a glimpse of those sweet golden rays of promised light, which is to give strength and manhood to the tender stem, now swayed in its experience by all the varying moods of atmospheric demonstrations, but which is yet destined to bear on its summit the ripened grain resultant from a good and worthy growth. Quite a serious and useful lesson is to be drawn from the harvest, is there not boys? Have any of you known of such cases, I wonder? You must have, of course.

Young as some of you are, you cannot fail to have noticed with what real pride a beneficent father, and a patient, loving mother, watch the unfoldment of good qualities in their children,—the seeds of which good qualities were sown by loving hearts in childhood's days, and the growth of which were tended and carefully matured during the unfoldment of maidenhood and youthful vigor, until the rich rays of a ripened gratitude and requited love strengthened and beautified, the *man* and *woman* whose pleasure it now became to shield the tottering forms and smooth the grey hairs of those loving sowers who had helped them to strength and righteousness.

Do not forget this boys! The rich harvest of your soul's welfare and happiness can only be assured by your striving to carry out in all your life's actions the principles of virtue, honour, sobriety, justice, and love, as taught you by those dear parents whose undying love for you is a sufficient guarantee that they would teach you the best lessons of life they know. By following out those lofty principles of goodness which they are ever pointing out to you, you

shall be able to bear up manfully against all the tempests and storms that may break over you, however unexpectedly, and eventually you will be able to garner to your everlasting credit and spiritual nourishment, a rich and plentiful harvest of good thoughts, good deeds, and sweet memories. *Kindly show this to your Conductor* and ask *him* or *her* to give you a further lesson on this beautiful subject during the month. And now, boys, we will change the subject.

Last month I submitted the word "Laziness" for an essay subject.

As I have only received one response, I presume that there are very few in our Lyceums who know anything about laziness. At first I felt very pleased, but after thinking a little while on the matter, I began to feel rather sorry; because I think you all ought to know something about the subject, as it is surrounded with such grave dangers, and calamitous consequences, that if you are not aware of its awful effects, you may perhaps become a victim of its terrible influences. Now then, "follow me closely," as Dan Leno would say: Laziness is defined in the dictionary as "habitual inaction." Now that might not be quite so bad, perhaps, if it could be applied to boys generally; but it cannot. Habitual inaction is a state unknown to boyhood. I did not compile the dictionary, if I had, I think I should have defined laziness as "habitual neglect of duty." You see boys, there is a constant inherent action in nature which communicates itself strongly to conscious life, both in boyhood and manhood. The powerful influences which often we cannot see, but which are constantly operating on our conditions, will not permit us to become "habitually inactive," but compel us to be constantly active, and hence, if we are not engaged in doing what is our palpable duty towards ourselves and others, then we are actively engaged in doing that which is opposed to duty and right, and we are consequently encouraging about us those evil influences which help to make us vicious, wicked and worthless boys and men. Sometimes it seems difficult for us to carry out the "golden rule," but, depend upon it, if we haltingly and fearfully approach a righteous task, because it seems hard, the evil influence of laziness will overshadow us, and eventually overwhelm us, bringing in its mighty train, misery, degradation, worthlessness and utter ruin. As no sensible boy wishes to look forward to a prospect of this kind, I would strongly urge upon all, that whatever duties and obligations await you in life, do not shirk them, but face them with a spirit of determination and you are sure to succeed in winning the appreciation of all good men and women, and also securing for yourselves the honourable title of "noblemen of nature."

Our essay subject for October is of a very different

character to our last. I trust a number of essays will be forthcoming. The subject is "Mercy."

Our Frank, from Slaithwaite, sends me yet another contribution (good lad Frank), which I submit for your benefit. I should think we shall be hearing from "Neddy" soon.—
Yours lovingly,
UNCLE BENJAMIN.

LAZINESS.

Laziness is a condition one can get into by mixing with bad companions, and not having a will power strong enough to resist temptation and are thus led to take strong drink, and by degrees they feel that work is not a pleasure and they become lazy under its influence. And the beauty of manhood is nipped in the bud. One of the grandest things one may acquire in youth is to find out and pursue a study that is interesting and instructive, which inspires the youth with noble ideas, and purity of purpose, that will open the door of his better nature, and step by step, lead him on to noble manhood. From the Lyceum we may gather the beautiful lessons of life that may help us to unfold and strengthen our natures, that we may be strong to resist in the hour of trial. Laziness has nothing to offer to the youth unless it be want and degradation. The pure, sweet, innocent life that binds us to our home and parents let us prize, let us endeavour to be active in service, for life, noble life, shall bring to us the sweetest of all joys, happiness shall spring in our path and the sweet golden age of life shall surely tell of noble service nobly done.

Gleanings by Uncle Amos.

Oh Mr. Editor! Why, you and the printers have fairly been laying your heads together, for you have fairly outdone yourselves in the production of your beautiful September number!!

As for you, dear MISS BANNER, I would like to know who is your costumier? And if you will please excuse me, for I do not wish to be rude, but have you put on your new and most appropriate costume with a view of honourably attracting a still larger number of suitors? If that is your motive, all things considered, it is very praiseworthy on your part, and all your friends will join in wishing that your honest desire for popularity and progression may be realised, and that all your old admirers will form a closer acquaintance with you, and strive their very best to speedily double the number of your real lovers. You see, this can be done without creating the least jealousy among them. This may appear strange, especially when you remember that your "Followers" include a host of young ladies as well as young gentlemen. The young ladies will, I feel sure, do their very best to increase the number of your sincere friends, and as they anxiously wait for your arrival on the first Sunday in each month, their bonny bright eyes will grow brighter still at the sight of your ever welcome appearance. As for the supplement, that is certainly "a feather in the cap" of the "Rydal Press," which the public will not be slow to note. As I look at the faces of the trio

that adorn the supplement I am reminded of the constancy, earnestness, and quiet demeanour of the younger one, who, "though being dead yet speaketh" on behalf of suffering humanity and especially for the children. What shall be said about the elder couple, particularly the dear lady at the head of the page? I have no words in which to express myself, but I hear a voice, a gentle voice, which speaks through the dim silent centuries in accents sweet, "Inasmuch as you did it unto one of these my brethren, ye did it unto me." May peace, calm peace and light at eventide be their portion.

On looking carefully through the BANNER I notice the various interesting and instructive articles that grace its pages. First, by your permission Mr. Editor, I may mention "The Garden of the Heart," which must be of great service to all who have carefully read it so far, and it is to be hoped that all the readers have read it and will continue to do so to the end. Then your "Notes and Comments" etc., are always interesting. "Our Girls' Own Corner" by our good friend Mrs. Greenwood is ever fresh and green as the forest foliage in the spring time. Then comes "Flora Belle" and close behind her "Sis and Ted" with a long train of merry Bluebells. Oh is it not grand to wander in the woods in the merry spring time, up to the knees in blue bells, with the happy birds singing in the trees, and the busy bees buzzing and humming around you! Ah, those are the times when you forget all about both time and eternity. But the flowers of the fields and the foliage of the woods are fading fast. The life-giving sunshine is daily getting later in smiling on us in the morning, and withdraws earlier in the evening. Oh, merry days of spring-time and jolly hours of sunshine! Why will you shorten your welcome visits so soon? Next I notice the useful, sober-minded "Temperance Page," which merits the careful persual of the young men and maidens and elder men and matrons, as well as all who cannot claim to belong to either the young or old, but are somewhere between the two. Think of the great responsibility that rests on you. Won't you all fall into the ranks of Temperance and do your utmost to bring about a prosperous happy England? "But where is "Uncle Benjamin" this month? I do not see his cheery column," I remarked as I turned over the pages. "Happen Uncle Ben had gone off for his holiday when they were writing the September BANNER, but I wish he'd had a hand in it this time, for I always look for Uncle Ben's Page," my nephew Tommy replied, (who was present with other of his cousins). "Tommy, my boy, why don't you say Uncle Benjamin? Perhaps he would be offended if he heard you" I remarked. "Happen he would; and I should do, only "Uncle Ben" is shortest and easiest to say, an' nicest; besides, Benjamin always reminds me of top hats, kid gloves an' patent leather boots, and that's not like Uncle Ben. He's too jolly to want us to use either starch, powder-blue, or Hudson's soap, when we speak to him, Uncle Ben is" replied Tommy, and his friends present agreed with him. He then said, "now Uncle Amos, its time for us to go, before we start let's give three right hearty cheers for pretty MISS BANNER, the Editor and all his assistants, and the Printers." So its, hip, hip, hurrah! Hip, hip, Hurrah! Hip, hip, hurrah! Hip, hip, hurra—h!! "Good Night Uncle, we shall come to see you again" said Tommy as they left.

OUR GIRL'S CORNER.

Perfection does not consist in doing singular things, but it does consist in doing common things singularly well.—

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES.

WHY I AM A LYCEUMIST.

I AM a Lyceumist because I find the Lyceum teachings give me better satisfaction than any other I have tried to understand. They are bright, cheerful, and instructive; they are founded on love and purity, teaching us to know that "Right and Truth in every soul need only help to grow." I attend the Lyceum because it is a pleasure to me to gain knowledge and be able to use that which is within me to the best advantage. I consider the golden and silver chain recitations bright gems of thought which provide food for the mind. The marching and calisthenics develop the body, thus are we trained physically as well as mentally. I will now close with best wishes to every Lyceumist, hoping each one will do their duty, uniting to make one grand progressive band.

ELLEN HIRST, Slaithwaite Lyceum.

My friend Ellen has chosen a good subject for her brief essay. Many more of our girl readers could tell us why they are Lyceumists if they wanted, and I dare say there would be as many different reasons as girls. There would be sure to be one common motive, the one named by Miss Hirst, satisfaction. The Lyceum is the happiest spot outside the home that I know of. The secret of it all lies within each member. The desire to know and follow truth. Unhappiness always comes stalking in when some want their own way and will not yield to each other. A noted American Lyceumist has written the following little article for girls in the "Progressive Lyceum."

HAVING ONE'S WAY.

(Written for the Girls by Emma Rood Tuttle.)

Devotion to one's convictions is noble, but the egotism which says my way is best, and nobody shall change me, is unwise, disagreeable and an enemy to peace and progress. Girls, you do not wish to grow into a woman such as I picture below. Be firm and true, but look beyond your own nose.

"I'll have my way!" Who is it says so? A woman, most likely—let us look at her.

The most noticeable thing about her is that her eyes are very near together. She can not take a broad view. She has got her visual organs riveted on a little point, and there she proposes to keep them, if the whole world waits. She does not know there is any world; all she knows is that there is a little point, and that she has planned to cover the same. "I'll have my way!" Not because my way is best or wisest, but because I planned to have it, and I will.

We wonder if she knows how hard it is on her to carry out her plans? No, she does not see that; she

only sees the little point, and her little resolution, and her little jaw is as set as a little bull pup's, and her little eyes cling to the little point she has made her little plan to carry out, and her little soul is satisfied that she has had her little will, and her little ambition is gratified. Nobody but herself noticed anything about the little point, little resolution, little jaw, little plan, or little victory. The battle ground was on her little soul, and that was the beginning and the end of it all. Then she looses her little eyes and says, "I told you I'd have my way." We had forgotten all about what she was trying to do. We had done a dozen things while she was playing anti-mire; but we probably are not as well satisfied with our dozen tasks accomplished as she is with "having her way."

Such women seem wholly unreasoning, and forget that the cost is great to themselves when they carry out unwise plans. Supposing a woman plans to go shopping a certain day. There is no especial reason why she should go that day, only she has planned. The morning looks unpleasant. Her husband suggests that she had better take another day. It looks like rain. She will be inconvenienced by it.

She will not listen to interference with her plan. She will go.

She comes home with dragged skirts, straightened plumes, sour temper, cross words, and all she has gained is, she has carried out her plan.

"I'll have my way!" is a declaration that may show up a degree of unreasoning "spirit," but there are nicer attributes to parade than that. The 20th century woman will aim higher than muleishness, and we trust women's eyes will widen, until we shall not see any of them grieving like pathetic monkeys (did you ever notice how near together a monkey's eyes are?) because they could not make true the belligerent declaration:

"I'll have my way!"

The British Spiritualist's Lyceum Union.

The Executive Council of the above Union will address Propaganda Meetings at 3-0 and 6-30 p.m., on October 11th, in the Darwen Spiritual Church, Bank Street, when the following ladies and gentlemen are expected to deliver brief, bright and stirring addresses, viz: Mrs. Law (President), Mr. Jonah Clarke (Vice-President), Mrs. Jessy Greenwood, Messrs. S. S. Chiswell, Albert Wilkinson, E. A. Keeling, and Councillor John Venables.

The Lyceum will hold an Open Session in the morning at 9-30, at which the above ladies and gentlemen will attend. A hearty invitation is extended to all friends of the cause. Collections in aid of the Union Funds.

ALFRED KITSON, Gen. and Fin. Sec.

We are deeply grateful to all who have responded to our appeal to help us reduce the cost of postage on the "Lyceum Banner," by having their parcels at Newspaper Rates. The plan enables us to supply the "Lyceum Banner" at 9½d. per doz. Our next issue will be ready on Oct. 31st, Will Secretaries please note and call for their parcels, and report to us not later than the following Monday, if they fail to receive them.