

THE LYCEUM BANNER.

A Spiritualist Magazine for Old and Young.

VOL. VIII.

JULY, 1897.

No. 80.

PORTRAIT GALLERY OF OUR LYCEUM WORKERS.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

No. 5.

MR. ALPHONSO WHITEHEAD.

THE subject of our sketch is one well adapted to the position he occupies in connection with our Lyceum Movement. Born of the masses, and knowing by experience the difficulties under which the children of the workers labour, he is invaluable as a Conductor. His early life was spent as a toiler in a cotton mill, commencing work at 8 years of age. Being the second of nine children, it became necessary for his help to keep "the pot boiling." As a boy he was brought up in the Methodist New Connexion Sunday School, and remained with that body as Sunday School Teacher, Superintendent, Class Leader, and Local Preacher until the year 1892. About this time he was introduced by Mr. W. France, of Hyde, to Mr. Wild, of Rochdale, through whose mediumship he received facts which startled him, and, being of an inquiring mind, he commenced to investigate the facts and philosophy of Spiritualism. Coming in contact with Miss McCreddie, Mrs. Green, Mrs. Groom and other Clairvoyants, he received such evidence of life's continuity as in no way to leave a doubt on his mind as to the grand revelations Spiritualism had in store for him. Thus convinced, he severed his connection with the old theology, and being an earnest and active worker in every movement he was associa-



MR. ALPHONSO WHITEHEAD.

ted with, he, along with Mr. France, opened the Grammar School in Hyde in 1893 for Spiritualistic Services, from which the present ever flourishing Society was formed. Trained in the Sunday School and seeing the superiority of the Lyceum Movement over the old, he, along with others, commenced a Lyceum in connection with the Society in 1895, and was appointed the conductor, which office he has held ever since. During a conversation with him on the matter he said "if there is anything in connection with the Spiritual Movement I love best it is the Lyceum Movement, it is so vastly superior to the old Sunday School system, so natural, and so calculated to lead the young minds to expand and grow strong, good and truly religious." Mr. Whitehead is not only an active worker in our movement but connected with other movements for human good and progress, he has been for five years President of the Hyde Co-operative Society and his value is fully recognised by

all who know him, never hiding his principles, but standing forward as a true man, daring to think, and live that which he believes to be true. Being a Medium he realises the constant intercourse with the teachers of the higher Lyceum, and is thus enabled to convey to the children under his care those higher teachings which have made him free,—my wish is that many such may be called to the work of leading the children to the higher light and truth. W. JOHNSON.

A BISHOP ON OUR CHILDREN.

CHILDREN are the salvation of the race. They purify, they elevate, they stir, they instruct, they console, they reconcile, they gladden us. They are the ozone of human life, inspiring us with hope, rousing us to wholesome sacrifice. If, in the faults which they inherit they show us the worst of ourselves, and so move us to a salutary repentance, they also stimulate our finer qualities; they cheat us of weary care; they preach to us, not so much by their lips as by their innocence; their questions set us thinking, and to better purpose than the syllogisms of

philosophers; their helplessness makes us tender; their loveliness surprises us into pure joy. . . . A child is a sunbeam on a winter sea, a flower in a winter garden, the music of bells over the noise of a great city, a fragrant odour in a sick room. If anyone thinks this exaggerated, I am sorry for him. It is literally true for me, and for tens of thousands who have far more right to it. These fingers tingle with a kind of happiness while I am writing about them here. My chilly friend need not have my joy if he does not believe in it, or care for it; I will not force it on him, but he shall not take mine from me.—THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER—*Good Words*.

THE ADVENTURES OF SOLOMON.

AS NARRATED BY HIMSELF TO THE EDITOR.

PART II.



WELL, I feel I have done something now! I am actually in print! And a man in London has actually drawn my picture, I am told, and if it is ready for this month the Editor says it shall appear in the paper! I am quite curious to see how they have made me look? And this reminds me to say something about a little mistake

that I pointed out to Mr. Laycock, when I heard him read the other writing about me. Well, it isn't quite a mistake, just an oversight, I am told to call it. I am not a goose, I am a gander, which is just the same as if I was a boy, or a man. I suppose it doesn't make any difference, as a goose is as good as a gander, but as I have never been a goose I like to be known for what I am. I think if all the humans were known that way some that I know would not be thought so much of as they are now! Its a grand thing to be really as good and as useful as folk think you are. Now, let me see? Yes, I promised to tell you about Sarah, my wife, didn't I? I told you her name was Sarah, and when Mr. Laycock took me from Mrs. Clay's he took her as well. I was greatly attached to Sarah, and before we were married we had many nice times and walks together. However, when we reached our new home we concluded to become one, and very happily we lived together. Of course she had her little ways, (how about yours Solomon?—Editor.) and one of them was, I could never get her out of bed at a reasonable time in the morning. I was nearly always up at 5-30 in the morning, and the first two things I did was to cackle joyously for the coming of another day, and then to take a cold bath. The Editor says that was Aspiration and Health, but he does say a lot of things I cant understand. But Sarah, she just stayed in bed, and insisted I should get her something to eat before she got up. But, I am bound to say, she was a good wife, she agreed with all I said and did, and let me arrange everything just as I wanted to. In the course of time I became a father! But it was funny to see Sarah sitting in a nest on the top of a lot of eggs! She did look funny, but I was very sorry for her, too, for she had to stop in the nest for such a time! So, to make it as easy for her as I could, I used to go and sit beside her and tell her all the news. She always said how much she liked me to do this, and during the five weeks she sat on her nest I would bring her food, and all the nice bits I could find.

I was with her one day when Mr. Laycock had gone to get her some fresh water, when all at once one of the eggs began to roll about, and presently it broke, and out popped a little head just like mine! It was a fuzzy little chap, but, poor little beggar, he got killed. But they took him to Mr. Moseley's Museum near Beaumont Park, and he is there now, stuffed, and is talked about as "Solomon's first-born." A short time after four more children were hatched out, but Sarah was a bit careless and went and smothered two of them by laying on them. But there were two left, and these were named Dick and Liddy.

I did my best to bring up the family in a proper manner, but at this time Sarah was rather trying. I had to maintain my position as "head boss" for like many mothers Sarah lacked in dignity and firmness. Of course I never would permit any hen-pecking, or, I suppose I should say, goose-pecking? I had to give them many a lecture on behaviour, and it was a little trying, after doing my best, for over ten minutes to explain all the things a husband and a father wants done, to see his wife just lay down and go to sleep in the middle of it all, and for Liddy and Dick to do the same. When they did that, I just finished my remarks, and then sat down with my back to them just to show them that I was not to be rudely treated!

When our little ones grew big enough to run about they soon found out where Mr. Laycock's door was, and then they went to it and knocked at it, and when it was opened they asked for food. Of course being my children they were naturally sharper than most goslings.

But Mr. Laycock was smart, too. He didn't like the noise the youngsters made on his door, so he rigged up a bell in the garden for them. When he started to put it up I wondered what in goodness he was doing. So I sat and watched him all the time he was at it. When he had finished he tied a string to it, gave it a pull, and went into the house. As he had never sent me off while putting it up, I concluded he meant me to use it, so I just took the string in my mouth and pulled away at it, making it ring famously, or as he said, "as like the driver of a tram car in a fog." As soon as I got tired our boy Dick came and took a turn, the little chap being highly amused at the racket he made, and then, when he left off, of course Sarah must have a turn, too. We all got so good at it that Mr. Laycock could tell whether it was Sarah, Dick, Liddy, or me ringing, as we each did it in a different way. For the first week though, Sarah and me did the ringing between us. But afterwards I used to get on to a little hillock and tell them when and how to ring the bell. Of course we rang it when we wanted to be fed, and when we rang and we were told there was no food for us then we just walked away at once, and waited until a later time.

I had stayed at home quite a long time after my family was born, as, of course, I had many things to look after for the comfort of Mrs. Solomon and the little ones. But one fine Sunday morning Mr. Laycock asked me to go with him as usual, and I thought it a good opportunity to take her and the little ones along too. I never liked her to go with me after we were married, as I thought a wife's place was at home, but as so many knew me, and had heard of our family, I thought she should have a little holiday excursion. When we started I gave a number of loud calls, for I wanted all my old friends to see me and the family, and as we went on our way we soon had a number of young folks, and old ones crowding about us, and accompanying us on the way. I am sure there were no more remarkable birds about that morning than me and my family. Everyone was delighted to see us, and they all said lots of nice things about us all. I tell you, it makes one feel proud to be a sensible gander who knows how to bring up a wife and family as they should be. (It is evident that Mr. Solomon is not very much inclined to thinking too modestly of himself!—Editor.)

(To be Continued.)

A man would do well to carry a pencil in his pocket and write down the thoughts of the moment.

LYCEUM NOTES AND COMMENTS.

BY ALFRED KITSON.

The Banner of Light, and *The Progressive Freethinker*, America, publish a good report of the Lyceum conference. I hope our American friends will be encouraged to greater efforts on behalf of the children.

THE Lyceum Reform Pledge is now ready. They are to be obtained of Mr. T. O. Todd, 7, Winifred Terrace, Sunderland, in books containing 100 each, 1/6 per book. The Lyceum members should be encouraged to sign them. Drinking, smoking, swearing, and gambling, are four of the chief evils of our land. We shall be pleased to receive a copy and refer to it in full in next month's BANNER.—ED.

THE Lyceum at North Street, Burnley, celebrated its 7th anniversary on Sunday, May 30th. In the morning some beautiful books were presented to a number of the scholars for good attendance, and good behaviour, by the writer. Mr. W. Mason, the ex-President, also addressed the Lyceum members on the necessity of *living* the good lessons they are taught. The Lyceum is making good progress.

THE Lyceum at Penn Street, Rochdale, celebrated its second anniversary, on June 13th. The children rendered a number of special hymns, and an anthem, very creditably. The day was excessively hot, which tended to mar the attendance.

THE Lyceum at Walker Street, Preston, celebrated its third anniversary on June 20th. An excellent session was held in the morning. Great progress has been made since my visit two years ago. It promises to become a most effective centre of work.

THE British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union is invited to nominate a member to confer with the London Spiritualist Alliance, on the arrangements for the forthcoming International Congress, to be held in London, in 1898.

ANOTHER Lyceum has been opened at Small Heath, Birmingham, and having joined the Union, a certificate of Membership, and a free copy of the Lyceum Constitution has been sent them.

THE Diamond Jubilee will long be remembered in Batley district. Batley Lyceum drew the first place in the Sunday School procession, and were cordially joined by Batley Carr Lyceum. The little ones were provided with a dray beautifully decorated for the occasion. The sides and ends were draped with blue sateen, bearing the following mottoes; the front "Progress," the back "Harmony;" sides "God bless our Lyceums;" and "Justice, Love, and Truth." A large banner of blue sateen also surmounted the dray, "Friendship Love, and Truth," and underneath was the name, "Batley Spiritualists' Progressive Lyceum." The friends mustered in good numbers, and made quite a respectable display, which was the wonder of the spectators, as we led the procession of 31 Sunday Schools, belonging to both Church and Chapel. The mayor of Batley commended our orderly appearance as we passed his carriage; this was after we had been marching an hour and a half. I see it is estimated that 8,000 took part in the demonstration. And the Lyceums headed the list!!!

MR. KITSON writes to further acknowledge the receipt of £2 10s. from Liverpool No. 1 Lyceum, and 16s. 3d. from Darwin Lyceum. This generous appreciation of his services does credit to the Lyceum cause.

PHENOMENA IN AN AMERICAN LYCEUM.

A report has reached the BANNER, from Mr. Otto Henckley, conductor of the Children's Lyceum at Haverhill, Mass., concerning some remarkable experiences that occurred there on Sunday, May 30th. The following is the account as sent us: "I enclose a report of physical phenomena occurring Sunday, May 30th, at Brittan hall, the nature of the manifestations being etherialized faces.

This event will be of historic moment to the Spiritualists the world over, for I believe it is the first instance on record wherein these manifestations have occurred in such an independent manner. And as history records the fact that the little Fox girls received the first spirit rappings at Hydesville, N. Y., nearly fifty years ago, so will it be recorded that the children of the Haverhill Progressive Lyceum received the first etherialization of spirit faces in broad daylight, with the sunlight streaming in through the windows, without a cabinet, a circle, on any known medium for that phase being present.

I have so far received the names of sixteen adults and of eighteen children who had a good view of the manifestations, and who have certified that they saw the faces.

On Sunday, May 30th, 1897, at 11 a.m., the Haverhill Children's Progressive Lyceum held a Memorial session with exercises appropriate to the occasion.

During the exercises my attention was attracted to the children in one of the groups who were intently gazing at the flags on the platform. Mrs. Hattie E. Jones, the assistant guardian, informed me she understood that spirit faces were visible. I requested Mrs. Jones to sit amongst the children and report to me what she observed. Mrs. Jones took her seat amongst them and in about five minutes returned and reported that she had seen three different and distinct faces, and described them; one was that of a man, the other two were women. The spirit faces appeared amidst the folds of the flags (using them as a background), and after remaining there for sometime, would come forth a little and then dematerialize.

The older members of the groups soon became interested in the phenomena, and Mr. Samuel W. Jones, a veteran of the late war, arose and said that he recognised one face as that of Captain Jack How, afterwards Major How. The other members of the group corroborated the statement made by Mr. Jones; although they were not personally acquainted with Major How, their description of the face seen confirmed his statement. Mrs. Martha A. Kimball, a member of another group, who knew Major How personally, recognised his face at the same time that Mr. Jones did.

About this time Mrs. Jones, who sat next to me, became controlled; the controlling intelligence purporting to be Mrs. Carrie Frost (our one member of the Lyceum now passed on to a higher life), she manifesting her presence by extending her hand to greet me. I mentally requested that if spirit faces were visible she should try and manifest in that way. After the session five members of the Lyceum informed me that they had distinctly seen her.

SPIRITUALISTS, writes the Editor of the *Banner of Light*, have a very peculiar code of ethics, for they claim the censorship of the whole human race. The scandalmonger rolls every morsel of unsavoury gossip under his tongue, and is never so happy as when he is attacking the character of some medium or speaker. Such as he is always prating about a "higher moral standard" for spiritualists, speakers, and mediums, and clasps his hands in mock humility and lifts his eyes in horror whenever a slanderous assault is made upon any fellow-worker, either through insinuation, shrugging of the shoulders, or supercilious smile.

PRESENTATION TO MR. AND MRS. JOS. SUTCLIFFE (OF SOWERBY BRIDGE).

ON Saturday, June 25th, the occasion of the Anniversary of the Sowerby Bridge Lyceum, a number of members, together with several friends from a distance, assembled in the Spiritualists' Hall to pay a tribute of respect to our good friends, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Sutcliffe, whose names have become as household words amongst our Northern and Midland Societies. The joyful event was preceded by an invitation tea, which became the means of a happy re-union of many notable workers and long standing friends of the guests who were to be honoured. The president for the occasion was Mrs. Greenwood, the genial president of the Lyceum Union, who, after an invocation by Mr. T. O. Todd, opened the proceedings by one of those admirable speeches which never fail and enlist the sympathy of her listeners. Miss Thorpe, the Secretary, who, too, has endeared herself to our Lyceum workers by her consistent work for the young, read a number of letters of apology for absence, from local friends, and also from Mr. Swindlehurst, Mr. J. J. Morse, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Wallis, Mr. P. Lee, Mr. W. Johnson, Mrs. Green, and others, all bearing testimony of their high appreciation of the noble services rendered to the cause of Spiritualism by our two devoted friends.

The presentation consisted of an extremely handsome illuminated address, bearing the message of love, gratitude, and good-will from the subscribers to the recipients, and on reading the address over Miss Thorpe took the opportunity to add her personal testimony to the sterling character of Mr. and Mrs. Sutcliffe, who to her had been the best of friends in the truest sense of friendship, and called upon them to accept this gift as a token of esteem, which of itself could not convey all that the subscribers desired to express, and hoped that many years yet remained in store for them to enjoy each other's company in this life, and to continue their devotedness to the cause of Spiritualism. The friends then joined in singing the old-time refrain, "should auld acquaintance be forgot?" the first line or two of which was sung with true Yorkshire enthusiasm, but the lips failed to speak the heart's desire, and before the end of the verse was reached it was plain that the emotions of all present were stronger than the vocal powers of harmony. The president and secretary, who had worked most assiduously in the preparation of the testimonial were deeply, touched, and the silent tear of joy spoke more than the lips could utter.

Mr. Sutcliffe, who rose to the platform to reply on behalf of himself and Mrs. Sutcliffe, received quite an ovation, and in those steady and quiet tones which characterise his actions and words expressed his heartfelt thanks for the kindness which his friends had bestowed upon him, and recounted the great difficulties which they had had to contend with in the early development of the cause, how he had always had great faith in the progress of liberal views in all matters of political, social and religious life, and how much he rejoiced that both he and his partner in life had lived to see the triumph of many popular agitations which people had formerly ridiculed as being chimerical. He was pleased to see so many well-known faces around him, not only of Spiritualists but from the various denominations represented in the town, and also so many of his respected friends and co-workers from distant places, and assured them all that the cause at Sowerby Bridge would receive from his partner and himself all the help that experience and earnestness could stimulate them to offer. "Happy and wise" addresses were then given by a number of local friends and by Mr. A. Kitson and Mr. T. O. Todd.

SOWERBY BRIDGE LYCEUM ANNIVERSARY.

(AND ANOTHER PRESENTATION.)

OUR anniversary has been a splendid success. Not because we were all happy, not because we had charming music, not because we had a noble worker and eloquent speaker, not because the audiences were large and very liberal, but because we had all of these things combined, and a pleasant surprise thrown in.

Sunday morning found a record attendance of members and visitors, which was a splendid start for the day. The children acquitted themselves exceedingly well, in all the events of the morning's programme, and were delighted to once again have Mr. T. O. Todd amongst them. After a brief and pleasing talk with the children, he gave particulars of his Lyceum at Sunderland, and told us how they had spent the morning of Jubilee day in going to their local park with their Lyceum Banners, Flags and Badges, and creating quite a sensation amongst the people whilst they took their position and were photographed in a group, and how his Lyceum had decided that a large copy of the group, suitably framed, and bearing a suitable inscription, should be got ready in time for him to take to Sowerby Bridge and present to Mrs. Greenwood, the president of the Lyceum Union, and great was the surprise of all, and especially the recipient, when Mr. Todd took it out from under the platform table and presented it to Mrs. Greenwood with the best wishes of the senders. Everybody felt the kindness and fraternity of the act, and felt that their Lyceum was honoured by the kindly remembrance of the Sunderland friends towards their esteemed conductor. Mrs. Greenwood, notwithstanding that she was so completely taken by surprise, made an excellent speech, in which she most cordially thanked the Sunderland Lyceum for the handsome present they had sent her, and felt sure that there was nothing that the Lyceum could have sent which she could have received with greater pleasure than the photograph of all their bright and happy faces. There was a splendid audience in the afternoon, and at night we were favoured with as large an audience as the Hall would hold, and many visitors were present from Halifax, West Vale, and surrounding Lyceums. Mr. Todd's addresses gave us splendid food for thought, because of his original manner of presenting our truths in new light, and dealing with Spiritualism in entirely new phases. The collections for the day amounted to £18.

CLARA WATSON COMING TO ENGLAND.—This gifted lady, says Lyman C. Howe, a veteran American Spiritualist Lecturer, is a credit to the Cause of Spiritualism, as well as to her sex, and is widely known as an eloquent and philosophical speaker, a vigorous writer, a dangerous disputant when bigotry attacks the Cause she loves, and a generous, sincere advocate of all great reforms of which Spiritualism is the life and inspiration. Mrs. Watson is the most popular speaker for funeral occasions in Western New York. Her writings for the secular press have carried the gospel of Spiritualism to thousands who never see a spiritual paper. Sincerity and kindness are her passport to the hearts and homes of the million. Her husband is a native of England, and she goes with him in June to visit his native land. The Spiritualists of England will have a chance to hear one of America's gifted advocates of the gospel of love, as revealed by the angels. The Editor of the BANNER has been requested to arrange for visits to our Societies by our friend, who has now arrived, and he will be pleased to hear from Secretaries about the matter.

THE Boston, U.S., Berkeley Hall Spiritualist Lyceum, at a recent session discussed the question: "What are the duties of Parents and Children toward each other?" The two Lyceums in the above-named city closed for their Summer vacations on May 23rd and 30th, respectively, to re-open on September 5th.

EDITORIAL JOURNEYS.

THE past month has not involved very much travelling for the Editor, as it has been mainly spent at home. But during May there was a busy time. The first journey was from London to Glasgow, a pretty decent ride for one day! On arriving at Scotland's commercial capital, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Robertson were awaiting me at the station, and presently we found rest at their ever hospitable home, pleasantly situated within the shadow of the beautiful Queen's Park. This was my first visit to Scotland since my return from California.

The following morning, Sunday, began an ideal summer day, and in due course we all reached the Crown Halls, where the day's meetings were to be held. Both assemblies were well attended, and it was a great pleasure to renew old acquaintances, and to form a number of fresh ones, too. Mr. J. Robertson presided in his usual sympathetic manner, and everything passed off quite successfully. There is one point in my public work that has been constantly impressed upon me above all others, and that is, that for trance or inspirational speakers, and for clairvoyants, nearly everything on the mortal side depends upon the kind of chairman that presides over our meetings. We all talk a great deal about conditions, yet, over and over again, we pay the least attention to them in the matter referred to. A harsh, unsympathetic, and at times some conceited party, is put into the chair; the worker does not give satisfaction, and it is said his or her Guides are falling off, when the fact is, the conditions have been spoiled for them, so they could not do their best. Mr. Robertson is a most excellent chairman, sympathetic and magnetically sustaining.

The Scotch trip included a visit, for two meetings, to Dundee, a most enjoyable stay being made with Mr. Jas. Watson, who did the honours of "Bonnie Dundee" in splendid style. Mr. James presided at the meetings held in the Gillfilan Memorial Hall, and capitally fulfilled his office. Dundee is a pretty little city, and the environs are charming. A ride across the famous Tay Bridge to Newport, and a sail back across the Tay, were not the least interesting items of a pleasurable visit.

The Queen's Birthday holiday afforded an opportunity for a trip "down the watter," so, starting from Glasgow, we went to Larbet, on Loch Lomond, thence walked across to Arrochar, on Loch Long, then steamer to Gourock and train to the city completed a most enjoyable round, occupying some nine hours.

Next was Liverpool, where the worker arrived on Saturday evening, and as customary he anchored at the Chiswellian dock! Sunday morning found us all at Daulby Hall, and the Liverpool Lyceum No. 1, in full session. Part of the morning was devoted to the consideration of Golden Chain, No. 102, "The Three rules," and Ernest Keeling raised a very knotty point, by asking what was the virtue of the second rule, *i.e.*, the giving of Good for Good? The Editor hopes the matter was discussed, as it was decided it should be, and if so, no doubt a report will reach the BANNER sometime? During the morning the visitor took a couple of photographs of the Hall and workers, and he is glad to say they are quite successful pictures. One shows the Lyceum drawn up in marching order, at the saluting point; the other the officers on the platform with the Banner and flag of the Lyceum, and the Union Jack, and Stars and Stripes at either side. While in Liverpool a visit was paid to Bootle, and a pleasant time was spent there. The Lyceum there is going

good and strong, and is doing excellent work. After a most happy sojourn with Mr. and Mrs. Chiswell, the next move was on to Blackpool, where a few days rest were passed at Mr. Butterworth's. Pleasant drives, visits to Mrs. Butterfield, the Ellis family, and to "Gipsy Sarah," a pure Romany, over 102 years of age, and who certainly proved herself a remarkable mind reader, if nothing else, and a nice meeting at the Spiritual Church, were among the incidents of a very enjoyable three and a half days resting, for which my thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Butterworth.

Then it was on to Birmingham, via Manchester, where a stay was made to see the members of the S.N.F. Executive, who were meeting there that day. I was sorry to find that Bro. Wm. Johnson was unable to be present, as he was quite ill, and had been so for a fortnight past. I trust he is alright by this time? Birmingham was duly reached, and two very pleasant meetings were held the next day. The following day, home again, after some 900 miles of travel, covering some sixteen days.

The first Sunday of June, Whit-Sunday, was, as usual, at the Cavendish Rooms, when we had a fairish audience for the hot night, and the fact that it was a holiday too. The following Sunday found me at Stratford, where a large and enthusiastic company greeted me.

A NEW BANNER FOR SUNDERLAND LYCEUM.

A FEW Sundays ago the members of the Sunderland Lyceum were agreeably surprised to receive a handsome present from Mrs. Sagar, of Armley, consisting of a New Banner for the Lyceum. As our conductor was returning from Burnley one Sunday in May, he was met at Leeds by Mrs. Sagar, who handed him a parcel to take home and present to his Lyceum, which he was very pleased to do. We were all very agreeably surprised, because we were not expecting such a present. The banner is about 20 inches by 30, and of plush, with beautifully worked wreaths of flowers and foliage, in silks of about thirty different colors, the words "Lyceum Banner," being traced out in bead-work, and surmounted with several devices in gold tinsels. The banner is splendidly framed in oak and gold, and altogether presents a handsome appearance. Mr. Todd was instructed to convey our very best thanks to Mrs. Sagar, for her most handsome present.

FROM AN ENGLISH T-POT.

ACCORDING to an old newspaper, the tea habit is much more universal than is commonly supposed, as the following schedule will prove:—People of all classes take tea. Dead people take eterniT; gay people, festiviT; nice girls, puriT; free people, liberT; fashionable folks, socieT; good people, pieT; successful candidates, majoriT; editors, honesT; solemn citizens, graviT; funny roosters, leviT; orthodox citizens, pieT; polite people, sauviT; bashful fellow, modesT; kind ones, chariT; bachelors, singulariT; short people, breviT; cunning folks, rascaliT; romantic simpletons, novelT; respectable people, ChristianiT; artistic people, beauT; strong people, responsibiliT; criminals, penalT; vicious cusses, enniT; grocers, varieT; but the T-pot cracked at this juncture. Among the fragments were found: wedded couples, feliciT; Mormons, multipliciT; Quakers, tranquiliT; the asylums, insaniT, mendiciT, poverT, &c.; pretty girls, incomprehensibiliT; lovers, uniT; old people, long eviT; the one who does not pay his subscriptions, Total depraviT.

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 24TH OF EACH MONTH.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

* * Friends who send us newspapers would considerably enhance the favour by marking the particular passages to which they desire to call our attention.

T. EDWARDS, Stockport.—Thank you for Report, and cutting. Both are used.

SARAH A. ZION, Anderson, Ind.—Yours, with remittance received. Your letter being understamped cost us six cents.

ALONZO DANFORTH, Boston, Mass.—Glad to hear from you, and will be pleased to receive and use the Lessons. Am pleased to see the interest of the A.N.S.A. in *re* Lyceum work.

EDNOR TURTON, Cheetwood.—Aunt Editha thanks you, and says next month.

A. S. BARNES, Accrington.—Very sorry, but your item about the Sale of Work got mislaid. We congratulate you on its success, and that it realized £50. It was good of the Mayor to preside for you.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—Will our Secretaries please note that our accounts are sent out in March, June, September, and December. Quite a number of June accounts are still unsettled, probably the Jubilee has caused you to overlook the matter? But we cannot give more than three months credit, the printers must be paid. When sending stamps always send half-penny ones, please.

The Lyceum Banner.

JULY, 1897.

OUR MONTHLY CHAT.

S.N.F. Conference. The second most important event in the Spiritualist year is the Annual Conference of the Spiritualists' National Federation, which will be in session at Blackburn on the day that the BANNER is published this month. No doubt the Lyceum Union Delegates will be present, but we are unable to tell them, or the rest of our readers, what the business of the Conference will be. The Constitution of the federation provides that particulars shall be sent "to the Spiritual press," but, so far, we have not received any information! The editors of this paper consider it is one of the "spiritual press," but neither this journal, or its metropolitan contemporary, "Light," appear to have been the recipients of the information as provided for in the constitution.

The Children's Effort. The BANNER calls your special and particular attention to the letter of Mr.

J. Venables, of Walsall, in the present issue. It is a most important matter, and all Lyceums should bestir themselves over it. Keep your own paper posted on what you are doing, so that others may be encouraged thereby. There is no reason why our 100 Lyceums should not raise £250, it is only an average of fifty shillings each.

Aunt Editha's Suggestion. Our readers will see, in Aunt Editha's contribution to her GOLDEN GROUP, this month, that she is suggesting a composite story for the BANNER. She has written to the Editors asking them to adopt the idea, and to each of them to write a chapter, which they have readily consented to do. The idea originates with "B.B." who will, according to Aunt Editha, have to contribute the opening and final chapters. A number of our most able and well-known writers will be invited to join, a list of whose names will probably be ready for publication next month. It will be the first story of the kind ever published in a Spiritualist journal, and will be an intensely interesting thing for old and young alike. Further particulars next month.

What we want. The BANNER wants all its friends, in Great Britain, the Colonies and the United States, anywhere and everywhere, wherever there is a Children's Progressive Lyceum, to send reports of the work done, the announcement of all entertainments, excursions, fetes, special services, open sessions, etc., to this paper. As far as room permits we will give space free, to all such matters, and when special advertisements are wanted we will charge merely a nominal sum. We, at times, hear of reports sent to the secular papers, and no notice whatever, either before or after the event, being furnished either to the BANNER or either of the other papers of our cause. This is not as it should be. The BANNER works for all, knows no distinction between any, and is ever anxious to retain its position as the official organ for the news of all matters that concern the work of our Lyceums throughout the world.

A Record Issue. The June number of the BANNER was a record issue! The sales were the largest of any regular number since the paper was established. The circulation has steadily risen each month this year. The future is more promising than ever before. Friends, you all have our thanks, and a very little more effort on your part will help us to turn the corner, and so begin to regain something of all we have lost in the past to provide a journal that the Lyceums can call their own.

OUR esteemed Union Secretary, Mr. Alfred Kitson, has supplied an excellent report of the late Lyceum Union Conference to our Boston contemporary, the *Banner of Light*. The article occupies nearly a column and a quarter, and is excellently well done.

THE LYCEUM BANNER for June is an interesting issue of that always useful publication. The account of the impressive ceremony at Liverpool, when Mr. Stretton handed over his Banner to the conductor, being compelled to retire from his post as director of marching owing to failing health, should have an effect on all readers, and teach the necessity of regarding all duties as sacred. There is also a full report of the Annual Conference, which should be read and preserved by all Lyceumists.—*The Two Worlds*.

The attempt was made to explain to a lad what the spirit was in distinction from the body. "You leave the body behind as a spirit, and it decays and falls to dust, while you live on." "But," demanded he, "what do I have to fasten my trousers on with?"

A BOY'S COMPOSITION.

In a public school in New England the teacher thought she would give out natural history subjects as themes for compositions. In this way she teaches them English orthography and natural history all at once. The commonplace subject of "Ants" was given to a bright boy, who said he knew all about it. This is the result of his efforts:

"ANTS."

"There is many kinds of Ants My ant Mary Jane is one of these kind. She is generally good-natured, and when she comes to see My Mother she brings me five cents worth of penuts, and tells me Why James how you've growed but when I go and see her and dont only just wawlk on the Carpit without Cleening my boots she is orfly mad.

"Ants like to give you Advice and scold at you like everything but their Hart is in the Wright Place and once I found a Ants nest in the woods I poked it with a stick and a Million Ants run out after me and Crawled up Inside my Pants and Bit me like Sixty.

"Ants nests are good Things not to Poke with a stick Ants are very Industryous in Steeling Shugar.

"I forgot to say that my Aunt Martha lives in Main she has a boy of Just about my Aige and He can stand on his Hed Five minits and how Do you suppose he can Do it?

"I Do not think of Annything more about Ants at present."

KINDLY WORDS.—In the course of a business letter, our good Union Secretary says:—The LYCEUM BANNER for February to hand. A splendid number too. I wonder, as I look at its increased size, how many of its readers are aware that it is just double the size it was seven years ago, and no increase in the price. You are giving its readers the profits on the increased circulation in the form of double quantity of matter, so that every new subscriber gained means more gains to the readers. Bearing these facts in mind it is easy to see how it is it does not pay its way. I hope your great kindness will meet with that quality of appreciation which will work to extend its readers to double their present numbers.

MELBOURNE.—The usual monthly conversazione of the Victorian Association of Spiritualists was held on April 12th. Mr. Morgan, (who was to have given the address) being called away on professional duty, Mr. W. H. Terry gave a sketch of the rise and progress of spirit photography, from the time of Mumler some thirty years since to the present day. This was illustrated by a copy of the celebrated test picture, obtained by Mr. J. J. Hartman, of Cincinnati, in December, 1876, and by four photographs recently received from a friend in New York, the spirit face on one of these, supposed to be that of the late H. J. Newton, was recognised by Mr. Terry, who had been a guest of Mr. Newton's when in New York, and Mr. Terry's recognition was confirmed by Mr. Marks, who also knew Mr. Newton. On account of the inclemency of the weather, a number of members were absent; but there was a fair attendance, and a very pleasant evening was spent.

SOUTH AFRICA.—A correspondent writes that on the departure of Mrs. Graham, formerly of Newcastle-on-Tyne, and her daughter, now Mrs. Williams, for England, on May 17th, a great number of friends assembled at the Johannesburg Station to see them off on their journey home. The Spiritualist Association, in recognition of Mrs. Graham's most valuable services to it, presented the ladies with a handsome illuminated address and a valuable dressing case, Mr. Taylor, the conductor of the Lyceum, also spoke most highly of Mrs. Graham's great assistance in organising that branch of the Association's work. Mrs. Graham and her two youngest children, and Mrs. Williams paid a couple of calls at the BANNER Office during their stay in London, and it was a pleasure to meet her again, and compare notes. Mrs. Graham anticipates being home again in Johannesburg in the early Autumn of the present year.

WISE AND WEIGHTY WORDS.—We fail to find Spiritualism, says the esteemed *Banner of Light*, in any entertainment that does not minister to the spiritual natures of the children as well as to those of their auditors. There is more spirituality in one well-applied object lesson for the children than in all the dancing, or the gauzy costumes, tights, etc., that can be placed upon the boards. We believe in dancing at proper times and places; we believe in recitations and other elocutionary exercises; we also believe in amateur theatricals for adults; but we do not believe in making them represent the all of the Lyceum for the children. There is a higher and holier side to this question. It consists in awakening the spiritual natures of the children. It can be done by means of wise precepts through object lessons, full of spirituality. The law of kindness, gentleness, tenderness, purity, modesty, nobility, generosity, and goodness is of far greater importance and much more essential to morality than gaudy dresses, aimed to conceal neither form, feet, nor neck on the part of those who wear them. We believe in the Lyceum; we do not care by what name it is called, but we do care to have it perpetuated. We love its inspiring marches, its cheerful atmosphere and its happy faces. Its music will eventually become another attractive feature, while its spiritual instruction will prove the redeemer of all mankind when it is rightly applied.

ONE of the greatest bars to the contemplation and realisation of a future life in Christian communities is the dearth of evidence, or even a rational conception of the nature of that life and the condition of the so-called dead, in either the Christian or Jewish Scriptures.—*The Harbinger of Light*.

THE LYCEUM BANNER, London, England, for May contains a very complimentary reference to the editor of the *Banner of Light*, for which we extend our thanks. Brother Morse is making the LYCEUM BANNER a very instructive and progressive journal. He and his able assistant, Miss Florence Morse, should be loyally sustained in their good work by all Spiritualists, who owe it to themselves and their children to subscribe to the only Lyceum paper in the world. The LYCEUM BANNER is ostensibly for children, but it is filled with valuable reading matter that will benefit old and young alike. It should receive a most generous support.—*The Banner of Light*.

[Many thanks, and may your good wishes bring a like result for yourself.—Editor, L.B.]

SHALL Spiritualists remain a distinctive people or allow their identity to be absorbed in the general thought of the time? Shall they allow the facts and experiences they have accumulated to be appropriated by previously hostile people, or shall they stand out for themselves? We plead emphatically and earnestly for the distinctiveness of the modern Spiritualistic movement, and that it shall not be brought down to the level of any scientific materialism, that it shall not be absorbed into any form of philosophy, nor attached to any system of religion, but that it shall stand erect in the dignity of its own knowledge, facts, and achievements, lifting the creeds and systems around it up to its own exalted life.—*Spirit Tien Sien Tie*.

Now that the Supreme Court has given judgment that in this colony no parent can be fined a second time for the non-vaccination of a (*i.e.*, one and the same) child, the Anti-Vaccination movement, which at one time gave promise of becoming a very active agitation, seems to be rather quiescent. Let it not, however, be lulled into a false sense of security. Gresswell, Gray, & Co. neither slumber nor sleep, and there is no telling what "federated" legislation might accomplish.—*The Harbinger of Light*.

Mrs. C. L. V. RICHMOND presided over a Mass Meeting of Spiritualists, held in Chicago, under the auspices of the American National Spiritualists Association, on the 18th, 19th, and 20th, ulto.

"USE IT WELL?"

Sixty seconds make a minute;
How much can you do in it?
Sixty minutes make an hour;
All the good that's in your power.
Twenty hours and four a day—
Time for work, and sleep, and play;
Days, three hundred sixty-five,
Make a year for me to strive
Right good things each day to do,
That I wise may grow, and true.

THE Leeds Psychological Hall Lyceum, has decided to present a copy of the LYCEUM BANNER to each family having children attending the Lyceum. This has considerably increased the number of papers hitherto taken by the above Lyceum. Who will be the next to do likewise?

THE GOLDEN GROUP.

OUR JULY SESSION.

MY DEAR NEPHEWS AND NIECES.—I hope you are all well, and enjoying the nice Summer weather we have had lately? So far, until quite lately, it has been very cold where I live, so the warm days we have had have been very acceptable. No doubt that you all, boys and girls alike, have been enjoying your Bicycles again, and having nice little runs out into the country in the evenings! Auntie thinks bikes, as Master Johnny calls them, are just splendid for all healthy and strong young folks. Don't over do it, though, by trying to go too far, keep within bounds, for its no use hurting yourself over your pleasures, is it?

Our Editor writes me that he took my BIG BOOK with him to the Conference at Bradford, and that its size quite astonished many who saw it for the first time! Many said, "Why, just think of it, there are ELEVEN HUNDRED AND TWENTY names in it!" The book is beautifully bound in a lovely blue leather, and has a handsome scarlet and gold inscription on the front cover, showing what the book is for. I hope we shall add quite a 1,000 more names to it before this year closes. You must all help to get them, and to make the GOLDEN GROUP larger than ever, by the end of 1897.

Since my last letter, I have received twenty-one names for our GROUP, one from Bury, one from Nottingham, two from London, nine from Leeds, and eight from San Francisco, in far away California. They are all included in the List at the end of this, and are duly entered in the BIG BOOK as well. Auntie extends a most cordial greeting to them all on your behalf, as well as on her own.

Among my letters I have just received another from our friend who signs himself "B.B." and he asks me to do something, that, I agree with him in thinking will be most interesting—to write a chapter in a composite story. A composite story is one of which each chapter is written by a different person, and from a little talk I have had with our genial Editor, I understand he views the matter favourably, and will make arrangements to obtain the story, and which, when finished he will publish in the BANNER each month. But our Editor agrees with me that as "B.B." has started the affair he must pay the penalty of his temerity by writing the first chapter. So, Mr. "B.B." please send Aunt Editha the first chapter of the story at your earliest opportunity. But that "B.B." may speak for himself Auntie publishes his letter now.

"B.B.'s" SUGGESTIONS FOR A COMPOSITE STORY.

DEAR AUNT EDITHA.—Your kindly comments expressed in reference to my last letter, and the prominence you gave same, emboldens me to write again. This time in commendation of the alterations and additions to your valuable paper. Your *cover in colors* is really a great,—shall I say it,—improvement, and brings your paper to the prominent position it deserves in our Spiritualistic Journalism.

I had commenced this letter with the idea of making a suggestion, and as I know the Editor is always pressed for space, I proceed:—When last I met your Editor I suggested the idea of a Composite story, to appear in the LYCEUM BANNER, and to appeal particularly to the children. After giving it his consideration, he said he thought it a good and practicable idea, and so I venture to write to ask if you would kindly be one of those to write a chapter, as I am sure all the readers would be highly delighted if you will. If you will kindly consider the matter and consult with the Editor, no doubt something highly interesting and original can be presented to the readers of our bright paper. Trusting you will consider

favourably the matter I mention, I remain,

Hyde Park, W. June 15, 1897. Yours very truly, B.B.

Our Editor sends me a capital little story by Mr. Walter Booth, which he, the Editor, thinks will be just the thing for my Groupites, as it contains a good lesson against drunkenness and cruelty. While, of course, you all know our GROUP mottoes, which we promise to obey, teach us to avoid the two evils mentioned. I am sure you will like the Story, so I will put it in here, it is called

"GRACIE CARTER."

JOHN CARTER staggered homewards one night greatly under the influence of intoxicants. He had never known what strong drink was until after his wife's death, six months previous. Like many other grief-stricken beings, he gave way to it to drown his sorrow. He kept it up so much that he was hardly ever sober; he was on the high road to ruin. His one and only child, Gracie, was about six or seven years old. Since her mother had passed away she had not known peace and happiness; before then she was happy in her childish way, with her mother's loving caresses and her father's kind words. What a change from all that now! Her father was most cruel to her, frequently beating her shamefully. Drink accounted for all this. What a curse,—a coward's resort in time of sorrow.

"Let me see," he muttered, as he slunk along, "I beat Gracie this morning before I came out, and I haven't been home since. I must beat her again now, double, yes, more than double."

He reached the house door, and after some difficulty succeeded in opening it. He made his way upstairs as well as he could, with the firm intention of thrashing Gracie. He was just about to open the child's bedroom door, when he heard her speaking earnestly; out of curiosity he steadied himself by the aid of the wall to listen. Not being aware of her father's presence, Gracie continued, and this is what fell upon the drunkard's ears:

"And, oh! Father God, be kind to my dada, watch over him and try to keep him away from the beerhouse, and make him into the good, loving dada that he used to be. Mamma told me before she died to be good and obedient to him, and I have been ever since, although he does beat me awful. Mamma, I know, is in heaven now, and oh, don't let her see how he beats me. She would fret and cry, and I know she is very happy, she used to be so loving and kind to me, and so did Dada, and now!—and now!—"

Here the child broke down and sobbed pitifully. Her father, the guilty listener, was confused, what he had heard had almost sobered him. As Gracie sobbed he pushed the door open slightly, to look at her. The sight which met his gaze astounded him and sobered him completely. He pressed his hands to his temples and stood as if petrified.

There at the bedside knelt Gracie, with clasped hands and upturned face. At each side of her, as if suspended in the air, floated a beautiful angel. Both wore robes of the purest white, a sweet heavenly smile resting on each face. With hands clasped over the child's head, they swayed to and fro, a beautiful light encircling all. Sweet music could be faintly heard, and there was an unmistakable scent of delicately perfumed flowers. Now the room seemed to be full of bright angels, the singing became louder, the light increased, and John Carter was lost in amazement. As the vision grew brighter he heard a voice say, "John, your child." That voice—there was no mistaking it, it was that of his departed wife. Of this he was certain, although he could not see her.

SYLLABUS OF LYCEUM LESSONS FOR JULY.

COMPILED BY THE EDITOR.

Invocation.

All Wise Power, we, thy children, would ask thy blessing this day, that we may be able to rise to higher things, to do our life's work faithfully and well, that we may not be ashamed in the world to come. Oh! give all mortals strength to-day to bear the dangers and adversities that may be standing in their way; for it is through the darkness we gain the light; it is through trial that we are able to secure strength and confidence. Guide us, oh! our Father, and direct us through all things—now and for evermore.

LYCEUM LESSON. Subject—"ROYALTY."

Outline.—Wearing a Crown does not make a man or woman Royal. Earthly Kings and Queens are but ordinary mortals. The elements of true Royalty include among other things, honesty, courtesy, purity, gentleness, virtue, honour, graciousness, sympathy; these are among the things that make up a Royal life and character. It is the duty of Royalty to set a good example to the people who sustain them in their positions. The world needs no better Royalty than a true manhood and a true womanhood. Every member of our Lyceums can thus become Royal if they will live a true life.

GROUP LESSONS.

Senior Groups. Subject—"ARISTOCRACY."

Outline.—Anciently the rule of an aristocracy meant "the rule of the best." The fittest in mind, morals and body to lead the councils of the nation. To-day the spread of culture and political power among all classes renders an aristocracy almost unnecessary. When the aristocrat lives up to his order, as a true gentleman, he is not doing what the most ordinary citizen does as his duty. The wearing of coronets, stars and sashes do not make a real aristocrat, though they may adorn one who does not appreciate his real duties as a man. Let us strive for equal rights for all.

Junior Groups. Subject—"LOYALTY."

Outline.—Loyalty is something more than faithfulness to the Crown. A loyal man is a true friend, a man who stands by his convictions and principles. We should each strive to be loyal to all that is good and beautiful in all around us. Be loyal to all promises, pledges, and undertakings. But carefully consider all promises before pledging yourself.

SUNDAY, JULY 11th.

Invocation.

With grateful hearts we unite in giving thanks to the Source of all Good, for the manifold blessings bestowed upon us. For the bright sunshine, the fair flowers, as well as for the joys of loving parents and companions. Especially do we rejoice that we are able to hold communion with our loved who "have gone before" into the bright summer-land, and we invoke their dear presence here to-day, that they may help us to come into nearer union with them and into deeper fellowship with all that is pure and good.

LYCEUM LESSON. Subject—"MORALITY."

Outline.—Morality is the science of our duties to each other. Our duties are based upon our natures as rational and immortal human beings. As Spiritualists we recognise that the full test of all earthly experience and practice will only be found hereafter. Therefore we teach it is absolutely needful that we live soberly, virtuously, honestly and justly, while here. The morality of Spiritualism is: the right, because it is right. The good, because it is good. It is as bad to think evil as it is to do it. We are what we think, hence we must think purely if we would live the highest moral life.

Senior Groups. Subject—"RIGHT."

Outline.—It is right to tell the truth, to live so that the truth about you will never cause you pain or shame. It is right to accord to others the freedom and privileges you desire for yourself. Nations have rights as well as individuals. It is the right of the strong to defend and protect the weak. It is the right of the wise to instruct the unwise. It is right to stand for the truth as you see it, but it is also right to allow that others have a right to stand for what is truth to them.

Junior Groups. Subject—"GOODNESS."

Outline.—Be good in your conduct. Be good in your actions. Be good in your thoughts. To be good is to be diligent, attentive, considerate of others, kind to animals, and in all ways to do your best to avoid causing pain, trouble or sorrow, to those near and dear to you, to anyone, in fact.

SUNDAY, JULY 18th.

Invocation.

Once more, oh! thou Divine Spirit, do we enter thy presence this

morning, seeking thy power to assist us in the work of love to humanity. Once more we commit ourselves to thee. We feel, oh! thou soul of all light and love how small and weak the flesh is, but with the *spirit* there is strength! We ask for that strength, not only as a baptism to the physical, but also that we may receive and appreciate with more gratification, and drink more deeply at the fountain of light. Re-furnish the spirit, that we may feel stronger because we have met. Enable us to part feeling we have well spent our time, and have come into closer union with thee, the angels, and each other.

LYCEUM LESSON. Subject—"WHY ARE WE SPIRITUALISTS."

Outline.—We are not Spiritualists as a matter of belief, we know that man lives after "death," that we hold communion with the departed, and that immortality is the natural inheritance of the entire human race. We are Spiritualists because of the facts we are acquainted with, that prove the return of those who are called 'dead' from the other world, after they have left this. We are Spiritualists because at our domestic circles, and through our private and public mediums, we have received numberless proofs of our facts being produced by the people of the other world. Ours is a philosophy and morality founded upon the proven facts of Spirit communion.

GROUP LESSONS.

Senior Groups. Subject—"EVIL SPIRITS."

Outline.—Spiritualists have outgrown the old superstitions about devils, demons, and such like things. Evil spirits, to the Spiritualist, are but the departed who are still undeveloped in the higher parts of our common nature. The science of spirit control helps us to understand what obsession, possession, and infestation really are. We do not attribute them to Diabolism, but to disorderly visitors from the other world, who may be attracted to sensitive people by discordant states of mind or moral character in themselves.

Junior Groups. Subject—"SPIRIT CHILDREN."

Outline.—When our younger brothers and sisters die we only bury their bodies, their spirits have gone into the spirit world. They are children there, and will become men and women there, in due time. They have their Lyceums there, their sports and pleasures, and they meet again their companions who may have gone there before them. At times they come back to earth, visiting their former homes, and the Lyceums they previously attended.

SUNDAY, JULY 28th.

Invocation.

We hail thee, oh beloved spirit friend and ask thy wise counsel to day, that our present meeting may be fruitful of good to our lives. Inspire us, and bless us, with thy presence and thy love. Lead us in the ways of righteousness, and open our eyes to the glories of the sweet world in which thou dwellest. Help us to come nearer to the divine in nature and ourselves, that we may live in greater accord therewith in the future, than we have done in the past. We ask this in the name of truth, and for the cause of human welfare.

LYCEUM LESSON. Subject—"THE HEREAFTER."

Outline.—What we call the hereafter is but a continuation of the present. We are now living in eternity, to-morrow is the hereafter of to-day, just as much as the next world is the hereafter of this one. It is as natural a state as the present one. We shall all be just as real there, as here. We shall find happiness on arriving there, if we have lived worthily while here. There are homes, temples, parks, palaces, and gardens there. We can study there, we shall meet our friends there, we shall find art, music, and song there. We shall be able to realize all the ambitions and desires of our higher selves over there.

GROUP LESSONS.

Senior Groups. Subject—"WHY SPIRITS RETURN."

Outline.—To cheer the bereaved. To demonstrate the immortality of man. To teach us how to live for the world to come. To disabuse our minds of the old superstitions concerning God, death, the Devil, eternal punishment, depravity, and salvation. To instruct us regarding things spiritual. To teach us concerning the real facts of death. To urge the religion of love, brotherhood, and use, upon all the world. To minister to the sick and suffering in mind and body. To assist us in many things in which their services are most useful.

Junior Groups. Subject—"HEAVEN."

Outline.—Heaven is not a place, it is a state. When you are happy you have heaven within you. When you make others happy you have heaven around you. Heaven is where and when you are most happy. The cottage of the poor can be a heaven, if those who live in it are loving and united. A palace without love, unity, and harmony, may be little better than hell. It is not where you are, but the good you do, that makes heaven.

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.

BURNLEY, (Guy Street).—The Guy Street Lyceum, re-opened under collective management in April, is now progressing very favourably. We hold week-night sessions which are very ably presided over by Mr. Allisson. On Whit-Monday we had our usual picnic to Holme Chapel, and the surrounding hills. Although the weather was very cold we all enjoyed ourselves very much. We all arrived home by six o'clock.—**ERNEST HARGREAVES**, Secretary.

OPENSHAW.—I am pleased to inform you that the month of May was a very bright one for us, for the five Sundays we averaged 107 attendances out of 142. On June 6th, we elected officers for the next 6 months, commencing July 1st, when Mr. J. Shaw was re-elected Conductor, and Mr. W. Booth was elected Musical Director, Organist, and Secretary. **J. SHAW**, Secretary.

SHEFFIELD (Hollis Hall).—On Whit-Sunday, the Lyceum presented a pretty appearance, as the members assembled in greater numbers than has been their habit for some time. Each one bore evidences of the care of anxious parents, as the new dresses and prettily arranged hats of the girls, and the neat knicker suits of the boys testified. Mr. F. Hepworth was again with us, and was invited to conduct the session. As usual, everyone was delighted by his happy method of dealing with the items in the lessons. Mr. Gill and Mr. Wright were in their places, and completed the arrangements for the childrens' excursion. Only one recitation was given, it being nicely rendered by Miss Mabel Ball.

MIDDLESBOROUGH (Grange Road West).—We held our first trip on Whit-Wednesday morning, at 10 o'clock, the scholars, leaders, and friends that joined with us numbering 100, started for Middleton in brakes, the childrens' brake being first, and that the multitude might know who we were we had a banner with "Middlesborough Spiritualist Progressive Lyceum" on, and put it on the childrens' brake. It was a red letter day for one and all, we had singing and music all along the route; when we arrived we had all the children and leaders photos taken. It was a beautiful day; tea was provided, to which all did ample justice. Mr. Shannon undertook to give the children sports, which they enjoyed, and he awarded prizes to all who took part in them.

PRESTON, (Weavers' Hall).—On Whit-Monday, we had a most enjoyable time, it being our annual Field-Day. The attendance was very good, 130 being present to do justice to the bill of fare provided for the children. The principal item in the programme was the racing, which was all that could be desired. After a substantial tea, the Lyceum scholars admirably rendered "Our Lyceum" and "Heart Flowers" from the "Lyceum Manual," conducted by Mr. Thos. Woods. There were games, etc., for the children, whom I am sure spent a most enjoyable day. We heartily thank all friends who helped us to make it a success. On June 20th we held our third Lyceum Anniversary, speaker, Mr. Alfred Kitson. Morning—Open session, attendance 100 including friends. The responses to the Silver and Golden Chain Recitations were given very well. Marching excellent. Mr. Kitson conducted the calisthenics in a very pleasing manner. Solo by Miss Marie Lancaster. Recitations by Mr. Frank Ribchester, Frank Whitaker, Ada Walton, Agnes Ann Park, and Elizabeth Walton. Mr. Kitson gave a few words of encouragement, in the Afternoon Mr. Kitson gave an address touching upon the "Origin of

the Progressive Lyceum." Evening, his subject was "Angel Ministers," he dealt with it most eloquently, and gave the greatest satisfaction. Mrs. Waddilove, of Lostock Hall, kindly gave her services for clairvoyance on both occasions. **C. PARKINSON**, Hon. Sec. [Please write on one side of the paper only.—**EDITORS.**]

LONDON, SOUTH.—The Officers and Members of our Lyceum had an afternoon's outing to Epping Forest last month, where tea was provided. Being favoured with fine weather we spent a very enjoyable day in rambling through the forest, picking flowers and indulging in various games.—**JAS. KENYON**, Sec.

STOCKPORT.—The Queen's Long Reign Celebrations have been carried out on an elaborate and extensive scale here. By invitation of the District Committee we took part in a demonstration and procession of Church and Nonconformist schools in the Heaton Norris division of our borough. With our splendid new banner, daintily dressed young ladies and little girls, groups and officers in full regalia, we made an effective display, which will doubtless impress our fellow citizens with some idea of our respectability and earnestness as a body of spiritual workers, making our way rapidly to the front. The Lyceum funds provided a substantial free tea, a few society members and friends joining in the welcome meal.

SUNDERLAND.—On Sunday June 20th, we conducted the evening service for the society. At one time we thought of abandoning the service which we give once each quarter, because our conductor—Mr. Todd—had been absent from home so much lately, and therefore not able to prepare us. However, we decided we would see how well we could manage by ourselves. So, with the help of Mrs. Todd and Mrs. Luckley, and unknown to our conductor, we held a number of week-night practises, and prepared several recitations, readings and hymns. The service passed off splendidly, the senior boy in the "Liberty" group acted as chairman, and gave a neat and comprehensive address. To make the service more interesting Miss E. E. Todd gave a short address on "What is Spiritualism?" and asked the chairman to put questions to the Lyceum, to elucidate her remarks, a request which was complied with. The questions put were exceedingly well chosen, and the responses by the children, in turn, were admirable elucidations of the work of Lyceums and the philosophy of Spiritualism. At the conclusion of the programme Mr. Todd expressed his delight at the excellent service rendered, as it had far exceeded his anticipations, and he was now more proud of the Lyceum than ever he had been before. The chairman hoped that the conductor would be more amongst them in future than had lately been the case; but they accepted his absence with a certain amount of pleasure, because they knew that other Lyceums were receiving the benefit of his visit. At the conclusion of the service the members sang the National Anthem, it being Jubilee Sunday.

MORLEY.—June 13th, 1897. The election of officers for the next quarter, ending September next, was held on the above date, when Messrs. J. Pickles, L. Taylor, L. Dews, E. Green, and E. Bradbury we elected as Conductors; and L. Mason and J. W. Duxbury as assistant conductors; Mr. J. W. Duxbury as Secretary, and Miss Esther Green as Treasurer. Leader of calisthenics, J. W. Duxbury. Lyceum closed with Hymn and Benediction.—**LOUISA TAYLOR**, Sec.

He that follows the advice of reason has a mind that is elevated above the reach of injury.

THE BANNER'S LETTER BOX.

LYCEUM EFFORT AND THE SPIRITUALIST NATIONAL JUBILEE BAZAAR.

DEAR EDITORS.—I have been expecting to see in your valuable paper some response to the letters that have appeared with reference to the Effort that is being made by our Lyceum Children for the forthcoming Bazaar, to be held in Manchester, in 1898. Perhaps it would bring the Effort more prominently before the Cause if you will carry out your suggestion in your March number of the BANNER, that is to reproduce the Penny Tokens. Since writing you some months ago the project has been carried out, and our esteemed friend, Mr. Kitson, Secretary of the Lyceum Union, has taken up the work by distributing 1000 books, and every Lyceum has received copies and also the circulars explaining the aims and objects of the Bazaar. This may be an incentive to others to assist the Scholars' Effort in different parts of the country. It is pleasing to hear that some of our Lyceums are doing good work, and have already collected a good sum, and I am pleased to say that Walsall is amongst the number.

Several of our young Lyceumists have set themselves to work determined to get 10/- as their share. Even the youngest of our scholars, only 15 years old, has got 4/3 already! I hear there are frequent applications for more books from our worthy Secretary, Mr. Kitson. I think if our Lyceum Conductors will from time to time explain to our young friends that our earnest desire is to spread the glorious truths we have found in our Spiritual *Philosophy*, and bringing light to those in darkness by the aid of the burning eloquence of our Missionary Mediums, as they proclaim the undying truths from town to town, it ought to inspire us all to nobler work for the uplifting of the human race. And, as I heard the other day a true friend of our Cause say, he loved to support the work by his personal aid and means, because it had done so much for *him*. This was no vain *boast* as many of us who are associated with him know. Are there not thousands of us who can say the same as our friend? But are we doing all we could do for this mighty work that is going on in our midst? Now, let us, brothers and sisters, set our hands to the plough and not turn back until the object we have in view is *realised*, that is £1000 for mission or propaganda *work*.

Dear friends, let us think over these things, and do our very best to make this Bazaar a greater success than our Cause has ever known before. This can be done if each one of us will do our little! we ought to do this as our duty to our children who have to follow us in the great work we are engaged in, the great love we have for them ought to inspire us. I should be pleased if you think the time has arrived to open up a column in the BANNER, from each Lyceum announcing what the children are doing from time to time; also I hope that each delegate to the National Conference, to be held in Blackburn, will be able to report favourably to what each Lyceum is doing. Wishing you God speed in your good work.—Yours fraternally, JOHN VENABLES,
Shaw St., Walsall. Chairman of Bazaar Committee.

[NOTE.—The Editors of the BANNER are quite willing to place a column at the disposal of the above object. They earnestly desire all Lyceums to take up the matter NOW, AT ONCE. Do not delay. If our good friend will send us the "block" for the Pennies it shall appear. So far, however, no copy of the collecting book has reached this journal, hence we have been unable to refer to it, and urge it upon the attention of our officers and members.—EDITORS, L.B.]

MARYLEBONE ASSOCIATION OF SPIRITUALISTS.

CAVENDISH ROOMS.

51, Mortimer Street, Regent Circus, W.

Sunday Evening Lectures, etc., 1897.

July and August.

- July 4th. Dr. J. M. PEEBLES, of San Diego, California.
 „ 11th. Mr. J. J. MORSE. Trance Address.
 „ 18th. Mr. G. H. BIBBINGS. Trance Address.
 „ 25th. Miss ROWAN VINCENT. Address and Clairvoyance.
 Aug. 1st. Mr. J. J. MORSE. Trance Address.
 „ 8th. Miss McCREADIE. Short Address and Clairvoyance.
 „ 15th. Miss G. H. BIBBINGS. Trance Address.
 „ 22nd. Mrs. GREEN. Short Address and Clairvoyance.
 „ 29th. Mrs. GREEN. Short Address and Clairvoyance.

All communications must be in writing, addressed to the Hon. Sec., Mr. Leigh Hunt, 82, East-st., Marylebone, London, W.

Inquirers Cordially Invited. Doors open at 6-30. Commence at 7.

Admission Free. Collection. Further particulars in due course.

THE PALMIST AND CHIROLOGICAL REVIEW. The Journal of the Chirollogical Society. Edited by Mrs. Katherine St. Hill and Mr. Charles F. Rideal. Monthly 6d., Subscription, 6s. 6d. per annum post free. London: The Roxburghe Press, 15, Victoria Street, Westminster.

THE NURSING NEWS AND HOSPITAL REVIEW. A Herald of Hygiene and a Chronicle of Nursing and Institution News. Representing the Nursing Profession. A Journal for Medical Practitioners and trained Nurses. Monthly, 1d. Subscription, 2s. per annum, post free. London: The Roxburghe Press, 15, Victoria Street, Westminster.

BORDERLAND: A Quarterly Review. Single Number, 2/6; Annual Subscription, post free, 11s. Devoted to Spiritualism Theosophy, Astrology and all topics on "Borderland of Science." Edited by W. T. Stead. London: Mowbray House, Norfolk Street, W.C.

JUST HOW MUCH?

"I would do anything to get an education!" said Joe, savagely thumping the down sofa pillow till a fine, fluffy dust flew from seams and corners.

"Just how much would you do, Joe?" said practical Uncle Phil interestedly. As much as Elihu Burritt?"

"How much did he do?" inquired Joe. "Was he a boy without any chance?"

"No indeed!" said Uncle Phil, who never sympathised with whining Joe's way of looking at things. "As many chances as you have, or any other boy with brains and ten fingers. Had to work at the forge ten or twelve hours a day, but that didn't hinder him from working away in his mind while his hands were busy. Used to do hard sums in arithmetic while he was blowing the bellows."

"Whew!" said Joe, as if he, too, saw a pair of bellows at hand. "How old was he? Older than I am, wasn't he?"

"About sixteen, when his father died. By-and-bye he began to study other things. Before he died he knew eighteen languages, and nearly twice that number of dialects. All this time he kept hard at work blacksmithing."

"I don't have to work as hard as that?" said Joe after a while, with a shamefaced look that rejoiced his uncle's heart.

Joe was a farmer's son, and in busy times there was a good deal for a boy of his age to do. So far he had not been spared to go away to any preparatory school to "fit" for college. So he had faint-heartedly and sulkily given up the thought of going there. Somehow Uncle Phil's words had put things in a new light.—*Ex.*