

THE LYCEUM BANNER.

A Spiritualist Magazine for Old and Young.

VOL. VII.

JUNE, 1897.

No. 79.

PORTRAIT GALLERY OF OUR LYCEUM WORKERS.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

No. 4.

MISS LYDIA MEAKIN.

WHILST the nation this month will celebrate in every city, town, village and hamlet, our Queen's Record Reign, we, as Lyceumists, will celebrate and honor one of our Lyceum Queens. Long may she live to help forward the Lyceum. Allow me to introduce to you the subject of this sketch, she says: "I was born at Bowden, Cheshire, educated and brought up in the Church of England teaching, and was a teacher therein for some time. My mother heard of Spiritualism in 1893, the Hyde Society having their meetings in the Grammar School at that time. She began to investigate, and I soon followed her example, and was attracted to its philosophy. Our



MISS LYDIA MEAKIN.

Lyceum was organised in March, 1895, Mr. J. J. Morse, our worthy Editor having consented to open it. Since then it has grown, and at our first anniversary we had with us for the day Mr. T. Olman Todd, of Sunderland. I have filled the position of Secretary since the commencement." Miss Lydia Meakin is, without doubt, a model Secretary, painstaking and conscientious in the discharge of her duties, and she has devoted herself to the utmost to serve the interests of the Lyceum. Her genial and ever courteous manner has gained for her a wide circle of friends, and her desire is to make one to brighten the pages of our children's paper, the only one devoted to the Lyceum cause in the world. She has been elected two years in succession as a delegate to the Lancashire Lyceum Demonstration Committee, she still retains that position, which shows that she has done her duty as a representative of the Hyde Lyceum.

J. B. LONGSTAFF.

THE ADVENTURES OF SOLOMON.

AS NARRATED BY HIMSELF TO THE EDITOR.

INTRODUCTORY.

The genius whose life and exploits the following narrative depicts, is one whom those who know him best have long since learned to admire and appreciate. His station in life is but humble, it is true, but his virtues and abilities are many, considering the limited sphere in which he has moved. As a politician and a preacher, his voice has been raised in favour of what he deems correct, while as a Temperance advocate he has made a mark for himself. His domestic life has not been unmarked by sorrow, but he has now the solace of a third partner to console him for the loss of the previous companions of his life. The incidents in the narrative that follows are all thoroughly well vouched for, Mr. G. F. Laycock and Mr. Joshua Wood, of Huddersfield, standing sponsors for their accuracy. Reader, peruse the adventures of Solomon, and you will rise from so doing none the worse for the time thus expended.—EDITOR.

PART I.

I HAVE been asked to tell the readers of the LYCEUM BANNER something of my life and experiences. Now, though I belong to a family that, in its day, has supplied millions of pens, and right good ones too, to the world, it so happens that I have never been taught to use one myself. But I have talked to the man they call the Editor, whatever that is, and he has written it all down as I said it to him. I am only a humble sort of a chap, and had no notion that I was anything out of the ordinary way. But it seems that some folks get great without knowing about it until they are told. Well, if I have done anything useful I am not ashamed of it; so there.

One of the first things this man asked me was "where was I born?" Well, I don't know! I suppose I must have been born, and somewhere, too. All I know about is that I believe I was born at Lockwood, but if I wasn't it don't much matter, for I got born, anyway. For some time I waddled about and had no particular ideas about anything, for you know a Goose is not supposed to be distinguished for brains. Indeed, one of the first things I heard said, that I

can remember, was a man calling a lad, and saying, why, you are as silly as a goose! Now, I didn't think I was more silly than that lad, if as much so, consequently, I felt grieved and hurt. It struck me that if people paid as much attention to geese as they do to childer, that they would find God had given geese more sense than folk imagined. I got over my vexation in time, but I determined to be a party that would show folk that even a goose might be what they call intelligent. Perhaps I wanted to do this because I was at times rather badly used by the childer, who used to throw stones at me. I think if I had had arms, instead of wings, I should have gone for them, and taught them that it was wrong and wicked to hurt any creature that could not defend itself against their mean and cruel doings. I am afraid if I had lived much longer with Mrs. Clay, where I believe I had been since I was born, I should have concluded that childer were the enemies of my tribe, and that I had come into a very cruel world. Fortunately for me, a change was to come over my affairs, and I was to get into kind hands.

I don't know whether I ought to tell this, but the fact is that Mrs. Clay and me had a little tiff, and, as she was ever so much bigger than me, she gave me a beating, because I did not do something she wanted me to do. I suppose it is right to correct wrong doing, but I didn't like it at all! I think a few kind words would have been better. However, I was getting to be a big chap, so I thought I would look around a bit. Albert street, where I was living, is not a very large place, and I thought I would like to see more of the world. But how to do it? that was the question. I had a very nice friend, a woman goose, who was called Sarah, and she and me talked it over many times, but without much coming of it. Sarah was very nice, but she was not much good at thinking. One day an idea came to me! A man came to our house every day with some white water in a can, I learned afterwards it was called milk. He appeared to be a decent and kind sort of man, and evidently went about a good deal. He used to come in at one end of our street, and then go out at the other end. Many a time I wondered where he went to. I think I should have treated him kindly at first, if it had not been for the stone throwing I used to suffer from, but I was getting bad tempered about this time, so when this man came I just pecked at his legs, for I wanted to see if he was a stone thrower too. He warn't (Solomon's English is a little peculiar at times, it will be noticed) and by degrees I allowed him to make friends with me. I heard them call him Laycock, and I found he was a man who sold the white water, no, I mean milk, to the people.

Finding he was really a very kind and nice sort of a man, I began to get quite fond of him, and to anxiously look for him every morning. In fact, as soon as I saw him coming down the street, at any time in the day, I used to run to meet him, and cry out as loud as I could to attract his attention. As soon as he found this out he was very well pleased, and as I knew him better, and felt I could trust him, I thought he was just the man to help me to see the world, so I decided to go out with him on his way. And some of the things I saw during my travels I will tell about.

I now began to go with him every day, and I soon learned that the grown up people were like the childer. Some of them were kind and some were not. The kind people always had a dish of water for me to drink out of, and it was very nice after a long walk. I soon learned to know the houses that Mr. Laycock called at, and sometimes I would run on first and wait until he came up. I went up many a yard, passage and street, and down into cellars as well. All the time I chattered away and said how much I was enjoying

myself, but Mr. Laycock didn't seem to understand me, though he often stroked my head, and patted me on the neck. I learned, too, where the last house we had to call at was, and then I would turn round and cackle to him, saying in my way, "come home lad, we've done our work, lead the way home." So home we went, like good boys, when we had done, and as we got near I used to call out to tell them that we were coming.

I had a funny experience once that I must tell you about. I am afraid I was a bit silly, but then I was only a goose, and as soon as I learned what a fool I made of myself, I never did it again, which is more than I can say of some who are not geese!

It was this way. I had got to be a bit famous, and as we passed a number of what are called "publics," at some of which we left milk, I was invited inside, as I was considered a bit of a marvel. Thinking I was doing something fine, I would take a little of what the company was drinking, and I think I must have had a liking that way, too. It was a grand thing to be made much of, and I was a little stuck up over it, just as I have since learned many soft and silly boys and men are at being praised, and told they were being "manly" when they took drink. Well, on one day I took more than was good for me, come to think over it all, I don't think any of it is good at all for either geese or men. Oh! my, wasn't I ill! I couldn't cackle, I could hardly see my way home, and I was too bad to give my usual salute as I got near my home, though I never missed doing so before or since. When I got all-right again I was very angry with Mr. Laycock for letting me get into such a mess, and making such a silly fool of myself. I must have looked a disgraceful and disgusting object rolling home in the way I was told I did. Many a time since when I have seen drunken men I have been most thankful I am only a goose.

I know the various "pubs" as Mr. Laycock calls them, and so I now take special care to keep outside the "Red" and "White" Lions. Shortly after my folly a little conversation like this passed between Mr. Laycock and me:—

"Come on lad, let's have a drink," says he.

"No," says I.

"Oh, yes, Solomon," says he.

Then, says I, "Look at the mess you got me into before!"

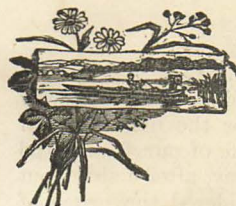
"Oh, never mind that. Come along old chap, we'll have a glass together."

Then I got quite angry and flew at him, bit his legs, and got so cross that I used language that you won't like to print. He then left off teasing me, and though I allow him to go in and have a glass by himself, I never allow him to take more than one. If he tries to I just go in and pull his leg, and give him a bit of my mind, and he is soon very glad to come out. If he does not know what is right, it is my place to teach him. Besides, geese have to keep up their characters as sober and temperate folk. A good character is worth more than all the beer in Huddersfield, and I wouldn't have the townfolk think I was a drinker, oh dear no!

Seeing that I was not to be tempted to take drink, Mr. Laycock used to carry with him a nice crust of bread, which he had soaked in water, and carried in his pocket ready for me. This was much better for me, as I got hungry with our longish walk every morning. I found out where he carried it, and as soon as I was hungry, I put my head in his pocket and took it out, and after that I always helped myself.

Now about Sarah, my companion at Mrs. Clay's. But, perhaps I have said enough for this time, so I will tell you about Sarah next time, she's a funny un.

(To be Continued.)



Our Daisies' Page

Edited by Daisy Dimple.

THE LITTLE DANCER.

(Concluded.)

"You must dance again" said the Manager, "or there will be an uproar." Ethel bounded on to the stage again, a final "hurrah" rang through the building, the band, which had had a rest, struck up again even more lively than before. Ethel was noticed to make a sudden stop—appear startled—and with a most radiant smile, enter even more gracefully into her dance than she had done before. Her father too, was fascinated, but not with Ethel this time. He saw what had influenced Ethel, and his heart was bursting with surprise, joy, hope, fear, excitement, and just many sensations which he could not understand, for just off the stage, in a vacant corner, where both their eyes fell, there appeared for a moment a beautiful white figure, her face suffused with smiles, not a shadow of care, pain or trouble, but a countenance which spoke forth all that the heart could possibly express to the hearts it loves. Tom was brought to himself by a renewal of the vociferous cheering of the audience, for Ethel had finished her dance with even greater honour than before. Ethel was the favourite of the night, the flowers and bouquets were of the richest profusion, everybody vied with everybody else to show her honour and kindness, her name was made, her success beyond recall. The Manager was so delighted that he ordered Ethel and her father to be conveyed to their home in his own coach, along with all the beautiful flowers.

When home was reached and supper ended, they conversed for several hours on their joys and sorrows. Ethel declared she had seen her mother, and had heard her words of courage, endearment, and trust. That her mother had told her that though dead, "she still lived" and took an interest in her child's success.

And what do you think they both did next morning? Why they hired a coach, and took all the loose flowers to the Cemetery, and decorated the mother's last resting place, but the bouquets they placed all about their home, for they both agreed that if mother was not in the grave, the only other place she could stay at would be the home where her darling Ethel lived.

DEWSBURY.—On Saturday, May 15th, at our rooms in Bond Street we held a tea, which was kindly given by Mrs. Parr, for which we were very thankful, in aid of the Lyceum Piano Fund. Some 220 persons sat down to tea. Afterwards Mrs. Thornton kindly gave good clairvoyance, which was followed by a social. The tea realised £5 5s. 3d., and altogether we had a very enjoyable evening.—ANN HIRST.

BRIGHOUSE SPIRITUALIST LYCEUM.

SUNDAY, JULY 4TH, 1897.

The LYCEUM SCHOLARS will give a SERVICE OF SONG,
Entitled: "A TERRIBLE LESSON; or the Story of a Strike."

The Connecting Readings by MISS MARY WOOD.

All are invited. A Silver Collection. Commence at 6 p.m.

LYCEUM NOTES AND COMMENTS.

BY ALFRED KITSON.

THE Lyceum Conference was a great success. The number of Delegates present, and Lyceums represented were the greatest known. The evening Demonstration was also the largest ever held.

* * *

NEW copies of the Union's amended constitution will be printed and sent to all Federated Lyceums as soon as possible.

* * *

THE financial year will in future close on the 31st of December in each year. All contributions must be sent in before that time.

* * *

It is earnestly hoped that Secretaries will find the change more convenient for filling up the returns, seeing that all names have to be written over to begin the new year with. They can then add up the attendances, fill up the form, and send it off without further trouble.

* * *

A GENERAL system of Calisthenics will be drafted and sent to all Lyceums during the year so that it can be decided upon at the next Conference. All who choose will thus have a voice in the matter.

* * *

ANOTHER Form will be sent out asking Lyceums to state what system of naming their Groups, &c., is followed, so that a general system can be adopted for all to follow. Then the Union can procure and keep in stock a uniform size and colour of banners, and badges, and thus be able to supply all their needs in that direction. This plan will save Lyceum Officers a lot of trouble, as they do not know what kind or colour of banners and badges to get, or where to get them.

* * *

I HOPE all the children who have books for the Children's Effort will hurry up and get all their books sold out, so that their secretaries can send it on as early as possible. I have a few more left for those who want them.

* * *

I SHALL have something to say on the Children's Progressive Lyceum Reform Pledge next month.

* * *

A CHILDREN'S Progressive Lyceum is announced in the *Transvaal Mail* of April 2nd, to be opened by the Johannesburg Spiritualist's Society. We shall be pleased to enroll them as honorary members of the B.S.L.U. We were delighted to learn at the conference that Mr. H. A. Kersey has received an order for two dozen copies of the *British Lyceum Manual* for the Johannesburg Lyceum, and our Editor an order for a regular monthly parcel of our BANNER. We shall be pleased to enroll them as honorary members of the B.S.L.U.

* * *

BEDWORTH Lyceum has joined the Union, and has been supplied with a certificate of membership, and a large copy of the Lyceum's Constitution free of charge. A cordial invitation is given to the remaining unfederated Lyceums to join us.

MR. ALBERT ELLIS, of the celebrated Ellis Family, of Blackpool, writes to say:—We shall be pleased to furnish every reader of the LYCEUM BANNER with a copy of our Directory of Character Readers, free of charge on receipt of 1d. stamp. Address them at South Parade Chambers, Promenade, Blackpool.

AN IMPRESSIVE EVENT.

AN event that, in a measure, recalls the salutation of the Gladiators of ancient Rome, who, upon entering the arena, passed before the Emperor, exclaiming as they saluted, "We, who are about to die, salute thee," recently took place at a session of the Liverpool C. P. Lyceum, No. 1, meeting in Daulby Hall.

It must be explained that for a number of years past, Mr. J. Stretton has held the position of Director of marching in the above Lyceum. Being a retired army man, he formed an ideal Director, and under his training the marching became as near perfection as possible, indeed few, if any other, among our Lyceums could excel the results attained. The members were greatly attached to Mr. Stretton, for there was nothing of the martinet about him. On the contrary, though firm he has that gentle loving manner with him that naturally attracts, and holds to him the affections of the young.

Unfortunately our good friend has been suffering from a lingering and incurable affection of the throat, and though trachetomy has been performed, and the resultant relief has been considerable, yet cure is impossible. The consequence of his complaint has been the entire loss of voice, and the complete shattering of health. So our dear brother finally decided to resign his position, and place his flag in the hands of the Lyceum.

Sunday morning, May 2nd, was the occasion when Mr. Stretton put his resolve into effect. There was a large attendance of members and visitors. At the usual period of the exercises, the marching was taken, and when the ranks were ready to give the customary salute to the officers and visitors, Mr. Stretton took his position between the two leaders of the right and left files. The conductor, Mr. S. S. Chiswell, then walked up the centre of the floor and handed Mr. Stretton's flag to him, who saluted on receiving it. The Conductor then returned to the platform. Mrs. Chiswell, Musical Directress, then played a slow march, during which time Mr. Stretton marched down the centre of the floor to the platform, carrying himself at the salute. On arriving at his place on the platform, the conductor read the following address, which Mr. Stretton was of course, unable to deliver himself, owing to the condition of his throat.

MR. STRETTON'S FAREWELL ADDRESS.

Mr. Conductor, Officers, Children and Friends of the Lyceum. In wishing you all farewell as the Leader of marching, do not think that all my interest in the same is over, no, if there was such a post as Inspector of marching, I should like very much to fill that position. I could then be of use to the Lyceum by pointing out any errors, and showing how they might be corrected, but of course, that is for your consideration. Do not think that this formality of handing over my Banner is in any way frivolous, to me it is very sacred. It separates me from that which I have loved so much. I may tell you that I have taken part in many such ceremonies, for it is the custom in all armies to go through one of the most elaborate and gorgeous ceremonial the church can perform in the consecration of Banners. Then, if the church can so debase herself as to beseech God's blessing upon the Banners under which fertile fields and villages are laid desolate, widows and orphans created, and war in all its horrors let loose, then, surely our Banner consecrated by Angel hands, with the mottoes of "Love, Truth, and Wisdom," is far more sacred in the eyes of a just and loving God, than all the Banners piled one on the top of another, of a blood-stained Europe. Good bye and God bless you all, is my sincere and earnest prayer.

J. STRETTON.

Mr. Stretton then reverently knelt and embraced his flag, while the notes of "Auld Lang Syne" impressively rolled forth, at the conclusion of which the flag was taken over by the Conductor. The entire company were visibly affected by the impressiveness of the event, the Conductor being quite overcome by his emotions, as was our dear friend himself.

IN MEMORIAM.

MR. B. H. BRADBURY.

As the mouthpiece for the time being of the Morley Lyceum, I hereby send you a report for the next issue of the BANNER, of the passing into spirit life of our friend and co-worker Mr. B. H. Bradbury, of Morley, after a short but painful illness, in what is generally considered the prime of life, viz. 47 years. We cannot measure a man's life by the length of his days, but by the work he has performed. In friend Bradbury we had a man who lived *long* by living *well*. For 25 years he has been a central pivot around which Spiritualism has revolved in his locality. He was ever foremost to advocate its claims, either on virgin soil or on the old and well beaten tracks, and he was ever ready to defend its truths when attacked by its opponents. As you are aware, he was an enthusiastic Lyceumist, and when nearly seven years ago he, with the writer and a few others, determined to form a Lyceum in connection with this society, his whole soul was filled with enthusiasm, and he cast in his lot with and for the children. From that day his best thought, his best work, was in and for the grandest movement the world had ever seen viz; the Lyceum movement.

His body was interred on May 7th, and the funeral was attended by members of all sects and denominations in the town, about 300 sympathising friends walking in the procession from his residence to the cemetery, where they met about 200 more.

Mr. Walter Howell conducted the services, first a portion in the cemetery chapel, but, on account of the vast concourse of people assembled, the principle portion of the service was performed at the grave side. Words fail me to describe the beauty, dignity, and solemnity of the service. Those who know our friend Mr. Howell best, will understand my poverty of description. We hereby tender to him our warmest thanks for his memorable services. I need not say that the breach created by the loss of Mr. Bradbury is a wide one and that his absence will be long and widely felt. His sympathies were broad, he mixed up with most of the various movements that have for their object the upliftment of humanity. Take him for all in all, "He was a man," and we can say of him what Burns said of his father, that he was the "Friend of man, the friend of truth, The friend of age, and the guide of youth."

T. ARCHER.

[NOTE.—The Editor joins Mr. Archer in his expressions of cordial endorsement of the work and virtues of our ascended brother, Mr. B. H. Bradbury. He was a staunch worker for the children, a good man, and in all things upright honest, and true. He greatly appreciated the LYCEUM BANNER, and had always a kind word for it and its Editor whenever we met him. Such men are worth knowing, such Spiritualists add lustre to our cause.—EDITORS L. B.]

LANCASHIRE LYCEUM DEMONSTRATION.—Next meeting of delegates at Church Street, Ashton, on Saturday, July 3rd (one week before demonstration). Our Ashton friends intend to unfurl their New Banner on this occasion. Tea at 4-30, tickets 6d. each, meeting afterwards. A concert will follow by the Ashton Lyceum, and other friends who have promised to assist, and it is hoped that it will prove a success. Admission, adults, 2d., children 1d. Delegates at this meeting are requested to state the number of tickets sold for our annual demonstration.—J. B. LONGSTAFF, HON. SEC.

20 per cent. of the sailors employed on British merchant vessels are foreigners.

CONFERENCE COMMENTS.

ACCORDING to custom, ever since the LYCEUM BANNER has been in existence, its Editor attended the Annual Lyceum Conference, and on another page will be found the regular report that he took of the proceedings. From London to Bradford is quite a journey, even in these days of rapid transit, and though the Calendar said it was May, the cold air and leaden skies of London would hardly allow one to believe that the flowery month was with us! Things were no better on arriving in Yorkshire, for rain had fallen, and the air was as cold and the skies as leaden as was the case in the metropolis, two hundred miles away. Fortunately, there are more things to make life pleasant besides the weather, so the welcome face of Mr. Whitehead, who met the traveller on his arrival, soon made amends for the dullness of the day. A short walk and we reached the Temperance Hall, where a number of friends had begun to arrive. There was the President, as cheerful as ever; the Secretary, full of the cares of his onerous office; the Treasurer, as genial as though he had millions at his command for the Union; and here and there an Executive, ready for a meeting that was to be held. Mr. Wallis, of Manchester; Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Chiswell and Ernest Keeling, of Liverpool; Mr. William Johnson, the veteran, of—well, anywhere and everywhere; not to mention genial Joseph, whose name is Armitage, and hosts of others from Lancashire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, from the banks of “the coaly Tyne,” and other spots and places too numerous to mention. All had a pleasant greeting for the BANNER man, and many kindly and complimentary things to say about his paper, which his natural modesty alone prevents him from recording here! All editors have to be modest, or their readers very soon teach them to practice that virtue, for who is the one that cannot edit a paper better than its editor? Many greetings, and exchanges of experiences since last meeting, whiled away the time until tea was ready, which, with commendable punctuality, was ready within five minutes of the appointed time! I believe a certain article is considered all the better for a smoky flavour, but in one’s tea that taste is not quite palatable. But that is a mere detail, and cannot always be avoided in the best regulated household. For some reason the provision made was in excess of the numbers present, but those who were there had no reason to complain as to the warmth of the occasion! A basement hall, with apparently little or no means of ventilation, except that provided by two doors at the end of the passages, is warm enough when the gas is alight, but come to put one hundred and fifty people into it, and then add hot tea urns, etc., and the enjoyment of the occasion is badly interfered with. Still it was a jolly party, and we all enjoyed the affair in our several ways and fashions.

After tea, the entertainment. I think it is a little mistake to have a lengthy programme on such occasions; indeed, an informal conversazione would be found more acceptable. The social element is the source of the greatest pleasure in such gatherings: a little music and singing, still less speech-making, and a general good time, would be found the best way to spend the evening. The committee on arrangements should always have a care of the kind of songs to be sung, the glorification of “swells” and “mashers” and the humours (?) of intemperance should be rigidly tabooed. The bulk of the entertainment was unobjectionable enough, and several of the artists acquitted themselves most ably and admirably. The Halifax Spiritualists’ Dramatic Society were deserving of special praise. The chairman did his best,

but he was almost inaudible in the gallery! There was no mention made of the fact that it was a welcome meeting to the delegates, but as they all felt quite at home the omission was not a serious affair. It was plainly evident that the local friends had worked hard and ably to secure the success of the gatherings, and that they were successful in cheerfully admitted by us all.

The proceedings on Sunday were worthy to rank with the best Lyceum Conference the writer has attended. The order and business-like proceedings of the Conference were most commendable. A spirit of sweet reasonableness prevailed all the time, and a determination to go on with the business was manifested by all at both meetings. The President made a capital presiding officer, the Secretary was full of information, which was always ready when wanted, and the Delegates were quite alive to the importance of their duties. These annual conferences have been the means of a splendid education for quite a number. The result is a broader mind, and a more liberal spirit is now manifested at each recurring gathering. The Delegates were very materially assisted in their labours by the full publication of the several reports, etc., in the BANNER for last month, and it was noticeable that nearly all the remarks on the live issues that came up had evidently been suggested by the Editorials in the same issue of this paper. This is a further illustration of the usefulness of the Union’s official organ.

The evening meeting, on Sunday, was one to be remembered! The handsome St. George’s Hall was a sight to see. Quite 2,500 people in the hall, and, most delightful sight, some 200 children massed upon the spacious platform. Their sweet voices touched all hearts and many an eye was dimmed as the lovely strains from youth and innocence floated forth into the vast auditorium.

The Editor was glad to meet many old and dear friends again, though he was more than sorry not to see his old friend, Mr. Bradbury, whose sudden departure was a sad surprise to us all. But the workers did not forget those who had been promoted, as the report of the doings, published elsewhere, will show. The local friends were very kind and attentive to the BANNER man, and he thanks Mr. Whitehead for meeting him on his arrival, Mr. and Mrs. Cookson for their kindly hospitality, Mrs. Rains, and other workers at Milton Rooms, for attentions rendered there, and others whose names are not recorded, for favours shown. A word must be said in recognition of the most kindly expressions made concerning the BANNER, its work, and its Editors, by that most earnest worker, Bro. S. S. Chiswell, for which he, and the delegates who all united in so warmly seconding our friend’s observations, are most heartily thanked. It is such things that make life all the sweeter and toil all the lighter.

It was an excellent series of meetings, and I cannot do better than quote the words of one whose name is literally “as familiar as household words” in every Lyceum throughout the land: Mr. H. A. Kersey, who, in a letter received a few days after the Conference, remarked: “Such gatherings as these I consider of untold benefit to our cause; they strengthen and cheer the workers, and enable them to realise some result from their labours; they are too often disheartened with the apathy and coldness of those who should support and cheer them.” May each succeeding Conference bring us all into closer sympathy with each other, so that we may be increasingly able to successfully labour for the welfare of the children, nobler toil than which cannot occupy head, heart, or hand.

THE EDITOR.

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** AMERICAN and Canadian correspondents are informed that the postal rate for a letter weighing not more than half an ounce is five cents, and not *two cents*. Foreign correspondents are desired to see that their letters are sufficiently stamped in all cases, otherwise we shall be compelled to refuse them.

The Lyceum Banner.

JUNE, 1897.

OUR MONTHLY CHAT.

The Late Conference. THE Conference of 1897 was a most pleasant one, the spirit of fraternal goodwill being conspicuous. Quite a number of useful suggestions were debated, and the question of the nomenclature for our Groups at last received the needed attention. The evening meeting was an immense success. The full report we publish in this issue will refresh the recollections of those who were present, and afford a full account for the benefit of those who were unable to attend. The BANNER returns its thanks to Mr. Kitson, our Union Secretary, for kind assistance in the matter of our Report. The Editor's descriptive letter will also prove useful reading.

Temperance. THE Temperance question came up for discussion, Mr. A. Smedley, Belper, delivering an excellent speech upon the matter. We will try and give a column each month in the BANNER for items of Temperance news, but we cannot devote space to controversies on the question. When our paper pays we can give you more matter, and so have more space at command. As it is we are sadly crowded because we cannot afford to give more room.

The Proposed S.N.F. Poll Deed. The Spiritualist National Federation will be considering the Proposed Poll Deed, at their Conference in Blackburn, next month. The representatives of the B.S.L.U. should be there to watch the interests of the Lyceum work, and to discover and understand what effect the Proposed Poll Deed will have upon the Lyceums, and our Union. According to the advance copy of a rough draft of the Deed that Mr. Todd has courteously sent to the Editor of the BANNER, there is provision made therein regarding our Lyceums, but, at the same time, our delegates can do no harm by being present and alert at the National Conference.

Our New President. THIS month the BANNER gives you a picture of our new president, Mrs. Greenwood. Candidly, it does not do her justice, for she is much better looking than the combined efforts of the photographer and block maker would make it appear. But the sterling

character she possesses makes all amends for the imperfections of her likeness. There is a peculiar fitness in a woman being the president of a body, such as ours, which is devoted to the welfare of childhood and youth. The BANNER salutes the president and wishes her every success during her term of office, while being sure she will receive the loyal support of the Executive in particular, and our Lyceums in general.

South Africa. The BANNER extends its fraternal and hearty congratulations to our friends in Johannesburg upon having opened a Lyceum there. May every success crown the effort, and may the humanising influence of Spiritualism bring forth good results in the far away land, wherein our brethren are so earnestly working for God, Humanity and Truth.

THE JOHANNESBURG SPIRITUALIST SOCIETY.

At the Good Templar's Hall, Loveday Street, on Sunday evening last, Mr. T. Kirby, President of the J. S. Society, read a paper on "Spirit Influence," after which a brief address was delivered by Mr. W. Taylor, the subject being "Practical advantages associated with a knowledge of the facts pertaining to modern Spiritualism." Good attention was paid throughout. At the close of the address the speaker gave an account of the progress to date in connection with the new institution, "The Johannesburg Progressive Lyceum," concluding by announcing that the formal opening of the Lyceum will take place at 2-30 p.m. on Sunday, May 2nd. Parents, with their children, and all interested in the good work, are cordially invited to be present on the occasion, when the Conductor of the Lyceum will deliver an address on the proposed work of the Lyceum and its constitution. We are asked to request a full attendance of members and friends of the parent Society. Full particulars can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. L. A. de Wolf, P. O. Box 2962.—*The Transvaal Mail, April 23rd, 1897.*

SOME THINGS SPIRITUALISTS BELIEVE.

At a recent Spiritualist Convention in New York, according to a report thereof in the *Banner of Light*, we notice that Dr. F. L. H. Willis reported for the Committee on Resolutions the following, which was adopted:

"We believe in the Infinite Spirit and Intelligence called God, and the immortality of every human being. We believe that every individual is a divine germ, capable of infinite unfoldment.

"We recognize the universal brotherhood and sisterhood of mankind.

"We assert that a continued life is proved by present revelations of positive communion between the mortal and spiritual worlds.

"We believe in love, purity and fidelity as the secret of religion and justice as the highest moral law."

BRADFORD. — Milton Rooms Lyceum will hold their Lyceum Anniversary on Sunday, June 27th. Speaker, Mr. A. C. Holmes, Chairman, Mr. Burchell. Meetings at 2-30 and 6-0 p.m. Special songs and solos will be sung. Tea provided at 4d. each.

THE ORDER OF PROGRESSIVE SPIRITUALISTS.—Since the announcement of the Victorian Commemoration Shilling Fund in our May issue, Mrs. M. H. Wallis reports the receipt of 156 shillings. Since early part of April the Sick and Benefit Fund has received from various sources £9 13s. 3½d. The Pension Funds for Mrs. Barnes, Nottingham, and Mr. W. Wallace, London, have received 5s. and 10s. respectively. Cannot a Penny Collection be taken in every Lyceum and Society on Sunday, June 20th? We could "commemorate in good sooth then the Queen's record reign by good deeds for the sick and needy.

SEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

FULL REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS.

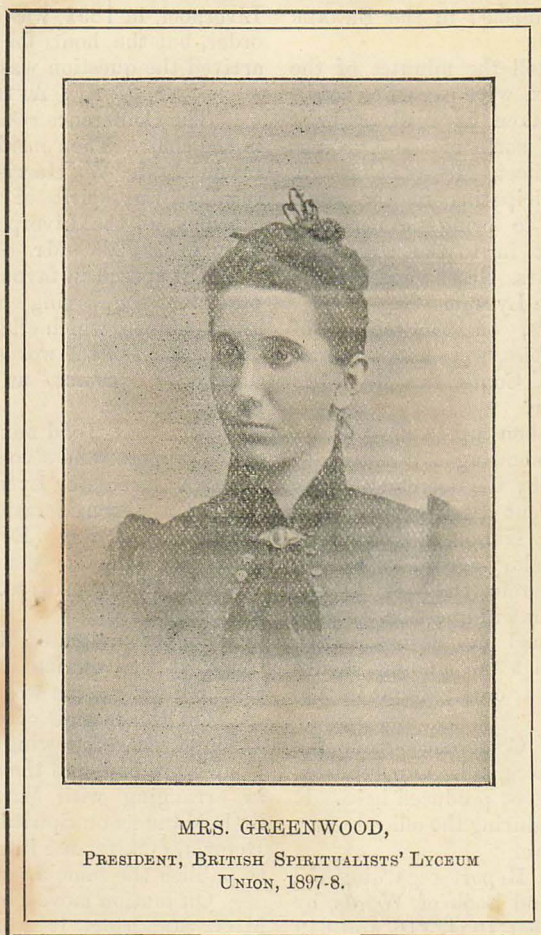
THE Seventh Annual Conference of the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union was held at Bradford, on Saturday and Sunday, May 8th and 9th, the proceedings covering two days. The various local arrangements were carried out by the united Lyceums of the town, and the committee of arrangement deserve hearty praise for their untiring efforts for the success of the gatherings.

On Saturday afternoon a tea was held in the lower room in the Temperance Hall, Leeds Road, at which nearly two hundred were present. Ample provision was made for much larger numbers, but the room used is hardly suitable for the purpose, when so many are crowded into it the place becomes insufferably hot. The catering was good, and all seemed to enjoy what had been provided. At half-past seven the Chair was taken in the large upper hall by Mr. J. Parker, who made a feeling reference to the sudden and unexpected departure to the Higher Life of our esteemed and honoured co-worker, Mr. B. H. Bradbury, of Morley. In response to the request of the Chairman the entire audience rose and passed a standing vote of sympathy and respect to the family of our ascended friend. The entertainment was of the usual nature, songs, recitations and speeches. Miss Schofield deserves special mention for a spirited rendering of "Flora McNeal," and the Brothers Lurries for capitably executed Banjo music. The proceedings were greatly enlivened by the presence of the Halifax Spiritualists' Dramatic Society, several members of which sang and recited in excellent style. This company presented a series of well dressed and capitably posed Tableaux, the beauty of which would have been materially enhanced, had a curtain as a background been used. They closed the entertainment with a very creditable performance of a bright little farce, "An Alarming Sacrifice," which was given with considerable spirit and go. The speakers were Messrs Chiswell and Wallis, and the Editor of the BANNER.

The meetings of the Conference proper, were held on Sunday, in the Milton Hall, Rebecca Street, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., respectively, the chair being occupied by Mr. William Mason, Burnley, the President of the Union.

THE CONFERENCE.

The Conference was called to order, the President in the Chair at 10, and at the invitation of the presiding officer, Mr. E. W. Wallis gave the opening Invocation. On motion, Messrs. Collins and Crann were appointed as Tellers for the day.



MRS. GREENWOOD,
PRESIDENT, BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM
UNION, 1897-8.

On the motion of Mr. Alfred Kitson, seconded by Mr. S. S. Chiswell, the Conference passed by rising, a vote of condolence and sympathy with the widows and families of our ascended brothers, Mr. Peter Lidget, of Parkgate, and Mr. Bradbury, of Morley; the mover and seconder speaking in the highest terms of respect of our departed friends, eulogising their work, and unselfish interest in and for our Lyceums. They were sure our friends were with us still; and though unseen and unable to outwardly participate in the deliberations of the day, they were surely with us, and would inspire and encourage us from the new life that they had entered into.

The following is a List of the Delegates present, and the Lyceums they represented: Accrington (Whalley Road), Messrs. William Williams & R. Allerton; Armley, Messrs. F. Campion and John Wilby; Batley Carr, Miss L. Mortimer; Batley, Mr. A. E. Brooke; Belper, Messrs. A. Smedley & A. Bodell; Blackburn, Messrs. J. W. Moss & T. Helland; Bradford Lyceums, (Rebecca St.), Mrs. Raines, and Mr. F. Naylor; (Otley Road), Mr. Jno. Jackson, (Boynton St.), Messrs. Worsmam and Barraclough; (Walton Street) Messrs. J. Seaton and T. Pell; (St. James' Church), Mr. J. H. Smith; Brighouse, Miss M. Wood and Mr. S. Thornton; Burnley Lyceums, (Hammerton Street), Misses Layfield and Wrathall; (North Street), Messrs. J. Banks and P. Anforth; Bury, Mr. P. Birkett; Colne, Messrs. H. Norrison and H. Fitton; Dewsbury, Miss Hurst and Mr. R. Whinpenny; Elland, Messrs. F. Smith and E. Swift; Halifax, Messrs. J. Wilby, J. Baldwin and J. Moore; Huddersfield Lyceums, (Brook Street), Messrs. J. Briggs and H. L. Westerley; (St. Peters' Street), Mr. A. Fearnley; Hyde, Mr. Wm. Johnson; Keighley, Messrs. J. Thorpe and F. P. Pollard; Leeds, (Psychological Hall) Mr. McDonald; Liverpool, Mrs. Chiswell and Mr. E. A. Keeling; Manchester, (Collyhursts) Messrs. T. Taylor and C. Campbell; Middlesborough, (Grange Road) Mrs. H. Naylor; Morley, Mr. Duxbury and Miss Taylor; Nelson, (Bradley Fold), Mesdames Alsop and Barker; Newcastle-on-Tyne, Messrs. H. A. Kersey and W. Moore; Nottingham, Mr. J. Clark; Oldham, Misses F. Crompton and M. Standing; Ossett, Mr. W. Illingworth; Pendleton, Mr. J. Gibson; Rawtenstall, Messrs. F. Coupe and A. Hawarth; Rochdale, (Bailey Street) Mr. R. Kay; Rothwell, Mr. Arthur T. Hoyle; Slaithwaite, Mr. J. Sutcliffe; Sowerby Bridge, Misses M. Thorpe and E. J. Sutcliffe; Stockport,

Miss L. E. Medcalfe and Mr. T. Edwards; Sunderland, Mrs. T. O. Todd; Walsall, Mr. J. Venables; West Vale, Mr. F. C. Ingham. This gave a list of 69 Delegates, representing 43 Lyceums out of the 84 Lyceums in the Union, as per the list of the same published in the BANNER for last month.

On the motion of Mr. A. Bodell the minutes of the previous year's Conference, at Halifax, were passed as read.

The Secretary's Report was taken as read, a brief discussion occurring on the failure of some of the Lyceums to send in the Statistical Returns sheet, Messrs. Chiswell, Johnson, Kersey and Harrison participating in the same. The result was that D.V.'s be urged to bring the necessity of prompt and full returns being sent in to the Union by either the Conductor, as urged by Mrs. Greenwood, or the Lyceum Secretaries as now before the Lyceums.

The District Visitors' Reports, on the motion of Mr. Chiswell, seconded by Mr. Venables, were adopted, and the D.V.'s heartily thanked by the Conference for their valuable services during the past year.

The Balance Sheet was next taken up, and quite a lively discussion arose over an item showing a donation to the funds of the Union, of £7, made by the Secretary of the Union. In the result, while all present heartily recognised the generous spirit that animated Mr. Kitson, it was agreed that as the funds permitted the full salary agreed to be paid to him, that the Balance Sheet be referred back to the Auditors for correction, and the amount in question be paid to Mr. Kitson. Mr. Kitson explained his desire in the matter, but the general feeling was that the amount should have appeared as a debit, and not as a credit item in the accounts.

An interesting Report to the Conference from the President was next presented, and accepted. Our reporter failed in getting a copy, so it cannot be produced here. It showed a large amount of work done during the official year, and was of a highly satisfactory nature.

Mr. H. A. Kersey presented his Report regarding the sales of the "Manual," "Songster," and Book of Words, by which the Conference was informed that 1054, 116, and 649 copies of each work respectively, had been sold since his last report, that is down to March 31st of the present year. Some complaints were made as to the difficulty that had occurred in some cases of procuring "Manuals," and the matter having been explained was then dropped.

The following Amendment to the Constitution of the Union, recommended by the Executive Committee, was then, on the motion of the Secretary, seconded by Mr. W. Williams, carried:—That in Article 6, paragraph 1, the "1st of February" be substituted for "March 14th;" and that in paragraph 3, "December 31st" be substituted for "March 31st," and "February 1st" for "April 14th."

On the motion of Mrs. Greenwood, seconded by Mr. W. Harrison, the following resolution, from the Halifax and Huddersfield District Council, was passed: "That the Lyceum District Visitors (when not representing any Lyceum or District Council, and the said District Council not otherwise represented) be acknowledged as Delegates of the Conference, and be entitled to vote at the Annual Conference of the Union, and be paid their travelling expenses for attending the same.

The next motion was proposed by Mr. A. Smedley, for the Belper Lyceum, as follows: That the Conference officially recognise the desirability of definite instructions in the Lyceums, in the principals of total abstinence from all

intoxicants, and cordially recommend the formation of Juvenile Temperance Societies in connection therewith.

The President, having been informed that an almost identical motion was passed at the Conference held in Liverpool, in 1892, was inclined to rule the motion out of order, but the hour for the mid-day adjournment having arrived the question was laid over until the afternoon.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Conference re-assembled at 2-20 p.m., the President in the chair. The consideration of the Belper motion being resumed, Mr. W. Harrison moved: "That this Conference re-affirm the spirit of the motion moved by Mr. Urban Smedley, at the Liverpool Conference, and passed by that body in 1892." Mr. A. Smedley made a powerful and eloquent speech in favour of the motion, and after an earnest plea for the saving of the children from the evils of intemperance, which elicited loud applause, the motion, with the addition of the words, "And that a copy of this motion be sent to all Lyceums," as added by the seconder, was carried by acclamation.

Mr. T. O. Todd next moved: "That it shall be the right of the proposer and seconder of any motion, which directly affects a Lyceum or Lyceums, when lost, to demand a poll vote as a re-consideration of the question, on which re-consideration only Representatives from Lyceums in financial compliance shall be entitled to vote."

Mr. W. Johnson seconded, and after a few remarks it was passed.

On the motion of Mr. Wm. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Clark, it was carried that the Union draw up a proper Constitution for the working of all District Councils.

On the motion of Mr. H. A. Kersey, seconded by Mr. Holland, the following motion was passed: "That this Conference endorses the action of the publishing committee in arranging with Mr. Todd to write some "up-to-date" little Manuals on Spiritualism, Physiology, Religion, Morals, Reform, etc., for use in our Lyceums, and that they proceed to publish the same as soon as ready."

On motion moved by Mr. H. A. Kersey, seconded by Miss Standring, it was resolved: "That the Executive Committee be instructed to enquire into the present system of naming Groups in our Lyceums, and to draw up a suitable system for British Lyceums, and to present the same to the next Conference in order that the Officers' Edition of the Manual may be completed, and that the Union may be able to contract for the insignia that may be required."

Mr. Todd pointed out that this matter had engaged the serious attention of himself and Mr. Morse, the Editor of the BANNER, before that gentleman went to California, and that they had drafted a system. Unfortunately it had got put aside, but during the past week Mr. Morse had been his, Mr. Todd's guest, and during that time they had created another system, that he thought was in every way adapted for the purpose. No doubt, as soon as it was written out it would be presented to the Union for consideration. The motion was adopted.

Mr. J. Venables moved: "That our Lyceum Conference urge upon all Lyceums the necessity of taking up the matter of the scholars effort on behalf of the Spiritualists' National Federation Bazaar, in Manchester, at Easter, in 1898, and as described in a letter in the LYCEUM BANNER for March last." After some commendatory remarks from Mr. Johnson, who seconded the motion, the Conference unanimously adopted the proposition.

Mr. T. O. Todd then raised the question of a medal to

commemorate the Jubilee of Modern Spiritualism, to be presented to every Lyceum scholar throughout the land next year. He submitted specimens and prices, and after remarks from Messrs. Smedley, Chiswell, Kitson, Johnson, and others, it was voted "that the Executive be empowered to take Mr. Todd's suggestion into consideration, and if they accept it to carry it out." Mr. Todd announced that he had received promises of nearly £10 towards the cost.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

On the nomination of Mr. W. Johnson, Hyde, Mrs. Greenwood, Sowerby Bridge, was elected by acclamation as President for the ensuing year.

The following were elected as the Executive Committee for the coming year: Messrs. T. O. Todd, Sunderland, J. Clark, Nottingham, H. A. Kersey, Newcastle-on-Tyne, S. S. Chiswell, Liverpool.

The Publishing Committee were next elected, the following being those selected: Messrs. Todd, Johnson, Mason and Harrison.

Mr. T. Taylor, Manchester (Collyhurst), and Mr. Wm. Mason, Burnley (Hammerton-street), the retiring President, were elected as the Union delegates to the National Federation Conference at Blackburn, in July next.

PLACE AND DATE OF NEXT CONFERENCE.

Quite a lively competition developed for the honor of having the next Conference. In the result Accrington (Tabernacle) succeeded in its invitation by an unanimous vote, though Walsall ran it very close indeed. The date of next year's Conference was fixed for the second Sunday in May.

AUDITORS.

Messrs. Jos. Briggs, Huddersfield (Brook Street), and R. Whimpenny, Dewsbury, were elected Auditors for the year.

THE LYCEUM BANNER.

Mr. S. S. Chiswell, Liverpool, in a feeling and appreciative speech, reminded the Conference that they had with them that day their good friend and brother, Mr. J. J. Morse, the Editor of the official organ, the LYCEUM BANNER. Last year he was far away in California, and as this was his first appearance in our Conference since his return, he, the speaker, thought it only right and proper that official notice should be taken of that fact. He hoped that all the Delegates and Lyceum Officers throughout the country, did their best to promote the circulation of the official organ, as therein all that concerns our work is to be found. In the May issue of the BANNER they would see that everything necessary for their use at the Conference meetings had been provided, and it could be affirmed that our official organ was in all respects a credit to us and our Union. He moved that the hearty congratulations of the Conference be extended to our brother upon his good work in America, and on his safe return home. On the seconding of Mr. Wm. Johnson, the motion was enthusiastically carried.

The Editor made a brief, sympathetic and suitable reply, which was heartily applauded.

The usual votes of thanks to the retiring officers, the local societies, and all who had contributed to the success of the Conference were then adopted with many cheers, and the business of the Seventh Annual Lyceum Union Conference was thus duly closed in love and harmony.

THE SUNDAY EVENING DEMONSTRATION.

The series of Meetings were brought to a close on Sunday Evening by a Demonstration meeting in the Victoria Hall, a magnificent building capable of seating 5,000 people.

It was estimated that there was over 2,500 people in the Hall during the meeting, and over 300 children, from the United Bradford Lyceums, were massed upon the spacious platform. The large company on rising to sing the opening hymn presented quite an imposing and inspiring appearance.

Mr. W. Mason, the late President, occupied the chair, and the meeting was opened by the children singing "Sing unto God," the volume of sweet sound producing a most beautiful effect as the sweet youthful voices rolled forth. A soulful Invocation was delivered by the inspirers of Mr. Morse, and during the evening eloquent and able addresses were delivered by Mr. S. S. Chiswell, who illustrated his excellent remarks by appropriate extracts culled from "Great Thoughts," the "Manual," and the "Banner of Light." His able plea for a better and larger education for the child of to-day was enthusiastically received.

Mr. Johnson, contrasted the past with the present. Now we have nearly a hundred Lyceums, he could remember when there was only one! He thought the meeting something more than a triumph for the old workers who had done so much in the past.

Mr. T. O. Todd, who saluted the children on the platform, as well as the friends in the audience, said it was all because of a little child that they were there at that time. A little child laid the foundations of our communion years ago, and it was through the mediumship of a little child that he obtained the convincing proofs that made him into a Spiritualist.

Mr. J. J. Morse, who warmly eulogised the work for the children that the Lyceum was doing to-day, reminded his hearers that the Lyceum work originated in the Spirit World, and was given to us by Andrew Jackson Davis, whom he was proud to number among his personal and valued friends. He hoped that at our jubilee next year, the Lyceums would unite in sending a message to Mr. Davis as a token of their appreciation of the good gift he had brought them.

Mrs. Greenwood, president elect, made some touching remarks. She considered the Conference was Children's Day, and urged all to continue the good work for the rising generation.

Mr. J. Armitage then detailed how the Lyceum was started in Batley Carr, with five of his own daughters for members, and Mr. Alfred Kitson, as Conductor, now Yorkshire was teeming with Lyceums.

Mr. Kitson, who brought tears to many eyes, closed the speech-making with a pathetic recital of how he had been led to talk Spiritualism to his young child, and how it had caused him to not repine for his children who had passed away.

A most enjoyable meeting was made further so by the excellent solo singing of Miss Schofield, who rendered "Consider the Lilies," and Miss Lockwood, who favored the meeting with "A Dream of Paradise."

The meeting closed a little before half-past eight, and it is safe to say that all present spent a most enjoyable evening. The collections at the Conference meetings were: Morning, £1 10s. 7d., Afternoon, £1 16s. 5d.: total, £3 7s. 0d.

THE EDITOR.—HIS POEM.

Who weeps with you when you are sad, and laughs with you when you are glad, and swears with you when you are mad? The Editor. Who has to be both kind and wise, and never, hardly ever, lies, and when he does, creates surprise? The Editor. Who owns a heart, as well as cheek, is possessed of a spirit proud but meek, and lives on forty cents a week? The Editor.—*Weekly Enterprise*.

SYLLABUS OF LESSONS FOR JUNE.

COMPILED BY THE EDITOR.

Invocation.

We thank thee, our Father, for life, and for the disciplines of life; although at times it may seem rough and rugged with us, yet thou canst not commit an error—thou doest all things well. We would come to thee as a little child would go to an earthly parent, asking that thy benediction may rest upon all humanity forever.

LYCEUM LESSON. Subject—"LIFE AND HAPPINESS."

Outline.—The end of our actions must be that life is lived wisely. There is no real happiness apart from wise living. He is happiest who makes others happy. Life is not for us to waste it in vain pursuits, useless ambitions, or evil living. All men have a right to live, and it is the duty of each to live the best. The temperate are happy, the kindly are happy, the virtuous are happy, the honest are happy. Life is of the Divine Spirit, and we should honour the Divine, by living wisely and well. The life of the body demands our care, as well as that of the mind and spirit.

GROUP LESSONS.

Senior Groups. Subject—"SOME OF OUR SAINTS."

Outline.—What does the word saint signify? Sacred or sanctified. What do those terms imply? Specially devoted to certain things or pursuits. Not called of God, as usually supposed. A saintly person is one then who for the good he or she may do, devotes his or her life to a particular form of study or action. Religion, philosophy, art, science, morals and human progress have each had their saints. Socrates, Plato, Spencer, Shakespeare, Tennyson, Longfellow, Galileo, may all be claimed as our saints. Aspasia, Hypatia, Joan of Arc, Florence Nightingale and Grace Darling are also saints whom we delight to honour.

Junior Groups. Subject—"FIELDS AND FLOWERS."

Outline.—A man's life is like a field. It must be tilled, sown and kept weeded if it is to bring forth a good harvest. Some fields are given over to wheat, others to other grains or vegetables. Some are left for cattle to graze on. Others are left for the trees and flowers to flourish in. So some of our lives are filled with grain of usefulness, some are spent in ministering to the needs and sorrows of our fellows, and some of us, by our talents and gifts are able to afford rest and pleasure to others, as do the fields with their grass, trees and beautiful flowers.

SUNDAY, JUNE 13th.

Invocation.

Oh, Spirit Divine! we this morning approach thee as a child would approach its parents, desirous of the assistance and sustenance that we need, wishing to come under thy will, and not mine, realising the great power that prevails on all sides, and thy wonderful magnetic current that holds all things here. We wish this morning to come seeking more knowledge, wisdom and strength, according to the needs of the hour, that as we open the gates between the two worlds they may be opened and swung back on the hinges of love.

LYCEUM LESSON. Subject—"WE CAN ALL DO GOOD."

Outline.—Neglect of opportunity robs us of the chance of many a good action. Do not wait to do a big thing, the little kindnesses are as much needed as the larger ones. Never be too busy to speak a kind word, or to do a good turn. Sympathy costs nothing, but who can measure the good it can do? If evil companions entice, you can do good by refusing their company. Appreciate all the good others do to you, and return it by all means in your power. You can do good in your Lyceum by careful attention to all that is done there. It is good to assist the officers, to be loving and courteous to the members. By trying to put into practice all the good lessons you learn each Sunday. We can all do good if we only would try.

GROUP LESSONS.

Senior Groups. Subject—"STAND FOR THE RIGHT."

Outline.—Take this for your motto: "He who seeks the truth and trembles at the dangers he must brave, is not fit to be a freeman, he at best is but a slave." The true moral hero must be prepared to brave all forms of persecution and abuse. The cunning and the powerful, and the unjustly rich, will oppose and malign him at all times. But he must gird on his armour and be not afraid. God and the angels are on his side. Policy and expediency are the worst enemies to progress. Stand for what your own soul tells you is right.

Junior Groups. Subject—"UNDER THE EARTH."

Outlines.—There are coal, iron metals, and various chemical substances under the grass we tread upon. There are lakes, seas, caverns and wondrous fires under the earth. The top of the earth is said to cover immense fires hotter than the hottest furnace heat.

Under the earth are the mighty rocks. By the sciences of Geology, Chemistry and Mineralogy, we are learning continually more and more about what is under the earth.

SUNDAY, JUNE 20th.

Invocation.

Again we ask thee, dear Spirit Guides, and Friends, to aid us in our endeavours to learn that which will be of service to our bodies, minds, and souls. Shower the inspirations of thy love and goodness upon us, lead us in the ways of wisdom, and teach us the lessons of brotherly union, without which our labours will be in vain, and our hopes fruitless of results. We thank thee for all thou hast done for us in the past and we again pledge ourselves to do our utmost for the welfare of our fellows.

LYCEUM LESSON. Subject—"RIGHTS AND DUTIES."

Outlines.—Mrs. Britten received from the Spirits the following ten laws of Right: I. Temperance; II. Justice; III. Gentleness; IV. Truth; V. Charity; VI. Almsgiving; VII. Self-sacrifice; VIII. Firmness; IX. Industry; X. Love. Temperance in all things. Justice for and to all. Gentleness towards friends and opponents alike. Speak the truth in all candour, but with all kindness. Be charitable in dealing with the failings of others. Be as generous as your means will admit in relieving the necessities of the unfortunate. Subordinate you own selfish interests, that the general welfare may be advanced. Be firm in the upholding of your principles, yet respect the opinions of those who differ with you.

GROUP LESSONS.

Senior Groups. Subject—"LIBERTY."

Outline.—Liberty is the birthright of all intelligent peoples. True liberty respects the rights of others. No one is at liberty to injure any one else. The Free peoples of the world are the greatest and the strongest. Liberty has made this country great. True political liberty is where there are neither Kings, Queens, Princes, Sultans, Emperors or any other privileged persons or classes. Liberty is not release from restraint, but a proper freedom for all who obey the laws of nature and the requirements of Morality, Decency, and mutual well-being for the community at large.

Junior Groups. Subject—"PROGRESS."

Outline.—Progress is the result of Education and culture in all the Arts, Sciences and Morals that aid man to rise in the intellectual, moral, spiritual and personal scales of his life. Material progress, without advance in the finer graces of life, makes for selfishness. Wealth, power, large possessions do not make, or mark, the true progress of nations or individuals. The cultivation of sympathy, love, justice and all virtues, are the real elements that are the foundations of the progress of nations. Progress is not confined to this life.

SUNDAY, JUNE 27th.

Invocation.

Divine Source of all Being we gratefully acknowledge the gifts Thou has endowed us with, and we pray that we may learn how better to use them in the future. We thank the loving angels for all their care, and invite them once again to aid us with their presence and counsel, so that we may unite with them in growing nearer and nearer still to Thee, the All-Wise and All-Good.

LYCEUM LESSON. Subject—"SPIRITUALISM."

Outline.—What does Spiritualism prove? What does it teach about the Hereafter. What of Death, Resurrection, Judgment, Heaven, Hell, God, Salvation. Should Spiritualists trouble about these matters? Do the facts of Spirit return afford any reason for supposing that Spiritualism should pronounce upon the teachings of the churches? If so, Why? Does Spiritualism present any standard of Truth, Morality or Authority? What effect will our Philosophy have upon Religion, Morality, Science and Society?

GROUP LESSONS.

Senior Groups. Subject—"WHAT WE KNOW AND TEACH."

We know that the departed are not dead. We know that they do return to us. We know that we possess powers that enable us to come into communion with the departed. We know that they can and do inspire, watch over, instruct and guide us in our daily lives. We teach that death is not the end, and that living is not all. We teach the supremacy of the moral and spiritual laws. We teach retribution for wrong doing; and the existence of the Supreme Spirit.

Junior Groups. Subject—"SPIRITS AND ANGELS."

Outline.—In terms of affectionate endearment we speak of our departed as Angels. They are really men and women still, now possessed of physical, but over there, of spiritual bodies. There are various kinds of spirits as there are various kinds of human beings, some good, some bad, some neither very good, or very bad.

WHAT OUR LYCEUMS ARE DOING.

IMPORTANT TO SECRETARIES.—Reports arriving at the BANNER Office after the 24th of the month cannot be guaranteed insertion in the next issue.

HALIFAX (Rambling Party).—On Saturday, May 15th, a party of twelve journeyed to Chatworth Cottage, Norwood Green. We spent a very enjoyable day. As our Rambling Party combines instruction with amusement in its objects we devoted ourselves to a little Botanising, collecting specimens of the Yellow Archangel, Queen of the Meadow, Valerian, Lesser Periwinkle, Starwort, Dog Mercury, and several other flowers. We arrived home about 9 p.m., after a very enjoyable outing.—J. MOORE.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—The Annual Prize Distribution of the above Lyceum was held on April 21st, 1897, when a very pleasant evening was spent. There was not the number of prizes to give the children as in previous years owing chiefly to the non-attendance of many of the old members, who, we are sorry to say, have not yet returned to take up their position in the Lyceum movement. The possible number of attendances for the year was 53. There was only 3 who had reached the highest possible number, namely, Jeanie Hathy, Ellen Thompson, and John George Thompson, to whom great credit is due for their perseverance and attainments. They were each presented with an interesting book. The next on the list is Ethel Seed, with 52 attendances, who has for the last few years attained a high position on the Prize Winning Sheet. Then comes Alfred Robson, with 52, who received a book entitled "Our Queen." In all there were 14 prize winners, as all who attained 42 or more marks were entitled to a prize. Mr. T. O. Todd kindly travelled with Mrs. Todd, from Sunderland, to distribute the prizes, which he did in a most appropriate manner, and to whom we are greatly indebted. After the Entertainment and Prizes distribution, there was coffee and buns served out to the members of the Lyceum. Then there were games, dances etc., etc., for the children whom, I am sure, went home having spent a very enjoyable evening.—GERALD M. MARTIN.

PRESTON, (Weaver's Hall).—April 18th, attendance 48. Silver and Gold Chain recitations fairly well gone through. Short address by our worthy president Mr. Whittaker. Clairvoyance by Mrs. Porter, marching and calisthenics excellent. April 25th, taking into consideration the splendid weather the attendance was good, 51 being present. May 2nd, conducted by assistant conductor, Mr. Frank Ribchester. Attendance 43, not quite up to the usual standard owing to the unsettled state of the weather. Silver and Golden chain recitations fair, marching and calisthenics excellent. Open session June 6th. On Whit Monday, June 7th, our Annual Field Day will take place, in the Pleasure Gardens. A cordial invitation to all.—C. PARKINSON.

LIVERPOOL.—On Sunday, May 2nd, the usual evening service was given by the Lyceum children. Recitations were excellently given by the Misses Lily O'Keefe, Emily Rosbottom, and Ethel Chiswell; and by Messrs. Frank O'Keefe, and Willie Palmer. The latter recited a beautiful poem taken from the Lyceum Manual, entitled "Children." Songs were admirably rendered by those two scholars who never fail us, the Misses Daisy Bell and Minnie Ford, both of whom were loudly applauded. Mr. Ernest A. Keeling also sang a song which was much appreciated. The other items consisted of Gold and Silver Chain recitations, a

musical reading, and a short speech by the conductor. The whole evening was a great success, and surprised a number of the audience, who seemed to have no idea of the grand teachings which are given to Lyceum children.—E. A. K., Hon. Sec.

OPENSHAW, (Granville Hall).—I am glad to say there is an improvement, both in the attendance and behaviour of this Lyceum. The marching and calisthenics have improved very much. We are all looking forward to the Demonstration at Ashton-under-Lyne, on July 10th, and although we had somewhere about 140 at Stockport last year, we are expecting a great many more at Ashton. I am very pleased to see that Openshaw ranks amongst the largest Lyceums. I hope the time is not far distant when it can be said that Openshaw Lyceum is the largest, and for the work, on a par with all others.—J. SHAW.

MANCHESTER (Tipping Street).—On Saturday, May 22nd, a grand Concert and Dance was given in aid of the Whitsuntide trip. The following artistes were as follows: Miss Davies, of Hyde, Mr. Neild, Mr. Welch, Mr. Urwin, and Brother Davies. Dancing and games followed. The committee heartily thank all for their kind help and support. The Concert was a financial success. Whit-Friday Lyceum trip to Strines; buns and milk; a good tea will be given to all Lyceumists free, friends 1s., children 6d.; for tea, adults 9d., children 7d. A good field, beautiful scenery, every accommodation for hot water, etc.

PENDLETON.—We are progressing very nicely. Since Christmas there has been a decided improvement. Our numbers have increased: we now average 54 per Sunday, and out of these 50 are entitled to 2 marks, the remaining 4 having 1 mark. Through the kindness of our members Messrs. Gibson and Jackson, we are enabled to give 18 free copies of the BANNER away each month—this stands good for 12 months. 6 are given for reciting, and 12 for good attendance. We have also purchased 48 copies of the Manual, and to induce our scholars to purchase for themselves, we allow them to pay for the Manuals weekly. At the first payment the name is written in the Manual and given to the scholar, who returns it each week until 6d. has been paid, then the scholar is allowed to take it home, this plan we find to answer very well. Our Silver and Golden Chain recitations have had the deepest study of our Conductor, along with the musical readings, and in this manner the reading and the singing has been greatly improved. Our Musical Conductor, Miss A. Cockins deserves great praise for the musical selections made for marching purposes. We are busy preparing for the Whit-week treat, which we hope will surpass all others.

Collecting cards have been issued, and for every 2s. 6d. that is collected a free ticket will be given. On Whit-Thursday we intend going to Urmston (Cheshire), where we shall have a large field and a spacious barn wherein to enjoy ourselves. We intend charging our scholars under 12 years 4d. each., over 12, 6d. each. Parents and friends 1s. each: this entitles them to participate in the bill of fare provided for the children, which I may here state will be of a substantial character, and for those friends who desire something more toothsome, we shall provide a first-class dinner and tea also at 6d. each, and if only the record of last year's tea is remembered we feel sure we shall not lack supporters at our family table. There are a lot more good things in store for our scholars, but I dare not ask you to give me any more space this month. Therefore, I will just remind our scholars to go in for two marks each Sunday, until August, and see what our Conductor will do for them.—F. JOHNSON.

LOVE, COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE.

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BY FRANK N. LAWS.

PART VI.

(Continued from March Number.)

HOME.

EVEN the cabin of an emigrant ship may be a true home. An American writer (Graham) has put this very sentiment into the mouth of a working man, who is seeking his fortune in a strange country, and makes him sing these beautiful words as the emigrant vessel ploughs the deep, deep sea,

"My wife and little ones are with me as I go,
And they are all beneath the sun I have of weal or woe,
With them upon the sea or land, where'er I roam
My all on earth is still with me, and I am still at home,
Heave, mighty ocean, heave, and blow thou boisterous wind
Where'er we go, we cannot leave our home and friends
behind.

AN APPEAL TO PARENTS.

Now a word to parents and guardians. As Spiritualists, we believe in personal responsibility, that is, responsibility for the sins of *Omission*, as well as the sins of *Commission*, and is it not a sin on the part of parents to neglect the education and the cultivation of the intellectual faculties of their offspring, Paley says "to send an uneducated child into the world is little better than to turn out a mad dog or wild beast into the streets":—

"Good laws will not reform us if reformation begin not at home."—*R. Baxter*.

"The most important thing in this world, next to the soul's salvation, is the taking care of the children, and yet there is no subject on which there is so much ignorance as on this."
—*H. W. Beecher*.

"No greater harm is done to Christendom than by the neglect of children, therefore, to advance the cause of Christ we must begin with them."—*Martin Luther*.

"I have long felt that until the fathers and mothers are better men and better women, our schools can accomplish comparatively little. I believe, that any improvement that could be brought to bear, on the *mothers* more especially, would effect a greater amount of good than anything that has yet been done."—*Earl of Shaftesbury*.

The quotations given here shew the views that are held upon this important matter, by those of the orthodox school:—That invaluable work "Outlines of Spiritualism," by our respected and esteemed friend Alfred Kitson, contains some excellent reading on this question. The importance of early training is evident—"As the twig is bent so is the tree inclined" is true in respect to the bringing up of a family:—It has been said that those who rock the cradle rule the world," it is the mother who has to tone up the children to the right standard and supplement their moral sense with theories and with habits of right action, there may be those under her influence capable of reaching a higher pitch than hers, but they have in the first place to tone and adapt themselves to her standard.

There isn't a vestige of cork about a cork leg apart from the name, and that arises from the fact that nearly all the great manufacturers of such articles used to live in Cork-street, Piccadilly, London.

Lancashire Spiritualists Lyceum Demonstration, 1897.

The Fifth Annual Lyceum Demonstration

WILL BE HELD IN THE

Market Square, Ashton-under-Lyne,
ON SATURDAY, JULY 10TH, 1897.

Lyceums to assemble on the Market Square, at 3-30 prompt, when two or three hymns will be sung, followed by Marching and Calisthenics Exercises; ten minutes each with five minutes interval. On the beating of a drum the following Order of Procession will be formed:

MARSHALS—Messrs. Gibson, Longstaff, Cooper and Colbeck (*white*).

THE METHODIST NEW CONNEXION DRUM & FIFE BAND.

1—ASHTON (*Pink*). 2—HYDE (*Tartan*). 3—STOCKPORT (*Heliotrope*).
4—COLLYHURST (*Primrose*). 5—PENDLETON (*Salmon*).

The Celebrated MOSS ROSE BRASS & REED BAND.

6—OPENSHAW (*Red*). 7—MANCHESTER (*Blue*). 8—ROYTON (*Orange*).
9—HOLLINWOOD (*White*).Route—*Katherine St., Market St., George St., Stamford St., Portland St., Old St., to the Armoury (which will seat 2,000) for tea.*

A Capital HAM AND BEEF SANDWICH TEA will be provided in the above large hall, at 5-30 p.m.

Rosettes to be worn by each Lyceumist; Marshals and Conductors to wear sashes across left shoulder, and Delegates broad band on right arm, same colour as their respective Lyceums.

TEA TICKETS for Friends 1s. each, may be obtained from the Lyceum Delegates under-mentioned, at the following places, and at the doors of the Armoury:

PENDLETON LYCEUM—(Hall of Progress, Cobden Street), Messrs. Moulding and Johnson.
MANCHESTER "—(Tipping Street, Ardwick), Messrs. Braham and Barlow.
ASHTON "—(Church Street), Messrs. F. Rigby and C. Cooper.
HOLLINWOOD "—(Factory Fold), Messrs. Porteus and Burns.
STOCKPORT "—(Spiritualists Hall, Wellington Rd.), Mr. Edwards & Miss Metcalf.
OPENSHAW "—(Granville Hall), Messrs. W. Booth and J. Duffy.
HYDE "—(Mount Street), Miss Lydia Meakin and Miss Butterworth.
ROYTON "—(New Hall), Messrs. Chisnall and Greaves.
COLLYHURST "—(Collyhurst Street), Mr. Colin Campbell and Miss Lawrence.
Also from the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. GIBSON, 38, Strawberry Hill, Pendleton, and Hon. Sec., Mr. J. B. LONGSTAFF, 28, Caton Street, Moss Side, Manchester.

All friends of the cause are invited to walk with the children, and will receive ribbon on the purchase of a ticket. After Tea, an ENTERTAINMENT will be given in the Armoury, by the Lyceums, consisting of Songs, Gleees, Recitations, etc. Collection towards expenses.

WHAT TO DO WITH BABY?

What shall I do with my baby's eyes,
With my baby's eyes so blue?
Teach them to see God's wonderful gifts,
In the world that baby goes through.
Teach them to see when a word would hurt,
To see when a look would cheer;
To be loving eyes, and then I know,
They will ever be bright and clear.

What shall I do with my baby's hands,
Hands so tiny and small?
Teach them to take, to hold, to give,
To be ready for one and all.
Ready to take their share of the load,
And work with a willing heart;
To be loving hands, and then I know
They will always do their part.

But what shall I do with my baby's heart,
The greatest of mother's care?
I'll try to make it a loving heart,
And then I know 'twill be fair.
A heart that will weep with those who weep,
And smile with those who smile;
If I only make a loving child,
'Twill be surely worth my while.

—*The Christian Work.*