

The LYCEUM BANNER

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No. 154.



A Brief Sketch of Mr. Alfred Bodell.

THE late Mr. Alfred Bodell was born in Belper on January 18th, 1855. When a youth he attended the Baptist Sunday School for a time and then moved to the Unitarian School, which he attended until his attention was drawn to the subject of Spiritualism. He served his apprenticeship with Messrs. Smedley Bros., at the Eagle Iron Works, as pattern maker, and after becoming a journeyman, joined his father and brother in the business of joiners and builders.

He signed the temperance pledge on January 12th, 1870, which he honoured by keeping to the end of his days. He was an ardent and consistent worker in the temperance cause and the Band of Hope movements, being a regular whole-souled four-fold pledge man. His last public act was to prevail on a young man to sign the pledge at ten o'clock on the night previous to meeting with the sad accident which so suddenly took him from our midst.

He was for some time chairman of the local branch of the National Deposit Society; also a strong supporter of co-operation and a progressive policy. He was not a silent partner, either, in any of these movements, but an intelligent and earnest worker, his enthusiasm being the warmest for Spiritualism and temperance. A prominent feature in him was, his readiness to render assistance in every progressive movement.

When the Lyceum was formed in Belper, he at once entered heartily into the work, and what was better, his interest in it never wavered, or flagged to the end. Since his removal to the higher life, he has many times proved his identity, both in the private Circle and publicly to Clairvoyants, and distinctly manifested his continued earnest desire for the welfare and prosperity of the Lyceum members, also his abiding affection for his wife and two children, whose welfare and happiness had ever been his first concern; and for whom he had lived, and to whom his sudden departure was such a terrible blow. It was especially heavy and almost overwhelming to his bereaved widow, who had so heartily joined him in the exceptionally good management of their social and household matters, in which they formed a pattern, which, if followed by all householders would leave little if any necessity for the public provision of old age pensions.

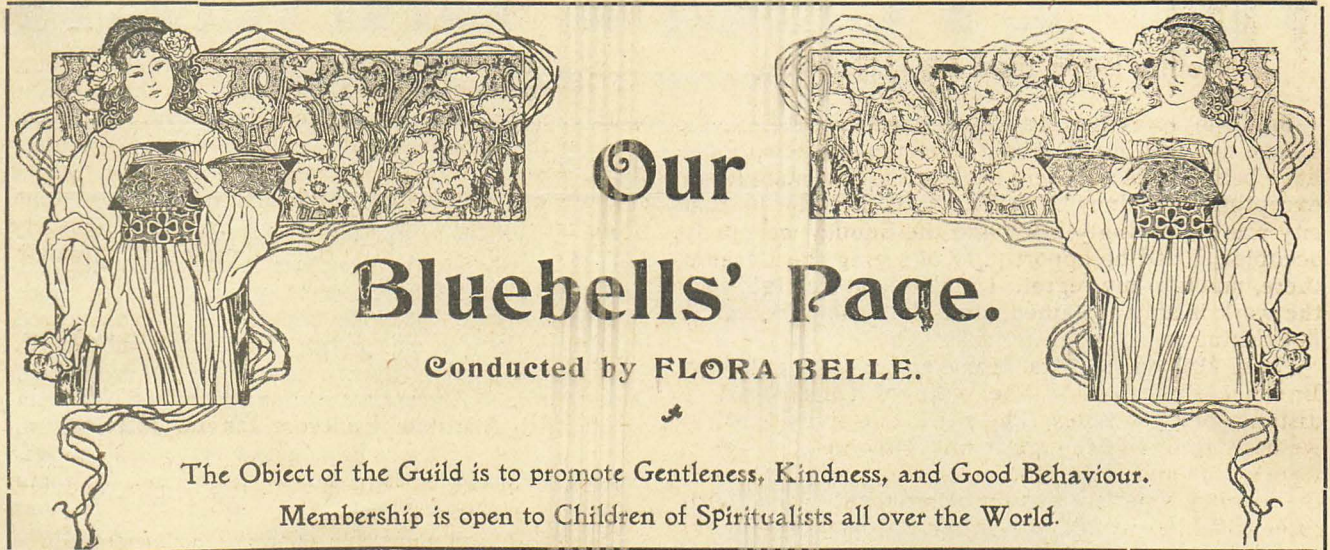
It is a matter of no little satisfaction to him now, to know that those nearest and dearest to him, whom he has left behind for a time, are doing what they can to help on every good movement in which he had taken such a lively interest, and that his son and daughter are taking such a useful part in Spiritualism and Temperance. This information he has several times imparted to us when manifesting in the private circle.

It was on Tuesday, November 20th, 1900, whilst at his work at a circular saw, a piece of wood flew and struck him in the abdomen, causing his death within twelve hours. Just before leaving the body, he was favoured by the visit of his father and mother in Spirit, and he exclaimed,—They have come to bless me,—bless me mother! Then leaving the mortal frame he departed in the company of his parents (who had watched over him in his childhood and youth) to the Summerland of which he had often sung while taking his part in the Lyceum. He was an affectionate husband and father, frugal, but charitable and self-sacrificing. He was a man of whom it may be truly said, his feet were swift to do good.

The funeral service, which was a very impressive one, was held in Jubilee Hall, which was full of friends who were present to pay sincere respect to his memory. The service was conducted by Mr. Will Phillips, assisted by the President of the Society, who bore his testimony to the sterling qualities and good work done by the departed one, having known him from a child.

The service at the grave side was attended by a large concourse of people, most of whom had known him well, and who manifested sympathy for the bereaved. On Sunday evening the 2nd of December, a Memorial service was held in Jubilee Hall, which was crowded, when special and suitable hymns were sung, by a sympathising Choir and Congregation, and an appropriate address given by Mr. Phillips. Although three years have passed since he was taken from his earthly friends and associates, his good works are still an example and an inspiration to those left behind.

A SMEDLEY.



MY DEAR BLUEBELLS,

I suppose you wish to know all about Ted and Bob. I will go on where I left off last month. After breakfast we all went to have another look at the rabbits. Oh, they were such beauties! Whilst we were talking about them mother asked Ted if he had room for the four strangers in his hutch. Then Ted admitted that it was the only thing which was troubling him, as he had not the least idea where to put them. Bob said it would not take long to build another hutch with two or three divisions in it. The boys set to work straight away, and mother and I left them hammering and sawing to their heart's content. They were busy all day, and when mother called them to tea they said they would have finished in a few minutes. After tea, when I went to see their work, they had made the yard quite tidy, and the rabbits looked very comfortable in their new home. In the evening we had a lot of young friends in and spent a right enjoyable time, and everybody seemed sorry when home time arrived.

The next day the two boys went off after dinner and we saw nothing more of them until bed-time. They said they had been to see some more friends, whose mother invited them to stay to tea. During their absence I went in the yard to look at the new rabbits. One of them was stretched full length and looked as though it was dead. I called mother, who said it was very ill. We took it in the house, but it died soon after. How to tell the boys we did not know; however, mother managed it very nicely, though I am sure that they both had tears in their eyes, but of course they did not wish us to see them. We arranged to bury the rabbit next morning, as Bob had to go home in the afternoon. After we had buried it we did not feel in the humour for games, so we had a nice long walk and came back feeling as hungry as hunters. When dinner was over we went with Bob to the station, and he seemed quite sorry to leave us. Before he left, he gave us an invitation from his mother to go and spend a few days with them before long. We promised to write and let him know if mother consented. When we got home we told mother, who agreed and said we might go if we could arrange it, so before long I will tell you about our visit to Bob.

Now I must not forget all the letters and cards my

Bluebells have sent me. Last month Lewis Burton, of Bury, sent the following:—

DEAR FLORA BELLE,—Will you please send me another membership card. I am very sorry to tell you that my little brother, who is only about two, has torn mine, which was number 5. He did not understand it, or I do not think he would have done it. I would not like to be without one.

Hoping you are in the best of health,
I remain, your loving Bluebell,

LEWIS BURTON.

I hope, Lewis, you received your new card alright.

The next is a letter from a new Bluebell, Cissy Maycroft, of Bolton, Bradford Street, and I am so pleased to know you take such great interest in your Lyceum Session, Cissy, and hope you will obey the rules of "Our Guild."

DEAR MISS FLORA BELLE.—I would just like to put a few lines in the BANNER to let you know how our Lyceum is. I like it more every time I go. I think the silver chain and golden chain recitations are very good. I also like the marches and calisthenics, which are good for the body. I also think the recitations in the BANNER and TWO WORLDS are splendid. I have learnt several of them, and said them at the Lyceum. I have gone to schools and other places, but I have never proved anything as good as the Lyceum. I have not been a Lyceumist long; the first time I went I thought it was strange, but I still keep on going, and I find it is better as I go on. I will now close, with best wishes to every Lyceum.

Please forgive all mistakes, as this is my first letter.

CISSY MAYCROFT.

I have also received two cards from our Bluebell, Mr. R; Bilborough, of Bolton (Bradford-street), sending still more names. Please Mr. Bilborough, accept my heartiest thanks for your interest in the guild, and also for sending me more new members, which at all times I am pleased to receive. I must now close, for I know the Editor is waiting for my letter, with all good wishes from Your Loving Sister,

FLORA BELLE.

1442 Authur Gledhill

1443 Robert Hunt,

1444 H. Jenkins.

Another Letter from Mr. J. J. Morse.

SINCE my previous letter to the dear little BANNER I have not seen much about Lyceum matters, for I have been in places where our work is not established, excepting in Sydney, N.S.W., but as my stay in that city was exceedingly brief, and the Sunday was fully occupied, I had no opportunity of seeing the Lyceum there, much to my regret. I understood, though, that the work is ably sustained, and that the Lyceum is flourishing.

From Melbourne, Mrs. Morse and myself sailed for Brisbane, the capital of the state of Queensland, a distance of 1,100 miles. The city is one of the prettiest we have seen, and though it was midwinter, the days were sunny and warm, the skies bright and blue, and the country a perfect picture of beautiful green, with roses and lilies in full bloom on all sides! I held twelve meetings in Brisbane, and they were most successful from every point of view. We sailed back to Sydney, where we remained three days, having two splendid meetings in the Australian Church on the Sunday, and the next day bid adieu to Australia, commencing our homeward journey the following day, when the S.S. "Sonoma" bore us away to this city, a trip of 1,280 miles, which took about four days. We landed in New Zealand, and at once work was commenced by my departure for Thames, some forty miles down the Hauraki gulf, which town was formerly a flourishing centre of the gold mining industry on this island. I gave three meetings, Miss Morse one, and to-morrow she again visits the friends there for another meeting. She has also held four meetings in this city, Auckland, having crowded audiences each time.

Yesterday morning I visited the Auckland Lyceum. Miss Morse had previously done so, and by her advice she helped them in their work, which has only been started some six weeks. I found a well conducted Lyceum, splendid attention and order, a substantial number of adults as well as juniors, and a band of officers thoroughly imbued with the importance and responsibility of their duties. The familiar calisthenics were capitally rendered, the singing was hearty and good, as were the S.C. and G.C., and the M.R. Our "Manual" and "Songster" were in use, and it was indeed a pleasure to see the old familiar books in the hands of the members, and listen to the ever welcome words and music. The Conductorship is ably fulfilled by Mr. W. Norton-Taylor, who is most devoted to his duties, indeed he takes them as his life's work. He will surely prove a tower of strength to the Lyceum cause in this part of the world. Mr. Cheshire, as Musical Director, is, also, the right man in the right place, while the leaders form a truly united and devoted band of workers. Being invited "to speak a piece," the opportunity was taken to give a short account of our recent conference at Blackburn, and a running commentary on the rise of Lyceum work at home. In this connection special references were made to the two men who had done so much for British Lyceumists,—Alfred Kitson and Harry Kersey, and of course also to our honoured founder, Andrew

Jackson Davis, the three constituting the Lyceum Trinity, to whom all honour was due for the splendid work each had done for our children. In telling the story of the life and work of our esteemed secretary the children listened with breathless attention, which at times was punctuated with heartiest applause. And, when they heard how Mr. Kersey had so generously aided us in the early days, the hall rang with applause.

The above letter was crowded out last month.

[We beg to tender our hearty thanks to our good friends, Mr. and Mrs. Smedley, for the following letter.—Ed. L.B.]

COPY OF LETTER RECEIVED FROM

Mr. Andrew Jackson Davis, M.D.

Boston, Sept. 3rd, 1903.

Beloved friends of Human Progress! Mrs. and Mr. Smedley and Henry Urban.

In behalf of just and noble efforts of our blessed Alfred Kitson, and for the entire Children's Lyceum Movement, and for the philanthropic labours of the British Spiritualist's Lyceum Union,—in a word, for the universal good of our common humanity, I desire (with thousands of others) to express gratitude and thankfulness to you for so generously strengthening and sustaining the hearts and hands of all who labour for the prosperity and expansion of these great works.

Lovingly and thankfully ever,

ANDREW JACKSON DAVIS.

P.S.—This brief and special acknowledgement of your late gifts (of which I have read in the LYCEUM BANNER) does not call for any reply. We have your fine likenesses in our home, and shall not forget you as friends of the good cause.

OUR CALENDAR OF SAINTS.

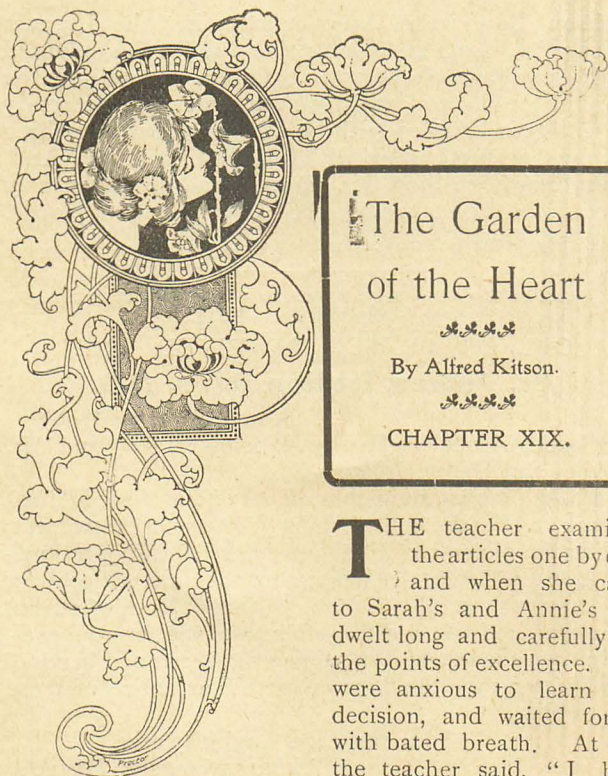
DEAR SIR,—On Sunday last, we had the above golden chain recitation at our morning's session, but the responses of the Lyceum were so poor, as to give cause for comments in the Liberty group. After reading the recitation a discussion ensued as to the proper pronunciation of several of the names contained therein, of which the following are a few: Zoroaster, Descartes, Goethe, Titian, Raphael, and Schiller. Now, we are of opinion that if you could publish the pronunciation of such words as the above, through the columns of THE LYCEUM BANNER, you would not only favour our Lyceum, but, we feel sure, the whole of the Lyceum movement. Trusting you will be able to meet us in our little differences, and thus clear the air of any misconceptions.

Yours fraternally,

On behalf of the Bury Lyceum,

E. J. BARNES, Lyceum Sec.

[We fully sympathise with our correspondent, and as we feel sure that the difficulty of the Bury Lyceum is shared by many others, we herewith give an extended list of the names in question, which are as follows:—*Archimedes*, pronounced Ar-ki-me-dez; *Aspasia*, As-pa-si-a; *Cornelia*, Cor-ne-li-a; *Descartes*, Des-car-tez; *Goethe*, Goé-the; *Homer*, Ho-mer; *Hypatia*, Hy-pa-ti-a; *Laplace*, La-placé; *Phidias*, Fid-ias; *Raphael*, Ra-faël; *Sappho*, Sa-fo; *Socrates*, So-cra-tez; *Spinoza*, Spin-o-za; *Titian*, Tit-ian (ian as in Christian); *Zoroaster*, Zo-ro-aster.—ED. L.B.]



The Garden of the Heart

By Alfred Kitson.

CHAPTER XIX.

THE teacher examined the articles one by one, and when she came to Sarah's and Annie's she dwelt long and carefully on the points of excellence. All were anxious to learn the decision, and waited for it with bated breath. At last the teacher said, "I have carefully examined all the

work, and I find the points of excellence equally divided between the Misses Brown and Goodwin, with this difference, the former's very much behind in quantity, owing to her late sickness, which we are all very sorry for, as undoubtedly it has deprived her of the prize, which must be awarded to Miss Goodwin."

All turned their attention to Annie, expecting her to present herself at the teacher's desk to receive the present, which they thought she had richly earned.

The teacher rose from her chair, and called on Miss Goodwin to come forward to receive the beautiful work-box, which had just been awarded to her.

But, imagine their surprise, when she stood up in her place, and said, though her voice faltered, indicating that a severe struggle was going on within her, "Please, teacher, I wish to thank you for your kindness towards myself, but I feel as I ought not to accept it—that it rightly belongs to Miss Brown, seeing that her work is slightly superior to mine. Her sickness, which has caused her work to be in arrears, is her misfortune not her fault, therefore I feel it rightly belongs to her and not to me." She then sat down, feeling that to have continued she must have cried, as it felt a very hard task to give up such a beautiful prize, when fortune seemed to have favoured her.

The teacher highly commended her generosity, and fine sense of moral integrity, in surrendering the prize to her unfortunate competitor. She then presented it to Miss Brown, who, drying her tears, accepted it with a smile of pleasure.

The incident created quite a sensation in the school. Some said Annie was a very foolish girl—that Sarah would not have given it up to her. Others found fault with Miss Brown for accepting it. Ellen Woodward, who, perhaps,

understood her friend's nature better than anyone else, said "It's just like her."

Annie still adhered to her opinion that Sarah Brown had fully won the prize had it not been for her unfortunate sickness—that her work was superior to her own. Then she had heard her guardian angel whisper in her ear "well done, my child, you have acted nobly." With this commendation ringing in her ears, she was satisfied she had but done her duty; so she did not allow her school-mates' opinions of the incident to mar the friendship between Miss Brown and herself.

CHAPTER XX.

Our heroine had won a victory over selfishness, which caused her to feel immeasurably happier without the prize, than she would have done had she accepted it.

To encourage and strengthen her charge in moral integrity, our guardian again took her to visit her garden. What a transformation had taken place. The entrance was through an archway of roses, whose stems were free from thorns, as if inviting all to enter without fear of harm. Not one thorny tree or shrub could be seen; nor a fat weed to give shelter to the venomous reptiles of envy, hatred, malice and slander. The stream was free from impediment, and in its course a miniature cascade had formed, over which the water went dancing and dashing, giving a bass-like tone to the sweet dulcet music it made as it rippled o'er its pebbly bed.

While in the centre was a fountain of exquisite design, whose substance resembled transparent marble, inlaid with silver and gold. It was in full play, and the jets of water, as they were thrown high in the air, so refracted the rays of light, that they showed the colours of the rainbow in ever-changing variety. The flower beds were well stocked and trimmed, shedding their fragrance everywhere. The alcove was completed; several plants were already climbing its various sides, entwining their slender tendrils among the trellis work. Trees, whose foliage was beautifully variegated, and tipped as with silver and gold, were bursting into bloom, or laden with ripe luscious fruit. While star-eyed grasses, of emerald green, and golden brown, bespangled with daisies, lilies, and violets, made a rich and highly perfumed carpet.

When she perceived the beauty and loveliness of the scene, she exclaimed, in rapturous tones, "Oh! how lovely; how delightful! I never thought it would be half so lovely as this. Why, the garden is changed. Before the garden was composed of thorns. Now rose trees have taken their place. I could dwell here continually."

"Yes," said her guardian, "you have displaced the thorny fence of selfishness with the roses of love, which invite instead of repel, give pleasure instead of pain. The grass is decorated with the daisies of innocence, the lilies of truth, and the violets of modesty. The stream of love and affection is now making sweet music in the hearts of those you have been instrumental in reforming, where before all was stagnant, giving rise to poisonous odours, blighting all that came within its reach."

"And it is to you, my good angel, that I owe all that I have done," she said, as she turned a grateful look of unutterable thanks.

Her guardian drew her to her, and her head rested softly on her breast, and she felt the sweet repose of a little child in the arms of a loving mother. Her guide, caressing her,

said, "Not so, my child. I did but warn and point out to you the way of reformation. It was yours to accept or reject. It is our mission to advise, not to force; to lead those who are willing to tread the path of progress, and not to compel them. The way was shown you, as it is to thousands; you strove to enter and walk therein. The work, and the honour, and the reward are yours, and yours the joy."

"Oh, but I feel that I do not deserve all this," exclaimed Annie; "I feel as if I owe it all to you; that I should never have had it, had it not been for you."

"I have only done for you," said her guide, "what others have done for me, but I did not rightly apprehend and profit by their ministration, as you have. But there is one thing lacking, you do not appear to have noticed, to make the whole complete."

"And what is that?" asked Annie, in evident surprise. "My mind is so full of all this richness and loveliness, that I have experienced nothing as lacking to make happiness complete. I just feel as if the cup of blessings presented to me was full to running over."

"What is it," interrogated her guide, that the heart and head, or the affections and intellect longs most for, after battling with the strife and trials of daily life; where the cares and anxieties can be laid aside, and where the inner being can rest and gain strength, and find that sympathy and sweet repose the world cannot give?"

Annie reflected a few minutes, then said, "It must be HOME you are referring to. I never thought of it before, as I have my earthly home and parents still to dwell with."

"Just so, my child," said her instructor, "you will find a home in the spirit-world is necessary; a home in which is centered and found all the endearing memories of earth life; all that makes home dear and attractive—for home is the centre of the soul's best and holiest affections. It is there we first learn to love and list the name of our parents; where the budding intellect, social affections, and moral powers are assisted to unfold."

This awakened a new train of thoughts, and quickened the finer emotions within her, and realising the force of her loving guide's remarks, she ventured to ask, "And how are spirit homes built? I would like to do something towards erecting one."

"They are built by the same laws and principles by which your garden is cultivated, viz, your aspirations and deeds. It is gradually formed and fashioned by the office of kind friends, after the soul's ideal, be it the humble cottage, or the palatial mansion. But the requisite material must be provided by your individual lives. Every good action is productive of material that is used either for building, furnishing, or decorating. Nothing is lost. But, where duty is neglected, the building is arrested, and the soul must fulfil life's tasks before its home is completed and adorned. And until this is done, it can find no true, abiding, satisfied rest in the higher spirit world, as the unfulfilled duties of life are continually calling it to earth."

"I wonder if I shall be able to build such a home?" she said to herself, which was perceived by her guide, who said, in answer to her, "You will, if you persevere, for it has already been commenced."

Annie looked around for some indication of it. Her guide, divining the cause, said, "No, my child, you will not find it here; but you shall visit it by-and-bye."

"Oh, that will be nice," she exclaimed, her eyes lit up with anticipation of the promised visit. "I mean to strive and have it all complete before the change called death takes place."

"A good resolve, my child; one I will help you to realise. But, before that time arrives, you will have many hopes and fears, trials and triumphs to achieve, joys and sorrows to endure; for it is by this process that the soul has its integrity tested, and character built up."

"It is now your mission," continued the angel, "to be an instrument of reformation in the hands of a band of wise spirits, who are bent on correcting certain time-honoured and hoary superstitions and customs, and teach the truths you have already learned. Your mediumship has well-fitted you for the work. Guard your gifts as too sacred to prostitute for selfish ends. You have wise parents who will guide and protect you in your mission; and their counsel, coupled with our influence, and your own conscience, will guide you aright. You have already been useful in leading the drunkard and gambler back to the path of sobriety and honesty. This is only the beginning of your work. This is one of the many gems that will adorn your spirit home, if you are faithful to the end."

Annie's heart swelled with deep emotion as she learned she had been chosen for such a noble work, and she resolved to try to be worthy of the task allotted her, breathing an inward prayer for light and strength equal to the task.

"And now, my dear charge," said her guardian affectionately, "we must return to earth again. Take one last farewell look at this, your garden, before you go."

"Oh, may I not be allowed to visit it again?" pleaded Annie, her heart filled with grief at the bare idea of being barred from visiting it again.

"No, not here," replied her guide, gently but firmly, "its work is now done. All that you have earned—all the beautiful flowers—you will find more perfected, more lovely, more spiritual and sublime in a higher sphere, where your home is being reared."

"And shall I be allowed to visit it?" she enquired eagerly.

"Yes, on certain occasions, so that you may mark its progress; what gems are added to it, and how new features of grace and symmetry are wrought out; how, in short, you will find your highest ideals registered and perfected."

Thus were Annie's fears allayed. She perceived that instead of losing her precious possessions, she was about to gain further, to be admitted into a new and higher life of usefulness and responsibilities, and it meant great work and greater glory.

Discerning child (who has heard some remarks by papa) — "Are you our new nurse?" Nurse — "Yes, dear." Child — "Well, then, I am one of those boys who can only be managed by kindness; so you had better get some sponge cakes and oranges at once."

A boy was once sternly asked by his teacher, "Who made the world?" He made no answer. Thrice the question was repeated, each time more sternly than before. At last the boy burst into tears and said: "I did; but I won't do it again."

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ALFRED KITSON, Editor.

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THE LYCEUM BANNER.

LYCEUM NOTES AND COMMENTS

By ALFRED KITSON.

LYCEUM Open Sessions, to which parents are invited are being extensively adopted, judging by the reports to hand. They are good propaganda work, as they give the public an opportunity of judging the merits of our system. At the same time Group lessons should not be lost sight of.

We were very sorry that so many of the reports were crowded out of our last issue. Our space is overtaxed every month. We look forward with pleasure to the time when our sales will allow us to increase our little BANNER, without increasing the price. We ask the kind indulgence of our friends till then.

Have you seen the pretty Andrew Jackson Davis Badge? If not you should send to Mr. H. Buckley for a sample. See his advert.

This reminds me that much dissatisfaction exists at the decision of the last Conference concerning the non-adoption of a Lyceum Badge. The General Secretary desires to say to the numerous enquirers that it will not be in order for him to bring the matter forward again. But any Lyceum wishing to do so can have the loan of the samples and prices that he possesses.

We are pleased to learn that Mr. Albert Wilkinson is meeting with splendid success with his wonderful cinematograph exhibition. Lyceums would do well to write for his *special terms* which he is prepared to offer to them in order to help their friends. His address is 10, Percy Street, Hibson Road, Nelson.

Next month will appear a portrait and brief sketch of Councillor John Venables of Walsall, a past President of the Union, and a present member of the Executive Council Order early for extra copies.

The Executive meeting at Darwen, was a memorable event that will be remembered for a long time to come by all who took part in it. See our special report.

During the past month we have had the pleasure of visiting several Lyceums, and have been well impressed with the progress made. Rawtenstall's Lyceum Anniversary was a decided advance on the last one we attended. The open session, held in the morning, was good. We were pleased to meet Mr. and Mrs. Barnes of Bury. Mr. Z. Bently, D.V. for the R.D.C., Misses Hurst and friends; and Messrs Hall and Brown, all of Bacup. The latter gentleman still possesses a letter we wrote to him on how to form and conduct a Lyceum. This was in the early days of the movement, before Mr. H. A. Kersey published the LYCEUM MANUAL. We also had the pleasure of a short interview with that wonderful invalid, Miss Ashworth, author of *Rest at Last*, which, we are told, is sold out. Her fortitude in her long affliction is a marvel. Youth and vigour awaits her in the Summerland.

Heeley Lyceum is greatly handicapped in their good work for the want of a larger hall. But what they lack in quantity they possess in quality of their teachings. The ready manner in which the scholars answered the questions of their conductor, Mr. Oliver, as to the meaning of the terms contained in the silver and golden chain recitations were highly satisfactory. We were pleased to make the acquaintance of Mr. and Mrs. Walker, who have lately started a Lyceum in connection with their new Society. "It is not good enough," said Mr. and Mrs. Walker to their members, "you being Spiritualists, and sending your children to orthodox Sunday Schools. We must open a Lyceum for them!" And they did. Consistency is a jewel found in these worthy workers.

Coronation Street, Oldham, is another Lyceum suffering from want of room. Their first open session was inconveniently packed with deeply interested visitors, leaving very little room for marching. Mr. C. Brierley, with wonderful patience, conducted the session. A pleasing feature was the presence of a number of young men and women from Elliot Street Lyceum, Oldham, and Bower Lane and Byron Street Lyceums, Hollinwood. We were also pleased to meet Mr. Rothwell, conductor of Penn Street Lyceum, Rochdale, and to learn they are uniting their forces in that busy centre of industry in order to make the forthcoming visit of the Executive Council (January 17th) a red letter day in the town.

The British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

The visit of the Executive Council to Darwen on October 10th and 11th was a splendid success, notwithstanding the bad state of the cotton trade, which affects the district most seriously, causing much distress. Important business was done on the Saturday. The treasurer's report showed the Union to be in a good financial state. Mrs. Jessie Greenwood reported further subscriptions to the Permanent Secretary Fund. Several new helpers had been enlisted. The receipts were £25 11s. 1d.

Letters of regret at their inability to attend were read from the treasurer and Councillor John Venables. Correspondence was read, and duly considered, from Mr. J. Ainsworth and Mr. Alfred Smedley.

The Secretary reported the appointment of the following District Visitors:—Mr. R. Wimpenny to the Sheffield District, Mr. E. W. Stanton to the Derby District, and Mr. J. J. Bennett to the Birmingham District. The Secretary deeply regretted that the Union remained unrepresented in London. He had written several gentlemen on the matter, but was unable to get anyone to accept the office. The Lyceum lately opened at Doncaster was enrolled a member of the Union.

The arrangements for the Executive Council to visit Bootle on April 24th, 1904, and Rochdale on January 17th, 1904, were duly confirmed. A letter from Mr. Knott, of Rochdale, containing the cheering announcement that both the Regent Hall and Penn Street Lyceums were uniting their forces for the occasion, and that efforts were being made to secure the Co-operative Assembly Room, was received with applause.

The Secretary reported the growing circulation of the LYCEUM BANNER, and the efforts that were being made for its further improvement.

We quote the following figures to show the prosperity of the Publishing Department:—Lyceum Manuals sold, 1,599; Outlines of Spiritualism, 90; Physical Exercises, 517; Spiritual Songsters, 399; Reminiscences, by Mr. Alfred Smedley, 73 copies; Lyceum Registers, 89 copies; Hymn Sheets, 4,150; What the Lyceum is, 17,300 copies. Cash, £146 8s. 4d.

The Sunday morning's open session was a splendid success. It was a pleasing sight to see so many young men and young women taking a deep interest in the welfare of the Lyceum. Mr. H. Holgate, the conductor, whose labours are ably seconded by his devoted wife, has the hearty support of an able staff of officers. The musical part is well catered for, and the selections for the marching and calisthenics were full of "go," impelling all to observe precision in their actions, which called forth the warm commendations of the Executive Council. Little Dora Day recited the following lines, arranged by Mrs. Holgate—

GREETINGS.

- "Hail! friends; all hail the meeting,
To Darwen's Lyceum we give you greeting,
And from our hearts' richest store,
Love and friendship we freely pour.
- "We greet you, friends, with hearts o'erflowing,
And come with spirits brightly glowing,
From many a home with happy lay
To celebrate this joyful day.
- "Since coming here our hearts have grown,
We feel our souls expand,
For now we know we still are known
And loved in angel-land.
- "Then little band of workers
Take heart of grace.
Though dangers in your pathway lie,
Pursue your heaven-appointed way
With courage high.
- For—
- "One grand, eternal law controls
The life without, the life within.
Heaven is no place for idle souls,
The workers win!"

Mr. E. A. Keeling and Mrs. Jessie Greenwood led the silver and golden chain recitations, interspersed with appropriate questions and comments. Brief speeches, full of warm commendation, followed the physical exercises, by Mr. A. Kitson, Mr. J. J. Bennett, Mr. J. Clarke (vice-president), Mr. S. S. Chiswell, Mrs. Law (president), and Mrs. Greenwood.

The great event of the morning was the presentation, by Mr. S. S. Chiswell, on behalf of the Executive Council, of a toilet hand-mirror, two brushes and a comb, all mounted in sterling silver, to our esteemed lady President, Mrs. Mary Thorpe-Law, as a token of respect in honour of her marriage. In making the presentation, Mr. Chiswell delivered a neat, eulogistic speech in his inimitable style. The whole proceeding was heartily applauded by the Lyceum.

Mrs. Law, on rising to accept the present, was deeply affected, and said that words failed her to express all she felt. She would value it most highly, not for its money value, but for the love and esteem it evidenced for her by her colleagues—the members of the Executive Council.—Then Mr. A. Kitson, on behalf of Mr. H. Buckley, of Royton, presented each member of the E.C. with one of his pretty Andrew Jackson Davis Badges, as advertised in the LYCEUM BANNER. This little incident formed another pleasant surprise, which was enjoyed by all.

The afternoon service was presided over by Mr. M. Harwood, president of the Darwen Society, who extended a hearty welcome to the members of the Executive Council, and made some felicitous remarks on their characteristic qualities. Brief addresses were made by Mr. Kitson, Mrs. Greenwood and Mr. Chiswell.

The evening service was well attended. The speeches were interspersed with selections by the choir. Mr. S. S. Chiswell presided in his usual happy manner, and at once put the audience in touch with the aims and objects of those visits of the E.C.

Mr. E. A. Keeling referred to an attack on Spiritualism in one of the local papers, and advised the officers and all connected with the Lyceum to show by their daily lives that they were above reproach, and worthy of emulation.

Mr. A. Wilkinson said that retaliation, in a political sense, was in the air, but instead of retaliation, let them as Lyceumists treat their opponents with charity and love, and invite them to their Lyceums, so that they may see their mode of tuition and the quality of their teachings, and then form their own conclusions.

Mr. Chiswell dwelt at some length on the Biblical side of the controversy, and quoted Joel, Peter, and Jesus, to show that the outpouring of the spirit was to be on all flesh, and that certain signs were promised to all them that truly believed. These signs were not found amongst the Christians, but amongst the Spiritualists. Therefore, they came nearest the original Christian.

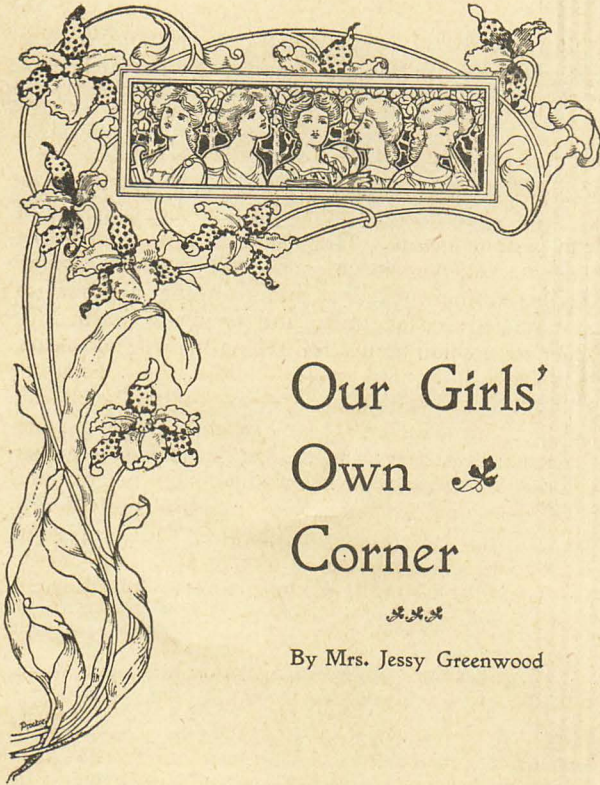
Mrs. Jessie Greenwood, under control, dealt with the important question of pre-natal and post-natal condition of children, and pleaded for a more intelligent motherhood, so that children may be rightly born, and not need regeneration, as lying at the root of all social and moral reformation.

Mr. A. Kitson dealt with the great importance of a good home influence, where the children are taught to think and reason for themselves, as being the best antidote to clerical indoctrination in the Board Schools that is now going on.


ALFRED KITSON, Sec.,
Bromley-road, Hanging Heaton, Dewsbury.

Permanent Secretary Fund.

List of contributions:—Heeley Lyceum (Sheffield) 3/-, Nelson Lyceum 10/-, Great Harwood Lyceum 20/-, Mrs. K. T. Robinson 21/-, Bury Lyceum 1/- (monthly), Hammerston Street (Burnley) 9/-, Mr. Chiswell 10/-, Mr. A. Wilkinson 10/-, Mr. Allen (Liverpool) 20/-, Rawtenstall Lyceum 5/-, Heywood Lyceum, 12/-, Mrs. Rushton (Macclesfield) 5/-, "Starnos" £1 0s. 10d., Battersea Lyceum (London) 5/-, Mr. Kitson's Services at Rawtenstall 5/-, Heeley 5/-, and Oldham 5/-. Hallas' Books sold:—Nelson, per Mr. Ward, 3/-, Darwen 3/9. Collecting books may be had by applying to the Secretary as below. The books are beautifully got up, with a band of the Lyceum colours (red, white and blue) across the frontispiece, on which the letters P.S.F. are in gilt. Each book contains one pound's worth of either 6d. or 3d. tickets, as the collector desires. The thanks of the E.C. are tendered, through me, to all who have so generously helped us this month. Address all communications to Jessie Greenwood, Sec., Ashleigh Hebden Bridge.



Our Girls' Own Corner


By Mrs. Jessie Greenwood

THIS month I introduce a lady who has written many stories for various papers, as well as *Services of Song*, and many other publications. She most willingly and kindly gives the following story especially written for the *Girls' Own Corner*.

NELLIE MILFORD'S VISIT TO FAIRYLAND.

By L. A. GRIFFIN.

PART I.

IT was a lovely sunshiny day, in leafy June, a few years ago, when Nellie Milford, the heroine of this story, spent a pleasant time in company with a number of other Sunday School scholars, frisking and romping about in the beautiful park and grounds owned by Squire Normand, situated in the charming country of Westshire. It was, in fact, the day of the annual summer outing, when a free treat had been given to the church school regular attenders. The children on these occasions were invariably taken to spend the day in the expansive richly wooded grounds owned by the wealthy gentleman mentioned, who kindly opened his park on feast days for the benefit of the Sunday school scholars. It was indeed glorious weather, the sun shone brightly overhead. The blue sky, dome-shaped, appeared calmly serene, and gracefully flaked here and there with fleecy white clouds that floated away at will. The air was filled with sweet musical sounds, for all nature seemed happy and gay, and the place was alive with the enchanting songs of innumerable various-hued birds, the drowsy hum of myriads of insects; the gentle lowing and bleating of the distant cattle; the soft sighing and southing of the perfume laden breezes, that playfully fanned the lace-like foliage of the tall majestic trees, inter-

mingled with the noise of flowing waters, clashing cascades, sparkling rivulets, babbling brooks that murmured, rushed, and roared, as they sped away on their own missions, assisting by their pleasant energy to make up the sum total of the harmonious concord of sweet sounds, that reigned supreme in those delightful enclosures.

Nellie Milford was a gentle, dreamy, imaginative child of nine summers, one who readily responded to affection, being extremely warm-hearted and loving, but one who shrank timidly from censure or blame. Her nervous sensitiveness occasioned her mental pain very often, for if she was accused of a fault she was quite incapable of defending herself, or explaining the position of affairs. The result was, she was often misunderstood and considered wilful, wayward, or disobedient as the case might be, when the opposite was the fact. Her highly strung nervous nature often carried her to excesses without intent to do harm. The girl dearly loved nature's beauties, and thoroughly she appreciated the manifold treasures displayed that day in the pleasant surroundings.

The magnetism of nature's wonders filled her young mind with awe, and appealed to every fibre of her being, she felt grandly inspired and invigorated by being thus brought nearer to dame nature's powers, and felt a great desire to be alone to commune with herself and speculate more fully upon the marvels displayed around her, and seek from her inmost self solutions to mysterious problems that now began to present themselves to her unfolding conscientiousness; never-the-less these high aspirations for spiritual truths did not diminish her material appetite by no means, for Nellie did not fail to take her place at the long table set up in a large marquee, erected for the purpose of serving refreshments, and she appeared to truly enjoy the company of many rosy-cheeked bright eyed little ones, the good things of a physical character provided, for she was particularly strong and healthy. The young people had been carefully catered for, and were regaled at intervals with fruit, cream, cakes, and sweet confections of all kinds, so that all was well with them in that direction. Then came the sports, which did not fail to please, and which comprised games and amusements for old and young, such as racing, scrambling for dainties, skipping, swinging, and listening to the harmonious strains of music as expressed by the town's band, which altogether made delightful pleasure and innocent fun.

By-and-bye Nellie Milford, who, with a number of other girls, had been running to and from a given point, became weary of such warm sport, and did not in the last lap attempt to reach the goal, but turned and strolled away in an opposite direction, heedless of the laughter, ridicule and sneering advice shouted after her by her lively, if over-heated, perspiring companions, who alternately taunted and challenged her to "Come on, and win the prize." Very soon her perambulations took her beyond the reach of their cheery, teasing voices, and only faintly fell upon her ear the medley of noises, the indescribable babble of sounds that usually arise from a crowd and are carried to a distance by the wind.

Nellie felt rather uncomfortable in her mind after leaving her friends, especially so when she recalled the teacher's strict injunctions given in school for the classes to keep together as much as possible during their stay in the park. But this opportunity to be alone was a temptation too

strong to be resisted, and in spite of qualms of conscience she proceeded on her way, until quite tired out she threw herself down at full length upon the velvety sward underneath the spreading, sheltering branches of the clustering giant chestnut trees, and fell into a deep reverie, endeavouring to decide in her own mind whether the celestial city her Sunday school instructor so often spoke of, could possibly be more beautiful than the lovely sylvan spot in which she now rested. So deeply lost was she in thought that she became quite startled and sprang to her feet when a pretty speckled thrush suddenly commenced to sing; simultaneously a small brown-coated rabbit dashed past her into the bushes beyond, and a lively little squirrel nimbly climbed the opposite tree, and shyly peeped at her from between the rustling branches.

Settling herself again after these slight disturbances, her thoughts strayed from one subject to another with remarkable rapidity. "I wonder," she observed to herself, "if the fairy tales one reads of in the children's books are true; I should like to know for certain if fairies do really exist? If so, I should say nothing is more probable than that they would make a place like this their rendezvous. I should be delighted if some of the little creatures would come out just now while all is so sweet and still, and dance together upon the grass; I would keep very quiet so as not to frighten them away, indeed I would. I fancy I can hear weird strains of music; surely it's not the brass band? (Leaning forward in a listening attitude) No, I don't know where it comes from; I will wait a while longer just to see if the fairies will come and visit me here. Dear me, how peculiar I feel; such strange influences stealing, as it were, over my senses.

(To be concluded.)

Gleanings by Uncle Amos.

GOOD SECURITY.

"Mister, do you lend money here?" asked an earnest young voice at the office door.

The lawyer turned away from his desk, confronted a clear-eyed poorly-dressed lad of twelve years, and studied him keenly for a minute. "Sometimes we do—on good security," he said, gravely.

The little fellow explained that he had a chance "to buy out a boy that's crying papers."

He had half the money required, but he needed to borrow the other shilling.

"What security can you offer?" asked the lawyer.

The boy's brown hand sought his pocket and drew out a paper carefully folded in a bit of calico: It was a cheaply-printed pledge against the use of intoxicating liquor and tobacco.

As respectfully as if it had been the deed to a farm, the lawyer examined it, and handed over the required sum.

A friend who had watched the transaction with silent amusement laughed as the young borrower departed.

"You think that I know nothing about him," smiled the lawyer. I know that he came manfully, in which he supposed to be a business way, and tried to negotiate a loan instead of begging the money. I know that he has been under good influences, or he would not have signed the pledge; and that he does not hold it lightly, or he

would not have cared for it so carefully. I agree with him that one who keeps himself from such things has a character to offer as a security."

FORCE OF EXAMPLE.

A boy once went to a Ragged School and had his face washed; and when he went home his neighbours looked at him with astonishment. They said, "That looks like Tom Rogers; and yet it can't be, for he's so clean." Presently his mother looked at him; finding his face so clean she fancied her face dirty, and forthwith washed it. The father soon came home, and seeing his wife so clean, thought his face dirty, and soon followed their example. Father, mother, and son all being clean, the mother began to think the room looked dirty, and down she went on her knees, and scrubbed that clean. There was a female lodger in the house, who, seeing such a change in her neighbours, thought her face and her room very dirty, and she speedily betook to the cleansing operation likewise. And very soon the whole house was, as it were, transformed, and made tidy and comfortable, simply by the cleaning of one Ragged School boy.

A little boy who was nearly starved by a stingy uncle (his guardian) with whom he lived, meeting a lank greyhound one day in the street, was asked by his guardian what made the dog so thin. After reflecting, the little fellow replied, "I suppose he lives with his uncle."

A clergyman was preparing his sermon for Sunday, stopping occasionally to review what he had written, and to erase that which he was disposed to disapprove, when he was accosted by his little son. "Father, does God tell you what to preach?" "Certainly, my child." "Then what makes you scratch it out?"

Twenty-five or thirty years ago, the Rev. Charles G. Finney was carrying on a series of revival meetings in Boston. One day a gentleman called to see him on business. Mr. Finney's daughter, five years old, answered his ring. "Is your father in?" asked the stranger. "No," replied the demure maiden. "But walk in, poor dying sinner! Mother can pray for you."

SCHOOLBOY DEFINITIONS.

Here are some examples of what the schoolboy can do when he tries hard:

"John Wesley was a great sea captain. He beat the Dutch at Waterloo, and by degrees rose to be Duke of Wellington. He was buried near Nelson, in the Poet's Corner at Westminster abbey."

Asked to name six animals peculiar to the Arctic regions, a boy replied: "Three bears and three seals."

"The Sublime Porte is a very fine old wine."

"The possessive case is when somebody has got your knife and won't give it to you."

"The plural of penny is twopence."

"In the sentence, 'I saw the goat butt the man,' 'butt' is a conjunction between the goat and the man."

Mushrooms always grow in damp places, and so they look like umbrellas."

"The difference between water and air is that air can be made wetter but water cannot."



Our Boy's Special

November once again! More bonfires, squibs, crackers, effigies of Guy Fawkes, and—*wet*. All the aforesaid dangerous toys are with us only for a day or two, but the wet, like the poor, we have always with us. I have wondered sometimes if the planet Mars, vexed at the idea that we want to talk with his folks, and perhaps suspicious that we shall soon want to send an army on to the planet to subdue the population and annex the territory, has burst all his reservoirs and intends giving us a soaking lesson to mind our own business. But, then, that cannot be, for are we not expressly told, upon scientific authority, that the heavy downfall of rain is entirely due to the "sun-spots." By-the-bye, have you seen those spots, boys? I have; they look like measles or chicken-pox or something. I wonder if the sun is having a good long "cry," because he has got them. I'll give up wondering, for it matters not what theory I start to account for the wet, the rain still falls, and makes men and things generally "humpy." I'll tell you something, boys. Don't let us go on grumbling about the weather until we are able to alter it. Let us rather turn our attention to those things that lie within our power to accomplish, and if we think we are being made to suffer through that which we cannot overcome, let us see if we cannot in some measure counteract its influence by striving to make ourselves happy and comfortable under the circumstances.

The long evenings are upon us, and it is impossible for us to pursue our out-door games in the wet, so let us try and improve our conditions indoors. Now is the time when our "guilds" ought to thrive, when we can meet together in our little chapels or schools, and develop the mental and spiritual faculties; when we may form our little parties and get up some kind of innocent entertainment that would bring a little sunshine into the lives of those unfortunate brothers and sisters who are so much worse off than ourselves, those to whom a little warmth is a novelty, and to whom a nice little supper under bright surroundings is a rare treat. Get together, boys and girls, and I assure you that as certain as you make some attempt to bring gladness and joy into the lives of those around you, so sure will you be compensated by the knowledge that you are of some use in the world, even though you have not yet grown to be men and women.

Get your parents and older friends to help you to provide a "Cinderella and Poor Joe" treat. Ask your committee to allow you the use of the chapel for an evening; get some kind sisters and brothers to judiciously distribute tickets to the little waifs in your district, and when you have regaled them with the good things provided, give them a children's entertainment for an hour, and they will go to their "shelters" to sleep contentedly and dream of happiness. I hope the "Banner Comps." will be busy during the next three or four months setting up reports of such kindness and mercy on the part of our Lyceumists everywhere around.

By-the-bye, talking of "Mercy," how many of you know that beautiful speech which the poet, Shakespeare, puts into the mouth of Portia in "The Merchant of Venice." Here it is:—

The quality of mercy is not strained,
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath; it is twice blessed;
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes.
'Tis mightiest in the mightiest; it becomes
The throned monarch better than his crown;
His sceptre shows the force of temporal power,
The attribute to awe and majesty,
Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings.
But mercy is above the sceptred sway;
It is enthroned in the heart of Kings;
It is an attribute to God Himself.

And earthly power doth then show likest God's,
When mercy seasons justice: we do pray for mercy,
And that same prayer doth teach us all to render
The deeds of mercy.

Now boys, and girls too, I should like you all to learn those lines, they will make a fine recitation for one of your "Cinderella and Poor Joe" gatherings. As this November "special" may be the last, for a considerable time, in which I shall ask you to supply essays on words submitted, as has been my usual custom for many months past, I am going to select one which I think is very appropriate to the time. It is the word "Negligence." Now just see what you can do with this subject. Surely it must suggest something to your minds about which you could write a few lines. Send them on to the Editor before the 20th of November for "Uncle Ben." You will see that I have shortened my name. Thanks to little nephew Tommy, who has suggested it. It looks better, and sounds nearer to you all. I intend, all being well, starting the New Year with special short stories for this page. I will tell you all about the "change" next month.

Yours as ever,
UNCLE BEN.

MERCY.

Mercy springs from the divine in human nature. Its power for good helps us to unite in fellowship, that we may catch the rays of the divine presence leading us on to a nobler ideal of life. That noble man or woman who can forgive the erring let them prosper in well-doing; let their lives permeate us with that kindly feeling that our very natures will speak in action, uniting, link by link, the great human family. Into our daily life-work let mercy flow and harmonise our natures like beautiful music. May each pardon given be the means of expanding that human flower in all its loveliness. The page of history reveals to us many beautiful lessons from lives that have performed acts of mercy. Oh! for a life such as these. With vigour we fling aside the curtain now with a determination to follow

their example, and play our part on the stage of human existence, and follow in the footsteps of those who could feel for the poor. We can change the aspect of life if we will only become interested. We fail to find the beautiful in nature because we lack admiration. We fail in finding true brotherhood because of the selfish aims which exist to-day, and the poor toiler fails to find or experience those conditions which will refine their nature and lead them on to a nobler and truer life. There requires to-day conditions that we might grasp the truer meaning of the life and teachings of the great Nazarene. We should then all experience a beautiful life, and realise the angelic, where love and mercy, truth and right, will then prevail. Let us catch the rays of the clearer light, living for the beautiful and the good, that the angelic of our lives may be developed into a holy brotherhood.

FRANK COCKS, Slaithwaite.

Lyceum District Visitors Summary of Quarterly Reports.

Mr. Geo. Ashworth, D.V., for the North-East Lancashire District Council, reports having visited Northgate (Blackburn), Rawtenstall, North Street (Burnley) and Preston. He speaks very highly of the first three Lyceums, all manifesting deep interest in the work, and have enquiring minds, which augurs well for the future. His E.C. visited Preston Lyceum and were sorry to find few present. There is a lack of unity amongst them which is essential to progress. His Council intends to look after them, and raise them up, if possible. In this they will have the sympathy of all Lyceumists.

Mr. Z. Bentley, D.V. for the Rochdale District Council, reports having 14 Lyceums in his district, and two Societies (Whitworth and Shaw) without any Lyceum. He has visited Rochdale (Penn Street and Regent Hall), Oldham (Coronation Street), Hollinwood (Byron Street), and Whitworth, and Mrs. Nurse has also interviewed one Society. All the Lyceums visited are doing good work, but could be improved if the elders of the Societies would lend a helping hand. Penn-street is noted for punctuality and order, and good generally. Coronation-street is a new Lyceum, and has good numbers. The work being done is most encouraging. Byron-street could be improved if more time was devoted to Group Lessons. Regent Hall he describes as an ideal Lyceum.

Mr. J. H. Smith, D.V. for the Bradford District, reports for six months. He reports 13 Lyceums in his district, of which number he has visited the following: Boyton-street, St. Paul's, Otley-road, Spicer-street, Tong-street, all of which are in Bradford, and Shipley, Skipton and Windhill. He reports the attendance small, with a few exceptions. On his visit to Skipton he found it closed, as were the other Sunday Schools, on account of scarlet fever.

Miss Annie E. Burton, D.V. for Manchester, reports having visited Patricroft, Salford (Cross Lane), Pendleton, Harpurhey, Moss Side, and seven Lyceums outside her district. One Society has been interviewed, and its decision is being awaited. The numbers at Patricroft exceeded her expectations. There was a poor attendance at Cross Lane owing to the holidays being on. Pendleton had a poor attendance in the morning. This Lyceum is in need of help. In the afternoon she visited the new Lyceum at Granville Hall, Openshaw. The hall is a large and well-lighted one. Harpurhey continues to make headway, its interests being well attended to. Hulme Junction had a poor attendance, owing to a number being on their holidays. Moss Side had a splendid gathering, the session being well conducted.

Mr. Thomas Edwards, D.V. for Stockport, reports seven Lyceums

in his district, and two Societies without Lyceums. He has visited Hadfield and Macclesfield Lyceums. Of Hadfield he says, isolated as they are in the Derbyshire hills, the friends who work this active little Lyceum are to be commended for their zeal and fidelity. Their desire to be up-to-date is in a fair way of being realised. The day's proceedings at Macclesfield (Lyceum Anniversary), were creditable to all concerned, smartness, order and attention maintained throughout. The intellectual requirements of the Lyceumists were well attended to. They have suffered much by removals owing to bad trade and other causes.

ALFRED KITSON, Gen. Sec., B.S.L.U.

BACUP (Princess street)—On Sunday, October 4th, I visited this Lyceum, and was surprised and gratified at the remarkable growth it had made since my last visit in June. So large has the attendance become that it is now impossible for the whole of the scholars to march at once. This is a pity, and I hope that our Bacup friends will rise to the occasion and enlarge their room; if enlargement is found impossible, better get into other and more convenient premises than stultify the growth of their Lyceum and Society. The session is held from 10 a.m. to 12. The singing was very good indeed, and created much spiritual harmony. I was very pleased to see a lady conducting. We have too few lady Lyceum conductors. Why? I don't know, unless it is that the fair sex have not sufficient confidence in their ability to take this position. After the termination of the calisthenics groups were formed. The Liberty Group was taken by Mr. Hesketh, and the subject for discussion was, "Are all men equal at their birth?" the poet's line, "All men are equal at their birth," leading up to this question. The discussion showed from what numerous standpoints this question can be viewed—Spiritualism, Socialism, Astrology, Sexual Science and Mental Science all being brought into the discussion. In conclusion I advise our Bacup friends to take advantage of the tide of interest that is flowing their way by enlarging their accommodation.—REUBEN ALEC WEBB.

REPORTS.

YORK (St. Saviourgate).—On Oct. 11th we held our second open session, when recitations and songs were given by Misses Dickinson, Annie Barber, Daisy Stead, Ida Taylor, Edith Taylor, Lily Dickenson, Elsie Taylor, and Bertha Middleton, and a dialogue, "The Presence of Angels," by Misses Bush, and Apedale. Recitations were also given by Masters D. Usher, E. Apedale and Tom Brown. The evening service was also taken over by the Lyceum, when another excellent programme was gone through. Mr. Apedale presided on both occasions, and Mr. Baldwin, our conductor, delivered stirring addresses.—T. CHAPMAN, Sec.

HOLLINWOOD (Bower Lane).—On Oct. 11th we held our open session, the room being packed in the afternoon. Miss Hirst sang a solo. Our Lyceum is becoming more satisfactory every open session we hold. Mrs. L. A. Griffin spoke very well to the children and officers. In the evening it was a real treat, the choir rendered an anthem, and a duet was sung. The room was crowded, and we had to turn people away. The choir was led by Miss Entwistle, of Oldham.—J. WALTERS, Sec.

BURY.—Our half-yearly election of officers took place on Oct. 11th, when the following were elected:—Conductor, Mr. H. Jackson; assistant conductor, Miss E. Agnes Kershaw; Guards, Miss Annie Clough and Mr. Metcalf; secretary and librarian, Mr. E. J. Barnes; committee, Messrs. Jackson, Barnes, Golding, Metcalf and Chadwick (these act with five to be elected by the society); leaders—Fountain Group, Misses M. M. and E. A. Kershaw; Stream Group, Messrs Birkett and Metcalf; River Group, Messrs W. Golding and Chadwick; Sea Group, Misses M. E. Clough and Ellis; Excelsior Group, Mrs. Kershaw and Mr. H. Golding; Liberty Group (none appointed). Our register now shows 120 scholars, an increase of 20 since the annual returns were made. We shall be glad to receive visits from other Lyceumists at all times.—E. J. BARNES, Sec.

SHEFFIELD, Heeley.—On Sunday, October 18th, we held our second anniversary, when special hymns, etc., were rendered from No. 1 series of Hymn Sheets. The Open Session in the morning, including recitations and physical exercises, were gone through in such a manner as to call forth praise from our respected secretary of the B.S.L. Union, Mr. Alfred Kitson, who spoke very encouragingly to the children on the improvement made, and gave credit to our conductor, Mr. Oliver, and the other officers for their efforts during the past year. In the afternoon we held a Children's Service, which gave satisfaction to our speaker and the audience. Mr. Kitson kindly distributed the prizes for good attendance. We had a good audience at the evening service. A brief report of our Lyceum work of the past year was given by the Secretary, after which Mr. Kitson gave an inspiring address, which was appreciated by all. A successful and pleasant day was brought to a close. We trust that much good may accrue from the seed sown.

E. WOOLLER, 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 Dec. 5th, 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.

DONCASTER.—On Sunday, September 27th, we held our first harvest festival, when we had good audiences. On the 28th, we held a Lyceum Tea and Social. Seeing that it is our first attempt, everything turned out very successful.—MRS. J. GRATTON, Sec.

MANCHESTER (Tipping Street).—On Sunday, September 27th, we held our Lyceum Anniversary. In the afternoon we had an open session, and marching and calisthenics, Recitations by Misses A. Cheetwood, P. Treherne, D. Treherne, and Masters T. Butts, H. Butts, and A. Sims; a pianoforte duet by Miss F. Sims and Mr. Reed. In the evening, Mr. J. B. Longstaffe gave a lecture on flowers. Miss Roughsedge sang "The Children's Home," and Mrs. Childs gave clairvoyance. Thanks to all who helped to make it a success.—MISS SIMS, Sec.

PADIHAM.—On October 3rd a social was held, Mr. T. Chippendale presiding. After several recitations had been given, the president called on Mr. William Denbigh, conductor, to present beautiful *Lyceum Manuals* and one *Outlines of Spiritualism* to four scholars who are leaving for America. The conductor very touchingly referred to the loss the Lyceum would sustain. He strongly urged them to carefully read and study the beautiful lessons in the books presented to them. Then all joined in singing "God be with you till we meet again." All wished them a safe passage and prosperity.—MISS ROSINA MORRIS, Sec.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—On Sunday, Oct. 4th, we held our usual open session, and I am sure it was a very enjoyable morning to all. Misses Nina Jones and Jessie Plenderleith and Masters H. Hall, Adam, and Alich and Mr. Plenderleith gave recitations; Misses Dransfield and H. A. Hasham, and Messrs. Ashwoth and Hodgson sang the quartette, "Hear the Angels"; and Miss S. J. Dransfield was elected assistant conductor.—J. SMITH, Sec.

MIDDLESBOROUGH (Grange Road), Oct. 11th.—Just a few lines to tell you how we opened our new Lyceum. Our old room being too small, it was decided to look out for a more suitable one, and our moving into the above is the result. Now we can have good audiences and good speakers as well. Mr. Roeder is our president and conductor, and Mrs. Nixon is the Lyceum secretary. I like the LYCEUM BANNER very much, it is so interesting. Cannot you make it a weekly?—G. JOHNSON.

[The circulation of the BANNER is improving nicely, but does not warrant its being issued weekly. This will come in time if the Lyceums continue their loyal support. We wish to make its pages helpful to all, both young and old.—Ed. L.B.]

MANCHESTER (Harpurhey).—On Oct. 3rd a tea and concert was given by the Juvenile Pierrots, when we were favoured by some good choruses, songs, recitations, and jokes. Great praise is due to Misses A. Taylor and A. Bradley, who had trained the children. On Oct. 4th we held our anniversary. Mrs. J. Nurse, from Rochdale, was our speaker, and she gave a splendid address in the evening. Mr. A. Slinn, our conductor, presided, and made some good remarks on the progress the Lyceum is making. Much praise is due to our musical director, Mr. G. E. Delderfield, as the children sang splendidly.—HARRY KEMP, Sec.

BOLTON (Bradford Street).—On Sunday, Oct. 4th, we held our open session, and everything passed off well. Mr. Ormerod, president, conducted, assisted by Miss Webster. Marching and calisthenics were led by Mr. Bilsborough. The President complimented the Lyceum on the general improvements that have taken place. In the evening the choir (Lyceumists) gave the Service of Song, entitled "A Terrible Lesson," before a large and appreciative audience, Mr. Gibson being the reader. The collections were £1 5s.—R. BILSBOROUGH.—(Mr. J. Preston, their LYCEUM BANNER salesman, writes as follows:—"Our Lyceum is growing so fast that instead of having two or three copies left—out of twelve—I find that I want six more, so will you please forward them on, thus making our order into three dozen. It was our open session on Sunday, and we quite excelled ourselves. Our president—who had not seen us since Mr. Bilsborough took us in hand—came in fear and trembling, and went away rejoicing!")

[Other Lyceums would do well to appoint a LYCEUM BANNER salesman. Increased sales will enable us to increase the size of the L.B.—Ed.]

ROCHDALE Penn-street.—On October 18th we had a very good day. Our Lyceum is making good progress. Our conductor, Mr. Rothwell, occupied the platform afternoon and night, and gave two very good addresses.—W. BROWN, Sec.

GATESHEAD (Cuthbert Hall).—On Oct. 4th we held our election of officers for the ensuing twelve months, when the following were elected:—Conductor, Mr. J. Dixon; assistant conductor, Mr. G. Hetherington; guardian, Mr. P. Herd; treasurer, Mr. W. Turner; secretary, Mr. Jos. Archbold; musical director, Miss Hunter; Captain of Guards, Mr. G. Smith; Guards, Messrs. Hunter and R. Harrison; with a staff of 15 leaders. We are improving in numbers, but not in financial matters. I hope by the end of the next twelve months I may be able to give a better report, as we have secured a few more earnest workers. Please increase our order for LYCEUM BANNERS to 24 copies.—JOSEPH ARCHBOLD, Sec.

[Many thanks for increased order. It is the best praise our friends can bestow on our efforts.—Ed. L.B.]

MANCHESTER (Higher Broughton).—On Oct. 11th we held our anniversary services. Mr. G. H. Smith was the speaker, and clairvoyance was given by Miss Rotherham. We are grateful for the help cheerfully rendered by Madames Wimpenny, Fielding, and Ellis at our after circle, and also to our friends from Salford, Pendleton, Princess Hall, and Royton for their presence. We were also favoured with a visit from the Britten Memorial Brass Band, under the able superintendence of Mr. Rocke. The following election of officers was made:—Mr. G. H. Smith, re-elected conductor; Mr. Carter, treasurer; Mr. Williams, secretary; Mr. Downey, leader of calisthenics; Misses Cruise and Pollitt, musical directors; Miss Williams, guardian; Mr. Starbuck, captain; Masters Starbuck and Williams, Guards; Miss Nichols, Librarian.—J. WILLIAMS, 8, Bangor Street, Higher Broughton.

BIRMINGHAM SPIRITUALISTS' UNION.—Open Session at the Masonic Hall, on Sunday, October 4th, 1903. A very joyful and successful session was held, which emphasized the good work of the past, and augured happily for the future. Good feeling was simply brimming over, and the earnest zeal of all our friends gave added lustre to the bright aspect. Our good conductor, Mr. Cook, presided over the assembly of some 100 Lyceumists and friends, who contentedly listened to a programme marked by high talent and praiseworthy endeavour. The vocal renderings of the Misses Webb and Chapman, and Master Jack Tyler were interspersed in happy style by recitations from Edith and Willie Clements, and Olive and Gerald Cook, and by selections from "Our Strohhouse" (The Manual) by the Lyceum. Add to this the instrumental solos of Masters A. Inscow and G. Adlington, and Miss Marion Knibb, and you may muse on the joys of our Lyceum. Special mention must be made of Mr. Fred Adlington, the talented composer of "Album leaf," so nicely rendered on the violin by his brother, to the composer's own accompaniment. Thanks too, to our gifted musicians, Miss Louie Hands, our official accompanist. Our Lyceum, one and all, further wish to take this opportunity of expressing their high appreciation and esteem of Mr. Harry Rooke, who so willingly contributed to our morning's enjoyment by the exercise of his high vocal ability in the rendering of "Comfort ye, My people" (Messiah), and "Nevermore" (Tito Mattie). And then, loaded with the remembrance of these good things, and the eulogies and blessing of our good Walter Howell, we scattered with the customary mutual congratulations, amid the many expressions of anticipation of our future open sessions. F.H.K.

OLDHAM (Elliott Street).—On Sunday, Oct. 11th, we held our open session. After the marching and calisthenics we had recitations and solos. Our friend Mr. Hurst, from Uppermill Lyceum, favoured us with a nice recitation. Our speaker, Mrs. Lockwood, of Oldham, made a few remarks on the good work our Lyceums are doing for the cause of Spiritualism and the upliftment of humanity. I am pleased to say our Lyceum is growing nicely.—HIRAM MONKS, Sec.

GLASGOW.—On Oct. 11th we held our open session, the hall being gracefully decorated for the occasion. A number of friends were present. Recitations were given by the Misses Macdonald, Guild, Rutherford, and Laird, and Masters George Sclater, Willie Guild, Willie Murray, and Andrew Russell; a duet by the Misses Hunder and Waterson; and a trio by Mr. Sudall and Misses Sudall. We have been fortunate in securing a trained elocutionist, who has volunteered to instruct the children. We are glad the president and committee have realised their responsibility to the Lyceum movement. We hope that the societies at Greenock, Edinburgh, and Motherwell will form Lyceums and hold the light to the creed-bound and priest-ridden dwellers in theology. The future is radiant with the beams from the rising sun of spiritual truth. Our attendance is still improving.—Cor.