

# THE LYCEUM BANNER.

A Spiritualist Magazine for Old and Young.

VOL. VII.

MARCH, 1897.

No. 76.

## PORTRAIT GALLERY OF OUR LYCEUM WORKERS.

### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

No. 1.

MR. J. GIBSON.

To those who know Mr. Gibson personally, it is unnecessary to say he has always shown a great desire to help forward the Lyceum movement. Indeed, he is an indefatigable worker in the cause at large. Among his official positions, he is a member of the Executive of the Spiritualists' National Federation; a member of the Manchester and Pendleton Societies, serving on the Committee of the latter; and he has also held the office of Secretary for two years, and is now the Treasurer of the Pendleton Lyceum, of which he was at one time the Conductor. He is an Honorary member of the Manchester Lyceum. It is satisfactory to record the fact that Mr. Gibson holds the position of Treasurer, for the fifth year, to the Lancashire Lyceum Demonstration Committee, having been re-elected, by a unanimous vote, each time.

Mr. Gibson was born at Darwen, but came to Manchester when a young man. By his industry and integrity he has built up an excellent name



MR. J. GIBSON.

among all who know him. Some six years ago he joined in the formation of the Pendleton Lyceum, and has ever since readily sacrificed his time and means to advance its interests.

He is a good Trance Speaker, his addresses being always characterised by hard facts and sound common-sense. In conjunction with his excellent wife, he is always ready to extend a helping hand to those in trouble, and I personally know several cases where they have been instrumental in helping many in sickness and distress. He has a warm heart and broad sympathies, but is modest as to his good deeds. I could add much more, but refrain, lest our friend should think I am saying more than he deserves, although it would be difficult to do so.

The men and women the Lyceums need are those, who like Mr. Gibson, make steady officers, and who, unobtrusively, perform their duties to the best of their abilities. Such a man is my esteemed colleague, who realizes that the Lyceum work is the back-bone of the

Spiritual movement to-day, and whose efforts have not, let me add, been entirely confined to Manchester. J. B. LONGSTAFF.

### What Three Children heard under an Oak.

BY FLORENCE MORSE.

Author of *Tommy the Bootblack*; *Daisy: an Autobiography*; *My First Patient*; *Some Cats I have known*, etc., etc.

CHAPTER II.—continued.

STUMPY paused for a moment and looked at the children, as though expecting sympathy.

"Poor old fellow," said Teddy, patting his head, "it was hard to be tied up, but you might have got lost."

"Yes," continued Stumpy, "but I didn't."

"Then how did you come here?" asked Dora.

"I'll tell you, if you wait a minute."

"As I have already told you, my master tied me up every night directly I left the stage, but of course he did not leave us in the Theatre all night, we were too valuable for that, so we were put into baskets and carried home. Sometimes, however, instead of that, on nice June nights we were led through the streets. It was much pleasanter than the basket, but there was one great disadvantage. No matter what other dogs said or did, we were held too tight to play, or fight. Several times when we were going home, I saw a man watching us, I didn't like him and I tried to tell my master, but he had never heard of the power of an oak tree, so my efforts were wasted."

"After a while we left that town and went to another not far away. The first time we went out I saw that man watching us again. That night I was not tied up after the

performance, so I wandered about to see if I could find any rats. I saw one sitting in a basket, in I jumped after it, some one shut the lid down quick and I was a prisoner. I did not mind at first, I was used to baskets, and I caught that rat in my teeth, but when I found it was so hard I couldn't bite it, I began to howl. The basket was picked up and carried quickly along for a long time, when it was opened, I scrambled out, to find myself in a strange room. I scratched at the door and howled, sat up and begged, but nothing I could do would make the man open it and let me go."

"What man?" asked Dora.

"The man who used to watch me. He had stolen me. I kept on whining to be let out, until at last he whipped me till I left off. I was kept there for over a week, fed on dry crusts and old bones, and whipped every time I tried to get out. When the man thought it was safe, he put me in the basket again and carried me a very long way in one of those things they call a train, to a great big city called London. I was with him, a long time, some times living in London, sometimes going to places by the sea, but where ever I was it was always the same, performing my tricks in the street and going among the people, with a tin cup in my mouth, begging for pennies. I used to get a lot too, some of them were small and white some times. I don't how many times a day I did this, so many, that, when night came, I could only just crawl home, but no matter how tired I was I had to jump, if I didn't, I got no supper and a whipping."

"Oh! how I wished I could go back to my old master and his little girl and have once again my soft bed and nice food, but I never met him."

"At last I made up my mind to run away, but I had to wait and wait, it was no use trying to get away in the street, I should be caught at once, but one morning the man went out in a hurry, he shut the door, but it came open again, out I went, down the stairs, through an open window into the street, as fast as my feet could go. I don't know where I went, but I kept on trotting all day. I was very hungry, so seeing a shop where meat was sold, I went in and sat down in front of a man and begged. He was so amused he gave me a bone with some meat on it. I wandered about for days living on anything I could find. For a little while I lived with a boy who cleaned boots, he was very kind to me, but he disappeared and I was again homeless."

"After that I got to a big place where a lot of men worked, they called it a "saw mill" I think. There I was quite well treated, plenty of soft shavings to sleep on and all the men gave me pieces of their dinners or brought me bones, there was plenty to do, rats to catch, and at night go round with the watchman to see if all was safe. It was while I was there I lost my tail, I kept a long way from the machinery after that. Some times I used to go round with out the watchman in the night and the last time I ever did so I found something that puzzled me. It was a fire right in the middle of a lot of wood. I had never seen one there before, and it kept getting bigger and bigger. So I ran to the watchman and pulled his coat, barked at him, ran a little way in front, then went back. At last he understood I wanted him to follow me, I took him to the fire and it frightened *him*. He ran off, shouted to some one passing to get an engine. I couldn't understand why he wanted an engine when there was one there to turn the saws already, so I sat by the gate and waited, I didn't see any engine, but a red cart with a little fire and a lot of men on it came.

The men opened the gate and began sending water over everything, then more carts and a lot more men came but the Mill was just one big fire. I suppose I must have been in the way, because they sent water all over me, so I went away. When I came back there was no Mill left and I was homeless.

"I wandered about again and after a while, I came to the country. Some poor people let me live with them but a little while ago they went away and left me. A day or two after I saw you and followed you home. Please let me stay."

"Of course, if Mamma will let you," answered Teddy.

"You dear old Stumpy," said Dora.

"You're a beautiful doggie," declared Edie, giving the dog a hug that made him gasp for breath.

"Come, we'll be late for dinner," exclaimed Teddy scrambling up, "and I'm awful hungry."

"But I want's to hear a birdie talk," protested Edie, "or find Mrs. Stwirrel again."

"There's plum pie for dinner, Edie, and cream on it. Don't you want any?" asked Dora.

"Yes, of course Dora, but I want to see Mrs. Stwirrel again."

"Well, we can't now, so come along."

They had a delightful time going home, running races with each other and Stumpy, and it seemed too bad that the poor little dog had to be left in the stable, but they had promised, and promises must not be lightly broken, so they consoled themselves by taking Stumpy a plate full of food directly dinner was over.

Knowing Mamma would object to another visit to the woods that day, Teddy and Dora settled in the nursery for the afternoon, he with "Swiss Family Robinson," she with her dolls. Edie being too young to read and tiring of dolls, wandered about the house and into the kitchen. Cook was making jam, hot work that spoiled her temper, so when Edie began asking questions, she was quickly sent out and told not to bother. Mamma had gone to visit a friend, so Edie determined to go after her. Out she went, along the dusty road for about a quarter of a mile, then she remembered the wood and the Squirrel, so she turned past the house and as she thought down the lane that led to the wood. As she passed the house, Stumpy was sitting by the gate, he saw her pass and followed her, then they ran races together, until Edie was so tired she fell asleep under a hedge. Stumpy sat by her side, watching and guarding till she wakened again and started homewards, but the road was dusty and uninteresting, at the other side of the hedge was a tree on which a bird sang merrily, believing all trees *must* be oaks, Edie crawled through the hedge, Stumpy following anxiously.

"Please birdie do talk to me," said Edie.

The bird went on singing. "I'm too far off" thought Edie, by the side of the tree was a low stone wall, on to this she scrambled, held up her hands to touch the bird, slipped and fell down, not on to the soft earth, but into the old well the other side of the wall. There was not much water in it, but poor little Edie was badly grazed and shaken, she was too small to climb out, even though the well was a very shallow one, she could only stand in the slimy water and cry.

When Stumpy saw her fall, he jumped on to the wall to look for her, he saw her at the bottom of the well, and being a wise dog he ran home as fast as his legs would carry him.

When Mamma came home Papa came with her, but there were only Dora and Teddy on the steps to greet him. Edie was nowhere to be found, no one had seen her for a long time, they searched the house first, then the garden and

stable, but there was no Edie. Mamma was distracted, where could she be? Just as they were going to search the garden again, Stumpy came tearing through the gate, straight to Papa and caught hold of his coat, trying to pull him to the gate.

"Get away" said Papa, so Stumpy ran to Mamma, took hold of her dress and tried to pull her along.

"Perhaps he knows where Edie is," suggested Teddy, "he likes her, don't you old boy?"

Stumpy nearly went wild at this and dashed to the gate and barked. Papa and Mamma hurried after him. When he found they were really following him, he trotted along in the middle of the road, looking round now and then, as if to say, hurry, hurry. He led them along till he came to the tree, where he ran under the hedge, jumped on to the wall and barked. Papa broke a way through, looked over the wall and there was Edie. It did not take long to get a man with a rope to pull her out, she was carried home, put to bed at once, where she stayed for a week.

As for Stumpy, every one thought him the cleverest, best little dog they had ever seen, and when Teddy asked if they might still go on keeping him, Mamma said, "keep him as long as he lives, dear, he's a faithful dog. I'll buy him a collar, have his name put on it and he can come into the house as much as you like.

*(To be Continued.)*



## OUR DAISY PAGE.

Edited by Daisy Dimple.

**M**Y DEAR DAISES.—When I was writing our DAISY PAGE for last month's BANNER, I never thought that some of our members would be sending Valentines to Daisy Dimple, but yet I have received some, and Brother Bob has done nothing but tease me about them ever since. But I am not going to tell you about them, for the Editors say I am not to take so much space as before, and I have so many other things to write about. I promised I would let you read the letter I got from Johnnie after he went back to School, and as I think you will like it, I will copy it out for you. The letter is written on both sides of the paper, on one side there is the line

*"It is Noble to Seek Truth."*

printed at the top, and then the same line is written eight times underneath. I think Johnnie must have torn a leaf out of his copy book. On the other side is his letter.

DEAR DAISY DIMPLE.—I think your Daisy Page in the BANNER is as good as ever, A lot of our chaps like to read it, and we sometimes wonder where you live. We have got a new Assistant Master this term, and he teaches us a lot about kindness to animals. When we were out for our half holiday yesterday afternoon, Tom Cash bought us a big white rat off a man in the street who had about 20 in a big cage. When he got back to school he put it in his desk and went into the playground to make a box into a cage, to keep the rat in, so, just for fun, we took the rat out of his desk

and put in the Assistant Master's desk, because we knew he was fond of animals. Then we all went down to watch Tom make his cage. Whilst we were looking on, the Assistant Master came in from his afternoon walk, and brought with him a paper bag with some cakes in, when the cage was finished we went into the school-room with Tom to see how he would go on about his rat. He went to his desk, lifted the lid, but could not find the rat, he searched about and then guessed that some-one had been at his desk and taken the rat out, so he went and looked in all the other boys desks but could not find it. So we told him it was in his bedroom, and whilst he was away we took the rat out of its hiding place and put it back into his desk. When he came back he was as mad as could be because he could not find his rat, but when he looked in his desk, there it was. Just then, the bell rang for tea, so we all rushed down to the tea room, Tom popped his rat into the desk, and followed us. Just as we were commencing tea the Assistant Master came in looking quite angry. "Every boy stand up" he said, and of course we all stood up. "Who has taken the cakes out of my desk? We all looked at each other, wondering who was guilty, but no one replied. "Well," he said "there is no tea to-day until I know who has taken the cakes and has been punished for it." Just then a bright idea struck me, and I asked if them were the cakes that he had in the bag when he came in before tea. "Yes, Sir, what do you know about them?" Then I told him I guessed the rat had eaten them. "Yes, a two legged rat" said he. "No Sir, a real rat" and then I told him about our joke on Tom Cash, and about putting the rat in his desk for fun, and that he must have put the cakes in beside the rat." Well, he was not angry a bit, only laughed, and we all laughed, then sat down to tea.—Your loving friend, JOHNNIE.

A Lady has sent me some very nice stories to read, she says that they come by automatic writing, she thinks they are very nice for children, and I think so too. One is called

### POOR MANNIKIN'S DREAM.

There was once a wee wee Mannikin who was better than some wee Mannikin's, but naughtier than others for he sometimes told untruths, and when he did so he would be put to bed by his mother as a punishment—he fell asleep one time and had a dream in which he thought he went to heaven—he flew and flew until he came to a big beautiful town with a pearly gate and he rapped at the great golden knocker and said "may I come in please?" And the gate was opened and someone peeped out and said "who are you and where are you from?" "I'm mother's boy please and I've lost myself." "Go back little boy, go back to your bed, you cannot come in here for this is heaven and little boys who tell untruths are not admitted." Then the gate was closed again and Manny was so sorry that he cried, and he cried so loud that he awoke himself with the noise and there he was in bed at home

Well I hope Manny was a better boy for his lesson, for there are lots of things to be learned even in dreams. I think babies have nice dreams, for they often smile when they sleep. Mother says it's because the angels are whispering to them, Bob says it's a sign of mischief coming, but Mother knows more about babies than Bob does, besides, nobody can be happy when they are planning mischief.

Your loving friend, DAISY DIMPLE.

## LYCEUM NOTES AND COMMENTS.

BY ALFRED KITSON.

CONTINUED activity in our ranks are well marked. During the past month new Lyceums have been opened: one at Rothwell, near Leeds, one at Traffic St., Derby; and Northgate, Blackburn has been re-opened. We wish them all great prosperity, and a good record of effective work.

SALFORD; St. James' Hall, Bradford; and Traffic Street Derby have joined the B.S.L.U. to which certificates of Membership have been issued.

TRAFFIC Street, Derby starts on unique lines: Mrs. S. J. Foster is the conductor; Master Richardson, secretary 12 years old, and writes fair business-like letters. Master G. Sheppard is Treasurer, and is only 11 years old. They have formed a Band of Hope, and intend joining the Golden Group.

I HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of a copy of Physical Exercise from Mr. Thomas Olman Todd, for the Leigh Lyceum.

EACH federated Lyceum has had a free copy of the CONSTITUTION OF LYCEUMS as passed at the Halifax Lyceum conference mailed to them. They are neatly printed on stout cardboard, and have eyelets so as to hang them up in the Lyceum for the guidance of officers. Should any Lyceum desire a second copy they can be supplied at 6d. each, post free. Lyceums not in the Union can be supplied at the same price.

THE LYCEUM CONFERENCE.—Lyceums should look the list of unpaid contributions over to see if theirs are paid. If not, they should be paid at once in order to entitle them to send representatives. All that remain unpaid after the 31st. of this month (March) will be unfinancial and taken off the list.

ALL notices of change of secretaries or alterations in their addresses, or change of Hall should be sent to me as early as possible for correction in the Lyceum Banner Directory.

THE Lyceums comprising Rochdale District held a preliminary meeting on Saturday the 20th ult., at Regent Hall Lyceum, Rochdale, to consider the advisability of forming a District Council, which was ultimately decided on. Mr. James Ridehalgh, of Bacup was elected President; Mr. Knight, of Bolton was elected Treasurer; and Mr. J. W. Riley, of 38, King Street, Royton, was elected Secretary. It was decided to call the council THE SOUTH-EAST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL. Mr. William Mason, the President of the Union, and Mr. Wm. Chisnall, the District Visitor were present and helped in the business. We wish them great success.

It will be noticed in the notice of motions for the conference that the Executive Committee recommend the amendment of Article 6. If this is agreed to it should facilitate the returns from Lyceums, as all have to reckon up the attendances and re-write the names in the registers, to commence the New Year, so that it will be an easy matter to fill up the statistic forms.

THE resolution from the HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL is another move in the right direction as it acknowledges the District Visitors as officers of the Union, and entitled to a vote.

THE National Sunday School Convention, 1897, was held in Manchester, commencing January 27th. There was much dissatisfaction expressed during its session, with the result of their efforts.

## THE GRIMY MAN AND HIS SWEETHEART.

THERE WAS a grimy man,  
And he had a grimy face,  
And he had a little sweetheart,  
The sunshine of the place.  
But when he sought to kiss her,  
She fluttered from his arms,  
And when at a safe distance,  
With merry mocking charms.  
She used to smile upon him,  
And mockingly would say,  
"I'll kiss you—I'll kiss you—  
On the next New Year's Day!"  
Wait a little, wait a little,  
Time soon rolls away.

Though time rolled by him slowly,  
The New Year came at last,  
He caught his sweetheart in his arms,  
And held her firm and fast;  
And then she said, "I'll kiss you,  
Now that your face is clean;"  
A sudden smile came on his lips,  
The sweetest ever seen!  
As low he answered,  
"Whether clean or dirty, I  
Can never more forget you,  
However hard I try,  
And I'll love you, I'll love you,  
Until the day I die."

*New Year's Day, 1897.*

KATE TAYLOR ROBINSON.

## THE BANNER'S BOOK BOX.

A CHAIN OF SEVEN. J. Page Hopps. London: Williams & Norgate, or the Author, 216, South Norwood Hill, S.E. 3d.

Whatever Mr. Hopps writes is helpful to those desiring better things. This little booklet, touches gratefully and gracefully upon God, Creation, Evolution, Man, Revelation, Duty, and Salvation. Lyceum teachers will find this work very useful, and old and young can profitably peruse its richly freighted pages.

A TERRIBLE LESSON: The Story of a Strike. A Service of Song. J. Wesley Noakes, Manchester; Mrs. M. H. Wallis, 164, Broughton Road, Pendleton. Price 6d.

The Author tells his story entertainingly and well. He supplies a number of original lyrics, set to original music. The presence of the music makes this Service of Song extremely useful, saving as it will the expenditure of much time and money in seeking music for the choir. The publishers have had the work neatly printed, and it should be deservedly successful, for it is well adapted to its purpose.

BLAVATSKY'S POSTHUMOUS MEMOIRS, J. M. Wade, Boston, U.S.

This is an extraordinary work. Its publisher announces that it was written upon a typewriter by the spirits, direct. The preface states that the machine was operated by George W. Stevens, an army officer in life, and that the late G. W. N. Yost, the inventor of the machine, superintended the operation, while Madame Blavatsky dictated her own memoirs. What do our Theosophical friends say to this?

Received.—*Planes and People*, for February, Chicago, U.S., to astrology. Full of good things to astrologists. The handsomest magazine of the kind that reaches us. *The Truth Seeker*, Bradford. A good Freethought paper, contains several capital articles. *The Banner of Light*, Boston, U.S., and the *Philosophical Journal*, San Francisco, U.S.

# THE GOLDEN GROUP

Conducted by Aunt Editha.

**Motto:—LOVE, TEMPERANCE, PURITY.**

**Membership.**—Membership in the GOLDEN GROUP is open to all who belong to a Spiritualist Progressive Lyceum, and to any who take an active or sympathetic interest in the work thereof. All that is required is an assent to the Rules governing the Group, and an earnest endeavour to live up to its three-fold motto of "Love—Temperance—Purity."

**Rules.**—I. That I will endeavour to be kind and loving to all human beings, and every living thing.

II. That I will always try to be temperate in all things, and strive to abstain from using intoxicants and tobacco.

III. That I will not use profane or vulgar language.

**Certificates.**—Every Member upon joining must apply for a Certificate of Membership. To obtain this you must either send direct to AUNT EDITHA, or hand to your Secretary, if you belong to a Lyceum, One Penny to cover the cost and carriage of certificate. Names are not published, or entered upon the Roll, until the above rule is complied with. All names of Members will be published in the LYCEUM BANNER every month.

**Special Notices.**—AUNT EDITHA will be glad to receive short letters from Members of the GOLDEN GROUP upon anything they think would interest the Group. Please give the name of your Lyceum, if you belong to one, and your number in the Group.

MY DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS.—Another month has rolled by since Auntie had her last talk to you all. And now the time has come for me to sit down and write you my usual letter again. How the weeks do slip past, don't they? Just think of it! At the end of this month we come to the forty-ninth birthday of Modern Spiritualism. But Auntie heard a very funny thing about that lately, from our Editor, who wrote to her that he came across a man the other day, who had never heard of Spiritualism, and did not know that there any people called Spiritualists! And that man actually lived in London, too! It is time he attended a Lyceum, isn't it.

Auntie is sorry to disappoint some of you, but the reason why Colne, Burnley (Hammerton Street), Parkgate, and those whose names are in the List this month, have not yet received their Certificates is, because they have all been used! The printers are doing some more, and they will be ready in a few days, when you shall have them sent to you direct, by post, instead of keeping them until the April parcels are sent out. Auntie has designed a new one entirely, and in the centre you will have a pretty picture of the little house at Hydesville, New York, U.S., where the Spirits first began their work of Modern Times. It is a reproduction of the celebrated picture of Johns, called "The Dawning Light," and it is quite a work of art. So, please wait a little longer, and you will have your patience rewarded.

Away back as far as last March, Auntie sent four names for the Big Book to Mr. Morse, in California, and he sent them to our late Acting Editor, but, unfortunately, that letter got mislaid, and has only just been discovered comfortably tucked away with some accounts! If Auntie had sent it direct to Mr. Todd it would have been better, but as he is a very busy man you must not scold him, you had better blame me, instead. I hope our Bury cousins will forgive the oversight, and as I am putting their names in the List this time, they have got there at last, so, as the old saying is: "all's well that ends well." Auntie hopes she will soon have some more names from Bury, now?

Well, the first thing this month is a nice little letter from a new friend at Consett, in the County of Durham, and with it he sends an amusing poem, which he has kindly translated from the German for us. Now, isn't that nice of him? Auntie is sure you will join her in heartily thanking him for his goodness, will you not? Let us whisper to him that we should like some more, eh?

LETTER AND POEM FROM MR. J. HARRY BUNN.

DEAR AUNT EDITHA—I greet you, and make my first bow upon the stage of the GOLDEN GROUP. Like the actor, who

recites the works of others,—as well as his own compositions,—I will, with your permission, re-render some brief bits of a breezy nature, the first of which is a scolding for little boys, but not for little girls, whom we are told "always behave with the greatest propriety."—So believe me, your loving friend.

2, Edith Street, Consett. J. HARRY BUNN.

### THREE LITTLE DOGS.

Three little dogs were talking,  
As they trotted along the road;  
And the subject of speech,  
With all and with each,  
Was what bad folks there were abroad.  
Said the first, "You would hardly believe it,  
But I can assure it's true;  
A man with a pail,  
Threw suds on my tail!  
Now, I think that's cruel. Don't you?"  
Said the second, "That's very atrocious;  
But a worse thing happened to me:  
A boy with a stone  
Almost broke my back-bone!  
Now what do you think of *that*?" said he.  
Said the third, "My fate was the hardest,  
And I can prove it just now:  
A man knocked me flat,  
When I looked at a cat;  
Wasn't *that* too bad? Bow-wow!"  
But the three little dogs did not mention—  
The first that he'd stolen some sprats;  
The second that he ran  
At a poor blind man;  
And the third that he'd hunted the cats.  
Thus these three little dogs were talking;  
And many small boys do the same:  
They tell of a story  
What redounds to their glory,  
But forget where they well deserve blame.

*Translated from the German.*

Evidently, as our Editor said in his "Chat" last month, London is waking up, for Auntie has received two letters from London since last month! One is from Stratford, the other from Camberwell. The first comes from Master John Charles Allen, son of Mr. J. Allen, the Hon. Sec. and Treasurer of "The Spiritualists' International Corresponding Society," and I will put it here, as it came first.

*(Continued on page 56.)*

**IMPORTANT.**

**We cordially invite Secretaries of Lyceums to send us a list of announcements or reports of all Anniversaries, Special Services, Picnics, Trips, Entertainments, Parties, etc., for insertion. The same will be printed free, and must reach us NOT LATER THAN THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH.**

*TO CORRESPONDENTS.*

- T. W. HOYLE, SLAITHWAITE.—Thank you for your suggestions. See this month's Chat.
- J. L., LIVERPOOL.—Many thanks for good wishes, as well as for your kind donation of 10s., which is most acceptable.
- G. SINKINSON, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—Am sorry to say the verses are unsuitable. The sentiment is pretty, but the construction is poor.
- J. WOOD, HUDDERSFIELD.—Mr. Todd has sent us the materials you offer us, and which we are pleased to accept. Will commence to use it next month. Thank you.
- J. RUTHERFORD, ROKER.—Will be glad to receive further contributions from you.
- H. D. BARRETT, WASHINGTON, D.C., U.S.—Yours received, books sent, will write you soon. Have been exceedingly busy, and none too well.
- REV. N. F. RAVLIN, LOS ANGELES, U.S.—Have written. We sent January and February BANNERS to you at San Diego. Best regards to all the friends. The "Olympic" does not come. All's well.
- E. W. W., MANCHESTER.—Many thanks for notice, which we quote.
- ISAAC PICKTHALL, STOCKPORT.—Many thanks for your interesting letter and accompanying article. Glad to have such good accounts. Will use article and quote from letter next month. Best wishes to Mr. Edwards, Mr. Hallsell and yourself.

# The Lyceum Banner.

MARCH, 1897.

**OUR MONTHLY CHAT.**

**Anniversary Sunday.** Let Sunday, March 28th, be observed in every Lyceum throughout the world, as Anniversary Sunday. See your Lyceum has a splendid session in harmony with the day.

**Some Suggestions.** During the past month the BANNER has received an interesting letter containing some excellent suggestions. Some are practicable and some are not, at present. The compiler of the Lesson Plan has been asked to put the dates of the month as well as the number of the Sunday, and he has compromised by dating each Sunday. So there can be no mistake as to which day and date the Lessons are prepared for. Another Suggestion was, that "Physical Exercises" be introduced. This we cannot comply with, unless our friend, or some one else, will undertake to prepare a set, or sets. At present the only extant set was compiled by Mr. Kitson, but a London publisher claims the copyright we understand. A new set of Calisthenics is certainly required, as are methods—or schemes—of marchings. But at the same time so much of these exercises are now incorporated in the drill in public and private schools that the necessity for Calisthenics is not so great or pressing as formerly. But if any can be devised we will cheerfully publish them in the BANNER if sent to us. Another suggestion is that an article be published every month describing the workings of Lyceums all over the country, so that greater uniformity in work might be promoted. So far as the Editor is concerned, he is quite willing to describe all the Lyceums he is able to visit, and if our D. V's will do the same their contributions shall also appear. But if all would observe the order of procedure laid down in the MANUAL, uniformity would soon be attained. There is expressed the British method, and if our

Conductors would adhere to it, as close as may be, and as all affiliated Lyceums are supposed to, uniformity would soon be established. If any of our readers have a word to say, on this subject, we shall be very pleased to hear from them. If what is said is really helpful their letters shall appear in our columns.

**Honorary Lyceum Members.** The Manchester Lyceum has a class of membership called "Honorary Members" made up of friends in sympathy with Lyceum work, but who do not take any active share therein. These members contribute one shilling or upwards per annum to the funds, and as they have quite a number the amount is of considerable benefit to the Lyceum. This is a hint to other Lyceums.

**That Lesson Plan.** Lyceum Officers will observe that the Lyceum Lesson Plan has been re-constructed and re-arranged. The table is now omitted, and the Order of Exercises will be found as a permanent heading to this department of the BANNER, now called "The Lyceum Session." It will also be noticed that the melodies and readings are omitted. It is found that the vocal selections were of very little use, as owing to many tunes being unfamiliar, still, but few Lyceums utilised the selections laid out. It will afford greater freedom to Conductors, perhaps, if they select their own S., G. and M.R.'s themselves. The Lesson Outlines are continued as usual, and also the Invocations, but not the Benedictions, which are omitted. It ought to be perfectly possible for any Lyceum to conduct a practically uniform Session from the use of the Plan, as now presented. We have accepted certain Suggestions, and more are in order, if they will help to improve the efficiency of this part of the paper.

**The Golden Group.** Conductors are urgently desired to bring the GROUP before the notice of their respective Lyceums, to invite members to join, and to send letters to Aunt Editha, who is always delighted to hear from her nieces and nephews. Aunt Editha has prepared a new and handsome certificate. Owing to its great cost all who hereafter join must send one penny for it, as per notice over Golden Group. It is a work of art.

**The Present Number.** The present number of the BANNER is well worthy of the support of its friends. Two fine portraits and entertaining biographies; our Assistant Editor's excellent serial, for which many commendatory letters have reached us, Mr. Laws' articles; the Poetry, the GOLDEN GROUP; the Letter Box, and all the rest make up a paper that we are sure will please our friends. Circulate it all you can.

THE enlarged, improved, and supplemented LYCEUM BANNER for February comes to hand, looking fresh and inviting. The contents, as usual, are good, thought provoking, and should be of benefit if well studied and *acted upon*. "The Plan" is a good idea, well worked out, and should be of great service to the officers; the outlines of "group lessons" being especially helpful. The editors and publishers deserve to be well supported in their efforts to serve the cause of the children. Send 1½d. to Mr. Morse, Osnaburgh Street, Euston Road, London, N.W., for a sample copy, or better still, 1s. 6d. for a year's subscription.—*The Two World's*, February 12th, 1896.

**MR. THOMAS R. McCALLUM.**

AN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

**Y**OU have asked me to give you some account of our united work at Stratford, and I take pleasure in sending you the following particulars.

I may say first, that in company with some friends we started a society in my own house, some time before the Stratford Society was formed. We met with some success at first, but we gradually lost ground. It was not until the Spirit World impressed two Angels in earth life, the Misses Bewley, that we were able to advance. The above named ladies, in connection with Mr. Davis, who was our first President, were the means of the Stratford Society being started in November, 1888. They advertised for members, and I was among the first to join. Since then I have worked in my humble way for our Society and the furtherance of our glorious cause.

We started in a moderate way, in a small room at the Workman's Hall, and gradually grew in numbers and importance, aided by the kindness of Mr. J. Allen, Dr. Reynolds, and many other friends. We presently found our little room too small for our increasing numbers, so we rented the large Hall for our Sunday services, and a little later on, we were compelled to rent it for our week-night meetings as well. In fact, we have steadily grown from the start. We have not had smooth sailing all the time, though. Like other societies, we have had our ups and downs, but, on the whole, more "ups" than downs.

We have now started a Branch at Forest Gate, which is entirely under the auspices of the parent body.

We are fortunate in having a most excellent President in Mr. J. Veitch, who with his excellent wife, has ever worked hard for the cause, and in a thoroughly unselfish manner. We all owe a large debt of gratitude to two who have been our chief

workers, Mr. and Mrs. J. Robertson. Mr. Robertson has, indeed, been a bosom friend, and his advice and sympathy have always been of the utmost assistance to me at all times. He was our late Treasurer, and he is now one of our Vice-Presidents, and also the President at our Forest Gate Branch. Long may he and his good wife be spared to labour for our great work. I am proud to say we have the best officers that any society can wish for, thoroughly devoted to their work, and determined to do great things, for our motto is: "Forward!"

We have a nice Lyceum, which is growing rapidly. We also have public Circles all over the district. Our noble workers in these directions are deserving of all praise for their unstinted devotion. We always extend a hearty welcome to all who will work with us for the spreading of the truth.

Well, I have but little to say about myself, that is of importance. I was born in Glasgow, and brought up in the Scotch Kirk. When I was 17 I came to London, and a few years later I got interested in Spiritualism. I called on the late Mr. James Burns, and I was finally impressed with the reality of Spirit Communion through the mediumship of our much respected friend, Mrs. Keeves-Record, who was then unmarried. I also used to visit my old friends Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins, and I shall never forget their many and great kindnesses to me. It is a little singular to say, but so far, I have not visited any society in London! My regular attendance at my own Society is my explanation. I am

hoping now that we are well established to have time to visit the other bodies in the Metropolis.

Finally, in Spiritualism I have met the kindest of friends, and myself and those who work with me, will at all times be glad to welcome all true friends to the hall. Wishing the BANNER every success it deserves so well.

I am, Fraternally yours,  
THOMAS R. McCALLUM.



MR. THOMAS R. McCALLUM.

## District Council for North-East Lancashire.

**THE NEXT QUARTERLY COUNCIL MEETING**

WILL BE HELD AT

**Freckleton St. Lyceum, Blackburn, on Saturday, Mar. 13th, 1897.***Business to commence at 8-15 p.m. At 5-30***A PUBLIC TEA will be held, to be followed by an Entertainment and Social Evening.***Tickets 6d. each. A full and prompt attendance of Delegates is earnestly desired.*

At the last meeting, held at Blackpool, it was decided to hold a United Demonstration in Blackburn, about June. At a sub-committee meeting *re* Demonstration, it was decided to recommend to the Council that a levy of 2d. per each Lyceum scholar be made, and a charge of 4d. for each adult and 2d. for children, be made on entering the field, in order to meet the cost of buns, coffee, music, etc.

Towards the Demonstration fund Mr. A. Wilkinson, Accrington, has kindly promised to give three lime-light

exhibitions with his powerful lantern, for expenses only. One will be given at Hammerton Street, Burnley, another at Freckleton Street, Blackburn, both in March; at present the other is open.—THOS. WILKINSON, Hon. Sec.

**B. S. L. U.**

NOTICE OF MOTIONS FOR MAY CONFERENCE.

*Amend the B. S. L. U. Constitution.*

That in Article 6, paragraph one, the first of February, be substituted for "March 14th." And that in paragraph three December 31st., be substituted for the "31st. of March," and February 1st. for "April 14th."

Recommended by the Executive Committee.

"That Lyceum Union District Visitors (when not representing any Lyceum or District Council) be acknowledged as officers of the Union, and be entitled to a vote at the conference of that assembly."—From the Halifax and Huddersfield Lyceum District Council, per Mrs. Greenwood.

## GOLDEN GROUP.—continued from page 54.

## LETTER FROM JOHN CHARLES ALLEN.

DEAR AUNT EDITHA:—Will you kindly enrol me as a member of the GOLDEN GROUP? Please find three stamps for my Certificate. I am eight years old, and I read the LYCEUM BANNER ever month, and enjoy the tales very much. I have two dear sisters in the Summer Land, who come to see my little sister Ethel and myself, sometimes, helping us to be good. With best love to Aunt Editha, and the members of the GOLDEN GROUP.—Your loving Nephew,

JOHN CHARLES ALLEN.

115, White Post Lane, Manor Park, E.

Thank you Nephew Charles for your very nice letter. Write me again soon please.

The Camberwell one comes next, and is from the Secretary of the South London Spiritualists' Mission, a society that Mr. W. E. Long so ably conducts. There are five names in it to go into the BIG BOOK, and you will find them in the List at the end of my letter.

## A LETTER FROM THE SOUTH LONDON SPIRITUALISTS MISSION LYCEUM.

DEAR AUNT EDITHA:—I am pleased to send you a few names for membership of the GOLDEN GROUP, which is headed by Miss E. Small, the new Conductor of our reconstructed Lyceum. Hoping to send more in the early future, with these few words I conclude, with best wishes, yours truly,

J. KENYON, Sec.

Then came two letters from the Burnley (Guy Street) Lyceum, and with them was four names for the List. As the first of the letters was the most important I will print that one, and hope that Mr. Hargreaves will soon send me more names, for I want to see our list get over the 2,000 mark this year.

## A LETTER FROM MR. ERNEST HARGREAVES.

DEAR AUNT EDITHA:—There are several of our members who wish to join the GOLDEN GROUP, and they ask me to send their names and apply for their Certificates, which I now do. We have a strong Lyceum, and after the next issue of the BANNER I have no doubt that I shall be able to send you a very long list of names. With best wishes for your GOLDEN GROUP.—I am, Fraternally yours,

ERNEST HARGREAVES.

24, Hambleton View, Burnley.

Auntie is delighted to know that a pet idea of hers has actually been put into practice by Mr. Todd, at the Sunderland Lyceum. I have long desired that our members should hold a weekly meeting, calling it the GOLDEN GROUP, and at which, during the winter months, there should be singing, recitations, games, etc. Mr. Todd, has done this, and he has promised me he will send us a full account of it all. In the April number of the BANNER you will see his letter, so, look out for it then. It is a capital move, and should be followed all over the country.

Now, I have received a pretty little piece, sent to me from San Francisco, where it was recited by Theresa Hickman, one Sunday morning, and as it will make a capital recitation I will put in here, it is entitled:—

## LITTLE FLO'S LETTER.

A sweet little baby brother  
Had come to live with Flo.  
And she wanted it brought to table  
That it might eat and grow.  
"It must wait for awhile," said grandma,  
In answer to her plea,  
"For a little thing that hasn't teeth,  
Can't eat like you and me."  
"Why hasn't it got teeth, grandma?"  
Asked Flo in great surprise.  
"Oh, my! but isn't it funny?  
No teeth—but nose and eyes?  
I guess [after thinking gravely]  
They must have been fordod.  
Can't we buy him some, like grandpa?  
I'd like to know why not?"

That afternoon to the corner,  
With paper and pen, and ink,  
Went Flo, saying: "Don't talk to me;  
If you do, it'll stop my think!  
I'm writing a letter, grandma,  
To send away to-night;  
And 'cause it's very 'portant  
I want to get it right."

At last the letter was finished—  
A wonderful thing to see—  
And directed to, "God in Heaven."  
"Please read it over to me,"  
Said little Flo to her grandma,  
"To see if it's right, you know,"  
And here is the letter written  
'To God by little Flo:

"Dear God—the baby you brought us  
Is awful nice and sweet,  
But 'cause you forgot his toofies  
The poor little thing can't eat.  
That's why I'm writing this letter  
A-purpose to let you know  
Please come and finish the baby  
That's all. From Little Flo."

There now, I think this will do for this month, though I have several nice things to come yet.

So, no more now, but with best wishes to you all, I am your always loving,  
AUNT EDITHA.

## ROLL OF MEMBERSHIP.

## MARCH LIST.

BURY.	1103 Emmie Jerrey.
1095 Ada Ellis.	1104 Nellie Jerrey.
1096 Elizabeth Walker.	1105 Walter Long.
1097 Alfred Shepherd.	
1098 Joseph Shepherd.	BURNLEY (Guy Street).
LONDON (Stratford).	1106 Ernest Hargreaves.
1099 John Charles Allen.	1107 Mary Alice Knowles.
LONDON (Camberwell).	1108 Martha Aching.
1100 Emily Small.	1109 Alice Maud Millar.
1102 Alice Small.	1110 Martha Ellen Riley.
	1111 John Riley.

WHAT is the difference between charity and a tailor? The first covers a multitude of sins, the second a multitude of sinners.

# THE LYCEUM SESSION.

## ORDER OF EXERCISES.

1—Call to Order. 2—Opening Melody. 3—Invocation. 4—Roll Call. 5—Placing of New Members. 6—Silver Chain Reading. 7—Musical Reading. 8—Golden Chain Reading. 9—Physical Exercises. 10—Lyceum Lesson. 11—Group Lessons. 12—Musical and Literary Programme. 13—Greetings to Visitors. 14—Reports and Announcements. 15—Closing Melody. 16—Dismissal.

**Special Suggestions to Lyceum Officers.**—In every case the "Lyceum Lesson" is to be used as the basis of an address by the Conductor to the entire Lyceum. The "Group Lessons" are always to be used by the Leaders as a basis for calling out the ideas of the Groups on the topics that are outlined. Let each member be encouraged to the freest expression. Do not make these Lessons too "classy," but more in the nature of a fraternal conversation.

Melodies can be selected either from the *Manual* or the National Federation Hymn Book.

## SYLLABUS OF LESSONS FOR MARCH.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 7th.

#### Invocation.

Oh! Divine Spirit, once more have we approached this Lyceum coming in close communion with Thee and each other, because we recognise thy beauty and thy lovely expressions of thought in the warm ray of the sun this morning; so do we recognise beauty in all things, and when we feel the power that rises from the atmosphere we recognise the spirit blessing us. We seek for thy divine power this morning, to send forth love and light, and to give strength to the weak, that we may recognise truly there is a development and a progressive thought extended to all that will assist many.

#### LYCEUM LESSON.

##### Subject—"INSPIRATION."

**Outline.**—Literally the word means to 'breathe in.'—We inspire the air when we breathe.—If the air is foul we inspire disease germs.—Mentally, we are said to be inspired, when our mind and thoughts are stimulated.—Spiritually, we are said to be inspired, when our spiritual natures are quickened. The inspiration of fresh air helps to oxygenate the blood, and so aids to keep us healthy.—That which inspires our mind and thoughts helps to quicken and cultivate our intelligence. That which inspires our spiritual natures brings us into closer relations with the truths of God, nature and man. There is no miraculous inspiration.—We must be in a receptive state to receive any kind of inspiration.—Healthy bodies, pure thoughts and earnest aspirations alone will assist us to a true inspiration.—The brain and nerves are the outward channels for receiving inspirations.—Our inner consciousness is the part that relates us to the inspirations of the Spirit world.—The more we cultivate our minds the higher and better will our inspirations be.

#### GROUP LESSONS.

##### Senior Groups. Subject—"PROPHETS AND SEERS."

**Outline.**—Prophecy is Spiritual perception.—It does not always mean foretelling the future.—In olden times it meant speaking under control.—The telling of Spiritual (unseen) things.—Material prophecies do not necessarily imply spirit control.—Such is usually simply clairvoyance or at times psychometry.—A Seer is usually one who clairvoyantly sees the subjective side of material things, or things in the Spiritual world.—All clairvoyants are seers.—There are natural seers, persons so born, and cultivated seers, persons who have had the faculty developed either by mesmerism, or by spirits in the spirit-circle.—Each faculty is a normal, natural one.—They are not special gifts from God, as a mark

of his especial favour to any particular person.—Both are quite common, and rightly used are useful to the world.

##### Junior Groups. Subject—"DISCIPLES."

**Outline.**—A disciple is one who has been disciplined.—To be disciplined is to have been trained.—When one is trained one is expected to be obedient to the knowledge he has been trained in.—Not only the twelve Apostles of Jesus are disciples, but all who are trained in any form of thought are disciples.—The true Spiritualist is one who has learned what Spiritualism teaches, and he is expected to live in accordance therewith.—If he so does he is a true disciple, his life is disciplined, that is, ruled, by what he has been taught.

#### Juvenile Groups.

##### Subject—"WHAT THE BIRDIES SAY."

**Outline.**—When the sun rises they sing their morning song, "get up, get up, the sun has risen."—Then the old birdies go out to work to find food for their little ones, just like father and mother do.—The little birdies try their daily lessons, they attempt to sing, to fly, and lots of other things besides, such as learning the different kinds of food, their way home, and how to do what the mother and father bird try to teach them.—They say early to bed for little boys and girls, as well as for little birdies.—Let us learn all we can, and obey what mother says, for it is best we should.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 14th.

#### Invocation.

Divine Spirit of wisdom and knowledge, we again come in contact with thine influence, that we may leave ourselves open, free from all doubts and fears, and seek diligently thy divine teachings, feeling we do not ask, but we know we can receive; we can rest and we feel we can be assisted—for we rest unshaken. Bless each one as thou seest we need; give strength to the instrument, and also to those that seek protection or try to assist us; and we know thy power shall reign now and for evermore. Amen.

#### LYCEUM LESSON.

##### Subject—"THE PHYSICAL MAN."

**Outline.**—Of what is man made?—Why does man feel? How does he see?—How many skins has he?—Why does he get hungry?—How does he talk, think and live?—What is his place in the order of nature?—What makes him different to all animals?—Why does he die?—His brain, nerves, bones and muscles.—His mind and consciousness.—Does he cease to exist at death? the answer of Spiritualism to that question. What the Christian says about his origin, what the materialist says about his end.—Is man merely an animal, without any immortal part?

**GROUP LESSONS.**

**Senior Groups. Subject**—"THE VALUE OF HEALTH."

**Outline.**—Without health there is no physical happiness. To be unhealthy is to be unnatural.—To become unhealthy through your own fault is to unnecessarily increase the burdens of others.—All bad habits should be shunned if you want to remain healthy. Health is too often not valued until it has been destroyed.—Early rising, exercise, bathing, temperance, and work are all means of maintaining health. To be healthy is an honour to your parents, teachers, and to the world.

**Junior Groups. Subject**—"SPORTS AND PASTIMES."

**Outline.**—Amusement is as necessary as work.—Outdoor games and sports should be cultivated.—Running, cricket, football, hare and hounds, swimming and rowing, are all healthy for boys, and some of them for girls, too.—Be interested in your games for the pleasure they give you. Never bet or wager on them.—Botanising and geologising are excellent pastimes.—Indoors, carpentry, chemistry, mechanics and fret working are all excellent pastimes.—Have a hobby of some sort, it will pass many a pleasant hour, and keep you out of mischief.—Do not allow your love for your sports to overcome your times for study or work.

**Juvenile Groups. Subject**—"OUR DOG."

**Outline.**—He is faithful.—He is obedient.—He is watchful.—Sometimes he is angry, then he growls, sometimes he is pleased, then he barks as if he said 'I am happy.'—He keeps himself clean.—I will not hurt or tease him, and will try to be as good and well behaved as he is.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 21st.****Invocation.**

Oh, thou Divine Spirit, we enter once more into the sanctuary of love, seeking new light and strength to increase our understanding. May we feel thy balmy influence around us this morning, when we sense the rays of the sun as it warms the earth to bring forth the buds in the early spring. So may we feel thy sunshine of knowledge stimulating the individual brain, that we may feel we are one with all nature. We realise how much is needed in opening up the channels of darkness to bring consolation to the weak ones in the flesh. Draw around them this morning, for thou knowest best wherein thy wonderful power is needed.

**LYCEUM LESSON.**

**Subject**—"THE SPIRITUAL MAN."

**Outline.**—The Spiritual man is the real man.—It is the immortal part.—The self-conscious, thinking part of us.—It lives in the earth body during this life, and uses it as its instrument of expression.—When it leaves this body it has a spiritualised body to live in.—In the next life it uses that body as it formerly used this body.—So, we not only remain the same men, but we have a similar body.—That body is not exactly the same as this, it is much more refined and beautiful, and is generally invisible to mortal eyes.—It does not have wings, nor can it go anywhere or do anything.—It has to conform to the laws of the Spirit world, just as the present body does to the laws of this world.

**Junior Groups. Subject**—"ANGELS AND SPIRITS."

**Outline.**—The proper meaning of angel is messenger.—A spirit is a departed human being.—The spirits may be called angels when they return and bring us messages from their

world.—Some people call good spirits angels.—Others call unprogressed spirits bad angels.—Good thoughts and aspirations will bring good spirits to us.—Such will become guides to us.—Evil thoughts will bring evil disposed spirits to us. We may each become good or evil spirits while living here. It is according to the lives we lead and the thoughts that fill our minds.

**Juvenile Groups. Subject**—"HEAVEN."

**Outline.**—Heaven is the home of the good.—It has lovely flowers and little children are happy there. If you are good in this world you will go to heaven afterwards. Little children have kind teachers and friends there.—You will find beautiful Lyceums there, too.—Your little companions who have died will be there to meet you.—Sometimes they come to you now.—If you are good and kind in this world you will feel like the children who are in heaven.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 28th.****ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY.**

**Special Notice.**—This being the Sunday next before the 49th Anniversary of the advent of modern Spiritualism, no lessons are laid down for to-day. Conductors will arrange a programme in harmony with the day, selecting such melodies, lessons and readings as are appropriate to the occasion. It is most important that this day should be observed in every Lyceum, and the children taught how the movement began, so that they are made to understand the beginning of modern Spiritualism. Let it be understood by all that the Lyceum is part of the work of Spiritualism, and that it exists for the purpose of teaching the science, philosophy and morality that the spirit-world has brought to us. It is to be earnestly hoped that every Lyceum throughout the world will act on this day in conformity with this suggestion.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE.**

With a view to assist Conductors for preparing the next Sundays lessons we give the set for the first Sunday in April. They will not appear in the BANNER next month, so the Plan will then begin with the lessons for the *second* Sunday, and the method of making the lessons end each month with the first set for the ensuing month will in future be adopted. We have been requested by several Lyceums to adopt this plan, and as it is a good one, we are pleased to fall in with the desire.

**FIRST SET OF LESSONS FOR APRIL.****SUNDAY, APRIL 4th.****Invocation.**

We thank thee, our Father, for the sunshine in our pathway of life. We could learn more of thy laws and of the love, and of thy compassion upon thy children that thou hast formed and fashioned unto thine own image. We would ask at this hour that the loved ones be permitted to go from one home to another, and may help to uplift them from the saddened condition, that the ignorant may be brought more into the light; those that refuse to be comforted, may they know that their loved ones live, and are with them.

**LYCEUM LESSON.**

**Subject**—"THE DIGNITY OF LABOUR."

**Outline.**—There is no dishonour in labour.—He who works for his living lives on no man's charity.—It is work that makes civilization what it is.—The lazy are an unjust

burden upon the industrious. Idleness is contemptible when not the result of inability to work.—Work with hands or head, do something for others, as they do something for you. All truly successful men are those who have worked.—The workers are honourable and honoured.—Better dig than beg. Poverty eats the bread of idleness.—A useless life is his who does nothing for the world that has done so much for him.

### GROUP LESSONS.

#### Senior Groups. Subject—"INDUSTRY."

**Outline.**—Industry makes a happy life.—A lazy child is no credit to its parents.—Idleness is the thief of time, and the destroyer of all good intentions.—The industrious man thrives, the idle one decays.—The industrious nations are the strongest and most respected. Be industrious and thrifty and you will do good to the world at large.

#### Junior Groups. Subject—"WASTING TIME."

**Outline.**—Lost moments can never be recalled.—Opportunities missed can never be regained.—Never put off till another day what should be done now.—By-and-bye is a smooth road that leads to sorrow and trouble. Now is the time to do what is needful. Let each day have its duties done before to-morrow comes.—Be always ready.

#### Juvenile Groups. Subject—"THE WORD TO AVOID."

**Outlines.**—Always avoid the word, presently.—When called answer at once.—Do not loiter by the way.—Do not say 'presently' when it is time to go to bed, get up, or leave off playing.—Presently makes you bad when you listen to its voice.

### WHAT OUR LYCEUMS ARE DOING.

**ACCRINGTON TEMPLE.**—Our second Anniversary Tea-party took place on Saturday, February 6th. Miss Hunter, of Heckmondwike distributed the prizes. We only allowed three Sundays absence in the year for a first prize. The attendance during 1896 was excellent. We are working for a Sale of Work to be opened by the Mayor, on March 24th. Help either in goods or money will be thankfully received.

**ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.**—The Lyceum is making very good progress. On January 23rd we held a tea-party in honour of the Lyceum Delegates visit to Ashton. Afterwards we held an entertainment, and during the entertainment the committee presented the scholars, to the number of 35 with various valuable prizes for attendance during 1896. Prizes were given for the best recitations, our esteemed Secretary, Mr. Longstaff was judge. There was also prizes given to the best workers for the Lyceum. (*Too late for February.*)

**BOLTON.**—The Annual Lyceum Tea-party and Prize Distribution was held on February 6th. Mr. Ormerod distributed the prizes in an excellent manner. The members of the Lyceum heartily thank all those who made the tea, and those who took a part in the programme.—F. J.

**BURNLEY, GUY STREET.**—The Leaders of the Guy Street Lyceum put their Lyceum Lesson of "How can we assist the Parent Society" into practice on Saturday, February 13, by arranging a Bun and Coffee Supper. The Supper was ably served by Mrs. Knowles, and Miss Riley. Songs and Recitations were given during the evening by the Lyceum Scholars. We had a very good gathering, the proceeds going to help the Parent Society.—ERNEST HARGREAVES.

**CARDIFF.**—The annual election of officers took place at St. John's Hall, on Sunday, February 7, when the officers were elected for the ensuing year. F. Silby, Conductor; Mrs. Chadwick, Guardian; A. Sadler, Sec.; Miss B. Blackmore, Treasurer; Mrs. Silby, Musical Director. It is hoped that all

Cardiff friends will endeavour to send their children, and thus make the Lyceum the success it deserves to be.—A. SADLER.

**DARWEN.**—Darwen Lyceum held their open Session on Sunday, January 24th. Mr. Frank Hepworth gave us a few words of encouragement, for which he was heartily thanked for by our conductor, Mr. Robert Sudall, and other officers. Our Annual Tea-party and Entertainment was held on the previous day. It included songs, recitations, and readings. Mr. F. Hepworth rendered us a few songs, we were also favoured by a violin solo from Mr. Betts. The chair was occupied by Mr. Michael Harwood, who spoke a few words for the Lyceum.—MISS E. A. ECCLES.

**LEEDS.**—Psychological Hall, Saturday February 6th. a tea and entertainment was given by Lyceum officers and children, and other friends. The programme consisted of Songs, Recitations, Doll Drill, and Tableaux Vivants. Everything passed off well and proved a success. The entertainment was arranged by Mr. Garland the conductor. The chair was taken by Mr. McDonald.

**OPENSHAW, GRANVILLE HALL.**—On February 7th we had a good session. There were present 100 scholars, and 6 visitors. The "Silver Chain" recitation and Musical reading were rendered with every feeling of respect for an old Lyceumist whose body we laid away the day before. Recitations were given by 12 girls and 6 boys, in a very pleasing way. An essay entitled "Ought we to be contented," by Mr. W. Booth, brought forth words of praise. He tells us he has more to follow. On February 14th we had another good day, there being present on this occasion 102 scholars and 4 visitors, and to say there are so many, yet there is room for more. The open sessions will be held on March 14th, when we expect to see many friends.

**SOUTH LONDON.**—Surrey Masonic Hall: Lyceum work in South London for some time passed has apparently been a failure, but that energetic and capable leader of the South London Mission, Mr. W. E. Long, does not believe in giving up any part of our grand work. Under his guidance the Lyceum as been reconstructed, with Miss E. Small as conductor, Mr. Kenyon, secretary, and Miss L. Colman, treasurer, and as a commencement of Work we send a few names for the GOLDEN GROUP, and order a few copies extra of the BANNER, a paper that ought to be bought by all Spiritualists.—J. KENYON, Sec.

### OUR EDITOR'S ENGAGEMENTS MARCH, 1897.

**LONDON.**—Sunday, 7th, Cavendish Rooms, Mortimer Street, W. 7 p.m. Thursday, 18th, Workmens Hall, West Ham Lane, Stratford, 8 p.m.—**MORSE'S LIBRARY,** 26, Osnaburgh Street, London, N.W. Wednesday's 3rd and 17th, 8 p.m.—**BIRMINGHAM,** Sunday, 14th, Masonic Hall, 11 a.m., 6-30 p.m.—**KEIGHLEY,** Sunday 21st, Heber Street Temple, afternoon and evening; also Monday 8 p.m. Hanley, 28th.

The Editor will always be glad to meet the Lyceum workers in all towns he visits.

**LANCASHIRE LYCEUM DEMONSTRATION.**—Meeting of delegates at the Cobden Street Hall, Pendleton, on Saturday, March 27th, 1897; Tea at 4-30, 6d. each; meeting afterwards. A capital concert will be given by the Pendleton Lyceum. Admission: Adults, 2d; Children, 1d. Lyceums' desirous of taking part in this year's demonstration are requested to send the names of any two delegates they wish to represent them to: J. B. Longstaff, 28, Caton Street, Moss Side, Manchester.

## THE BANNER'S LETTER BOX.

### A Pleasant Letter.

DEAR EDITORS:—Thank you for the LYCEUM BANNERS received this morning. I am very pleased indeed with it. What an advance you have made in the years that have gone since we first saw you. Your work has been blessed indeed. What a bright young lady your dear daughter is! I sincerely hope you may all be blessed with good health, and that you may be spared many years as a blessing to Spiritualism. Very truly yours, EMILY S. YOUNG.

41, Portland Street, London, E.

### Lyceum Effort and the Spiritualists' National Grand Jubilee Bazaar.

DEAR EDITOR.—As you are aware that at the National Conference held in Liverpool last July, a resolution was passed and a Committee formed to organise and conduct a Grand National Jubilee Bazaar, for the purpose of assisting propaganda work, to spread our truths throughout the land. This committee is now getting in working order, and it is proposed to hold this Bazaar in Manchester, about April, in 1898. Next year being the Jubilee of Modern Spiritualism, I wish to ask your help and co-operation in making this a great success, I have a simple plan whereby our Lyceum children can help very materially. If the officers will take up this idea, and assist the children, great results will follow. The plan suggested is that books containing 12, 24 or 36 perforated slips, with the impress of a penny printed upon each slip, with the object and date of Bazaar, for which one penny will be charged, and which slip will at once be a memento, and a receipt for one penny. I see in your last report our Lyceums consist of 4886 children and 796 officers, and knowing your deep interest in propaganda work, I do not hesitate to ask you to join hands with our Committee in this good movement in urging through your valuable paper the Lyceumists and officers to make this move a great success. If one-third of our young friends will take, say only one book each, with 12, 24 or 36 slips in, this will mean £81, £162, or £243. What a grand help this would be in sending Home-Missionaries to preach the great truth of immortality to those in darkness. We hope to get these books ready for circulation, almost directly, and hope to get our friend and co-worker, Mr. Kitson, to undertake to distribute them and collect the results from this effort. I cannot think there is one Lyceum but what will take these books, and do their uttermost to make this a glorious success. I am, yours fraternally,

JOHN VENABLES,

Shaw Street, Walsall. Chairman of Bazaar Committee.

[NOTE.—The foregoing letter suggests a most excellent method for bringing our Lyceums into line with the National Federation over the proposed Jubilee Bazaar. Mr. Venables attached a sample of the receipt he suggests, and later on we hope to reproduce it in the BANNER. We quite concur and heartily approve of the plan as stated by our friend, and feel certain every Lyceum in the Kingdom will be glad to adopt it.—EDITORS, L.B.]

### From the Oldest Spiritualist in Liverpool.

DEAR EDITORS.—In receiving the BANNER this month I was struck with the increase of matter, and the enlarged size of the paper. I thought how much labour and care had been bestowed in getting up such a work by those who had taken part therein, and all at the low price of a penny. How it is done is a mystery to me. I must say the subjects are well arranged, the matter of the first magnitude, and a half-day

which I spent in reading it has been most entertaining to me. I would like to suggest that you advise all the Lyceums to instruct all the big boys in music, and have a brass, or drum and fife band; this would be a great auxiliary, and would show that there was life and power in the work. I send you my subscription for the BANNER, and 5s. to help you to float the BANNER o'er sea and land.—Yours fraternally,  
LIVERPOOL. JOHN CHAPMAN.

## WHAT A GIRL DID.

A TRUE STORY.

BY WALTER BOOTH.

MY thoughts were of the weather, one day when returning to business, after partaking of my mid-day meal. It was about as bad as could be imagined. The wind blew with icy keenness as if determined to bite pieces out of anyone who ventured to resist it. The skies overhead betokened an early rainfall, and altogether it was a nasty miserable day.

The road was crowded with children on their way to the school, a short distance away. The crowd was of the usual school children type; some walking, some running, some jumping whilst others took matters more easy, but all were on equal terms as far as making a noise went. With coat collar upturned and hands deep in my pockets, I pursued my way greatly interested in this motley group. One little fellow especially attracted my attention as he came towards me. He was apparently not more than five years old. His face which bore a pinched, starved look, did not seem to have been washed for a few days. His matted hair, when clean, I should say, would be quite sandy. A handkerchief would have been most useful to him. Perhaps, poor mite, he was not aware of the existence of such an article. He had a little ragged coat on, open at the front, showing not a vest, but the remnants of a not over clean shirt. On one foot he had the remains of an old shoe, on the other, what was supposed to be a clog, whilst he had no stockings on at all. Seemingly, studying the footpath he walked slowly along, shivering, his teeth chattering with cold. "Truly, a most pitiable sight," I mentally observed, slackening my pace to obtain a better view of him. Just then a daintily dressed little maiden attired in a red cloak and hood came tripping along. To judge by her appearance she was evidently well cared for. Catching sight of the boy, she overtook him, placed her arm round his neck and said, "Ah Jimmie you are cold, aren't you?" "Oh yes, an' 'ungry as well," feebly responded the boy. The girl immediately opened the little satchel which was slung on her arm, and brought out a fancy little sweet cake, which was no doubt intended for her own lunch and offered it to the starving boy. He seemed afraid to take it. "Do have it Jimmie," she pleaded, "I don't want it, I've had a good dinner, and I know you've had nothing at all to eat to-day." With these consoling words the boy accepted it and eagerly commenced to eat it. With a smile of satisfaction the little girl unfastened the warm cloak from her shoulders and wrapped it round those of the boy, keeping her arm around his neck, saying "Come along Jimmie, we'll both go together, you'll soon be warm now." They moved away, I still watching them. Unheeding the curious glances of the passers-by. Conscience smote me and I quickly left the scene saying half aloud "Verily, a child can sometimes teach us our duty." Hundreds of persons, may be, had passed the boy and never noticed his condition. Heaven bless the little girl, may her reward be great



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Printed for the Proprietor by Billows & Co., Keighley; and Published by the Proprietor, J. J. MORSE, at 26, Osnaburgh Street, Euston Road, London, N.W.—March 5th, 1897.