

# THE LYCEUM BANNER.

A Spiritualist Magazine for Old and Young.

VOL. VII.

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No. 77.

## PORTRAIT GALLERY OF OUR LYCEUM WORKERS.

### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

No. 2.

MR. G. E. BRAHAM.

MANY Manchester friends will be pleased to see the features of our co-worker in this month's LYCEUM BANNER. In my interview with him, I elicited the following facts, he says:—"I was born at North Kyme, Lincolnshire, and brought up in the Particular Baptist faith, but was not an active worker, as I could never fully realise their beliefs. About six years ago I visited the Moss Side, Manchester, Spiritual Society's Meeting (then held in the Edinburgh Hall, Alexandra Park), as a sceptic, and was very much surprised at the interesting and instructing address, and puzzled by the remarkable clairvoyance that was given. It sent me home thinking. I went again and again, until I became much interested, in fact I could not keep away. I became thoroughly convinced of the truth of Spiritualism when Mr. Hyde clairvoyantly described two of my children, in such a way as to leave no doubt in my mind that it was true, I was forced to accept it. I joined the Society and was soon elected to office, which I retained in one form or another



MR. G. E. BRAHAM.

until the Society dissolved by arrangement. I then joined the Manchester Society of Spiritualists (Tipping Street, Ardwick), and was soon elected on their working staff, on which I have been ever since. Three years ago, I was elected as organist, which office I still retain. The Lyceum has always been my ambition, as I am so fond of children, and it is always a pleasure to me to be with them. I have been three years Musical Director, and last September was elected unanimously as Conductor. Have also served as Delegate for the Lancashire Lyceum Demonstration Committee several times."

I might say that Brother Braham is of a rather retiring disposition, and very lenient with children, but whatever office he has held has been with credit to himself and benefit to the Lyceum. Brother Braham is a man whom to know is to respect, and the earnest hope of all who know the subject of this brief sketch is, that he may be spared to labour on in the work he holds so dear, side by side with those whose respect and esteem he has won by devotion to our Lyceum cause.

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 III.

##### THE SPARROWS ADVENTURE.

AFTER Edie's adventure, the three children were forbidden to go outside the garden alone. No amount of pleading would alter this decision, so they had to submit to walking quietly with nurse or playing in the garden. It was a very large and pleasant one, but although there were several trees in it, not one was an oak, so Stumpy had to be

content with barking.

"I do wish we could go to the wood, or knew where there was an oak tree," said Teddy one morning.

"We can go to the wood with nurse," answered Dora.

"I know that, but you know the squirrels or birds would'n't talk if she was there, and Mrs. Squirrel said you could'n't understand if you were more than twelve when you first tried."

"Yes, and nurse is twenty, I heard her say so."

"P'raps if we asked politely, she might let us run about the wood by ourselves," suggested Edie.

"Bravo Edie, we'll ask her the very next walk we go," and Teddy threw his cap up in the air with delight at the idea.

That afternoon when they started for their usual walk,

nurse was easily persuaded to go to the cool, pleasant wood, instead of walking along the dusty road. She settled herself under a tree, produced a paper from her pocket and with a "Now don't go far away children" began to read. This was just what they wanted, away they ran to a big oak near by, close enough for nurse to see them, but far enough away to be out of earshot.

"Now then, what are we going to ask to talk to-day?" asked Dora, "Stumpy has told us all he can, shall we find another squirrel?"

"There's a sparrow up there," answered Teddy, "let's ask him to talk."

"Tweet, tweet," called the sparrow in a tiny, merry voice, "What can I do for you little people."

"Come and talk to us, tell us all the things you can remember."

"Then you must sit quite still and promise not to touch me," replied the sparrow, as he flew to one of the lowest branches quite close to the children.

"We promise," they said.

"Well, let me see," began the sparrow, holding his little head on one side, his bright eyes looking like little black beads in the sunlight. "Where shall I begin?"

"At where you was borned" suggested Edie.

"I was born in a soft round nest, tucked safely away in a corner of a gutter spout on the roof of a large house in a big city. There were three of us; we were always hungry, and it was as much as our little mother could do to keep us supplied with food. We all grew rapidly, and were three of the finest young sparrows to be seen any where."

"It was some time before either of us ventured to fly far from our nest, and the very first day I did so I had an adventure that nearly cost me my life. I had been flying about the house all the morning, and was longing to fly down into the road where I could see my mother, so, half frightened, I started. It was delightful. I hopped about on the ground, flew up on to the trees, and thoroughly enjoyed myself. But I began to feel hungry, so I looked about for food. There was a horse standing near one of the houses with his head half covered with a bag. Every time he lifted his head a lot of oats fell on to the ground. They looked nice, so I flew to him and began to eat. It was a very hot day, and flies kept buzzing round the horse, getting in his ears, crawling on his back, making him kick every few minutes. In my hurry to get the oats I got too near his feet, suddenly he gave a big kick. Over I went into the middle of the road, too weak and sore to pick myself up."

"I laid there some time until I was roughly picked up, and I heard a boy say, 'Here's a dead bird, Carl, it will do for the cat,' and I was carried into a garden and thrown on to the ground before a cat. Fortunately for me the cat was sleepy, and so took no notice of me. Finding the cat did not take any notice, another child (a little girl) pushed me against him with a shovel. I was nearly dead, when I heard some one say, 'What are you doing with that bird?' I was gently picked up and carried into the house. The next thing I remember was having cold water dropped on to my head; this made me open my eyes, and I saw I was being held by a young girl. She kept putting water on my head until I struggled, then she carefully placed me on some soft stuff in a box and left me for a while."

"Poor birdie, was youse very much hurt?" asked Edie, in an anxious voice.

*(Concluded next month.)*

## HOW A GREAT DICTIONARY WAS MADE.

**P**ERHAPS you never sat down for an afternoon to read and enjoy Webster's Unabridged Dictionary. No doubt you've taken little sips of it when you wanted to find out the meaning of "elucidation" or how to spell "parellel." Or it may be that you've enjoyed the animal pictures in the book or the coloured plates with the flags of all nations, or the page with the skeleton.

But to sit down and read the dictionary is quite another thing, and at first it sounds odd.

Noah Webster, who wrote the dictionary, was born in 1758, at a time when there were no American dictionaries, and, in fact, very few American books. When he grew up and began to study, he found that when he read scientific works, and came to a word which he didn't know, there was no place to look it up.

And so when he was only 25 years old he wrote "an elementary work for facilitating the acquisition of our vernacular tongue," as our story has it.

Almost immediately the young student began to think of publishing a really big dictionary, and accordingly he went to work and was busy about thirty-five years in writing it. Think of that, you who expect to become famous in three or four years.

Webster was poor and had to make a living by teaching and writing, but he never let go of his task for a day. He had determined to make a complete dictionary and nothing should turn him aside.

After writing all the words beginning with A and B, he found that he didn't know enough about his subject and there was no book that would give him this information. So he stopped and laid aside his manuscript.

"I began by a diligent comparison of words in about twenty languages" he says in the dictionary story, "to obtain a more correct knowledge of the primary sense of original words, and thus to enable myself to trace words to their source."

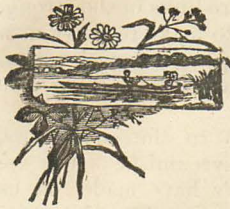
Most men would have been satisfied with studying two or three languages, let alone twenty, but Noah Webster wasn't that kind of a man. It took him ten long weary years to do this work, during which time he had many discouragements.

"I discovered," he says, "that I had to unlearn a great deal that I had spent years in learning, and that it was necessary for me to go back to the first rudiments of erudition."

During this time Webster found it necessary to make a living. So he wrote a spelling book and a grammar, both of which sold widely. Indeed more than 1,000,000 of the spellers were sold every year for a time, and although Webster got less than one cent each out of them, it was enough to help him along. Many grey-headed boys and girls will remember having studied Webster's old speller.

Having gone through these twenty languages, Webster went on with his writing, but before he got to S, he found he didn't know quite enough about how the language was pronounced, and so he packed his trunk and went to England, where he studied for a long time. At last he was able to put the finishing touches on his great work, the greatest dictionary ever published up to that time.

Read it some day when you have time. It will show you what one man did by pluck and perseverance.



## Our Daisies' Page

Edited by Daisy Dimple.

MY DEAR DAISIES.—I have been expecting all the past month that some of you would be writing to know what was the matter with Daisy Dimple, because the Daisy page was so short last month, why it was not even a page, however, as it was all that I sent to our EDITOR he could not make it any longer, but I hope to be able to do better in future, and I hope our new printer will give us a real nice Daisy page.

It was Brother Bob's turn to address our Lyceum last Sunday, and he told us such a nice story that I thought I would write it out in my own way for our page. He said he had read it in *To-Day*, but I don't care where he read it. It is a nice one and that is all we Daisies care about.

I am not going to give the whole story—just that part which you would like best. I will call it:—

### THE LITTLE DANCER

A PANTOMIME STORY.

IN the City of London, in the top story of one of the great houses where numbers of families live and mingle with each other, there lived a quiet couple, Tom Bates and his loving wife Ellen. Where they came from none of the neighbours knew, but one and all agreed that they were both quiet and respectable people, who had evidently seen better days. Their little girl, and only child, whose name was Ethel, was a sweet and most winsome creature. The boys and girls in Carlow Lane where she lived, were all kind to her, because they had learned to love her for her sweet manners, which were such a contrast to their own rough methods. Her father was engaged, whenever he could get work, to do all kinds of odd jobs at the great Theatres which are so popular as places of amusement in the City of London. Pantomime times were the best for Tom Bates, for there was always plenty to do at these times, and plenty of life, bustle and excitement, but when pantomime season was over, and work slack, then he had to turn to other means to seek a living.

One of the means by which he earned a little was the teaching of young people the many styles of dancing in vogue on the stage, and many an hour had been spent in their upper rooms by pupils who had afterwards made for themselves a prominent name in their line of work.

Little Ethel had of course been a witness of many of the lessons given by her father, and very often, when pupils had gone, remembering the instructions which she had heard her father give the pupils, she would try, in her childish way, to follow their example by dancing on the middle of the floor or on the table, and so faithfully did she follow her father's instruction that he was proud and delighted at the rapid progress she made. Her mother too, who, before her marriage had been known as a proficient dancer, was just as proud of the promise displayed by little Ethel.

Pantomime season was just coming on, and little Ethel, who had conjured up in her own mind marvellous pictures of the glories and beauty of display, through hearing her father converse with her mother, pleaded hard that she

might be allowed to go with her father some time and see the little dancers, who, she was told, would dance for "Little Boy Blue."

Nor had she long to wait; for the following week, her father came home and said that the next night she was to go along with mother and see the pantomime. Little Ethel was delighted, and all that day and all the next day talked of nothing else, but the great pleasure which awaited her.

Night came, and well wrapped up, mother and child wended their way to the Theatre, where they were soon comfortably seated awaiting for the performance to commence. Ethel was delighted with the music, and captivated with the beautiful men and women and their gorgeous dresses, but most of all with the little girls who danced so charmingly and who were so loudly cheered by the audience.

Next day little Ethel talked of nothing else but what she had seen the previous night, and was strong in her assertions that she would take her place amongst the little dancers at next year's Pantomime.

Tom and his wife had no desire for their little girl to go on the stage, but nevertheless her lessons were continued during the year, and when it was announced that "Cinderella" was to be performed as the pantomime, she felt sure that a lot of little girls would be wanted and that there would be a chance for her. Her father and mother knew, better than Ethel did herself, that her abilities were far and away beyond the ordinary kind, and that they were such as would bring her at once into the front rank did an opportunity permit.

During the preparation of *Cinderella* Tom had spoken to the Manager about a place for Ethel, who had promised to give attention to his request, and when he went home one day and told Ethel that the Manager had asked him to take her to the Theatre and give an exhibition of her dancing, she was overjoyed, and was most eager for the appointed time to come.

The time soon came, and with her father to guide her through the maze of scenery, ropes, and fittings, she was introduced to the Manager. Ethel's heart fluttered high with excitement; "clear the stage" called the Manager, and in an instant everybody went off at the sides leaving only the Manager with Ethel and her father. "Now, my little one! let's see what you can do!" said the Manager, as he sat down on a chair, and her father walked aside to give more room. Throwing aside her wraps and hat Ethel took her place in the centre of the stage and was quickly in the midst of her charming evolutions. The noisy chattering and hammering which had been going on at the sides of the stage suddenly ceased, all was still, and everybody was gazing with wonder at the new dancer who was on the stage; the Manager was satisfied, nay, delighted, but was so interested that he did not stop her and say "You will do" but most eagerly looked on until she had finished. The last step had scarcely been given before a burst of applause came from all around the stage, for in the excitement everybody in the Theatre had gathered around the dancer at a reasonable distance.

"Bates," said the Manager, "you have got there the finest Fairy that ever danced on the stage, we'll keep her, and give her a special dance in the programme.

Tom and Ethel went home delighted at the good fortune, and Ethel's mother was so proud of her daughter's success that they had a special cake for tea to celebrate the occasion.

(To be continued.)

## HARMONY.

Specially written for the LYCEUM BANNER by ISAAC PICKTHALL,  
Leader of "Liberty" Group, Stockport Lyceum.

WHAT is harmony? Many answers may be given to this question—and mostly right. Harmony is "just proportion of sound; consonance; musical concord." It is also, "The just adaptation of parts to each other, in any system or composition of things, intended to form a connected whole." Now, children, do you understand? Perhaps the dictionary, after all, is not the safest place to get a definition from. You have seen a rainbow. Well, there you have *harmony of colour*. You have heard a song or a piece of beautiful music. There you had *harmony of sound*. You have seen a magnificent bridge, a grand building, or a lovely picture. In these you have *harmony of design*. Perhaps the *meaning* of the word harmony is clearer to you now. The poet speaks of harmony, when he says:—

"All are but parts of one stupendous whole,  
Whose body Nature is, and God the soul."

There is a great deal of harmony in our Lyceums—but there might be more. There are beautiful lessons of harmony in your coloured banners, badges, rosettes, and dresses; in your Songs, Musical Readings, Marching, and Calisthenics. A well-conducted Lyceum is a model of harmony. It is brighter, happier, more joyous and more beautiful than the ordinary Sunday School. Some of us, who are turning a trifle grey, and have four or five children of our own in the Lyceums, look back upon our Sunday School experiences with anything but joy and pleasure. The surroundings and purpose were not in harmony with our young hearts and lives. The whole proceedings were stiff, gloomy, cheerless, and far from making our young souls bright and gay. To tell the truth, Sunday Schools were little else than prison houses to us; and you will admit that there is not much harmony, sweetness, or joy in prison houses! Those people did not understand children, and therefore failed to satisfy or please our child nature.

All this is altered now. Our Lyceums are a sensible, rational means of education and training in which you little ones take a greater part—and I hope as great an interest—than your Leaders, Conductors, or Teachers. You are a happy family, and every well-regulated family lives in harmony. There you have not only physical (or bodily), but spiritual harmony—the harmony of soul and spirit. "Harmony is heaven's first law," and when it prevails in your homes and Lyceums—there you have heaven, with its peace, music, love, sunshine, gladness, tenderness, sweetness and helpfulness.

To harmonise is to blend, to unite, to agree; and we want you to blend your voices and your love with the angels; unite with your officers; and agree one with another. Harmony of purpose is needed, so that all will be working to one end—the training, advancement, and upliftment of every man, woman, and child. We wish to see you glad, cheerful, smiling, and happy. You are light-hearted, buoyant, and full of vigorous life or spirit. We want to help and assist in the right development of this nature. You are full of fun and frolic, and we desire to open up avenues of innocent mirthfulness, where your individual abilities and gifts can have full play, and where your character may shine. We want you to be yourselves, not someone else. What is in you, the Lyceum leaders wish to *draw out*, and not to injure and annoy you by cramming into you what will harm you and lessen your natural joy. All this has to

do with *Harmony* and *Order*, as they are links in the strong, perfect chain of child life. We want to make real live men and women of you—not mere dolls, puppets, and marionettes. This accomplished, we will have realised something like human harmony.

Before I close, just a word or two to the conductors, Leaders, and other officers—the big Lyceumists. We see the mistakes which the Sunday schools have made, let us be careful not to repeat them, or carry them into our beautiful Lyceums. Make the surroundings lovely, cheerful, attractive, and pure, so that they will please the eyes and gladden the hearts of the children. Be ready with love, sympathy, comfort and encouragement, and keep back temper, bitterness, and harshness. Be gentle, tender, and patient—the young will never forget this, and their after lives will be influenced by this timely consideration, kindness and interest in them.

In the average Sabbath school we find much that is dismal and unattractive; and this is largely owing to unwilling teachers. How many of them are driven there by Duty and Fear! From such service no goodness, no virtue can come! Teachers must be willing, and the joy of love must be in our hearts, or else we will be little better than tyrants over our scholars. Children, more than all others, "want air, life, trust, love;" and these they can only find among those who are gladdened by their presence. The old Sunday schools have gone to pieces because of their joyless services. And all work has gone to pieces that is not carried forward by those who find in it the gladness and the strength of life. The teachers and the taught do not harmonise; that is what is the matter. There is no bond of common union. Concord is wanting, and the result is discord and inharmony! In the Lyceum it is different; the teacher and the scholar are one—united in purpose, aspiration, and joy. There is a welcome on the part of both—the teacher is glad to meet the children, and the young ones are pleased to welcome and greet their instructors. God is Light and Life and Love. Let us learn to be children of the Light, with sunshine and song in our hearts. Then our very presence in the Lyceum and in the world will be a beautiful, demonstrative religious service both to God and Man!

## DEARY'S BEDTIME.

Deary, put away your playthings,  
Shadows in the corners creep,  
And your bird that all the day sings,  
Is asleep.

Kitty dozes in the fender,  
Fido's snores are long and deep,  
And 'tis time all children tender  
Went to sleep.

Curly head is drooping weary,  
Blinking eyes can scarcely peep,  
Come and say, "God bless me," deary,  
"While I sleep."

EDITH K. RENDLE.

EXCITED CITIZEN: Officer, I've just been robbed. There goes the scoundrel that did it!

Policeman: I'll attend to him in a minute. I'm after a little rascal that's ridin' his bicycle without any lantern."

LANCASHIRE LYCEUM DEMONSTRATION.—Next meeting of Delegates at Royton, on Saturday May 15th. Tea at 4-30 p.m., meeting afterwards. Concert by Royton Lyceum at 6-30. Admission 2d. Children 1d.

# 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.—Auntie is glad to know that all our members are now supplied with Certificates, and that they are delighted with them. Our friends at Colne intend to present them on the occasion when they celebrate the anniversary; they think as the Home of the Fox girls is upon them it will be an appropriate day, as well as serving to impress on the mind the place where modern Spiritualism originated. I think this is a capital idea, don't you? We must always remember those young girls that ever so long ago endured so much for us, and who were so badly persecuted. They have done their work, and we are reaping the benefit of it. The Certificates are much larger now, and, being printed on white card in blue and red ink, they have our Lyceum colours—red, white, and blue—which signify love, truth, and wisdom. If you frame them they will look quite handsome on the wall, and when you grow up to be men and women you will still treasure them as reminders of the happy days you spent in the Lyceum.

I have several very nice letters for you this month, and two capital pieces of poetry, one all the way from San Francisco. Our Editor tells me he heard it recited at the Lyceum in that far away city by Miss Tryphena Pritchard, on Sunday morning, October 10th last. He says the young Miss recited it in a first-class manner, too. No doubt my far away friends will be delighted to see it in print, as it will serve to show them that they are not forgotten by Mr. Morse, nor Auntie, either. It is called:

## THE DEAD DOLL.

You needn't be trying to comfort me—

I tell you my dolly is dead;

There's no use in saying it isn't,

With a crack like that in her head;

It's just like you said it wouldn't

Hurt much to have my tooth out that day,

And then, when the man most pulled my head off,

You hadn't a word to say.

And I guess you must think I'm a baby,

When you say you can mend it with glue,

As if I didn't know better than that,

Why, just suppose it was you?

You might make her look all mended—

But what do I care for looks?

Why glue's for chairs and tables,

And toys and backs of books!

My dolly! my own little daughter!

Oh, but it's the awfulest crack!

It just makes me sick to think of the sound

When her poor head went whack,

Against that horrible brass thing

That holds up the little shelf.

Now, Nursey, what makes you remind me?

I know that I did it myself.

I think you must be crazy.

You'll get her another head!

What good would forty heads do her?

I tell you my dolly is dead?

And to think I hadn't quite finished,

Her elegant new Spring hat!

And I took a sweet ribbon off her last

To tie on that horrid cat!

When my mamma gave me that ribbon,

I was playing out in the yard.

She said to me most expressly,

"Here's a ribbon for Hildegarde."

And I went and put it on Tabby,

And Hildegarde saw me do it;

But I said to myself, "Oh, never mind, I don't

believe she knew it!"

But I know that she knew it now, and I just

believe, I do,

That her poor little heart was broken,

And so her head broke too.

Oh, my baby! my little baby!

I wish my head had been hit!

For I've hit it over it and over,

And it hasn't cracked a bit.

But since the darling is dead,

She'll want to be buried, of course;

We will take my little wagon,

Nurse, and you shall be the horse.

And I'll walk behind and cry; and we'll put her  
in this—see,

This dear little box—and we'll bury her there  
out under the maple tree.

And papa will make her a tombstone, like the one  
he made for my bird;

And he'll put what I tell him on it—Yes, every  
single word!

I shall say, "Here lies Hildegarde, a beautiful doll,  
who is dead;

She died of a broken heart, and a dreadful crack  
in her head."

Now is not that a beautiful recitation? Auntie felt quite sorry for that poor doll.

You remember Auntie said that this month Mr. Todd

(Continued on page 68.)

**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.

FOUNDED NOVEMBER, 1890.

**THE LYCEUM BANNER.**

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United States forty cents. U.S. postage stamps taken.

P.O. on EUSTON ROAD, N.W.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE.**

Lyceum orders should be sent on the Last Monday of each Month. Give the full name or parcel number, of your Lyceum with every order. All receipts will be sent in parcels each month, unless Half-penny Stamp be sent to cover per return postage. Stamps not taken for amounts over one shilling; send postal orders.

**TO CORRESPONDENTS.**

To numerous Secretaries.—In all cases please be sure and give the exact name of your Lyceum, when either ordering copies, or remitting money. If this rule is not complied with, delays will arise for which the publishers are not responsible. Last month we had remittances from a town in which there are three Lyceums, and because the name was omitted we had to write to the other two to find out which one we had to credit the money to. Also remember that no receipts will be sent unless a half-penny stamp is sent to cover postage. They are always returned in the following monthly parcels. Several of our Secretaries still send orders, reports and remittances to Mr. Todd. This causes needless delays, and imposes on the good nature of our friend, who is a very busy man. Send everything to London.

E. K. RENDLE, LONDON.—Many thanks. Is used this month.

G. CHALLINOR, MACCLESFIELD.—The cutting is very interesting, and will be read with pleasure by many.

J. R., GLASGOW.—Very much obliged for your acceptable contribution. Thanks for your good wishes.

J. T. TAYLOR, BEDWORTH.—We will endeavour to send earlier. You should get parcel on the Saturday, as it is always sent the same time as the others, all being delivered in time. Let us know if it does not come on Saturday this month.

THOMAS G. NEWMAN, SAN FRANCISCO, U.S.—Your fraternal comments re the BANNER duly noted, and fully appreciated. The *Journal* is better than ever. Will you write as soon as time permits, but hands are more than full at present. Kindest regards to family and self. Your portrait next month.

E. A. KEELING, LIVERPOOL.—Thank you for your excellent report. Will be pleased to receive the paper you name, and if suitable will use it. We wait the article you promised.

JOSHUA WOOD, HUDDERSFIELD.—Mr. Todd has sent us the "Goose" matter, and we hope to commence publishing it next month. It will be intensely interesting to the children, big and little alike.

G. HALSALL, STOCKPORT.—Very pleased to receive your long letter. Congratulate you on your good work and devotion. Always pleased to hear from you and learn of the progress being made. Will use part of your letter next month.

**The Lyceum Banner.**

APRIL, 1897.

**OUR MONTHLY CHAT.**

**The National Bazaar.** So far nothing has reached the BANNER concerning Mr. Venable's letter last month, upon the question of the National Bazaar. Mr. Kitson, our Union Secretary, reports, as will be seen, that collecting books have been sent out, which is a practical step.

Lyceum workers must not think, "oh! there is plenty of time, it's not until next year," for a year soon slips past. Set to work at once, and let the Lyceum contributions to the Fund be an honour to us all. The National Federation deserves well at the hands of the Lyceum movement, and no doubt at our Jubilee Conference in 1898 the Lyceum Union and the National Federation will have a Union assembly, at some time in the proceedings. So, again, the BANNER urges you all to be up and doing, without delay.

**A piece of necessary information** During the past month quite a considerable number of insufficiently prepaid letters have reached the BANNER office. Will Secretaries bear in mind that a report or advertisement without any "Dear Sir," at the beginning, or "Yours very truly," at the end, or anything at all in the nature of a letter, can be sent for one half-penny. But, if you make it a letter the Post-office charge us a penny fine for your oversight. Write your reports on Post-cards, unless it is a very special case, and if you only send a report one half-penny stamp will cover it, if sent in an unsealed envelope. In future we shall refuse to take in all letters that are not sufficiently prepaid, so please be duly warned. Quite a number of reports came late, and could not be used; all reports, etc., must reach us by the 20th of each month.

**Spiritualists and Benevolence.** We specially direct the attention of all Lyceum workers, and the readers of the BANNER in general, to an advertisement of the "O. P. S. Sick Benefit and Pension Funds," that appears elsewhere. This Order has done a great amount of good, in an unostentatious manner. It has relieved many cases of temporary distress, and smoothed the pathway of several deserving cases in their old age, by its pension department. The BANNER hopes to say more on this point hereafter, for the moment it calls attention to a letter on this topic, which appears elsewhere.

**Last month's BANNER.** The previous issue of the BANNER was very warmly commended on all sides. The sales entirely exhausted the edition printed, and a number of repeat orders could not be filled. In this connection, if those Lyceums now taking one dozen copies would but take two, and other friends increase their sales by one half, our paper would just clear expenses. Try what you can do in the matter.

**THE BANNER'S BOOK BOX.**

**A DEAD MAN'S THOUGHTS.** J. Edgar Foster, London. The Roxburghe Press, 15, Victoria St., Westminster. Price 3s. 6d.

As a rule, when an ordinary man takes up a book and finds that it treats of theology, he puts it down again as if it were an extremely hot potatoe. I am glad that for once in a way I broke my habit in the case of the Rev. Edgar Foster's new book. "A dead man's thoughts" (The Roxburghe Press) is well written and proves to some extent the trend of religious thought of this period.

Very early in his book the reverend gentleman imposes this question upon himself, and asks: "Even whilst we speak how many are in the very act of passing away? where are they now, those departed ones, what and where are they now?" The remainder of the volume, upwards of 260 pages, is devoted in attempting to answer this question, which any Spiritualist could have answered in a moment, by proven statements. Mr. Foster, ultimately, very unsatisfactorily answers himself when he says: "what they have been we know; their past we know in their biographies; what they shall be we know in part, for God has revealed to us much of the future blessedness of the saints in heaven. But what is their present condition? It is God's great secret which we may guess at, but cannot solve for certain.

These 261 pages will no doubt be very interesting to Evangelistic inquirers and devotees, but truthfully speaking it can hardly appeal to the enlightened interest of pronounced Spiritualists.—B.B.

# 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 APRIL.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 11th.

#### Invocation.

Dear Angel Friends gather with us this morning, and bless each one with thy loving inspirations. Open our eyes to all that is beautiful and true, and attune our minds to the sweet melodies of thy noble thoughts. Help us to grow strong in all good purposes, sustain us in virtue's way when we feel weak, and aid us in drawing closer to each other in the bonds of love and sympathy. And in return for all thy assistance we will strive to so live that we may realize that we daily come closer to Thee, and more in union with the Almighty Power, whom we call our Father and our God.

#### LYCEUM LESSON.

##### Subject—"MEDIUMSHIP."

**Outline.**—A medium is a channel of communication or conveyance—A wire is a medium for conveying a current of electricity—A messenger is a medium for conveying a message—A medium as understood by Spiritualists is one by whom spirits convey messages to mortals—All persons are more or less mediums—Some are sensitive to psychological influences, and can be hypnotised by spirits to personate spirit friends, made to speak messages from spirits—Some are able to see spirits, they are then called clairvoyant mediums—Some are able to hear spirits speak, such are called clairaudient mediums—Mediumship depends upon the sensitiveness of the body, brain and nerves to what is called spirit influence, variously described as Magnetism, psychic force, spirit power, etc.—There are physical mediums, those in whose presence articles are moved, sounds are made, lights produced, voices uttered, and many other things are done—Properly cultivated there is nothing dangerous in mediumship.

#### GROUP LESSONS.

##### Senior Groups. Subject—"CONTROL."

**Outline.**—What is called "control" is the influence of a spirit that causes a medium to speak or act—Some are controlled to sing, to speak in tongues, in foreign languages—Others to give addresses, lectures, poetry—Some are caused to personate the manner, voice and actions of the spirit controlling—Others are controlled to write and to draw—Some to diagnose diseases—Some to describe distant places, and scenes in the spirit world—As "like attracts like," if you would have the highest sorts of control you must strive to live as good a life as possible.

##### Junior Groups. Subject—"MEDIUMS."

**Outline.**—Women make the more sensitive mediums, as a rule—Many men are quite as sensitive as women—Children are also good mediums, but is not good for children to be developed until they are sufficiently unfolded in body to avoid any injury to their health—The Apostles, Saints, and many of the Martyrs of the early Christian era, were mediums—It is not at all necessary to be a medium to live a spiritual life—It is in many cases better to be a good man or woman than a medium

##### Juvenile Groups. Subject—"GOODNESS."

**Outline.**—Boys and girls should always be good to one another—It is good to be obedient, clean, civil and obliging—It is good to be respectful to those older than yourself—The good child is happy, beloved, and is every one's friend.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 18th.

#### Invocation.

We thank Thee, Oh mighty Spirit of the Universe, for all the blessings thou hast bestowed upon us, and we rejoice to know that Thou dost not distinguish between the colours or classes into which Thy children are divided, but givest to all, without distinction,

the blessings of Life, Love, Reason, and Immortality. We thank Thee for those laws that permit the angels to mingle with us each day we meet in our Lyceums, and we are grateful to them for all the instruction they give us from time to time. We invite them to-day, and trust we may profit from their presence, even though we may not all see them in our midst. May our hearts be filled with a love as pure as theirs, and our minds with thoughts that may fit us to receive their teachings.

#### LYCEUM LESSON.

##### Subject—"CLAIRVOYANCE."

**Outline.**—Clairvoyance means clear seeing—It is a natural faculty latent in all—Some clairvoyants see only things belonging to this world, others see things in the spirit world, and some can see things in either world—A clairvoyant is not necessarily a spirit medium—The spirits can use the clairvoyant by picturing to him persons and scenes in the spirit world—Our Founder, Andrew Jackson Davis, describes it as "the superior state"—Clairvoyance can be developed by a course of mesmeric treatment, or by sitting in spirit circles—It is best when it spontaneously develops itself—In ancient days clairvoyants were called "seers"—Some clairvoyants can see into the human body, and detect its diseases, and also advise what remedies are best—Many Medical men use clairvoyants in their practice.

#### GROUP LESSONS.

##### Senior Groups. Subject—"CIRCLES."

**Outline.**—A Spirit Circle is where a number of people assemble to receive communications from the spirit world—There are various sorts of circles, dark circles, light circles, developing circles, materializing circles, etc.—Dark circles are necessary for certain forms of physical phenomena, but they are not the best—Light circles are held for developing, entrancements, writing—Developing circles are held for the purposes of developing mediums—Circles should always be orderly, held for useful purposes, and only attended by earnest minded people—No person under the influence of liquor, or of a quarrelsome nature, should ever be permitted to attend.

##### Junior Groups. Subject—"ASPIRATION."

**Outline.**—Aspiration is an uplifting of the thoughts to higher things—True aspiration elevates the entire life—It assists inspiration, and brings you into relation with the Divine in yourself, your fellows and Nature, and thus to God—Aspiration is the best form of prayer—Aspire every day after the highest and best your nature can reach to, and your life will be happy for yourself, and useful to your fellows.

##### Juvenile Groups. Subject—"LOVE."

**Outline.**—Little children should love each other—If they do they will love everyone else—Love your parents, and you will always make them happy—A loving child will never be cruel or unkind to animals—A loving child will become a good man or woman when grown up—You cannot expect to be loved unless you are loving yourself.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 25th.

#### Invocation.

Now that we are once more assembled let us raise our aspirations to the source of all wisdom, that we may be inspired therefrom. That we may be strengthened for the duties of our life, and purified in our thoughts. Let us resolve to be more loving and brotherly and sisterly to each other, and help one another in the difficulties and trials we are all called upon to bear, to the end that our lives may more and more conform to the life lived by the angels, whose help and inspiration we ask again this day.

#### LYCEUM LESSON.

##### Subject—"SPIRIT-COMMUNION."

**Outline.**—Spirit-Communion is the basis of Spiritualism—By it we hear from our beloved ones who have passed away. It is one of

the means by which we obtain proof of a life after death, and what the next life is for those who enter it. It should never be sought for frivolous or selfish purposes. It is a privilege and not a pastime. We should always seek to hold communion with the wisest and best from the other world, but we need not deny others if we can render them any really useful service. By Spirit-communion we have obtained the information that makes up the philosophy of Spiritualism.

#### GROUP LESSONS.

**Senior Groups. Subject—"HEALING."**

**Outline.**—No one system of healing will cure all diseases. Drugs and herbs have their uses. Magnetism will help some. Spirit influence will aid others. Hydropathy, electricity, the sun's rays, fresh air, careful diet are all remedies to be used. Healthful thinking is essential to health. Avoid dwelling upon whatever is wrong with your body or mind. Mental healing, "faith" cure, mesmeric treatment are each good in their places. It is better living rightly than to have to be cured from living wrongly.

**Junior Groups. Subject—"MORALITY."**

**Outline.**—Morality is the foundation of happiness. The moral man is honest, sober, and virtuous. The moral man will not allow wrong doing without protesting against it. He will not associate with vicious companions. He will check all evil impulses. He will ever strive by the force of his example to help others to rise, and will assist those who have fallen. He is an honour to his family and home, an example to his children, and a tower of strength to society and the nation.

**Juvenile Groups. Subject—"KINDNESS."**

**Outline.**—Be kindly affectionate to one another. Be kind to those weaker than yourself. Speak kindly; act kindly; think kindly; play kindly. The unkind are no one's friend. Kindness begets kindness. The kindly are always beloved.

### FIRST SET OF LESSONS FOR MAY.

SUNDAY, MAY 2nd.

Invocation.

Let us all join in thanksgiving that we are meeting here again today, and that our band of companionship remains unbroken. Let us send our loving thoughts out to those who have gone on before us, and ask that they will come to our help, guiding us in the ways of wisdom and truth. Let us thank the Father of all for his blessings, and for the blessedness that comes to us from communion with the beloved spirit friends. May we grow closer together in the bonds of brotherly love, and do our utmost to make the world bright with our good deeds while we are journeying through it. All of which we will strive for in the name of truth.

#### LYCEUM LESSON.

Subject—"HOME LIFE."

**Outline.**—Make home pleasant. It is the safest place for the young. Help your parents. Do not sulk or show off ill-temper at home. Remember how much is done for you there. Always be careful whom you take into your home. Never take home anyone that does not respect your father, mother, sister, or brother. If you are in trouble always go home to your parents for advice. Keep home pure, and all will be well with you. Happy homes are heaven upon earth—a refuge in trouble, a protection from temptation, a rest for the weary.

#### GROUP LESSONS.

**Senior Groups. Subject—"OUR DUTY TO ONE ANOTHER."**

**Outline.**—To bless each other by kindness, helpfulness, and sympathy; to succour those in distress; to assist the weak; to instruct the ignorant; to encourage the wayward in the right path; to set bright examples; to use our opportunities for good, and, in all things, to do our duty bravely, and honestly, before the world, whatever the consequences may be.

**Junior Groups. Subject—"MOTHER."**

**Outline.**—Honour thy mother. There is no one like a mother. Remember how she toils for you. Always give her a smile. Never be ashamed to kiss her. A good son is never ashamed of his love for his mother.

**Juvenile Groups. Subject—"BROTHERS AND SISTERS."**

**Outline.**—Brothers and sisters who love each other grow up good men and women. If you respect your sister you will respect the sisters of others. A brother's love is always worth retaining. Loving brothers are true friends. Love your brothers and sisters, and you will have many happy days.

**NOTE.**—The Lesson for the first Sunday in the month was given at the end of last month's syllabus. Conductors will take notice that the same course will be regularly pursued.

### WHAT OUR LYCEUMS ARE DOING.

**BOLTON.**—Report four days too late. See notices on Editorial page.

**BRADFORD, OTLEY ROAD.**—I am glad to report that we had a very good day on Sunday, March 6th. We had four recitations by three girls. Our old friend Mr. Long, read the Daisy page, Mr. Jackson gave good advice to the children and spoke well.—H. ARNOLD.

**CARDIFF.**—The Cardiff Lyceum celebrated the 49th anniversary of Spiritualism with a tea and entertainment.

**DARWEN.**—On February 27th, we had an excellent subscription meat tea and entertainment, which proved a great success. The entertainment consisted of several songs and choruses by the Lyceumists, also scarf drill by 10 girls, British Flag drill by 12 boys, and recitations by Miss E. A. Eccles, Miss M. A. Eccles, and others. The music was conducted by our conductor, Mr. Robert Suddall, accompanied by Mr. W. H. Thompson. An address was also given by Mr. M. Harwood, chairman, also a duet by Messrs. Simms and Butcher.—Miss E. A. Eccles, Secretary.

**HALIFAX.**—On February 27th, a grand tea and entertainment was given in the St. James' Hall, Bradford, by numerous Halifax Lyceumists. Tableaux Vivants, Songs, Solos, and Recitations were given. Our object was to assist the Bradford friends in furthering the cause in their district. The above entertainment was repeated at Heber Street Temple, Keighley, on Saturday March 6th, when it proved a complete success financially and otherwise.—F. TOWNSEND.

**LONDON, EDMONTON.**—The Lyceum is doing excellently, and is now entirely supported by voluntary contribution. A tea and entertainment will be held on Easter Tuesday. Cards denoting regularity of attendance are given each Sunday.

**MANCHESTER DEMONSTRATION.**—The Editor of the BANNER will preside at the Demonstration on Good Friday at Manchester. No doubt a large contingent of Lyceum workers will be in attendance.

**MANCHESTER, TIPPING STREET.**—March 7th, Lyceum open Session. Good attendance in afternoon, recitation by Miss Ettie Dempster, entitled "My Darling Doll;" Miss Annie Cheetwood, "A sabbath morn in the country;" others by Bessie Shawcross, and Mary Alice Gresty, followed by marching etc., by Lyceum, all was rendered in good style. A. E. Braham presided at the organ. Evening, Mr. Whelan kindly rendered his services as chairman, and the Lyceum sang new hymns very well indeed. Mr. Manning, speaker, gave excellent clairvoyant delineations and addresses both in the afternoon and evening, altogether very successful.

**NELSON, BRADLEY FOLD.**—On March 20th we had a social gathering, at which songs and recitations were nicely given by the scholars. Prizes were distributed for good attendance by Mr. E. Haskyn, the conductor; a very pleasant evening was spent.—E. H.

**OPENSHAW, GRANVILLE HALL.**—We had our Lyceum Open Session on March 14th, and a very good day we had. In the morning Mr. Davies, vice-president of our Society, gave a good address on "What is our object;" and Mr. Duffy gave some very good clairvoyance. At our afternoon Session, after singing the opening hymn, "Catch the sunshine," Mr. Duffy's guides gave an invocation which made us feel that we were on the right path in trying to bring the children up in the Lyceum. The children gave recitations in excellent style. Marching and Calisthenics were gone through, and this session was brought to a close by singing

that beautiful hymn "Let the lower light be burning." The evening session commenced at 6-30, when Golden and Silver Chain recitations were very ably rendered. The children again gave recitations. Miss J. A. Owen very kindly read that short story "What a girl did;" by W. Booth, in the BANNER for March. Marching and Calisthenics gave the audience something to talk about, and the paper read by Mr. W. Booth, entitled:—"The Lyceum, what is it?" was an eye opener to our visiting friends. The rest of the Session passed off very well, and I tender my best thanks to Mr. Davies for the morning service, to Mr. Duffy for his help all day, and to Mr. W. Booth for his excellent essay, and for so kindly officiating at the organ both afternoon and night.

JOHN SHAW, Secretary.

WISBECH.—Our Lyceum held its first anniversary on March 7th, when a service of song "Rest at Last" was efficiently rendered, singing by the children, connective readings by Mr. D. Ward. Solos by Mr. Barrell, and Mrs. Hill. On Monday, 8th, a public tea, when 60 of the Lyceum friends sat down. During the evening Golden chain readings and recitations were given by the scholars, and a number of prizes were presented for regular attendance, etc. The Marching and Calisthenics were gone through very creditably, the meetings were well attended, and we congratulate our conductor Mr. W. Hill, and leaders upon their first year's progress.—S. CROSS, Secretary.

### THE BANNER'S LETTER BOX.

Stockport Forward.

DEAR EDITORS.—I am an ardent worker in the Stockport Lyceum, along with Mr. Thos. Edwards, (Conductor) and others. We are making rapid, substantial, and permanent progress here. A glorious future appears to await us and the children. There is harmony in our ranks, and the Officers are a fine, earnest set of men and women, inspired with the purest and sincerest motives. Success, under these circumstances, is inevitable. We are going to make our Lyceum a true *model*—with its various coloured Rosettes, Badges, Flags, Conductor's Golden Rod, and the beautiful divinely harmonious Group names, based on Principles, such as Liberty, Progress, Love, Beauty, Purity, etc.

The children look forward to the Lyceum quite as interestedly and as pleasurably as the Leaders, and take their part well. The Concerts, Operas, Operettas, Song Services, and other efforts are grandly carried out by the elder and the younger members; we are also fortunate in possessing a first-class musical conductor, and a talented instrumentalist, in Messrs. Halsall and Wych, which gives us encouragement in our musical efforts. An original Operetta, words and music by Mr. J. R. Wych, our musical director, is to be produced shortly.

Yours fraternally, ISAAC PICKTHALL.

14, Heathland Terrace, Stockport.

[NOTE.—We publish the above letter as an encouragement to other Lyceums. More of the same kind of enthusiasm and devotion is needed in many cases. If such prevailed there would be fewer weak Lyceums, and lapsed ones would be unknown. What it is desirable to call particular attention to, is the matter of the Group names that Mr. Pickthall refers to. It is time something was done to ensure complete uniformity in this matter. So long as a sort of hap-hazard fashion prevails nothing but confusion can ultimately result. The Union should take up the question, and get the Conference to formulate a definite set of designations for our Groups, and every Lyceum should

follow the names adopted, certainly this should be the case with all in the Union.—EDITOR, L.B.]

#### Helping the Banner.

DEAR EDITORS.—For sometime past we have experienced a considerable loss per month in unsold LYCEUM BANNERS, and have felt there must be something wrong; (considering the small quantity we get, in comparison with the large number of Scholars we have), so we thought it was high time to remedy this wrong. At our last Committee Meeting we discussed the matter fully, and eventually decided upon a plan which we trust will not only remedy the matter, but will prove a much greater success than we at present anticipate.

Our plan of procedure will commence with April number. Members of the Committee have been appointed for each District, who will pay a visit to the homes of our Lyceum Scholars and take with them the LYCEUM BANNER, this course will fulfil two objects at one and the same time; 1st. A Visitation to our Lyceum Scholars. 2nd. A Distribution of the LYCEUM BANNER. We hope by this means to collect and keep together our members and also to increase considerably the Sale of the BANNER, in which we have a great interest. With every hope for its entire success,

I remain, yours fraternally, M. BRINDLE,  
Blackburn Lyceum, (Freckleton St.) Conductor.

#### Spiritualists' O.P.S. Victorian Commemoration.

DEAR EDITORS.—I notice that various efforts are being made to commemorate the long reign of the Queen, and as funds for hospitals, etc., are being instituted for that purpose, I beg to suggest that loyal Spiritualists all over the United Kingdom should contribute sums from one shilling upward to the Order of Progressive Spiritualists' Sick and Benefit and Pension Fund. It is a good thing to help other existing institutions, but I am afraid Spiritualists are not sufficiently alive to the necessity of helping their *own*. These O.P.S. Funds have done an amount of good, but much more *could* be accomplished if they were more generally supported. I suggest that such effort be called "The Spiritualists' Victorian Commemoration," that all contributions be acknowledged in the Spiritual papers and sent to either the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. R. Fitton, 44, Walnut Street, Cheetham, Manchester, or to the Hon. Sec., from whom all information *re* the O.P.S. Funds can be obtained, and to whom particulars of those in need of help should be forwarded. The names of those assisted not necessarily published.—I remain yours sincerely,

Mrs. M. H. WALLIS, Hon. Sec.  
164, Broughton Road, Pendleton, Manchester.

THE LYCEUM BANNER for January is on our desk. Since its Editor, Bro. J. J. Morse, has returned to his post it has been enlarged and vastly improved. This is a double number, containing about 32 pages, about the same size and shape as the JOURNAL. It is beautifully illustrated, and the reading matter could hardly be improved.—*Philosophical Journal*.

WHAT a grand size the BANNER is now! Who would have thought that you could have brought it to its present standard of excellence? We all admire it, and pray you may receive all the help you desire. I mentioned the matter of increased orders for BANNER to delegates, and they will see what can be done in the matter on Sunday. I have also asked Miss Lydia Meakin of Hyde Lyceum for next Zinograph and sketch, and she will oblige you, to be followed by Mr. Chisnall, President of Royton Lyceum.—J. B. LONESTAFF.

## GOLDEN GROUP—Continued from page 68.

Dog: "Dear! dear! what *is* this all about?"

Cat: "Oh, the merest trifle; almost nothing. The fact is I was springing at a mouse and knocked down a dish; wondering what it contained I smelt it, then just tasted it, and it was rather nice, so—"

Dog: "You finished it?"

Cat: "Well, I should have finished it if that Cook had not come in; as it was I left the head."

Dog: "The head? The head of what?"

Cat: "Why, of some grand fish that was meant for Master's dinner. I think it cruel to serve me so, for it was only an accident after all, and he could easily have had the cold meat instead. What do you say?"

Dog: "What do I say? Why I say how *can* Master eat meat, cold or otherwise, considering that to-day is Friday? He would lose his soul. (Aside.) Some people are ignorant!"

Cat: "Lose his sole? I didn't know he had another fish; and how could eating meat lose it?"

Dog: Oh, don't bother me, I have had just about enough of you; and I can only say that now I have heard *both* sides of the story I only wonder she *didn't* hang you!"

(Enter Cook; exit Cat. Curtain).

The next and last letter this time is from Smethwick, which is in Birmingham. Auntie is quite pleased to have it, as it gives a nicely-written account of an entertainment the Lyceum recently gave, which was so good that it was given three times altogether! Mr. Kent is a hard working Secretary, and is always trying to make the Lyceum more and more successful. Auntie likes letters that describes special things about our Lyceums. Well, here is a

LETTER FROM H. E. KENT, SMETHWICK, BIRMINGHAM.

DEAR AUNT EDITHA.—I think you and the members of our GOLDEN GROUP in general will be interested in knowing how we are going on at the Smethwick Lyceum. Last month we had an entertainment, given by the members of the Lyceum, and the programme consisted of "The White Garland," "The Babes in the Wood," and "Jack Frost," besides instrumental and vocal music. Mr. Smith very kindly undertook the task of training the children, and his efforts were ably seconded by the Misses Smith. The friends who witnessed the performances expressed themselves well pleased with the efforts

of the children, to whom a vote of thanks was accorded at the close of the second night's entertainment, as the programme was gone through on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. The officers have adopted a plan in the Lyceum by which we hope that at least one copy of the BANNER will go into the homes of each family represented. In February we presented one copy of the BANNER to each family, with the view of bringing it under the notice of all the parents, and in future we shall sell to each Lyceumist who wants it a copy for a half-penny. At first we thought of giving them away; but after discussing the matter we thought the children would prize them more if they paid something towards them, and so we adopted the plan above mentioned. In talking to our Editor last month, he told me that if Lyceums would take half as many again as they do at present the BANNER would be self-supporting. If other Lyceums would see their way to do this, we should soon arrive at the desirable end. To-day, at our Lyceum, we had between 50 and 60 take part in the calisthenics and exercises, and a stranger who was present expressed great satisfaction at the way in which the children conducted themselves. I may mention that our Lyceum Anniversary will be held on the 18th of April, and in the afternoon there will be service of song, compiled by Mr. Thomas Olman Todd, of Sunderland, who has kindly consented to give the readings. We shall be glad to welcome any friends who may favour us with their presence.

Fearing that I have trespassed too much upon your limited space, I will now close, and remain, yours truly in the cause of love and truth,

H. E. KENT, Hon. Secretary.

Birmingham, March 7th, 1897.

Just as Auntie was sending to the Editor, three more names came in from the Camberwell, London, Lyceum, there is just room for them in the list.

Now, as our Editor writes me he is short of room this month, Auntie must bring her letter to a close this time. So, for now, no more from your ever-loving, AUNT EDITHA.

## ROLL OF MEMBERSHIP.

## APRIL LIST.

COLNE.	BIRMINGHAM, SMETHWICK.
1112 Harry Dorrill.	1115 Lucy Morris.
1113 Sarah Alice Bean.	1116 Leonard Morris.
1114 Wm. Henry Baldwin.	
LONDON, CAMBERWELL.	
1117 Edith Partner.	1118 Elizabeth Beer. 1119 Francis Beer.



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