

THE LYCEUM BANNER.

A Spiritualist Magazine for Old and Young.

VOL. IX.

APRIL, 1899.

No. 100.

TO MY SON AT PARTING.

My best beloved remember this,—
That God, though high in heaven above us,
If asked, will send us angel friends
To guide and bless us, help and love us.
His help unasked,—we fret and pine
And fearful scan the way before us;
But asked for, angel guides are sent,
Since God in heaven e'er watcheth o'er us.

KATE TAYLOR ROBINSON.

[Specially contributed to the Lyceum Banner.]

LORD OF HIMSELF.

BY ANNIE E. FITTON.

CHAPTER III.—Continued.

"ALL right, don't knock another fellow down, that's all, he might not be so amiable about it as I was," and with a laugh the two parted.

Firdene, as the house was called, where three generations of Cardwells had lived and died, was a red brick building, roomy and old fashioned, but bearing evidence in its exterior of some modern improvements, and surrounded by a garden of considerable size, laid out with taste and ingenuity, and just now giving promise of a rich display of roses. Though only some two miles out of town the surroundings of the house were fresh and sweet; there were no manufactures around Wolverhampton to poison the air with smoky fumes, and the country ran into the town without losing its individuality by the contact.

Ralph got home without further hindrance, and bounding up the stairs three at a time made his way to Guy's room. The boy was dressed and reclining on a couch; he was to dine with the family to-day, and was waiting Ralph's arrival with some impatience. He looked pale, but his eyes brightened at the sight of his brother, and a tinge of colour stole into his face, which was thinner than a few months ago.

"Here I am, old man, did you think I was never coming?" and Ralph bent over the boy with a very loving light in his dark eyes.

"You seemed rather long, did they keep you at the Bank?"

"A little over the time, but I met Charlie as I was coming, nearly knocked him down in fact, and he hindered me a few minutes."

"Where was he off to?"

"To a pic-nic at Grantham's; such a card he looked, actually had a flower in his coat which he thought I had annihilated."

"Did he ask you to go with him?"

"Yes, but I pleaded a prior engagement."

"You would like to have gone, Ralph?" asked the boy, wistfully.

"Yes, if I had had nothing better to do, but you don't suppose I was going to throw you over for *that*?"

Guy sighed: "You are always tied to my apron string now."

"I did not know you wore one, besides, whose fault is it if I am?"

"Oh, bother to that. It's a shame you never get with any of the fellows now; why, I don't believe you have been to a cricket match this season."

"I don't mean to either. I sent in my resignation six weeks ago."

"You did?"

"I did; I have something better to do than play cricket."

"But you are such a crack player, Ralph; how will the club get on without you?"

"Well enough, never fear. When you are as old as I am my dear boy, you will find that no one is indispensable."

"Oh dear! I wonder when I shall play cricket again exclaimed Guy, with a sigh of intense longing. Then seeing the pain his words produced he went on. "I am ready to go down now, Ralph."

"All right, I will just have a wash, and then I am at your service, and we'll have a jolly afternoon."

CHAPTER IV.

UPON the return of the three from their little excursion, Guy in the bath-chair which had become a necessity to him, Mrs. Cardwell met them at the door.

"Have you enjoyed it, Guy? have they taken care of you?"

"I should think I have," replied the boy emphatically, his pale cheeks tinged with colour, and "Ralph always takes care of me mother, and Doris too," he added glancing affectionately at the girl as she stood beside him. Mrs. Cardwell made no reply to this, she knew it was true, but neither by look nor word would she admit that she knew it, and ignoring Ralph altogether, she devoted her attention to her boy, who launched into an account of their doings, giving an eloquent description of the "jolly spread" they had been regaled with, winding up with the announcement that he was going again soon, if Ralph would take him.

"You think of no one but Ralph," said his mother crossly, "is there no one else can take you?"

"No one who can carry me as he does, not even father," he added, as Mr. Cardwell entered the room.

"What about father?" he asked, taking a chair near the couch and passing his hand caressingly over the boy's fair curls. He was an undemonstrative man, but his children were very dear to him nevertheless, and Guy's misfortune had drawn him closer to his youngest son, at the same time alienating him from the elder. He failed to see that the one needed his sympathy as much as the other.

Ralph was lounging against the mantle-board, his favourite attitude, and was watching with grave eyes the group near the window. No one noticed him, it was Guy of whom they thought and around whom their anxieties centred. He, by his vile temper had alienated himself from them, he had injured where he had loved the most, and it was out of his power to undo the wrong. This was the cruelest thought of all, and too proud to protest over much, or to solicit a more generous judgment, he could only bear in silence the penalty of his fault.

But just now it was seeming very hard, and chafing against the bitterness which had taken possession of him and which some minor instinct warned him to stifle rather than encourage, he quitted the room, and taking up his hat left the house to walk down, if possible, the irritation and sense of injustice which the home atmosphere too often induced.

He had not gone far when he was overtaken by a young man some years his senior, and whom he turned to greet with a quiet satisfaction that proved the newcomer was no unwelcome visitor. Tall and dark haired, with thin features, large nose, and keen grey eyes, which let little escape their notice, Oliver Drummond, in his dark grey suit and soft felt hat had little of the clerical in his costume, though, in point of fact, he was the recently appointed rector of the parish in which the Cardwells lived, and whose church they were in the habit of attending. But as his attire denoted he was a man who attached little importance to externals. Simple in his tastes and unconventional in his habits and mode of life, he preferred to win his people's hearts and gain their confidence as a man rather than as a minister. Sacredotalism, in the subtle forms in which it flourishes, was abhorrent to a nature like Drummond's, too sincerely reverent to presume upon a priestly office or arrogate to himself a homage due to a higher power. Scarcely twelve months had elapsed since his appointment, but already his influence was making itself felt, and he was winning his way by the very force and directness of his character. By the young men of the neighbourhood he was becoming looked upon as a friend, one who could advise and even reprove when necessary without giving offence. Possessed of ready tact and a keen perception of character, and having a strong hatred of cant or humbug in any shape or form, his influence was a thoroughly healthy one. In the pulpit Drummond was simple, practical, and original, with no flights of rhetoric, and few oratorical gifts, his sermons were yet bracing and inspiring, stimulating to high endeavours, and, as some critics ventured to assert, not unflavoured by a spice of heterodoxy. Nor were the said critics wide of the mark; orthodox, in the strict sense of the word, Olive Drummond was not. His intellect was a keen and logical one, of too sceptical an order to accept blindly anything and everything that might be put before him, even though stamped with the hall-mark of the church's approval. He preferred to use his own discrimination and apply the lamp of his own reason to the right reading of much which so many are content to take on trust. He was thus able to meet on their own ground those, who in losing hold of much which they could not honestly and intelligently retain here in danger of drifting unconsciously into a dreary and a barren atheism. To such Drummond's life and teachings were essentially helpful, the one by its large minded tolerance, the other by the reasonableness of his arguments and his knack of keeping in touch with the wider issues which confront the thoughtful mind. *(To be Continued.)*

A NEW ZEALAND WOOING.

Specially contributed to the Lyceum Banner.

BY JENNY WREN.

CHAPTER III.—THE WORDS OF REIVE.

THERE is scarcely a lovelier spot in New Zealand than the Waikato River, and at the time of our story, before populous towns sprang up in its vicinity, it was as secluded

as it was beautiful. Not a ripple on the water, a cloudless sky, and a perfect scene of beauty surrounded the occupants of the canoe as they paddle slowly down the stream.

Olive, weak and terrified, lay still in the bottom of the canoe, at the feet of the chief, who had carefully covered her with his own handsome mat. They had paddled on in silence for some hours, when at length one of the women enquired, "what was to be done with the girl? there had evidently been treachery on the part of her sister, but it would not now be safe to restore her to the settlers, as they would not believe the story they would tell. It was not safe to take her with them, they might be pursued by the Pakeha! Should they land, and leave her in the bush, or should they?" She made a significant movement towards the river as she spoke, and Olive realised that this woman desired her destruction. The favourite wife of the chief, doubtless she feared lest Olive's charms might win her lord's affections, and therefore wished to remove her from his path.

There was silence for awhile, then the chief replied, in grave and measured tones, "My children, the day is an evil one for our tribe in which you have taken away the Pakeha's bride. She, whose hatred has done this thing, has said that we fired the house, and carried the girl away; I have been told it in a dream this night. Listen to my words.

The Pakeha came to the fair land of our fathers, and spoke words of kindness to the Maorie. The missionary told of a God who loved all his children, of a Christ who came to forgive evil, and of a good spirit that should rule the hearts of men to love one another, and live in peace.

Then the Maorie listened, and when the pakeha wanted land for his churches he gave it freely. But soon the traders came, and brought rum, blankets, tobacco, and fire-arms to barter for our land. The evil spirit did more work than the good, for the rum made the Maorie do unwise things, even to sell the land for that which was evil. Then arose strife among our tribes, and sorrow followed. The missionary spoke of love; but the trader taught our people to deceive, to drink, to use fire-arms, to steal, and many evil things. After that hot words were spoken, and soon the pakeha sent soldiers to fight for the land. Now where is the peace of God's children? The Maorie seeks revenge. The pakeha defrauds him and destroys his pahs, steals his land, and much blood is shed.

Listen, now. If we keep the pakeha's bride, he will send soldiers to hunt, to shoot us, and burn our settlement; so we will put reive, Rumer, and water into the canoe, and send her away to find the pakeha's dwelling. This is my word to you all."

Accordingly, when the canoes touched the shore, some natives brought food and water, which was given to Olive, together with the chief's best mat, and then she was sent adrift upon the waters.

Olive sat up, and tried to realise her position. She had no oar, no paddle. She partook sparingly of food, then lay down again, and slept as calmly beneath the midnight sky as if she were aware of the presence of the guardian angel who would guide her frail bark to a safe haven of rest.

CHAPTER IV.—ALMOST WON.

MEANWHILE, Ross lay tossing on his bed, in the delirium of brain fever, carefully tended by Janet, who never left his side, but wrestled with grim death for the life of the man she loved. At length he passed the crisis, and began slowly to recoup his shattered strength.

How changed from the handsome and happy bride-groom

expectant of Christmas morning. Pale and emaciated, nerveless and weak, he sat up among his pillows, trying to think what he should do with his life; how he should live through the years, until he should go to his love, his peerless Olive.

So strong was his conviction that she had been carried away, and foully murdered, that Janet felt assured he would never suspect the truth, or dream that his lost love was still living, and suffering for his sake.

Months passed. Ross was about again, going to and fro, superintending the re-building of the house at Hurst Farm, and trying to submit to the inevitable.

He knew now that Janet Clare loved him, with such a depth of passionate devotion that her very life was enwrapped in his. So one evening, as she sat softly reading to him, he told her the truth: That he could never love again as he had loved Olive, but because of her great kindness, and his sincere gratitude, he would try to make her happy, if she would be his wife.

Oh! what triumph lurked in those grey eyes, as Janet laid her hand in his, and sealed the compact with one little word. After all the weary time of waiting, planning, deceiving, and suffering, he is hers at last. She has overcome all things, and almost won the goal. How sweet the assurance that he appreciates her love, even if he cannot, as yet, fully return it! For if woman's utmost endeavour and ardent devotion can win return, Janet has persuaded herself that Ross Heighway shall even yet be won, heart and soul, to love her, more than ever he loved his "gipsy queen."

The new house was finished, the wedding guests were invited, the wedding feast was spread.

Janet Clare looked almost young in her silken robes, and bridal wreath. Ross appeared careworn, and his brow showed many a furrow, traced by the relentless hand of sorrow.

A very sedate bridegroom he. Scarcely a smile passed over his face, or a word escaped his lips; and he trembled so with subdued excitement, that one of his friends prevailed on him to swallow a glass of brandy, "to brace up his nerves for the ceremony." Oh! if he dare but retract those words uttered so rashly, when he seemed to be under a stronger will than his own.

The minister, a good old man, who had known Olive from childhood, presently arrived, and sat pensively regarding the unhappy Ross, who, it was evident to all, was but an unwilling bridegroom.

Janet, radiant with smiles and orange blossoms, enters the room, and the bridal group stand before the clergyman, whose voice trembles strangely as he commences the solemn service.

Hark! there is a sound of carriage wheels. Panting steeds stop before the new, white gates, and two persons dismount from the vehicle. One, a slender, dark-robed figure, appears to lean rather heavily upon the arm of her companion: a short, stout old gentleman, who seems to be trying his best to keep her up.

In another moment Olive—for she it is—slowly enters the room, and stands before the astonished group assembled there.

With one heartrending cry, she glances at Janet's bridal robes, then falls fainting to the floor.

Ross gently raises her, and, oblivious to all around, folds her to his heart, calling upon her, his lost darling, to open her eyes, and assure him that she really lives, and loves him still.

Deeply moved, the guests prepare to retire, and the minister, closing the book, wipes his tear-dimmed eyes, as he remarks: "God has wonderful ways of working, my friends; man cannot fathom life's mysteries, let us leave them alone, with their God."

So they all go quietly away; and presently Olive opens her eyes, and knows that Ross is holding her in his arms, safe, safe to his heart, never more to be stolen away.

Janet sits in her own room, her wedding finery torn and trampled in the anguish of her soul, presenting but a feeble type of the conflict that is raging within. So near! and yet to lose! the thought is agony, she cannot bear it. A small bottle of neuralgia mixture stands on the little table. In another moment she has drained its contents, and falls in a deathly swoon on the bed. There, amid the wreck of all her hopes, she was found an hour later by her maid, and medical help was quickly summoned. For long hours they knew not whether she could live; but at last she was pronounced out of danger; and slowly recovered to resume her lonely disappointed life as mistress of Hurst Farm.

Meanwhile, Olive's story was soon told, and Ross had taken her away to the township with Captain Bentley, her protector and rescuer. He had been returning from the Bay of Islands in a small craft, when he was greatly surprised to see a young girl in a solitary canoe, evidently exhausted and abandoned. He had taken her aboard his vessel, administered restoratives, and after a while had the satisfaction of seeing her revive; but only to relapse again into the delirium of fever. They had reached Auckland safely, where Olive had been carefully nursed by Mrs. Bentley and her daughter, with whom she had since resided.

A notice had appeared in the paper of Ross Heighway's death, and this had caused Olive another severe attack of nervous debility; but after some time, they accidentally heard that this had been false, that he still lived, and was to be married to Janet Clare. The tidings so convinced Olive of treachery, that they determined to hasten to Hurst Farm, with the result, as we have seen, of effectually stopping the ceremony, and restoring Olive to her lover's arms.

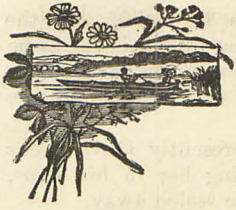
Ross could never quite forgive himself for his seeming faithlessness; but Olive needed no further assurance of his affection than his altered appearance and passionate joy at her return.

So they went to Auckland with Captain Bentley, and were quietly married from his home. Christmas day was once again a time of glad rejoicing, and Olive sent a kind letter to Janet, saying that as so much joy was hers, they both freely forgave the past, in the name of Him who brought "Peace on earth, goodwill to men."

[THE END.]

DISTRICT VISITORS' REPORTS.

January 22nd, Harpurhey new room. Opening day, 47 present. Work done remarkably well for first time. At the close of the service a good staff of officers were elected, and a short address of encouragement was given by Mr. Crutcheley and P. Bewick, district visitor.—Jan. 29, Collyhurst Lyceum. Open session; morning, 57 present; afternoon, 105 present. Evening service, 53 children took part in choruses, solos, duets and recitations. Chairman, Mr. Arundale. A short address by Mr. T. Taylor, and clairvoyance by Mr. P. Bewick. A very successful day.—Feb. 5, Hilton Street, Higher Broughton. Work done remarkably well; other Lyceums desiring a lesson for order and thoroughly good work would do well to visit our Hilton Street friends. One beautiful feature of this Lyceum is that the Society's officers take an active part in the work. In the afternoon songs, solos, and recitations were given by the children, many Collyhurst friends being present.—PERCY BEWICK, D.V.



Our Daisies' Page.

Edited by Daisy Dimple.

MY DEAR DAISIES,

Many of you will think Daisy has forgotten all about the Lyceum Children's Home, about which we had so much nice talk a few months ago; but it has not been forgotten, in fact it is growing stronger, and becoming more likely to be realised than ever it has been since it was first mentioned.

You will remember that I sent all the papers about it to Mr. Kitson, the secretary of the Lyceum Union, and asked him to lay the proposal before the Lyceum Union Committee, which he did, and wrote me that the matter would be sent to the Conference in May. So like a good girl I was waiting patiently until May should come, and full of hope that we should very soon after that have our Children's Home.

But I did not know what a splendid surprise was in store for me. One day mother said, "Daisy, please post this letter for me as you go to school," and I saw it was addressed to Mr. Todd, and those of you who read the first Daisy Page I wrote will remember it was at his request that I wrote it, never thinking that our own page would become such a pleasure for all of us. So I kept wondering in my mind whilst going to the post office why mother should send this letter, but I got to know a day or two after, when this nice letter came:—

"MY DEAR DAISY,—I have got such a nice secret to tell you, and I think you will be pleased. I wrote to your kind mother and asked her to let you come and spend a week or two at my home, and she replied that she would be very pleased to let you come, as she is sure that I will take great care of you—just as though Daisy was not able to take care of herself. So I want you to come as soon as you like, and stay as long as your mother will let you. We have some nice parks here, a pretty river, and plenty of seaside and country places. I know you will enjoy yourself. I have been very ill myself, and am just getting better, and will be able to spare plenty of time to take you out. There are lots of Lyceum friends who will be delighted to see you and make you happy. Be sure you come. Then, I want to have a long talk with you about the Children's Home; this is chiefly why I ask you to come, and as someone must be at the Conference to state exactly what you propose should be done, I am going to do it for you, and will do all I possibly can to make your delightful dream come true. Be sure to come, Daisy, for I am as anxious as you are to have a really delightful Children's Home.—With kindest love, T. O. TODD." P.S.—"I was going to put some crosses here, but I can give you the real ones if you come."

* * *

Now, what would you do if you got a letter like that?

I thought it was too good to be true, but mother said it was all right, and I was to go next day, which made me feel as jolly as any girl could possibly be.

Next morning was beautifully fine, and both Mother and Bob went with me to the station to see me away. Whilst we were waiting for the train, Bob gave me a small box of chocolates, and said I was not to open it until I was in the train, so I put it into my pocket. The Station Master was

surprised when Mother told him what a long way I was going all alone, and said he would write me a list of all the places where I had to change from one train to another, which I thought was very kind of him. In a few minutes the train came up, and after kissing Mother and Bob, I was soon on my way North.

What a lovely ride it was, with plenty of books and papers to read, the time did not seem so long as I thought it would. After a while I remembered the chocolates Bob had given me, so I carefully opened the box, and there, on the very top was a bright half-crown; when I saw it I was so pleased at Bob's kindness that I nearly cried. Was it not good of him? I don't know what little girls do who have not got a nice brother.

I am not going to tell you all I did during my holiday, as it would fill too many pages and tire you out, but I had a very happy time going to the seaside, and into the country, watching the ships and boats go up and down the river, and walking about the parks, watching the men and boys sailing the ships on the lake, going to the Lyceum and Golden Group meetings, getting invitations out to tea and to parties, until Mr. Todd said I was going to be spoiled. But I told him it would take a lot of innocent pleasure to spoil Daisy Dimple.

Of course we did not forget to have plenty of talk about the Children's Home, and I told him everything I could think of about what I would like to be done so as to have a really comfortable Home where Lyceumists could go for a holiday, and gain strength after an illness. Mr. Todd called it a *Convalescent Home*; it was such a big word that he wrote it down for me on a slip of paper. As you already know, he was delighted with the ideas I gave him, and was surprised that I had been able to work it out so well (but then you know Bob had helped me a lot with it), and he promised to do his very best to get the Conference to accept the proposals, and give its help to make the scheme a practical one.

I felt a bit sorry to part with so many kind friends, but was pleased to get home again.

* * *

I know you all like stories, the same as I do, but as there will not be room for a long story in our page this time I will give you two or three very short ones.

WHAT THE CHILDREN ARE SAYING.

A young Lyceum boy who evidently takes great notice of things, was recently looking out of the window watching the snowflakes as they came whirling down, said "Oh, mother, look at the snow doing the Chain March."

A little Lyceum girl often asked her mother to take her into the Seance held in their own house, but was always refused. One day after a heavy snowstorm she asked permission to go out and frolic amongst the snow, but her mother refused saying she would perhaps catch cold and even die through it. She then replied, "If I die, mother, and go to the Summerland, I suppose you will let me come to the Seances then, won't you?"

Another Lyceum Daisy who had been annoyed by a member of the Liberty Group was heard to exclaim, "Suppose you ARE in the Liberty Group, that doesn't give you liberty to trample on the Daises."

Good-bye until next month, your loving friend—

Daisy Dimple.

The Riddler's Corner.

EDITED BY J. HARRY BUNN.

DEAR RIDDERS.—You will be delighted to hear that the riddles published in last month's issue caused a sensation and resulted in a record number of answers. These were all more or less correct. Miss Elsie Davis, Master William Medcalf, and Messrs. Harrison and Pixton, were only one point out and should try again. The prize winners were—Kate Genoa, Thomas Bell, and S. S. Jones. The answers to the riddles are as follows:—

Miss Knibb's contributions:

Cryptogram: *David* (D represents 500; V stands for 5; A is the first of all letters; and I is the shape of the first of all figures.) Logogram: *Ox* (O, X.) Enigma: The letter "R."

Mr. Cooke's contributions:

Logogriph: *Hearth*, earth, tear.

Transposition: *Osnaburgh*.

Enigma: *The Man in the Moon*.

I have now to introduce a new contributor, namely, Miss Marjory Bolton, of Derby, who has favoured us with the following

ENIGMA.

His name in full, if you would find,
Is just twelve letters all combined

Without repeating one;

The first is the name of a King I ween,
Yet he the son of a Kit is seen,

And liketh frolic and fun. MARGORY BOLTON.

Miss Ednor Turton, of Manchester, is to the fore this month with her usual bright, breezy, bits. Here they are:

VERBAL CHARADE.

My first is in pretty, but not in wise;
My second's in large, but not in size;
My third is in rusty and also in bright;
My fourth is in hurry but not in flight;
My fifth is in orange, but not in pear;
My sixth is in light, but not in fair;
Find all my parts and place them aright,
The name of a bird will appear in sight.

MONOPHONE.

Beware, dear riddlers, and be firm
When *first* is flowing fast;
It brings its victims all to woe
And to an early *last*.

CONUNDRUM: When is a hat tortured?

EDNOR TURTON.

Then Mr. Cooke, who took a prize last year for riddle constructing, has sent the following curious puzzles;

ENIGMA.

I am a place which cannot be found
Though you travel both near and far;
Divide me in two, and, strange to relate,
I'm present wherever you are!

OMEGRAM:

A useful commodity dug from the ground;
Change tail, a man's garment is found.

SYLLABIC CHARADE.

My first is a woman with manners refined;
My second, the songster which flies with the wind;
My whole is an insect with colour and beauty;
Now tell me its name, let that be your duty.

JOHN COOKE.

Birmingham is again represented by Miss Olive Knibb, who sends us, among other contributions, a new kind of riddle (that is, to Lyceumists) called a

DIAMOND PUZZLE.

My first is always found in tin;
My second has a kernel in;
My third is seen in the beautiful Spring;
With all its colours in a ring;
My fourth is a metal in Cornwall found;
While many of last and found in a pound.

LOGODROME.

You see my first if you peep in a glass;
Be my second, and sorrow subdue;
My whole has been plucked by many a lass,
And handsome laddie, too.

MONOPHONE.

I often at breakfast and supper appear.
Yet ladies use me as a dress for the hair.

OLIVE KNIBB.

More constructors and solvers wanted, so send your contributions and solutions early, and thus, if you are of the former, obtain fame, and if of the latter, a pretty prize. Send your letters and post cards to the below address, and introduce the "Corner" to all your friends.

24, Towneley Street, West Stanley, J. HARRY BUNN,
County Durham.

LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORTS.

NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE.—The quarterly meeting of the above Council was held at Argyle Street Lyceum, Accrington, on Saturday, March 11th, with Mr. Wm. Mason, president, in the chair. The secretary's, treasurer's, and visitor's reports for quarter were accepted. It was decided that each delegate bring before his or her Lyceum the desirability of holding the Council meetings on a Sunday, to be followed by a public meeting, and report to be prepared to vote on same at next meeting. It was also decided to have another essay competition, in 3 classes. Mr. Mason kindly promised 5s. towards the prizes. A public tea party and entertainment were held, which were largely attended.—*Essay Competition*: 1. That we have an essay competition for all Lyceumists connected with the North-East Lancashire Lyceum District Council. 2. That it be divided into three classes: (a) for those under 14 years of age, subject, "Our Lyceum"; (b) from 14 years to under 21 years, subject, "How to improve our Lyceums"; (c) from 21 years and upwards, subject, "The best method of working Lyceums and Societies in unison." 3. One prize to be given for the best in each class. 4. That the length of each essay must not exceed in class A, 1,200 words, and in classes B and C 2000 words. 5. An entrance fee of 1d. to be paid for each essay in class A, and 2d. for each essay in classes B and C. 6. Each essay to be signed with a *nom-de-plume*, and the *nom-de-plume* and name and address of writer to be enclosed on a separate slip of paper. 7. All competitions to be forwarded to the Secretary on or before May 6th, 1899. The successful essays will be submitted to the Editors for publication in the LYCEUM BANNER.—THOS. WILKINSON, 13, Salt Hill Terrace, Clitheroe.

SOUTH-EAST LANCASHIRE LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.—The quarterly Council meeting was held on Saturday, March 18th, under the auspices of the Heywood Society. An excellent tea was provided by the young men, followed by a social. The most notable feature of the evening was the marching and calisthenics by the Lyceumists, which were done so credibly as to call forth the remarks and applause of all the delegates present. Our worthy President, Mr. Wm. Chisnall, and also Mr. Towler, gave short and appropriate addresses, and altogether we had a most enjoyable evening. The following officers were elected for the next twelve months: president, Mr. Wm. Chisnall; district visitor, Mr. Harold Towler; treasurer, Mr. T. Henthorn; secretary, Mr. Frank Shaw; auditors, Messrs. A. Hilton and A. Kershaw.—F.S.

A GOOD EXAMPLE.—The Oldham friends at Bartlam Place have recently increased their long standing order of 18 copies per month to 40 copies. What Oldham has done others can do. We do not want to beg for money, all we ask is that our friends will increase our sales.

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 23rd OF EACH MONTH.

FOUNDED NOVEMBER, 1890.

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THE LYCEUM BANNER.

PRICE ONE PENNY. POST FREE, 1½d.

J. J. MORSE: Editor and Publisher.
FLORENCE MORSE: Associate Editor.

Assisted by Lyceum workers in all parts of the world.

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The Lyceum Banner.

APRIL, 1899.

OUR MONTHLY CHAT.

A Question of Business Policy. LAST month the BANNER called attention to the fact that our Union must soon establish a Supplies Depot, and since then several earnest workers have warmly commended the idea. Sunderland is proposing a Resolution to abolish the Publishing Committee, by transferring its duties to the Executive, and a very sensible proposal it is. Dual authorities are proverbially unsatisfactory, wasteful, and the cause of needless delays and irritations. If the above Resolution is adopted the Executive could be instructed to consider the question, and report next year, as to establishing a Central Office for the B.S.L.U., a permanent Secretary to have charge of it, and the production and sale of Lyceum Supplies: books, badges, flags, and the issuing of a uniform system of registers, for recording membership, attendances, receipts and expenditure, minutes, etc. As a business question the BANNER is convinced the course suggested is good policy for the Union.

*

An Amendment or an Addition. AN addition, or an amendment, to our Constitution appears to be desirable, so that a definition of the relationship existing between a Lyceum in the Union, and the local Society, should be laid down. Are such Lyceums independent of, subordinate to, or to be affiliated with the Society? Should we follow the course of procedure in the orthodox Sunday School, whatever that is, or what course is best advisable in our case? Something authoritative is needed, or the confusion and unpleasantness, to say the least of it, that we often experience, will be all too frequently repeated. It is still an unsettled question that must be solved.

ITEMETTES.

OUR Century Number!

THE bound Volumes of last year's BANNER are all sold.

READ the advertisement on our last page. It will interest you all. PRESSURE on our space this month compels the omission of the Golden Group, and several other important items.

THE Editor of the BANNER was elected an Honorary Member of the Spiritual Church, Salford, on Sunday, March 26th, by the Trustees of the Church.

MR. JOHN CHAPMAN, Liverpool, has very generously again donated ten shillings towards our Sustentation Fund, for which he has our sincere thanks.

THE Editor of the BANNER has been unanimously elected as the Delegate to represent the Battersea (London) Lyceum at the forthcoming Nottingham Conference.

NOTTINGHAM has the Conference this year. Newcastle friends may possibly find consolation for their disappointment this time by welcoming the Conference in 1900.

THE BANNER has a new advertisement on the back page of its cover. Mr. and Mrs. Burchell are doing much good work, and receiving a very large share of patronage. They are staunch spiritualists, she an excellent healer and medical medium.

MR. ROBERT WM. WALKER, Ashton-Under-Lyne Lyceum, writes:—I am sorry I am not able to give you a larger order. I am sure your paper deserves success, as its work for the cause of the children is worthy of every support.

THE Conference advertisement tells us about Processions, Brass Bands, Vocalists, and meals this month. Next month we expect to be able to tell you what the business will be, the Speakers at the meetings and other important items mentioned this month.

OUR esteemed friends Mr. and Mrs. Venables, of Walsall, have recently removed their residence to a larger house, and have named their new home Hydesville, thus commemorating our Jubilee, and having the only house bearing that historic name.

MR. J. B. TETLOW lately paid a visit to Bartlam Place Lyceum, Oldham, much to the pleasure of officers and members. Bro. Tetlow, we learn, is contemplating increasing his usefulness by the study of, and ultimately the practice of herbal medicine. His excellent powers as a psychometrist will enable him to become, no doubt, a valuable practitioner.

I AM glad to tell you the bound volume, LYCEUM BANNER, arrived quite safe, and is very beautiful, and exceedingly cheap, taking into consideration the artistic binding, and postage paid. Many thanks for it; I shall exhibit it to our Lyceumists as a sample, and advise them all to save the BANNER for binding in future.—J. COOKE, Rishton.

SPIRITUALISTS' NATIONAL FEDERATION.

EXTRACTS FROM THE CONSTITUTION.

We are requested to publish the following quotations from the Constitution of the S.N.F.

Article 6.—General Committee.

The General Committee shall be elected from the members of affiliated societies, and the associate members of the federation. Nominations for the vacancies on the General Executive Committee must be made in writing and sent to the Secretary not less than one month prior to Conference. No society shall have more than one member on the G.C., and not more than one person of an household shall be eligible from the associated members at one time. Retiring members are eligible for re-election.

Article II.—Procedure.

The business of the Annual Conference shall be confined to the items upon the printed agenda paper, and such other matters as may directly arise therefrom. All notices of motion for the agenda to be sent to the Secretary two clear months prior to Conference.

Retiring Members.

The following persons retire from the G.C. at the approaching Conference:—Mrs. H. M. Wallis, Messrs. S. S. Chiswell, T. O. Todd, A. Kitson, W. Johnson, J. J. Morse, J. B. Tetlow, and A. Smedley. The attention of societies and associates is called to the advisability of subscriptions being paid at an early date.—W. HARRISON, Gen. Sec. 37, North Street, Burnley.

International Greetings.

A. J. DAVIS TO HIS BRETHREN IN LIVERPOOL.

[NOTE.—The subjoined correspondence is another pleasing reminiscence of our Jubilee Year on the one hand, and an interesting memento of the personal interest our honoured Founder feels in the excellent Liverpool Lyceum, at Daulby Hall, and our widely esteemed friends, Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Chiswell, on the other hand. The Spiritualists of the entire world are under a deep and lasting debt of gratitude to our beloved friend, Andrew Jackson Davis, which debt the Editors of the BANNER share equally in with all the rest. We are pleased to publish what now follows.—Eds. "L.B."]

(No. 1.)

TO THE LIVERPOOL CHILDREN'S PROGRESSIVE LYCEUM.

"After months of busy and (often) over-crowded days, (incidental to my present work for the sick in body and soul) I come to you—Officers, Leaders, Members, Friends—with a heart full of love and most respectful admiration for your associated and intelligent efforts to embody and multiply the Summerland style of Lyceum work on earth.

That manly man with true manly manners, the honoured and loved Editor of your LYCEUM BANNER, delivered a beautifully expressed encomium upon the several Lyceum Associations in the United Kingdom of Great Britain, and especially he related how the Lyceum Movement in Liverpool was conducted "strictly in accordance" with the plan formulated (copied from the terrestrial system) as set forth in the Manual bearing my name as compiler. But he did not by this statement reflect in the slightest degree upon any other movement, either in your own or in this country. Yet, friends most beloved, I appreciated the delicate compliment that was thus conveyed to me.

Accept my undiminished, affectionate gratitude for every exalted wish and divine word you imparted by your always reliable editor. The work is far-reaching and sacred and eternal, like the Spirit of Infinite One! May you all "love one another" and be never weary in well-doing."

ANDREW JACKSON DAVIS.

S. S. Chiswell, Conductor.

Ernest A. Keeling, Assistant Conductor.

Robert Weldon, Guardian.

F. A. Chiswell, Musical Director.

And the others.

(No. 2.)

Boston, February 12th, 1899.

TO OUR VERY DEAR FRIENDS, MR. & MRS. CHISWELL.

On Thursday last, young Mr. Arthur Wallis handed me the Commemorative Medal for my excellent wife, Della—from the generous "Lyceum Union," via your faithful and fraternal instrumentality—a "reliable" phrase of mediumship! "Love [and help] ye one another"—which is impossible without true mediumship, either terrestrial or celestial. For my part, I desire to express to you and to them a heart full of thankfulness.

ANDREW JACKSON DAVIS.

(No. 3.)

Boston, February 13th, 1899.

MY DEAR FRIENDS, MR. & MRS. CHISWELL.

The Medal which you so kindly remembered to send me came safely into my possession last Thursday. Its material value—beautiful and artistic as it is—cannot be estimated by any words of mine. As a token of love and appreciation, from the B.S.L.U., of my beloved husband's work in first instituting and establishing on Earth the "Children's Progressive Lyceum" and its beautiful system of Spiritual education as seen by him in clairvoyant visions of the "Summerland" life, can its full value to me be told. I assure you dear friends, and through you, the officers and members of the Union, I am very grateful for the gift, very happy to be thus numbered among the brotherhood of workers in the cause which is very dear to my heart. In former years I have been more active than at present in the Lyceum work. Now it seems to be my happy mission to make the atmosphere of his home a place for strength and rest for *Our Jackson*, while he is engaged in medical practice, administering as he does to the sick "in body and soul." In this work he needs much rest and opportunity for recreation of his own vital forces; this he finds within his home, and I am exceeding glad that I am permitted to be in this his help-meet. But, through it all we are never unmindful of the good work being carried on by our brothers and sisters in the spiritual schools of progressive

development. With most sincere and grateful thanks to you and to the Lyceum Union. I am, very lovingly, your friend,

(MRS.) DELLA E. DAVIS.

P.S.—Shall always hold a pleasant memory of your visit with us. Please extend our love to each member of your home.—D.E.D.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.—No. LXII.

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

LEARN with pleasure that Parkgate Lyceum has been re-opened and is making good progress.

THERE is no news yet concerning the Lyceum at Plymouth. Perhaps they are bashful and wish to hide their light under a bushel.

DARWEN Lyceum held a successful tea on March 11th, followed by a good entertainment, in which the children acquitted themselves with credit in a little dramatic sketch called "The Sleeping Beauty." Other sketches were given which produced much merriment. During the interval the writer was called upon to present the successful members with prizes for good attendance. These consisted of *The Light of Truth*; *The Two Worlds' Album*; and *Outlines of Spiritualism*; all good and useful books, teaching the truths and facts of Spiritualism. The Lyceum is in a strong and healthy state, there being a gymnasium club for the young men which forms a great attraction. The Lyceum Hall is too small to allow all to join in the marches. Mrs. Hodgkinson, nee Miss Sourbuts, makes an excellent conductor, good order and discipline being maintained during the sessions. I was pleased to learn that their young men and women are joining the Society. This is a good sign of enduring strength and harmony.

THE Joint Lyceums and Societies at Nottingham are making strenuous efforts to make the forthcoming Conference a record one. Seeing that it is the birth-place of the Lyceum movement in England it is hoped all Lyceums who are able will send one or two delegates. Messrs. Albert Wilkinson, of Nelson, and J. Clarke, of Nottingham, have completed arrangements with the Midland Railway Company to place a saloon carriage on a certain train from Lancashire, and one from Yorkshire, leaving Bradford at 1 p.m., calling at Leeds and Normanton. Cheap week end tickets will be issued as under: Blackburn, 8/4; Bolton, 7/2; Manchester, 6/3½; Guide Bridge, 6/1; Liverpool (Central) 8/10½; Warrington, 7/3½; Bradford, 7/2½; Leeds, 6/5½; Normanton, 5/8½; Masborough and Rotherham, 3/7½; Sheffield, 3/4. Delegates from other towns are recommended to make for the nearest station in above list in order to avail themselves of the above cheap rates. These are the prices, but full information how to obtain them will be sent by me with every Delegate's credential. *It is specially requested that all delegates state in writing to me whether they will stay to the Sunday evening's demonstration or not.* All credentials must be applied for before the end of April to secure entertainment.

Quite a number of Lyceums have not sent in their Returns of Lyceum officers and scholars on the register, and their average attendance for the year 1898. This should be done without further delay, whether the Lyceums belong to the Union or not, so that we may show to the world our Cause is growing.

Those who have not got a supply of the Jubilee Medal should do so at once. Best white metal, 4/6 per dozen. Address all orders to Mr. T. O. Todd, Sans Street, Sunderland.

Leaders' Department.

LYCEUM LESSONS AND INVOCATIONS FOR APRIL, 1899.

Compiled by the Editor.

NOTE.—In compiling these Lessons the only desire is that they may prove of Service to Conductors in furnishing them with suggestions for General Lyceum Lessons.—COMPILER.

SECOND SUNDAY.

INVOCATION.—Be with us this day, dear Angelic Guides, we pray. Pour upon us the blessedness of thy inspirings, fill our hearts with love, and our minds with thy words of wisdom. Lead our thoughts upwards, help us to live in unity, assist us to obtain all of good that our present meeting together will afford us, to the end, that we may come into close fellowship with each other, with thee, and our Great Father.

LESSON.—THE WORD OF GOD.—OUTLINE.—The Word of God is written by His works in the Universe and ourselves—No Bible contains all God's word—Universes are its Books—Solar Systems its Chapters—Worlds its verses—Its Ancient Scripture the visible Universe—Its New Testament the Spiritual realm—The preachers of God's word are Thinkers, Philosophers, Reformers, Scientists, and all who strive to obey His laws—God's 'word' is, that all should be happy, healthy, wise and good—He has ordained all things that His 'word' shall be fulfilled in us all.—S.C., 1. G.C., 115. M.R., 229.

THIRD SUNDAY.

INVOCATION.—In the sweet humility of mutual love, let us approach the Fountain of All Good. Let us each strive to drink of its precious waters, that our thirst for Truth and Wisdom be slaked thereat, that rising, refreshed and comforted, we may go out into the world better fitted to do our duty to our fellows and ourselves. May we strive earnestly, day by day, to fit ourselves for life with the Angels in the beautiful Summerland, when our day of life here is ended. Let us each resolve to do one thing every day, that shall make a fellow-creature happier, then shall we rest happily at night, and pass hence feeling we have done our best while on earth.

LESSON.—SAINTS.—OUTLINE.—Saints are the pure in heart, the virtuous in life, the useful in deed.—Religion, Philosophy, Art, Science and Morality have their Saints—Buddha and Jesus—Socrates and Plato—Homer and Shakespear—Archimedes, Newton and Darwin—Hypatia, Joan of Arc and Florence Nightingale—These are among our Saints—Such Saints set us examples—We can do, as they have done—Be a Saint at home, as well as abroad.—S.C., 4. G.C., 145. M.R., 236.

FOURTH SUNDAY.

INVOCATION.—Let us give thanks to the Author of all good for the blessings we enjoy. Also let us openly avow our gratitude to all those who have, at any time, or in any manner, blessed and succoured us in our need, who have befriended us in times of peril, sickness, or distress. And, as we have been helped, so may the memory of that service be with us always, to inspire us to render help to others, also. Be with us, beloved Guides and Counsellors from the Unseen, and help us, we beseech thee, to grow more and more like unto thee.

LESSON.—WORK.—OUTLINE.—We must all work, if we are to be healthy, happy or useful—The idlers are paupers, eating the bread of the workers—Brains to think with—Hands to labour with—Do something in return for what others do for you—Work is not only digging, and sawing, painting or bricklaying—You can work for freedom, for reform, for progress—Industry of mind is the thrift of the soul—Your true worker can always find time—It is the lazy who have no time to work—Death ends no tasks, it only places us where work becomes a greater pleasure.—S.C., 4. G.C., 145. M.R., 238.

FIFTH SUNDAY.

INVOCATION.—Brothers and Sisters, let us come together in the bonds of Spiritual fellowship, uniting our hearts in earnest desire for the living Truth that shall exalt our lives. Let us pray for light from the sweet spheres of Spirit life, asking that our friends and brethren from Beyond may gather with us, and teach us the lessons of their holy life. Let us, by purity of heart, strive to see God in his works, and feel his love in our lives.

LESSON.—SPIRITUAL GIFTS.—OUTLINE.—What are Spiritual Gifts—The faculties by which we are able to sense, see, and hear, Spiritual things—Mediumship is the modern term used to designate the various forms of these so-called Spiritual 'gifts'—As a matter of fact such 'gifts' are purely natural endowments—We can cultivate these gifts—When so doing it is called 'developing our Mediumship.—S.C., 20. G.C., 121. M.R., 42.

FIRST SUNDAY IN MAY.

INVOCATION.—Gracious Power, whose wondrous nature we may never fully understand, we come before thee in the glad Springtime of the year to offer thee the fairest flowers of gratitude for the riches showered upon us. May we so cultivate our lives that our gardens may produce fruit unto righteousness. May we strive to place garlands of peace on the brows of sorrow, and may the rich perfume of our purest blessings encircle all who are faint and weary on life's highway. Help us, dear friends, to grow more in the likeness of all that is pure, and to leave behind us seeds of good, that shall, in the garden of life, bear fruit an hundred fold.

LESSON.—OUR RIGHTS.—OUTLINE.—All have a natural right to life, to due liberty, and the happiness not gained at the expense of others—Rights imply duties—Our duty is to do to all what we would all should do to us—We should do all in our power to remove the causes of evil—To ensure justice—To maintain virtue—To protect the weak—Our rights are safe if we fulfil our duties—We have a right to health—To gain knowledge unhindered—To share in our government—To freedom of speech—We have no right to impose on others burdens we decline to share ourselves.—S.C., 35. G.C., 143. M.R., 236.

LYCEUM LESSONS FROM OLD RELIGIONS.

By J. BRIAN HODSON.

II.—BRAHMANISM.

IN my last lesson I told you of the chief ideas of this religion, and tried to remind you that you have the same ideas within yourselves. You all realise Brahm, or Creator; Vishnu, or Nature; Siva, or Death; Indra, or the Elements; Devi, or Illness; and Krishna, or the Heroic: but you realise them better when you hear of them in the words of your own language, than when they are spoken of in a foreign tongue. When you have more fully thought of the meaning of the English words I have put in the places of the Hindoo words you realise something vaster and grander than even English words can express. Your spirit will call up a number of thoughts that grow more and more numerous, and you will find that the original word used is but a poor exponent of all that you begin to conceive. This is what is meant by the wise saying of old, that "The letter killeth, but the spirit maketh alive." For as long as you allow your spirit to be free and search for itself you can travel into spheres of ideal loveliness; but when you try to reduce your experience to words, you find that the loveliness fades, and that the letter indeed killeth. It is from this cause that the human mind rebels so much against what are called dogma and dogmatic teaching. We all like to roam away into dreams and form our own ideas of God, and heaven, and angels, which are very true and real to us at the time, and we naturally like others to have the same ideas and spiritual elevation; so in our haste and ignorance of spiritual law, we reduce them to concise sentences, made up of cold hard words, and according to our power we force them upon those around us, thinking we have a right to insist upon our pleasure being enjoyed by others whether they like it or not. It has taken nearly 4000 years for the human race to realise that this is wrong, and it is only to a comparative few that the realisation comes even now. For when powerful and cultured minds examine the highest written teachings of the old Brahmanic religion, they confess at once the supreme beauty of its realisations; but when even an average mind examines the social and religious history of the Hindoo race, it discovers a degree of weakness, superstition and spiritual degradation that shocks all the higher feelings of our own nation.

On carefully studying this great religion we find that the first beautiful realisation of Brahm or the Creator is claimed

as a sort of exclusive property by a certain type of men, who set themselves apart to realise the power they recognise as manifest in the Creator. This would be well but for the fact that these self-constituted priests divide the rest of humanity into great classes or castes which they presume to exclude entirely from participation in direct communion with the Creator, and their first selfishness culminates in that great evil of class distinction, which, by nourished dogma, has borne bitter fruit through every generation since.

The strictness of the Brahmins called forth that second ideal of Vishnu, or Nature, with a set of votaries equally dogmatic, who contended with the Brahmins for popular acceptance of their views, and thus came into rivalry with them. And next came the terrible idealisation of Siva or the Destroyer. These fundamental ideas were soon materialised, and turned to account by priests, to serve their own ends, each of the latter sects being in rivalry with the earlier, until the original truths were lost in priestly contentions, and the most degrading abuses of the great ideas were in common practice until the English conquest was effected. Towards the end of last century, Siva worship was in vogue, and at the periodic festival of Thug, mothers were inspired by the priests to throw their living children under the car of Juggernaut, the wheel of which crushed them to death as it passed along. And the practice of leaving children exposed on the banks of the Ganges for crocodiles to devour is still a religious practice that the authorities are unable always to prevent.

You will wonder how it is that truths that are great and beautiful in themselves should be the origin of such frightful superstitions, and that a race with so many lofty teachers should be so degraded. I can only tell you as I believe, that it is due to dogmatic teaching as distinct from Lyceum teaching.

When a Brahmin realised a truth himself he considered he had a right to force it upon others. We in the Lyceum know by the experience of all ages that that is wrong, and that however certain we may be of any spiritual realisation we must put it forth in such a manner that we do not interfere with the free spiritual choice of our hearers. These may reject it, and if so we may be sure of one of these things, that (1) we ourselves may be wrong, (2) our hearers are not ready for the particular truth, or (3) they want some other preparation. When the Brahmins discovered their first truths it was in the condition of *rest of mind*, and had they sought to give their fellow human beings the same rest of mind, all would have realised the same truths. But the evil came about by those who were in one condition forcing their views on those in another condition, which is the true evil of dogmatic teaching.

We can all be ideal and spiritual when all trouble is removed, and in that state we can listen to poetry, sing hymns, and feel as near at-one-ment with Brahm or God as it is possible. But we find it difficult to realise this condition; (1) when we are hungry, (2) when we are cold, (3) when we are ill, (4) when our clothes don't fit, (5) when we have new dresses and hats on and expect to be admired therein, (6) when we are bad tempered and have quarrelled with any one. And Lyceumists should take warning from the Brahmins that they have to remove all these evils from around those they would help to a higher spiritual realisation, and that a patient careful study of the means of producing and distributing the necessities of life is the shorter way to bring the grand truths of Creation, Nature, and Death home to humanity.

BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

OFFICIAL NOTICE.

THE Joint Committee will visit Belper on April 16th, when an Open Session will be held in the Jubilee Hall, at 10 a.m., prompt, when brief addresses will be delivered.

PUBLIC MEETINGS will be held in the Temperance Hall at 2 and 6-30 p.m., when the following persons are expected to address the Meetings:

MR. JOHN VENABLES, (Walsall), President.

MRS. JESSY GREENWOOD, (Sowerby Bridge), Vice-president.

MR. S. S. CHISWELL, (Liverpool).

MR. H. A. KERSEY, (Newcastle-on-Tyne).

MR. THOMAS O. TODD, (Sunderland).

MR. WM. JOHNSON, (Hyde).

MESSRS. WM. MASON & WM. HARRISON, (Burnley).

MR. J. CLARKE, (Nottingham).

MR. ALFRED KITSON, Secretary, (Dewsbury).

Collections at each Service in aid of the Funds.—ALFRED KITSON, Secretary.

THE Lyceums comprised in the Bradford Lyceum District held a preliminary meeting at the St. Paul's Church Lyceum on March 4th, to take into consideration the advisability of forming a District Council. Representatives from Milton Hall, Otley Road, Shipley, and Skipton were present. Keighley Lyceum wrote expressing regret at being unable to be represented, and expressed itself in full sympathy with the object. The writer briefly explained the objects and routine of Lyceum D.C., and answered several questions relating to the same, after which it was unanimously decided to form a District Council for Bradford. The meeting then stood adjourned till the 18th (?) for the election of officers. Unfortunately this clashed with the annual audit of the Union, which prevented me from attending to help to place it in working order.

THE HERALD OF SPRING.

LIFE AND GOOD HEALTH.

WHAT to take as a good Medicine is often a perplexing matter! What the Blood and Liver require is to be purified, and the system to be invigorated is only too well known, and in

Madame Burchell's Medicine and Pills

are to be found the pure ingredients of the finest Herbs, Roots, and Barks, which tone up the Stomach, Liver and Blood, and make life worth living.

Medicines are made up specially for every individual case so that a remedy of the highest value is obtained.

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Letters, enclosing stamped envelope and P.O. or Stamps for 1s. for time (which will be allowed on first consignment of medicine sent), will receive prompt attention.

Madame Burchell may be consulted daily. Trams pass road.

Hours of Consultation: 10 to 1, and 2 to 8.
For full particulars see our advt., back page of cover.

The Monthly Record.

REPORTS.

BURNLEY, North Street.—On Sunday, March 5th, we held our ninth Anniversary Services, which were a great success, beating all past records. Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Chiswell carried out the services. We had a splendid Open Session. The Lyceumists contributed recitations, songs, violin solos, glees, &c. Mrs. Chiswell distributed the prizes, with very appropriate remarks, and good advice to the young folks, which will ever live in the minds of those present. At the afternoon service Mr. Chiswell gave an address to parents and children, and in the evening he discoursed on "The Gospel of Spiritualism." To say that both addresses were highly appreciated would do but faint justice to Mr. Chiswell as the speaker for the occasion. Splendid audiences at both meetings, and the collections, £16 10s. 3d. established a fresh record for our friends. On behalf of our Lyceum officers, leaders and scholars, I wish to publicly thank Mr. and Mrs. Chiswell for their services, as also Miss Smith, of Brierfield, for the beautiful solos she rendered, and the friends who assisted the Choir in the successful carrying out of the musical part of the service.—T. E. CHADWICK.

BURNLEY, Hammerton Street.—On Saturday, March 11th, an entertainment was given by the scholars, assisted by the leaders, to raise funds for fitting up a class-room for the use of the Liberty Group, and other meetings on Sundays. A practical illustration of our Lyceum session was gone through, led by Mr. Wm. Dean, conductor, including silver chain and golden chain recitation, musical reading, marching and calisthenics. Our esteemed conductor gave a brief explanation of our physical and mental exercises, their benefit on the human system, showing that the Romans, long before our present era, indulged in physical exercises for the development of the human structure. As doctors advocated singing as a cure for consumption, he said the combination of physical exercises and singing was of the highest value for the children of our Lyceums. The following took part in the entertainment: Miss Clara Wrathall sang "The Holy City," Mr. Wm. Longworth gave a Concertina solo, also his daughter, Sarah E. Longworth a Concertina solo; Prof. Bury, of Nelson, ventriloquist and humorist, entertained us with his dolls, also a comic recitation, which gave great satisfaction. Games were indulged in during the evening. About 60 scholars and 40 parents and teachers were present. On Sunday morning, March 12th, Mr. E. Wallis, editor of the *Two Worlds* was with us, and spoke of his visit to Andrew Jackson Davis, and gave us a brief and interesting account of his visit to America and Canada, showing us the different badges presented to him, including a conductor's badge, used by the Lyceum of Boston; a beautiful badge which might be adopted in this country. Also on Sunday morning, March 19th, a service of song, entitled "A Terrible Lesson," was rendered by our Lyceum choir. Musical conductor, Mr. Wm. Dean; accompanist, Mr. Alf. Singleton, assisted by our able reader, Mr. R. Driver.—JAMES CROSSLEY.

LONDON, Battersea.—On Saturday, February 25th, upwards of one hundred members and friends of the Lyceum and Band of Hope were, through the kindness of Mr. Turner (a member of the Parent Society), invited to a thoroughly good Magic Lantern Entertainment. The officers tender their best thanks to Mr. Turner for his very interesting evening's amusement.—A. J. MURRELL.

MANCHESTER, Higher Broughton.—The Lyceum of the Higher Broughton (Manchester) Spiritual Society gave a delightful entertainment to a crowded audience in their room, on February 21st, the proceeds being for the Banner Fund. The character of the programme is worthy of imitation by other Lyceums. It was chiefly a succession of artistic tableaux, forming musical "living pictures," and caused warm praise to Miss A. S. Rotherham, R.A.M., and her sister, Mrs. Boyden. The concert opened with a pianoforte solo by Miss A. S. Rotherham, representing the call for a fire brigade to a fire. The curtain then rose on a very pretty picture of a Gipsy Encampment, the characters being portrayed by Lyceumists who sang "Gipsy Jane." Then the "Wishing Cap" was very sweetly sung by Miss A. Stafford. A collection of living waxworks was next described by Miss Rotherham, and continued merriment was caused by her puns about the "Talking Doll," "Grace Darling and her Father," and "Sims Reeves (who had a cold)"; and her excuse when over was that "something went wrong with the works." Florry Shedlock recited "Jack Frost's Sister" in good style, and the first part closed with a popular Cantata, "The White Garland," which was charmingly rendered, the three scape goats of lads being veritable elves among the fairies.

Another pretty tableaux representing "Winter" opened the second part, followed by Miss E. Smith, who gave a very graceful exhibition in the skirt dance. Miss E. Pollitt sang, in character, a Gipsy song; then another series of picturesque groupings by sprightly maidens was presented in the Japanese Fan Drill; the girls were appropriately dressed, and their skilful display worked a demand for a repetition of the last figure, which finished with a ludicrous March out. Joe Smith, who had roused much hilarity as "the tardy scholar" now forgot all his vows of amendment, but caused renewed applause by declaring in song, "I shan't go to school any more." Miss L. Richardson excellently recited a temperance poem called "Laddie," and after the laughable chorus "The Cat's Funeral," the programme was concluded with the singing of "The Better Land" by this young band of performers. Miss E. Smith and Miss L. Richardson received bouquets for their diligence, and Miss Naomi Rotherham ably presided at the piano.

MANCHESTER, Bradford.—Feb. 26th, usual attendance and routine gone through. Recitations by E. and W. Tonge, S. and A. Page, L. Tweedale and Edith Lolly. Marching and Calisthenics very good.—March 5th, recitations and readings by E. and W. Tonge, Master Selway, Tom Smith, Mr. Low, Misses L. Tweedale, A. Page, and Olive Peason.

MANCHESTER, Collyhurst.—Feb. 13th, good muster of Lyceumists; capital marching, etc. Excellent discussion among the elders, subject: "Progression and Retrogression." Recitations by Masters Percy Hugh and Arthur Arundale. February 19th, present 60. Recitations by Messrs. Jones and Humes; voice reading, Mr. T. Taylor.—Grand session Feb. 26th.—Recitations by Percy and Arthur Arundale, Lily Brailsford and Rachael Wills. March 5, usual routine. The discussion class is attracting a goodly number of elders. Recitations by P. and A. Arundale, Florrie Francis, Ethel Wills and Mr. Jones. We purpose holding the annual concert and prize distribution about the 3rd week in April, and trust our friends and supporters of the children's cause will rally round in goodly numbers and make it a success.—JAS. HARVEY.

PRESTON, Weaver's Hall.—We have organised a Band of Hope in connection with our Lyceum, our esteemed conductor, Mr. Crookall, officiating as President of that body. On March 13th we convened a meeting of the above, 96 being in attendance. The President explained some of the principles relative to Band of Hope work. The programme consisted of recitations, readings, etc. Mr. Eli Jackson's feats of legerdemain were highly appreciated. Another noticeable feature was an excellent paper given by one of our young advocates, (Frank Whitaker, aged 12 years) entitled "Temperance." We extend hearty thanks to all friends who took part in the entertainment.—C. PARKINSON, Hon. Sec.

RAWTENSTALL.—On Sunday, March 12th, we held our open sessions, which we hold every second Sunday in the month, inviting all our friends to come. The programme consists of readings, singing and reciting. We have had very good attendances up to now, and hope to continue our good work of progress.—A. SIMPSON.

SPENNYMOOR.—We had a beautiful session on Sunday morning, March 12th; the occasion being the presentation of books given by our District Visitor, Mrs. Naylor, to the children for the best answer to Golden Chain recitation 104. Instead of giving four prizes she said she would be obliged to give seven, so well did the children give their answers.—THOS. NEASHAM.

THE Leeds D.C. held a successful quarterly meeting at Leeds, on March 11th, after which the local friends gave an excellent entertainment, which was heartily enjoyed by a number of visitors. The proceeds are to be devoted to the Council's funds to help defray all travelling expenses.

THE JUNIOR SPIRITUALISTS' Club.—This Club held its first Annual Concert and Dance on Monday, March 6th, at the Cavendish Rooms, London. There was an excellent attendance, a capital programme, and a most enjoyable evening. While neither held as a speculation, or to raise funds, for the Club is in a financially flourishing condition, the affair was a financial success. Miss Florence Morse, the Hon Sec., worked hard and ably, and is to be heartily congratulated on the gratifying results that rewarded her labours. Elsewhere will be found an advertisement giving some interesting particulars about this very successful organisation.

The "Banner" Letter Box.

WHAT A CONDUCTOR THINKS.

DEAR EDITORS.—A long time has elapsed since last I wrote you, and as I have just been reading the reports from the various Lyceums in this month's BANNER, I thought I would like to pen a few words of congratulation and encouragement to the workers—the leaders and children of our great movement. I notice particularly that our genial president (Mr. Venables) is taking his usual active interest in the welfare of the movement by visiting Darwen Lyceum, and I can fully believe that the Darwen friends mean what they say when they express the hope that it will not be the last time Mr. Venables will visit them. All the reports are encouraging, and, from their reading, the children are taking as active a part as the teachers. I am glad to see such a successful report from Bloomsbury, and sincerely hope that the efforts of each Lyceum in the year 1899 will be crowned with success. To my fellow-workers at Stockport I would say—Persevere, no matter what opposition you may meet with, no matter how many difficulties may face you; the sowing time is yours and is now; the reaping time is in the future, and it may be that you will not reap your full harvest while in the earth life, but you will assuredly reap it in the Summer-land. Whatever is done for the spirit is eternal, is never lost. May God and the angel-world help you, as they assuredly will if, having put your hands to the plough, you turn not back.

I cannot close this without a word of thanks to our Editors, and I am sure I am voicing the sentiments of each and every one who read the BANNER when I say that we are grateful to Mr. and Miss Morse for their unselfish and painstaking efforts, not only on behalf of the children, but also on behalf of all those connected in any way with Lyceums, and we hope that their hands may be strengthened in the future, and that the year of 1899 will see the desire of their hearts, that the BANNER may be self-supporting, and that Mr. Morse may long live to wield the pen in the birthday chair, and not be driven to tear his hair, in mute despair, at the poems rare, which are brought him there!

Wishing all friends in the cause—children, leaders, contributors, and editors—a glad and prosperous new year. I remain, ever your well-wisher and fellow-worker,
Conductor Smethwick Lyceum. H. E. KENT.

AN EXPLANATION.

DEAR SIR.—Will you kindly allow me a little of your valuable space for a few lines *re* Mr. A. J. Davis' letter, No. 2, to Mr. J. B. Longstaff. You justly remark "There is evidently some slight confusion here, as the letter refers entirely to the B.S.L.U. presentation, and should, therefore, have been sent to Bro. Alfred Kitson, as the Secretary of the B.S.L.U." Allow me to say, Mr. Editor, that I received the letter for Mr. J. B. Longstaff enclosed in mine, and also one for Bro. Chiswell, with a request to mail them forward, which I did by the next post. So that it came to me, but was not for me. Evidently Bro. A. J. Davis is under the impression that the Lancashire Lyceum Demonstration Committee is in some way connected with the B.S.L. Union, Unfortunately such is not the case, as a number of the Lyceums connected with the L.L.D.C. are not members of the Union. Why this should be so is a problem I am unable to solve. Perhaps they will remedy this anomaly in the good time coming.—Yours fraternally, ALFRED KITSON, Secretary, B.S.L. Union.

The Junior Spiritualists' Club of Great Britain.

FOUNDED 1898.

LIST OF OFFICERS.

President: Mr. J. J. Vango, 283, Ladbroke Grove, London, W.
Vice-President: Mr. J. J. Morse, 26, Osnaburgh-street, London, N.W.
Hon. Treasurer: Miss F. Porter, 124, Kensington Park-rd., London, W.
Committee: Miss McCreadie, Mrs. J. Parker, and Mr. H. W. Bradshaw.
Hon. Sec.: Miss Florence Morse, 26, Osnaburgh-st., London, N.W.

HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS:

E. Dawson Rogers, Esq., President London Spiritualists' Alliance, and Editor of *Light*.
E. W. Wallis, Esq., Editor of the *Two Worlds*, Manchester.
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Harrison D. Barrett, Esq., President American Spiritualists' National Association, Boston, U.S.
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Dr. J. M. Peebles, San Diego, Cal., U.S.
George Spriggs, Esq., Melbourne, Australia.
Thomas Olman Todd, Esq., President Sunderland Spiritualists' Society.

ADVANTAGES OF MEMBERSHIP.

The Club is composed of Members and Associates, who in return for their subscriptions are provided without further charge with:—

1.—A weekly meeting at which is presented either clairvoyance, trance, and normal lectures, papers and essays, palmistry, musical evenings, and once each quarter a Club Social, including refreshments, to which members can introduce visitors for a nominal charge payable by the member. No visitor being allowed to purchase tickets or pay for admission to any ordinary meeting of the Club.

2.—The Club arranges for lectures from, or receptions to, any distinguished visitors to London—native or foreign.

3.—Each year a Club Concert and Dance is provided for which special arrangements are made.

As a means of social intercourse, the study of spiritual problems and the providing of healthy recreation, the Club has become a distinct success. Further particulars and terms of membership in the Club can be obtained from,
FLORENCE MORSE, Hon. Sec.,
26, Osnaburgh Street, London, N.W.

LANCASHIRE LYCEUM DEMONSTRATION.—Next meeting of delegates will be held at Royton on Saturday, May 6th, 1899. Tea at 4-30 p.m. (6d. each), meeting afterwards. After tea a concert or social. Hearty invitation given given to any Lyceum desirous of taking part in this year's Demonstration, which will be held at Bury on July 8th, if pending arrangements are successful.—J. B. LONGSTAFF, Hon. Sec., 28, Caton Street, Moss Side, Manchester.

THE Editor visited the Lyceum at Bootle, on the occasion of his engagement with the Society, on the 19th ult. The Lyceum is well conducted, harmonious, and progressing satisfactorily. An intersecting march was gone through; that was a new feature to the visitor.

JUST PUBLISHED.

A GRAND NEW SPIRITUALISTIC SERVICE OF SONG: "IN HEAVEN'S NAME."

Written and Arranged by WALTER BOOTH,
Author of "For Ever True," "Hand and Heart," etc.

SEND 3d. FOR SAMPLE COPY. Special Terms for Quantities.
"FOR EVER TRUE" STILL SELLING.

WALTER BOOTH, 15, GREY STREET, HIGHER OPENSHAW,
MANCHESTER.

BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

THE

Ninth Annual Conference

WILL BE HELD IN THE

COBDEN HALL, PEACHEY STREET, NOTTINGHAM,

On **SUNDAY, May 14th, 1899.**

MR. JOHN VENABLES, PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENTS.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON: SUNDAY ARRANGEMENTS.

RECEPTION of DELEGATES.

A MEAT TEA

WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE COBDEN HALL, PEACHEY ST.,
For Delegates and Friends at 4-30 p.m.,
after which the

South Notts. Temperance Brass Band

Have been engaged to lead

A PROCESSION

Through the City of Nottingham, returning to Cobden Hall
at 7 p.m., when

A GRAND ENTERTAINMENT

Will be presented

By the UNITED NOTTINGHAM LYCEUMS

(Assisted by a few Friends),

Interspersed with Brief Speeches of Welcome

TO OUR FRIENDS FROM FAR AND NEAR.

TRAVELLING ARRANGEMENTS.

TO MAKE your journey to Nottingham as pleasant and as cheap as possible, arrangements have been made with the Midland Railway Co. to provide Saloon Carriages for Delegates—at Blackburn for the Lancashire Section, and at Bradford for the Yorkshire portion.

CHEAP WEEK-END TICKETS will be issued to NOTTINGHAM. Information relative to booking and fares will be supplied on receipt of REPLY POST CARD addressed to Mr. ALBERT WILKINSON, 10, Percy Street, Hibson Road, Nelson; or to the undersigned. For the benefit of those who join the party at Manchester, the return fare is 6/3½; Bradford 7/2½; Leeds 6/5½. Other Stations in proportion thereto. J. CLARKE.

15, ROBIN HOOD'S CHASE, NOTTINGHAM.

BUSINESS SESSIONS, at 10-0 a.m. and 2-0 p.m., will be held in the Cobden Hall, Peachey Street. DINNER will be served at 1 o'clock, and TEA at 4-45 p.m. sharp, in the same building at the usual prices.

After Tea, Delegates and Friends are invited to meet at the *GLADSTONE HALL, Lamartine Street, St. Ann's Well Road, at 5-45 p.m.*, from whence

A Brass Band will head a Procession

of Delegates, Lyceumists, and Friends, through the City, en route to

THE MECHANICS' LARGE HALL,

WHERE A

Monstre PUBLIC MEETING

Will be held. This meeting will commence at 6 p.m. with a **Grand ORGAN RECITAL by G. Astill, Esq.**

6-30 p.m.—Opening Hymn (L.M.315). The Service will be of a bright character. Music by the Brass Band, the Lyceum Choir, and Solos by some of

Nottingham's Greatest Vocalists,

INCLUDING

Mr. JNO. RAYNOR (Nottingham's Favourite Soprano, late of the Livermore Minstrels), and

Mr. George Cooper, Tenor.

These Gentlemen have been engaged at considerable expense, and in conjunction with

Miss Ada Gates, of the Nottingham Concerts,

should provide a Great Musical Attraction, and thereby afford the opportunity to the Speakers for which the meeting is convened.

FURTHER PARTICULARS LATER.

TO MAKE the 1899 Conference the success which is so desirable, it must rest with each Lyceum to do its duty by being fully represented by its Delegates at these meetings. Brothers and sisters, don't forget Nottingham is the Birthplace of the British Lyceum Movement!!!