

# THE LYCEUM BANNER

A Spiritualist Magazine for Old and Young.

VOL. VII

DECEMBER, 1897.

No. 85.

## PORTRAIT GALLERY OF OUR LYCEUM WORKERS.

### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

No. 10.

MR. JAMES MOULDING.

THE subject of our sketch was born in the town of Oswaldtwistle, Nov. 29th, 1850, and was educated at Church. But, at the early age of six, he was compelled through force of circumstances, to turn out into the wide world, and endeavour to earn his daily bread. At this time he was a scholar in the Church of England Sunday School, but later transferred his attendance to the Baptist Church. He quickly rose from scholar to teacher, commencing with the infant class, until we see him the leader and teacher of the adults. By degrees a feeling of dissatisfaction with the teachings of this religious body arose in his breast, which compelled him to seek a religion more in unison with his then state of mind, and in the year 1884 we find him amongst the Pendleton Spiritualists, who then held their meetings in the Town Hall, in which place he received the proof of Spirit-return, and heard for the first time the beautiful philosophy of Spiritualism.

After a time this body of progressive people removed into Co-operative Hall, and here we find our friend still clinging to the Spiritualistic teaching, and later, when they again moved into their present home, namely, Cobden Street, our friend became a worker, where his true worth was revealed, and his talents developed. In passing from office to office, we find him ever an active worker in the cause of progress. He has held the post of secretary (which he still retains), also treasurer, choir master, and delegate.



MR. JAMES MOULDING.

### A FURTHER TRIBUTE.

You require to know Mr. Moulding personally before you can understand him. He believes in everything being done right, and he will stand for right and justice, though the world be against him. He has done his best for the Lyceum on every occasion by his life of self-sacrifice to the cause he loves. His devotion and sympathy has been rewarded by electing him conductor of the Pendleton Lyceum, a position he still retains, also as a delegate of the Lancashire Lyceum Demonstration Committee. He lives for others, not only for himself, and he realises the presence of angels is one of the greatest of realities.

J. B. LONGSTAFF.

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FOUNDED NOVEMBER,  
the official organ of the Britis  
Union, May, 189

THE LYCEUM

PRICE ONE PENNY.

J. J. MORSE: Ed

FLORENCE MOR

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nes, whose presence became so real, so lovingly  
we came to her spiritual perception.

The child was alone, very much, but never lonely, she  
had been left an orphan at a very early age, and could only  
just remember her sweet, young mother as one recollects a  
beautiful dream.

She had been brought up by a relative, and the tender  
influences that so enrich the soul of childhood had been  
strangely lacking in her life.

She had one child friend to whom she sometimes told her  
thoughts, but to others she appeared silent, sometimes was  
termed dreamy, and chidden for want of activity. In the  
soft hour of twilight she would often steal away to her  
favorite resort—a nook in the old orchard—and it seemed  
to her that the angel mother met her there, and the two  
talked together about life, in its sweetness and beauty 'even  
as it is in heaven.'

The mother told her many things, comforting her, and  
speaking hopefully of happy reunion, useful labor, and un-  
alloyed happiness. Beautiful thoughts grew in her mind,  
which as she passed from childhood to girlhood, expanded  
and became rounded out to mature perfection, she listened  
to the angel influences who guarded her youth; and the  
sweet sheen of blossoming womanhood found her upon the  
threshold of a new life.

Her life work carried her to an old city, whose picturesque  
ruins attracted the attention of tourists, where every ancient  
record suggested thoughts, strange yet beautiful to the  
aspiring soul.

She entered the old Cathedral one bright summer's morn-  
ing when the golden sun rays streamed through the richly  
stained windows, illumining cloister, nave and chancel, with  
soft tinted light, when the full swelling tones of the organ

rose and fell from the lofty roof where sculptured forms and  
pictured faces represented the beautiful thought of earth's  
noblest minds, she knew not why, but an answer seemed to  
grow in her own heart to the influence of that inspiration,  
and she felt the presence of the angel who loved her. Hours  
passed, the young girl lingered yet among the shadows, and  
the old verger coming to close the massive doors, found her  
sleeping in one of the oaken carved seats beneath the organ  
loft.

"You have been sleeping long," he said, "and it grows  
cold here, you must be quite chilled;" but the bright  
happiness of the young face disarmed his fears, as she  
answered, "No, no, indeed, I have had such a beautiful  
dream, and I have seen the angels."

So she went out into the soft light of evening, the soft  
odours of closing flowers wafted upon the still air, and a  
thought of the beautiful grew in her soul as she realised once  
more the presence of angels, "even as it is in Heaven."

For she had dreamed of a beautiful home in the spheres  
of light, where all the results of earth life await the risen  
spirit, and she had seen the beauties of the angel world, and  
more than all, she had rested in her mother's arms, and learned  
the beauty of the love of the All-Father.

As the years rolled by there came to her the experience of  
every woman soul; she was loved and learned to love one  
whose life work needed just the beauty of womanly influence  
to complete its perfect mission; and this also was shewn to  
her by her angel guides.

One also came whose worldly wealth and position might  
have lured many a soul to ruin. He whispered  
fond endearments in her ear, he sought to woo by fair  
promises of happier hours, when she should no longer toil  
for daily bread, or need the luxuries of life.

But divine intuitions of love's sacred power wafted  
through her soul's deep consciousness. She could not brook  
a love less spiritual than that which flows from a pure one,  
even the reflection of love's holy passion, in purity and  
beauty, "as it is in heaven." So the tempter turned away,  
and the angel of love hovered over the young life, until her  
vows were sealed unto one who was her soul's affinity; and  
there came to her a deep, steadfast faith in the guidance  
of Eternal Love, a restful calm that inspired in her life  
renewed efforts to progress unto love's purest ideal, "even as  
it is in heaven."

Time passed, the joys of maternity were hers, beautiful  
babes, like flowers of Paradise, thoughts fresh from the  
great soul of love, looked up into her eyes and smiled.  
Children's voices gladdened her home, and her heart grew  
full of joy. Deep, tender thoughts of beauty surged through  
her life, growing into deeds of kindness, and gentle charity.  
Loving and beloved she lived in the light of heaven's smile,  
and ever sought communion with the angels who loved her.

Bright, fair visions of Spirit-presence came into her life,  
and evil influences seemed held back, so that the spiritual  
faculties expanded in the atmosphere of love, even as the  
petals of a beautiful flower in the sunshine. She dreamed  
not of sorrow, saw not the shadows of a cloud. But there  
fell a day when a darkness that could be felt settled near  
her soul, a deep gloom through which no glimpse of heaven's  
beauty could be discerned enveloped her life, and the woman-  
soul within her shrank back in fear from the power of evil.

Her husband suddenly removed by accident, her children  
sickening one by one, until five times the grave opened to  
receive the mortal form of a loved one. Her home broken  
up, her life left desolate, she listened in vain for the voice of

a comforter. Then came unto her a tempter once again, for she was still beautiful. Her gifts were coveted by many, and she knew not that the world, whose smile had been hers in the days of gladness, turned away from her as one smitten by evil. Sickness came, and the angel of deliverance waited the mother's bidding. "Not yet, not yet, perfect through suffering must be the soul who aspires to heaven's purity," whispered the guardian of her life. And so it was, that when the weary brain refused to think, when the soul of love became as a weaned child, and passively yielded up its idols, then the angels came and ministered unto her.

A deep calm succeeded the tempest of sorrow, and although the once brown tresses were snowy white, and deep lines upon the gentle face told of the soul's struggle with pain. A light grew round the bowed head and settled in the deep, soulful eyes, so that those who looked upon her face knew that they stood in the presence of an angel. Henceforth there was but one prayer breathed by the beautiful woman-soul, whose love was not of this world, neither was her treasure here, only the continual service of a grateful heart that had been divinely comforted, the language of whose daily life was constantly, "thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."

And bye-and-bye the shadows grew longer, the golden tints of sunset deepened into sombre shade, as the aged woman waited for the angel's call. She was much beloved, the poor and fatherless blessed her as she passed, the weary soul of pain thanked God for the soothing touch of her gentle hand, and the erring oftimes turned their faces heavenward through her loving counsels. The angels came very near her now, so near that the children loved to gather round her chair and listen to her stories of these beautiful ministers. Her face was a delightful study, so peaceful, her meek hands folded now, finished their patient task, waiting for the dawn. In the night she heard the voices of her dear ones calling her, she knew that ere long she too should go home.

So it was, that ere the summer waned again, there was a vacant chair, and a white casket strewn with flowers was carried to its quiet resting place. The soul of the watcher had heard the angel's call, and taken its happy flight to the angels' home of love, where God's will is done, "even as it is in heaven."

## Lyceum Recitations.

### MY SPIRIT BIRTH.

When I am an angel,  
Shed no tear or sorrow;  
Lay this earthly casket  
Early on the morrow.  
In earth's loving bosom,  
To become a part  
Of external Nature—  
Throbbing in her heart.

When I am an angel  
Do not think me dead;  
For this happy spirit  
From the body fled,  
Lives in light and beauty;  
Clasps forevermore  
The dear ones gone before me  
To that blissful shore.

Let no weeds of mourning  
Mar the happy day

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To the <sup>en</sup>T GALLERY.  
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### THE TROY

An Essay read before the  
BY WILLIAM

"Speak gently, 'tis a  
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The good, the joy, that lay en- ling, up  
Eternity shall tell."

**T**HE term Spiritualism is generally applied to the belief in the possibility of communicating with people who have left this earth, and gone to the Spirit World; and those who so believe are termed Spiritualists.

The term Spiritualism is also used in referring to the higher, spiritual, or God-like nature that is within man, and also, to the teachings, or doctrines, of the Spiritual Philosophy.

In order to make a distinction between those who merely believe in the phenomena of Spiritualism, and those who go further, by striving to live a true spiritual life, as set forth in its teachings, some writers term the former Spiritists, and the latter Spiritualists. This I think is the wiser plan, for an unscrupulous or evil-living person can be a Spiritualist in the first sense of the term, but not in the second.

Well, it is this latter term that I desire to say a few words as to what makes a True Lady or Gentleman.

In the first place, I would ask What is Spirit? Reckoned as a whole, it is God, for God is Spirit; and the nature of Spirit is God.

To illustrate a little plainer, we will take, for instance, a glass of water as a whole; this we will fancy is separated into tiny drops. These drops are therefore, what we may term sparks or portions of the whole; or, again, we may term them children of the whole. In like manner we are all children of God, or the Great Whole, as we are all drops, or sparks, from the Whole Life, or Spirit. Now the nature of Spirit being all-good, to be good, and to do good, is to give expression to our Spiritual, or God-like, nature. This nature expresses itself through us in various ways, such as love for our fellow-beings and animals; gentleness, kindness, and refinement. Thus, one who expresses the Spiritual nature

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gentleman," but now I am glad to say we are learning more,  
 so that we find that a person can be a lady or gentleman

whether they be a chimney sweep, carter, navvy, or belong  
 to any other so-called inferior trade, to that of those who do

nothing.

To be a lady or gentleman then, we must of necessity be  
 kind, gentle, and courteous in all our ways; and this is

something which money cannot buy, yet which we all can  
 have. It comes from within, and we all have the power and

capability of its development whether we are rich or poor.  
 Therefore, the above term may be altered so as to read

"manners, and not money makes the lady or gentlemen."  
 (To be Concluded.)

## Love, Courtship and Marriage.

[ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.]

BY FRANK N. LAW.

PART VII.

(Continued from June issue.)

WE wish to plead for the children; to appeal to all parents  
 to give the child the right training and thus assist to  
 bring nearer that "righteous manhood" so much spoken of.  
 Where possible get them to attend a Progressive Lyceum, if  
 you are on the side of progression, remember the work of  
 the reformer pertains to the mind and the morals. In the  
 Lyceums we are stemming the current of erroneous belief, the  
 thinking and the moral doing of those who come under the  
 control of our Conductors and Leaders is being influenced  
 for their good. It is best to get them to think aright,  
 because when our young men and women begin to think

right they soon begin to do right. We are sorry to find  
 that so many parents who have embraced the grand philo-  
 sophy and teachings of Spiritualism yet indifferent to the  
 training of their boys and girls, who are allowed to wander  
 the streets, or worse still, are sent to Sabbath Schools,  
 where their youthful minds are poisoned and their moral  
 and spiritual growth stunted, where perhaps they are  
 crammed with an old antiquated theological creed that had  
 done good service in the days of Oliver Cromwell, or they  
 have placed before their mental vision a picture of Church  
 and State painted by James the Second, they are induced to  
 open their mouths and shut their eyes and swallow all  
 manner of theological chaff under the delusion that they are  
 being fed with the bread of life, and are taught other matters  
 entirely useless in this nineteenth century. In the Lyceum  
 they are taught to think for themselves, to give expression  
 to their thoughts, and if more of our young people could be  
 brought to participate in our Lyceum work, the dawn of a  
 brighter day could not be far distant, when right and truth  
 would have supreme sway, when the benign rays of justice  
 shall warm all hearts into brotherly love, an age in which  
 the sceptre of power would be placed in the hand of purity,  
 the crown of honour would rest upon the brow of worth.

They would not then sacrifice their manhood by com-  
 mitting the keeping of their happiness in the hands of  
 individuals in the garb of a Priest, but, by having their  
 talents aroused, their spiritual faculties developed, would  
 become more responsive to helpful influences, break the  
 bonds of Superstition, Ignorance, and Bigotry, would become  
 their own thinkers and manufacture their own mental  
 furniture which would be prized more than all things else.  
 The conditions needful to bring about this much desired  
 state of things, must be provided by sympathetic parents  
 and friends. Make the children happy, that with hearts  
 full of joy they may sing and speak of home as in that  
 beautiful hymn by Mr. A. B. Kilburn:

"Bless our home, O Heavenly Father,

Bright and happy may it be;

Let thy smile e'er rest upon it,

Keep it from all danger free;

Father, mother, little children—

Sanctify them with thy love,

Making home a priceless treasure,

Wheresoe'er our footsteps rove.

Should dark shadows fall upon it,

Do thou still with us remain;

And thy presence e'er will comfort—

And the sunshine come again.

Trials great may overtake us

Yet we'll put our trust in thee,

Hoping, praying, taking courage

Till thou com'st to set us free.

Enter Thou our humble dwelling,

In our sorrow in our joy;

In thy loving grace confiding

We are safe if thou art nigh.

Thou canst make sweet flowers sweeter,

Cheer the coldest, darkest gloom,

Bring us nearer, ever nearer

To a brighter, sweeter, home."

Parents eyes should be upon little children, watch the  
 early growth of intellect, cultivate that which is pure,  
 eradicate that which is impure, point out to them that "to  
 study" is "a duty."

(To be Continued.)

# The Outlook.

## LYCEUM NOTES AND COMMENTS, No. LIX.

BY ALFRED KITSON, SECRETARY, B.S.L.U.

**J**N answer to Mr. A. McLeod's reference to my "Moral Reform Pledge" in the October BANNER, where he kindly asks, "Was it not first formulated by Mr. A. J. Davis?" I find that Mr. Davis states the following on p. 116 of his *Lyceum Manual* "PLEDGE.—Believing that SMOKING, SNUFFING, and CHEWING are uncleanly, unhealthy, demoralising, unnecessary, and expensive, I hereby pledge to abstain from the use of TOBACCO, in all its forms, totally, and forever." And, on p. 119, I find the following: "I hereby solemnly promise to abstain from the use of INTOXICATING LIQUORS as a Beverage; and I also hereby promise to abstain from the use of all Vulgar and Profane Language." It will be seen by the above that there is a strange resemblance between them. That of Tobacco is a separate pledge. But in neither of them is the vice of Gambling mentioned. So that I do not think it can justly be said that my "Moral Reform Pledge" was formulated by my esteemed friend Mr. A. J. Davis.

And right here I wish to thank some kind unknown friend, for sending me weekly copies of the *Alliance News*, which is crammed full of important matter on the drink question.

Mr. A. J. Davis says, among other good things, in a letter received on the 20th of November, "It is delightful to hear that the blessed Lyceum work is expanding in your great field; please remember me most fraternally and lovingly to each and all, ever your friend, A. J. DAVIS." I trust that each Lyceum worker will feel that he means them as much as myself, and strive to merit his kind appreciation accordingly.

I am pleased to announce that Lyceums have been opened at Higher Broughton, Manchester; Rotherham; and at North Shields. All of them have become members of the Lyceum Union.

A preliminary meeting of the Manchester District Council was held on November 6th, as per announcement. Through the oversight of the Collyhurst secretary not correcting the change of address for the Lyceum, I spent an hour waiting for the doors to be opened, and ultimately found out the place belonged to the Latter Day Saints! Then commenced a hurried hunt for the new meeting place. Secretaries should be careful to see that the correct address of their Lyceums are published in the BANNER List as it is the main guide of visitors when in new towns and cities. The meeting was all too short to deal fully with the business, and answer the burning questions concerning the Lyceum Union, and its advantages. Another meeting will be held at the Hilton Street Lyceum, Higher Broughton, on December 11th, where I hope to again have the pleasure of meeting the friends. Mr. A. Hall, 211, Bury New Road, Manchester, is the honorary secretary of the Council.

Arrangements have been made with the Cobden Hall Society, Nottingham, to hold a Lyceum Propaganda Meeting there on Sunday, January 9th, 1898, which will be addressed by members of the Executive Committee, who will hold a business meeting on the evening of the 8th. We hope to see friends present from Leicester, Belper, and Derby, so that it may be a red-letter day for the Midlands. [See official notice elsewhere.—Eds.]

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GALLERY.

### THE FIRST

**T**HE first exhibition of the Lyceum Mutual Improvement Society, which is affiliated with the York Federation of Mutual Improvement Societies, was our lot, and responds to the formation and Hudson's Bay Council, which is a fact, doing business in Liverpool, but is also shown. The journey he Los Angeles, across the Moha Arizona, Texas, New Mexico New Orleans, and then on to Brooklyn, views of places and cities en route being A large number of portraits of eminent American and British workers being also shown, Editors, Mediums, and Lecturers, whom Mr. Morse had met in his travels. The Lantern was ably manipulated by Mr. H. Rumford, and his services in that direction, as well as his assistance to Mr. Morse in the preparation of the slides, were heartily recognised by the audience. The pictures were nearly all taken by Mr. Morse while in the States, and as 148 were shown he must have been pretty busy with his camera!

We are pleased to note that the Lantern is booked next year to exhibit at the Cavendish Rooms, London, for the Marylebone Society, on Sunday, January 2nd; at Sowerby Bridge, on January 17th; probably at Liverpool, on February 21st; at Birmingham, on February 28th; and at several other places with which arrangement are in progress. It will also be exhibited at the London Spiritualists Alliance early in the New Year. Special lectures are in preparation for future use, illustrating the History, Phenomena, and Science of Modern Spiritualism, further details of which will appear in due course. A tour is being arranged for the Manchester District.

WE have a number of excellent articles we hope to find room for at an early date, among them being contributions from Mr. J. B. Longstaff, Mr. G. Horatio Bibbings, "Jenny Wren," of Wellington, N.Z., from whose pen a beautiful article appears this month, the remainder of Mr. F. N. Law's article on "Love, courtship, and marriage." We must have a larger paper. If we could add two more pages of literary matter we could give you even more than is offered now. Extend the sales and then we will.

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right they soon begin to do right. We are sorry to find that so many parents who have embraced the grand philosophy and teachings of Spiritualism yet indifferent to the training of their boys and girls, who are allowed to wander the streets, or worse still, are sent to Sabbath Schools, where their youthful minds are poisoned and their moral and spiritual growth stunted, where perhaps they are crammed with an old antiquated theological creed that had done good service in the days of Oliver Cromwell, or they have placed before their mental vision a picture of Church and State painted by James the Second, they are induced to open their mouths and shut their eyes and swallow all manner of theological chaff under the delusion that they are being fed with the bread of life, and are taught other matters entirely useless in this nineteenth century. In the Lyceum they are taught to think for themselves, to give expression to their thoughts, and if more of our young people could be brought to participate in our Lyceum work, the dawn of a brighter day could not be far distant, when right and truth would have supreme sway, when the benign rays of justice shall warm all hearts into brotherly love, an age in which the sceptre of power would be placed in the hand of purity, the crown of honour would rest upon the brow of worth.

They would not then sacrifice their manhood by committing the keeping of their happiness in the hands of individuals in the garb of a Priest, but, by having their talents aroused, their spiritual faculties developed, would become more responsive to helpful influences, break the bonds of Superstition, Ignorance, and Bigotry, would become their own thinkers and manufacture their own mental furniture which would be prized more than all things else. The conditions needful to bring about this much desired state of things, must be provided by sympathetic parents and friends. Make the children happy, that with hearts full of joy they may sing and speak of home as in that beautiful hymn by Mr. A. B. Kilburn:

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## LYCEUM NOTES AND COMMENTS, No. LIX.

By ALFRED KITSON, SECRETARY, B.S.L.U.

**I**N answer to Mr. A. McLeod's reference to my "Moral Reform Pledge" in the October BANNER, where he kindly asks, "Was it not first formulated by Mr. A. J. Davis?" I find that Mr. Davis states the following on p. 116 of his *Lyceum Manual* "PLEDGE.—Believing that SMOKING, SNUFFING, and CHEWING are uncleanly, unhealthy, demoralising, unnecessary, and expensive, I hereby pledge to abstain from the use of TOBACCO, in all its forms, totally, and forever." And, on p. 119, I find the following: "I hereby solemnly promise to abstain from the use of INTOXICATING LIQUORS as a Beverage; and I also hereby promise to abstain from the use of all Vulgar and Profane Language." It will be seen by the above that there is a strange resemblance between them. That of Tobacco is a separate pledge. But in neither of them is the vice of Gambling mentioned. So that I do not think it can justly be said that my "Moral Reform Pledge" was formulated by my esteemed friend Mr. A. J. Davis.

And right here I wish to thank some kind unknown friend, for sending me weekly copies of the *Alliance News*, which is crammed full of important matter on the drink question.

Mr. A. J. Davis says, among other good things, in a letter received on the 20th of November, "It is delightful to hear that the blessed Lyceum work is expanding in your great field; please remember me most fraternally and lovingly to each and all, ever your friend, A. J. DAVIS." I trust that each Lyceum worker will feel that he means *them* as much as myself, and strive to merit his kind appreciation accordingly.

I am pleased to announce that Lyceums have been opened at Higher Broughton, Manchester; Rotherham; and at North Shields. All of them have become members of the Lyceum Union.

A preliminary meeting of the Manchester District Council was held on November 6th, as per announcement. Through the oversight of the Collyhurst secretary not correcting the change of address for the Lyceum, I spent an hour waiting for the doors to be opened, and ultimately found out the place belonged to the Latter Day Saints! Then commenced a hurried hunt for the new meeting place. Secretaries should be careful to see that the *correct* address of their Lyceums are published in the BANNER List as it is the main guide of visitors when in new towns and cities. The meeting was all too short to deal fully with the business, and answer the burning questions concerning the Lyceum Union, and its advantages. Another meeting will be held at the Hilton Street Lyceum, Higher Broughton, on December 11th, where I hope to again have the pleasure of meeting the friends. Mr. A. Hall, 211, Bury New Road, Manchester, is the honorary secretary of the Council.

Arrangements have been made with the Cobden Hall Society, Nottingham, to hold a Lyceum Propaganda Meeting there on Sunday, January 9th, 1898, which will be addressed by members of the Executive Committee, who will hold a business meeting on the evening of the 8th. We hope to see friends present from Leicester, Belper, and Derby, so that it may be a red-letter day for the Midlands. [See official notice elsewhere.—Eds.]

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GALLERY.

### THE FIRST

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of the home...  
known in Liverpool, but...  
also shown. The journey he...  
Los Angeles, across the Moha...  
Arizona, Texas, New Mexico...  
New Orleans, and then on...  
Brooklyn, views of places and citi...  
A large number of portraits of eminent America...  
British workers being also shown, Editors, Mediums, and...  
Lecturers, whom Mr. Morse had met in his travels. The...  
Lantern was ably manipulated by Mr. H. Rumford, and his...  
services in that direction, as well as his assistance to Mr...  
Morse in the preparation of the slides, were heartily recognised...  
by the audience. The pictures were nearly all taken by Mr...  
Morse while in the States, and as 148 were shown he must...  
have been pretty busy with his camera!

We are pleased to note that the Lantern is booked next year to exhibit at the Cavendish Rooms, London, for the Marylebone Society, on Sunday, January 2nd; at Sowerby Bridge, on January 17th; probably at Liverpool, on February 21st; at Birmingham, on February 28th; and at several other places with which arrangement are in progress. It will also be exhibited at the London Spiritualists Alliance early in the New Year. Special lectures are in preparation for future use, illustrating the History, Phenomena, and Science of Modern Spiritualism, further details of which will appear in due course. A tour is being arranged for the Manchester District.

We have a number of excellent articles we hope to find room for at an early date, among them being contributions from Mr. J. B. Longstaff, Mr. G. Horatio Bibbings, "Jenny Wren," of Wellington, N.Z., from whose pen a beautiful article appears this month, the remainder of Mr. F. N. Law's article on "Love, courtship, and marriage." We must have a larger paper. If we could add two more pages of literary matter we could give you even more than is offered now. Extend the sales and then we will.

Lyceums to reports of  
y inite Secretar nics, Trips,  
t of annoucnent rtrtion. The  
series, Special SerSO list reach us  
ments, Parties, etc., H MONTH.  
It be printed free,  
R THAN THE 24TH OF 1890.

British Spiritualists Lyceum  
FOUNDED NOVEMBER 1877.  
the official organ of the  
Union, Mr. **BANNER.**

THE LYCEUM POST FREE, 1½d.  
and Publisher.  
PRICE ONE PENNY. Associate Editor.

J. J. MORSE: Ed. all over the world.  
FLORENCE MORSE: Street, Euston Road,

Assist. every Lyceum of so his in  
office—Florence Mor... ing waves by his ities.

to... st the r to the grea... try to.  
angels; but she knew th... To the  
silence of the woods, an... ps taken.  
influences.

busy city; its gay,  
her, its pleasures  
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in them

the LYCEUM  
seven year existence.

of studies, has twice changed its  
during the past year, just  
orm when issued in 1890.

call of the Spirit-world, its  
up to what at that time was a still

ing work in this country, the Children's Progressive  
No preliminary flourishes heralded its appearance,

and brought to public notice by the whole of the first edition  
being distributed free of cost among all the Lyceums. We

have never asked for subsidies, guarantees, or pledges of  
support, though friends have, from time to time, helped us

with some donations, but, even then, receipts have never yet  
balanced expenditure.

The Editors have had "no axe to grind," but their one  
and only purpose has been to serve the cause of the children

by providing wholesome literature for them, and an organ,  
free from personalities, as a means of communication between

Lyceum workers the world over. Since the BANNER became  
the official organ of the B.S.L.U., as well as before,

it has consistently supported that body, and the fact that the  
Union pays for its advertisements does not make the slightest

difference. As a matter of fact, the position the Union now  
occupies, and the condition of Lyceum work in this country,

to-day, are largely the results that the establishment of a  
paper, such as the BANNER, has assisted to bring about.

Without such organ, there is great question whether  
our work would be in its present state of consolidation, or

our Union in its efficient and powerful state. The BANNER  
believes in unity, has always urged unity, and will ever

sustain unity, so long as no rights are infringed, or injury  
inflicted on any.

Some consider the BANNER an excellent investment.  
Urging that, even in the event of it being a financial loss,

there are contingent advantages which offset any monetary  
deficiency. It is true we get perhaps half a dozen books for  
review, that the hotel and library at Florence House, and

some of the books we sell are advertised in our pages, yet in  
no case is the value of such advertisements equal to our  
actual cash loss. But we were called by the angels to do the  
work, and for seven years have remained at the post of duty.  
All that we ask is of our friends, help us to pay expenses, we do  
not mind working for the common good. If our circulation can  
be made 700 a month greater than it is now, that will clear  
our expenses. It only means an increase of seven copies per  
month from each Lyceum.

Finally the BANNER is grateful to all its friends, those who  
have given it donations, those who are steady annual sub-  
scribers for copies, those who advertise in its pages, those  
who contribute to its columns, and to the great army of  
Lyceum members and workers all over the world, who have  
been, and still remain, loyal friends and supporters. Come  
what may, the BANNER will always do its best for the cause  
of the children, other work there is none greater for the  
future welfare of humanity, being its motto, now as ever.

IS THE BIBLE OPPOSED TO SPIRITUALISM?

Mr. A. Kitson, in response to numerous requests, is  
prepared to publish his popular articles on the above-named  
subject, which appeared in the *Two Worlds*, in book form, if  
he receives a sufficient number of orders to warrant him in  
so doing. He makes the following special offer:—12 copies,  
4s. 6d.; 25 copies, 9s.; 50 copies, 17s. 6d.; 75 copies, 25s.;  
100 copies, 33s. 6d.; carriage free in all cases. Single  
copies, 6d., postage 2d. Bound in cloth, 9s. per dozen,  
carriage free; single copies, 1s., postage 2½d. He does not  
ask for payment until the books are delivered, but desires to  
ascertain what orders he can rely upon before he undertakes  
to print. Address, Alfred Kitson, 2, Royd street, Bromley  
road, Dewsbury.

HOW TO SUCCEED.—Mr. George M. Nettleship, Conductor  
at Barrow-in-Furness, writes:—"The fact is our Lyceum was  
in a poor condition, short of books and teachers, and worst  
of all, no one taking an enthusiastic interest in the work.  
I mean to make it go, and have enrolled a large number  
of new members, looked old ones up, and to-day the sun  
shines bright again upon our Lyceum. The great secret of  
my success is that I have the co-operation of the senior boys  
and girls, and the young married men, six of whom I have  
succeeded in bringing into the Lyceum. In three meetings  
I have raised £2 17s. 10d. for new books."

British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union

OFFICERS, 1897-98.

President: Mrs. J. Greenwood, Sowerby Bridge.

Treasurer: Mr. J. Sutcliffe, Sowerby Bridge.

Executive:

Messrs. S. S. Chiswell, Liverpool; J. Clark, Nottingham; H. A.  
Kersey, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and T. O. Todd, Sunderland.

Secretary, Alfred Kitson, Royd street, Bromley road, Hanging  
Heaton, Dewsbury.

OFFICIAL NOTICES.

EXECUTIVE MEETING.

NOTTINGHAM.—Cobden Hall, Saturday Afternoon, Jan. 8th.

PROPAGANDA MEETING.

Same place as above, on Sunday, January 9th, 6-30 p.m.  
The members of the Executive will address the meeting.

A. KITSON, Sec., B.S.L.U.

YORKSHIRE LYCEUMISTS' PORT GALLERY.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH No. 1.

MR. J. WILBY, CONDUCTOR OF HALIFAX LYCEUM.



MR. J. WILBY.

ABOUT fifteen or sixteen years ago, among the great persons who were endeavoring to expose the trickery of Spiritualism, and shew that it was all humbug, that people were being led to anti-Christ, the subject of our investigation, was very keen in his investigations, and, as is usually the case, was convinced of the truth of Spiritualism. His sympathies were enlisted into the Lyceum cause, with the result that he became Conductor—a position he has held continuously over thirteen years, which I think is the record? He is always at his post at the opening of the Lyceum, punctuality being his motto. He is ever willing to help forward anything which tends to promote the welfare of Lyceum work, and during some portion of the time he has been connected with the Lyceum, he worked almost single-handed. As a musician, Mr. Wilby has charge of the Lyceum Choir, and the manner in which the Services of Song are given is proof of his ability. He has a knowledge of almost every instrument, and is one of the best transposers of music I ever came across. He also arranges the music for all the instruments for our festive occasions. Mr. Wilby is well versed in Phrenology, Physiology, Mesmerism, and kindred subjects, which qualify him as a teacher. As a Spiritual healer he has been much sought after, and has done good work, many persons having Mr. Wilby to thank for being restored to health.

The B.S.L.U. have in Mr. Wilby an excellent D.V. He

is also a Trustee for the Spiritual Church—a position held for years. He is President of the Lyceum Mutual Improvement Society, which is affiliated with the Yorkshire Federation of Mutual Improvement Societies, and is of great service to our lot, responds to the formation and Huddersfield Council, which is doing a great deal of good.

By his juvenile Orphans' Green Fire Clay

his straightforward character, Mr. Wilby has not only the estimation and respect of the Lyceumists of the district, but also the admiration of a great many people outside the Spiritualist movement. It is to be hoped that our brethren may long be spared to fulfil the many duties which only such men as he can fulfil. In conclusion let me quote a little of Thomas Kempis: "Be fervent then, in going forward, for shortly thou shalt receive the reward of thy labours."

FRED TOWNSEND.

A PLEA FOR THE OUTCAST.

(Supposed to be by Thomas Hood.)

Not the vilest. Who art thou that with such piety look with loathing on folly and on vice? Even that outcast, shameless though she be, who prowls the highways in the darkness of night polluted and polluting—even she, she is thy sister. Thou who calleth God "Father," is He not hers? The balmy influence of sunshine and of showers diffuseth around alike for her as well as thee. Her sins have not quenched her Maker's love, let it not thine; nor let thou even in thought disown the sisterhood of her whom God calls "child." Pure as thou art, she was once as pure as thee—more pure than thou are now. There was a time in her sad history when a beautiful babe she nestled in a mother's loving arms—guileless as innocence. Oh let her fall arouse thy deepest fears and humblest thoughts! Perchance thy virtue is more indebted to weak temptation than strong resistance; but snares like those that rent her pathway may snap thy purity. Nor is thy history ended, what has been may be again—read, tremble at thy own past,

lest thy feet slide down the smooth and slippery path of vice. Pray for her that she may return to virtue and to God.

[The above is a remarkable example of the power of the human memory, having been memorised by Mrs. Rachael Bunn, in 1856, and dictated by her in 1897.—J.H.B.]

"THE INFLUENCE OF LOVING WORDS."

"Softer than music o'er the waters,  
Brighter than sunshine on the sea;  
Sweeter than dewdrops on the flowers,  
Comes a loving word to me.  
For when my life cares make me weary,  
And my soul is racked with pain;  
If a word of kindness greets me,  
Then my heart is glad again.  
So then this life may be full of sunshine,  
Full of beauty every day;  
If we only do our duty,  
And be careful what we say,  
Brighter then would be earth's pathway,  
Likened to the world above;  
Were our words more choice and loving,  
And our deeds but those of love."

Box.

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FOUNDED NOVEM... the official organ of th... Union, M

LYCEUM BANNER. POST FREE, 1 1/2d. and Publisher. Associate Editor.

J. J. MORSE: Ed... FLORENCE MOP... ru. Street, Euston Road,

Assis... very non... office—Flo... otic... st the... r to the grea... gels; but she knew... silence of the woods, and... influences.

busy city; its gay... her, its pleasure... care for merr... in the... er.

... received... forming the... ned corres... suggested that the... spiritualists Guild of Total... dea, I have agreed to adopt... ership will be ready when... itor has promised to have... hat secretaries can show it... members. Then Miss Addi... four poems on True No... from Middlesborough, and was... ing letter, which Master Johnson... BANNER, and to whom all letters... nt. I am proud that Middlesborough... my young fourteen year old friend... mist, is first on the roll. This is

We are marching on w... We will work for God... Calisthenics and marching b... John Sinkinson, accompanied... Last, but not least, Mr. Jol... composed by himself, entitl... and all for their kind co-op... of our Band of Mercy, Novem... MONTAIGN NETTLESHIP.

NELSON UNITED (Bradley... Annual Tea and Social on Octo... After tea, songs, recitations... numerous friends. Mr. E... Great interest was taken... taking part in it. Their... greeted with loud appl... responded to. A colle... 8s. being realiz... their success.—

BOOTLE.—On No... Miss Gertie Gree... John Lamont... Owens. The... Gertie Gree... To Lyceums in the Union 10/- per doz. To Lyceums NOT in the Union 12/- per doz. Not less than six copies supplied at above rates. Carriage extra in all cases.

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some of the books we sell are advertised in no case is the value of such advertisement actual cash loss. But we were called by work, and for seven years have remaine-

All that we ask is of our friends, help not mind working for the common go be made 700 a month greater than our expenses. It only means an month from each Lyceum.

Finally the BANNER is gratef have given it donations, those scribes for copies, those who who contribute to its columns Lyceum members and workers been, and still remain, loyal frie what may, the BANNER will alwa of the children, other future welfare of hum

of my most difficult tasks was the a good order, which had been lost during the IS term in which I was a non-officer. I tried my best worked in the face of many difficulties. All such things have an end, and this was no exception. I was not unreasonable, I could work no further under the influence, so I resigned my position. My retiring remarks were to the point, fearlessly spoken, and what is more, truthful. Until then I was popular as a worker, now I am popular as the unpopular, and what for? For being truthful, courting the truth and proclaiming it in spite of all. Ought I to be sorry? Insults and persecutions have been levelled at me at every turn, most of which I have treated with the contempt they deserve. Personal spite I attribute to be the cause of the BANNER report. This the author of it denied, yet I brought an acknowledgement from him that it was so, in two answers to different questions of mine, in less than a minute. His excuse then was that I had tried to injure his character recently, but could not prove his statement although hard pressed by me. I dislike to advertise a person's misdeeds, but I must say that it is this person's fifth apology quite recently for similar affairs. Now I ask for an insertion of this letter in the December BANNER, two sides there are to every tale, and when one is known it is only in common fairness that the other should have the same opportunity.— I remain, yours truly,

WALTER BOOTH, Ex-Conductor Openshaw Lyceum.

[NOTE.—No other letter has reached us on the above matter. Mr. Booth's letter is published as a matter of fairness, but we cannot continue the discussion.—EDS. L.B.]

# The Riddler's Corner.

EDITED BY J. HARRY BUNN.

## INTRODUCTION.

DEAR LYCEUMISTS.—Last March I made my first bow to you upon the stage of the GOLDEN GROUP; now I have started a theatre of my own, for which you have to thank the esteemed Editor of this journal. My object is to sharpen your wits, and thus help you to see the funny side of things. To accomplish this task I shall not resort to the perversion of truth, which is the usual method, but will endeavour to draw aside the cloak of appearances and thus show you the realities within. Therefore the RIDDLER'S CORNER will be instructive, and, I might add, educational; for the Lyceumist who would win a prize must continually



...y in its Secretary  
...t of announcements  
...series, Special Services,  
...ments, Parties, etc.  
...be printed free,  
...R THAN THE 24TH OF

FOUNDED NOVEMBER 1850.  
...the official organ of the  
...Union, M  
...E LYCEUM  
...PRICE ONE PENNY.  
...J. J. MORSE, Editor  
...FLORENCE MOPPER, Secretary  
...Assistants: Mrs. J. J. MORSE, Editor  
...Office—Florence Mopper, Secretary

...the Lyceum of soft  
...office—Florence Mopper, Secretary  
...the Lyceum of soft  
...office—Florence Mopper, Secretary

...busy city; its gay  
...her, its pleasure  
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...idea, I have agreed to adopt  
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...itor has promised to have  
...at secretaries can show it  
...after which members. Then Miss  
...men, singing four poems on True  
...band students in the Physical  
...then gave a short address  
...ue. Then followed a very ple  
...yceumists giving an exhibition  
...red, white and blue, (beautiful  
...March; what a wave of harmon  
...voices sang:

...We are marching on w  
...We will work for God  
...Calisthenics and marching b  
...John Sinkinson, accompanied  
...Last, but not least, Mr. Job  
...composed by himself, entitl  
...and all for their kind co-op  
...of our Band of Mercy, Novem  
...MONTAIGN NETTLESHIP.

...NELSON UNITED (Bradley F  
...Annual Tea and Social on Octo  
...After tea, songs, recitations,  
...numerous friends. Mr. E  
...Great interest was taken  
...taking part in it. Their  
...greeted with loud appl  
...responded to. A coll  
...8s being realized.  
...their success.

...BY ALFRED KITSON.  
...Miss Gertie Green  
...John Lamont  
...Owens. The  
...Gertie Green  
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...J. J. MORSE, 26, Ose

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...J. J. MORSE, 26, Ose

...some of the books  
...case is the v  
...l annual loss. Bu  
...ns, and for seven ye  
...ks  
...REPORT

...bond Street.—We held our  
...about 130 persons sat down  
...ds given by the children. The  
...um Scholars, Master Herbert Hirst, who  
...Early manner. It is the first time he has  
...we hope it will not be the last. The waiters at  
...to buy prizes for the  
...of amount obtained  
...all over the world.  
...Street, Euston Road,  
...of soft  
...ing waves  
...his fellow  
...try to. To the  
...silence of the woods, and  
...influences.

...Lyceum meeting of the  
...been, and still  
...what may, the  
...of the children, other  
...future welfare of hum

...IS the term in which I was  
...worked in the face of man  
...ave an end, and this w  
...unreasonable, I could w  
...so I resigned my posit  
...point, fearlessly sp  
...then I was popular  
...unpopular, a  
...truth and  
...sorrow  
...endeavour to assist and  
...wed by selections from the  
...on the following words—  
...ality, advice, contentment,  
...the  
...courage, human sympathy,  
...broplay; the above being recit  
...ar on sweetly sang "The Rose."  
...ry were recited by four married  
...Class. The president of the  
...the aim, object and duty of the  
...asing feature of the programme, the  
...of calisthenics with poles, painted  
...y and inspiration encircled us as glad

...with badge and banner bright,  
...and battle for the right.  
...being ably led by the Instructor, Mr.  
...in the pianoforte by Miss Ellen Tranter.  
...in Owen gave a recitation (60 lines),  
...ed, "Our Band of Mercy." I thank one  
...eration. Don't miss the next gatherings  
...ber 28th and December 26th.—GEORGE

...The Lyceum held their first  
...ber 30th, when 130 persons sat down.  
...and duets were suitably rendered by  
...not gave selections on the auto-harp.  
...in the Morris Dance, eight Lyceumists  
...neat attire and graceful movements were  
...use, an encore being called for but not  
...ction was taken on behalf of the Morris Dancers,  
...The Committee are to be congratulated upon

...MEMBERS ROLL, I.—Wm. H. Johnson  
...to the Lyceum for ten years, and  
...I now go to the Middlesboroug  
...um, Boundray Road.  
...Middlesborough. WM. HY. JOHN  
...MEMBERS ROLL, I.—Wm. H. Johnson

...BY ALFRED KITSON.  
...November 1st, the above Lyceum assisted by Mrs. and  
...n, held an Entertainment in the Masonic Hall, Mr.  
...in the chair. Accompanists, Miss Nesbitt and Miss  
...Entertainment included a Pianoforte Solo by Miss  
...ometry by Mrs. Green. On or about December 15th the Lyceum  
...intend holding another Entertainment, the proceeds to be handed  
...over to the Bootle Hospital Fund. W. HOLLINRAKE, Secretary.

...MORLEY.—I am very sorry to report the passing away of one of our  
...scholars, Clara Bradbury, daughter of our departed brother B. H.  
...Bradbury. She departed on the 19th ult. She was like her father,  
...willing and ready to assist in any kind of work for the Lyceum. She

...went out singing with us last Christmas. She had been the  
...treasurer for the Lyceum for a good long time, only giving it up about  
...6 months since, owing to sickness. Her loss is deeply felt. Mr.  
...Joseph Armitage, of Dewsbury, interred her remains on Monday,  
...November 22nd, there was a goodly number present, but I am very  
...sorry to say that I could not get there owing to business. She  
...selected her own hymns for the funeral. Three times has she refused  
...to have the orthodox ministers to pray for her; they wanted to, but  
...as she had lived, so she died, a faithful Spiritualist to the last.

...SHEPHERD, Secretary.  
...We held our first session on Sunday, November 7th. It  
...very well attended both by scholars and friends. Mr. Buckley  
...much appreciated for the manner and style in which he conducted.  
...Sellers gave a short address on "A little child shall lead them."  
...good collection was raised to help us on with the work.—J. R.

...PRESTON, WEAVERS' HALL.—The work in our Lyceum for the last  
...five weeks is very creditable, the aggregate attendance being 256, or  
...an average attendance of 51 per session. On October 24th, our late  
...conductor, Mr. William Norris, kindly addressed the children, speaking  
...on "The Principles of our Lyceum," making a few complimentary  
...remarks upon the progress of the Lyceum, making a few complimentary  
...are due to our late conductor for the assiduous attention displayed  
...during his career as Leader, and we hope to see more of him in the  
...near future. On November 4th we had a visit from Mr. Davis, of  
...Bury. I hope the advice given by him in reference to forming  
...groups will be considered, as they are necessary for expanding the  
...mind.—C. PARKINSON, Secretary.

...ELLAND.—The Elland Spiritual Church, Newcombe Street, held  
...their Annual Tea and Entertainment on November 6th, when  
...upwards of 120 persons sat down. After tea an Entertainment was  
...given by the Lyceum members, presided over by Mrs. Iredale, (Jagger  
...Green), in the absence of Mrs. Greenwood, President of the Lyceum  
...Union, who was unable to be with us through family sickness. The  
...Programme consisted of songs, solos, recitations, and a couple of  
...sketches by the junior members. A pleasing feature of the evening  
...was a Cantata by the children, entitled: "The White Garland," the  
...youngsters going through their performance in a masterly manner  
...under the conductorship of Mr. J. W. Armitage. Miss M. J. Taylor  
...presided at the piano. A hearty vote of thanks brought the pleasant  
...proceedings to a close about 10 o'clock.—MISS M. J. TAYLOR, Secretary.

...The above is an admirable report, clear, concise and  
...with a list of names of people and pieces that are not of general  
...interest.—EDS. L.B.]

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

...LEEDS DISTRICT COUNCIL.—The First Quarterly Meeting will be  
...held on Saturday, December 18th, 1897, at the Psychological Hall,  
...Leeds, when Delegates and Visitors are requested to be present, from  
...all Lyceums in the District. Will all visitors please send in their  
...Reports not later than the second Sunday in December. A good  
...attendance is requested. Business to commence at six o'clock prompt.  
...—TOM HAIGH, Hon. Secretary, Dewsbury.

BLUE EYES.

Black eyes have solemn beauty,  
Grey speak a nature true;  
But the sweetest and the dearest  
Are the peerless ones of blue!  
The brown eyes may be lovely,  
When drooping lashes fall;  
But the blue eyes, the blue eyes,  
Are loveliest of all!

For as you read the glances  
Of lovely azure eyes,  
You think of true forget-me-nots—  
Of sunny summer skies,  
Of water blue and limpid  
Where golden sunbeams fall,  
O the blue eyes, the blue eyes,  
Are loveliest of all!

Kate Taylor-Robinson.