

THE LYCEUM BANNER.

A Spiritualist Magazine for Old and Young.

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[Specially contributed to the Lyceum Banner.]

LORD OF HIMSELF.

By ANNIE E. FITTON.

CHAPTER IV.—Continued.

DRUMMOND had been cordially welcomed on his arrival, by the banker and his family, and had already established a friendly intercourse with the younger members of it. To Ralph he had felt drawn as to a younger brother, and the youth had warmly responded to his advances. There was a genuine comradeship about the young Rector which won his regard and promised to draw the two more closely together as their intimacy ripened, and already Ralph felt that in Mr. Drummond he had found a friend on whose sympathy he might rely and by whose advice he might be guided.

"And what have you been doing with yourself this lovely day?" asked Mr. Drummond, with a rapid glance into the other's face.

Ralph described their little excursion.

"And Guy—was he well enough to enjoy it.?"

"He enjoyed it immensely; poor fellow! he has to be thankful for small mercies now."

"I think I never heard the cause of his illness, I was from home when it began. Was it an accident? "Yes—No. That is—I was the cause of it," stammered Ralph, flushing and then paling.

His companion looked at him curiously and half regretting he had asked the question. "I beg your pardon, don't trouble to explain, I did not know"—"You did not know that my wretched temper was the cause of it all," burst forth Ralph impetuously, "but it is time you did, time you knew what a brute I am."

"Don't call yourself names, there's a good fellow. I have not seen much of the brute in you yet." "It lies dormant, I never know how soon it may be in evidence," said the boy with a bitterness which pained his companion.

"Tell me about it, if I am not asking too much," said the young clergyman, slipping his arm through Ralph's with a sympathetic pressure which gave him courage to continue.

And the story was told briefly and frankly, with no attempt at excuse, and as Mr. Drummond listened, reading between the lines much which the speaker was unconscious of betraying, he felt a rush of sympathy towards this youth with his passionate nature and affectionate heart. "Poor fellow!" he exclaimed, as Ralph ceased, "it was hard for you both, unbearable for you, loving the boy as I know you do."

"And the worst is, it seems as though I did it on purpose, I who would sacrifice anything for Guy."

"My dear boy, no one could suspect you of that, for heaven's sake don't get that morbid idea into your head." Ralph was silent to this. How could he say that he had been accused of wilfully injuring his brother unless he would expose Mrs. Cardwell's unjust suspicions; and this he shrank from doing.

And then followed a few strong helpful words, soothing

to Ralph's sore heart and stirring in him a passionate desire to "rise on the stepping stones of his past self to higher things," and kindling in him the heaven-born hope that God helping him he might yet come off conqueror in the struggle.

The summer passed without effecting much improvement in Guy. The injury to the bone resulted in repeated abscesses which took the boy off his feet and kept him in a chronic state of weakness, as trying to those about him as it was painful and wearying to the boy himself. A short improvement would invariably be followed by a relapse, and the only hope the doctors could hold out was the possibility of the disease exhausting itself.

Poor Ralph suffered in his way as much as did his brother. Mrs. Cardwell treated him with scant courtesy, and took every opportunity of showing her dislike, thwarting his plans and irritating him in the many little ways which seem trivial in themselves but possess an unlimited power to worry and annoy.

Mr. Cardwell was not an observant man and many of the petty tyrannies to which his son was subjected were unnoticed by him, and as Ralph scorned to complain and set a strict watch upon his temper, the surface calm remained unbroken and the father was serenely unconscious of the under-current of discord which disturbed more than one member of his family.

Doris did her utmost to compensate to Ralph for the mother's coldness and injustice. She loved him with a sisterly devotion almost maternal in its unselfish intensity; she understood his varied moods, peculiar as they sometimes were, as none other did, and the influence she exerted over him, unconsciously to herself, was such that Ralph, sore and irritable and despondent, as he often was, felt that with her he was safe from misconstruction. She at least would credit him with good intentions however, he might fall short of them, and now that Mr. Drummond had heard his story and not turned from him in disgust, he felt the better able to battle with his difficulties and discouragements.

The young Rector was at this time a frequent visitor at Firdene. The family as a whole interested him, and since Ralph had made him his confidant he had felt drawn to him as the strong are sometimes drawn to the weak. He could see pretty plainly what were the youth's difficulties and felt a secret indignation at Mrs. Cardwell's undisguised antipathies. He could read the woman's shallow nature as an open book, and was a silent observer of much which to the less observant might have passed unnoticed.

To Guy, his visits were a source of unalloyed pleasure and were looked forward to with an eagerness very flattering to Mr. Drummond, who possessed the happy knack of winning and retaining the interest and affection of his young friends. He could be sympathetic without being doleful, and it was amusing to the older members of the family to see how Guy appropriated his visits and the air of comradeship that existed between them.

"I'm afraid you will tire Mr. Drummond," said Doris on one occasion, as the two were absorbed in a volume of en-

gravings which the clergyman had brought, he meanwhile acting as chorus and in his graphic way launching into vivid description of the different pictures, Continental Views mostly, picked up on his travels and about each of which he had something interesting to relate, or some anecdote he wished to enlarge.

Mr. Drummond looked up with a smile as he replied, "I am amusing myself Miss Cardwell quite as much as Guy. It is some time since I glanced at these, and seeing them again brings the real scenes so vividly before me, that I almost feel as though I had been renewing my acquaintance with them."

"You enjoyed your tour I should say, judging from the reminiscences you have conjured up?"

"I did, it was delightful in every sense, and not the least part of the pleasure of travel consists in the memories which the mind retains and in the enlarged horizon which even brief glimpses of other countries and different phases of Society opens out."

"I am sure it must be so. One gets so narrow and insulated living one's life within a limited area."

"Have you not been abroad Miss Cardwell?" asked the Rector.

"I have been as far as the Channel Islands, with that exception, my travels have been confined strictly to this little island of ours."

"Well, there are some lovely spots in this country if people would only trouble to look for them, but the majority of tourists are drawn to fashionable resorts, while quieter and more attractive nooks are overlooked. Travellers are absurdly like a flock of sheep, where one goes the rest must follow. It is a great effort to some people to think for themselves," added Mr. Drummond thoughtfully.

"Well I mean to think for myself," announced Guy gravely, "I intend to be an original; like Ralph."

"Is Ralph an original?"

The boy turned with wide open eyes to his questioner.

"I should just think he is; why, Mr. Drummond, Ralph is like no one else; he is a regular brick. You are stunning of course," continued Guy with an air of patronage his companion found immensely amusing, "but Ralph—oh, he is like no one I know, so he must be original, don't you see?"

"I see he has a warm advocate in Guy," replied the other with a smile, "and here he comes to speak for himself," as Ralph entered the room and joined the group in the window.

Mrs. Cardwell was busy writing at a distant table, but at Ralph's entrance laid down her pen and joined her son. She could not altogether separate the brothers, much as she would have liked to do so, but she let no opportunity slip of so doing, and did her utmost to raise a barrier between Ralph and the rest of the family. She wished him to feel that he was still a culprit, his claim to respect or consideration forfeited.

The presence of Mr. Drummond in no way deterred her from following out the petty annoyances which she had made up her mind should be the youth's punishment. She knew too, his enjoyment of the Rector's society, another potent reason why he should for the present be debarred it.

"Where are these from Guy?" asked Ralph, as edging himself on the boy's couch, he took up the book of views, and began turning over the pages.

"They are Mr. Drummond's, he brought them for me to look at. Look! that's Vesuvius, puffing out smoke and ashes, and see, here's Pompeii which the surly beggar smothered with his hideous lava. Oh Ralph, should you not like to go

there, and there, and there," continued the boy rapidly turning to one view after another.

"Take your time please, how can I see at this lightning speed."

But here Mrs. Cardwell interposed.

"Ralph, I want you to go to the farm for me and inquire why they have not sent the poultry, as ordered yesterday." Ralph looked up in some surprise. "Can't one of the maids go.?"

"No, they are engaged. Now don't argue the point please, but go at once."

Ralph flushed at the cold arrogant tones; was he a lackey to be ordered about thus; a curt refusal was on his lips, but they were not alone, and a scene in the presence of a visitor would be intolerable. Controlling the rising passion with an effort which left him as white as before he had been crimson, he rose. Mr. Drummond rose at the same time.

"My time is up if you will excuse me. I will walk part of the way with you Ralph." And bidding adieu to the others Mr. Drummond quitted the house with Ralph.

They walked in silence for some time, Ralph, sore and indignant at his summary dismissal, was feeling he had been treated like a child and naturally resented the blow to his dignity. His companion, with ready tact, launched at length into some schemes which he was anxious to put in operation during the ensuing winter, and succeeded at last in arousing Ralph's attention and diverting his thoughts into a different channel.

"May I count upon your assistance Ralph?" he asked, seeing the cloud at last disperse and the youth's face brighten with interest as he proceeded.

"Mine! why, what can I do?"

"You can do much. You can throw your influence into the scale and second my efforts, or, you can indolently rest on your oars and let the talents and influence with which God has endowed you rust for want of use, or fail to accomplish the good they might otherwise effect. Which is it to be?" asked the clergyman quietly.

"My talents? I have but one; and my influence—I must learn to control myself before I dare hope to control others," answered Ralph in a low tone, not without bitterness.

"True, but you are learning this lesson. You controlled your temper a while ago under some provocation. You will do it again, and each time the task will be an easier one. As to your one talent, though it be only one, for Heaven's sake don't hide it in a napkin; put it out to usury, my dear fellow, not even Ruskin could object to that," added the Rector with a smile.

"Let others benefit by it, and in serving man you are serving God in the only way He can be served. Well, what say you?" and stopping in his walk the speaker faced his companion, who met the other's earnest and affectionate gaze with a responding smile.

"If you can make use of me, command me, I will do what I can, with you for a guide."

"A better than I will guide you. God bless you?" and with a shake of the hand that seemed to leave a throb of vitality behind, Mr. Drummond left Ralph to continue his walk alone, but with better, because less self-absorbed, thoughts to bear him company than the reflections he had started with.

CHAPTER V.

RALPH had not reached the farm when he was overtaken by Charlie Graham, who exclaimed, as he passed his arm through Ralph's.

"What a rate you do go at Ralph; I declare you don't let the grass grow under your feet. May I ask if you are walking for a wager?"

"Not exactly; but I hate loitering."

"Was that Mr. Drummond who left you a few minutes ago?"

"Yes."

"I thought I knew his long legs."

"Why, do you recognise a person by his legs?" asked Ralph with a laugh.

"That depends upon the legs my dear fellow. There's as much individuality in some person's lower extremities, as in other's faces, and our parson has a walk of his own. What a jolly fellow he is Ralph."

"Is that the best you can say of him?"

"Oh, well, you know what I mean. I don't care for parsons as a rule, they are such a narrow lot, and they do preach such twaddle, talking about one's soul as though it were a personal possession which we might forget and leave behind, like an umbrella! We don't hear any *cant* from Mr. Drummond and that's why I like him."

"He would feel flattered if he heard you," replied Ralph, drily.

"Oh, come now, no chaff if you love me. I'm not one of the goody-goody sort you know and I can't stand preaching at. Where are you off to?"

"Only to the Farm with a message, and here we are," said Ralph, as turning up a narrow country lane, grass grown, and shady with overhanging trees, they reached a pretty little farm house embanked with climbing roses, and the garden fronting it gay and sweet with a profusion of old-fashioned flowers, and a sweet briar hedge sending out a rich perfume, for rain had fallen earlier in the day and all vegetation responded, sending forth a thank-offering which sweetened the atmosphere and made the sense of smell a blessing to be grateful for. And surely there is no more subtle and delicious enjoyment than that which the pure and perfumed air can offer, one which makes living a delight and earth a foretaste of heaven.

Ralph's business was soon despatched and the friends continued their walk, Charlie chattering away in his usual lively discursive fashion, monopolised most of the conversation, for Ralph was in one of his dreamy moods and his responses were occasionally rather wide of the mark. But so that he had an auditor Charlie was all content, and before they parted had succeeded in arousing Ralph sufficiently out of his abstraction to arrange an excursion for the following week to a place of interest in the neighbourhood.

(To be Continued.)

[NOTE.—For 'Wolverhampton' in last month's instalment read Millhampton.]

LATE REPORT.—MANCHESTER, (Higher Broughton).—The Half-yearly Meetings of the Society and Lyceum were held on April 11th, and the following officers were appointed: Conductor, Mr. I. Smith; Treasurer, Mr. J. Jackson; Secretary, Mr. W. Cruise; Delegates, Mr. Stafford and Miss Garner. This Lyceum is maintaining steady progress. During the past six months money has been obtained for a Banner which is to be unfurled in June. On May 9th, a Concert will be given for the Whitsuntide treat, and will include "The White Garland," tambourine and fan drills, etc., which is being prepared by our Musical Director, Miss Rotherham.—W. CRUISE, Sec.

[NOTE.—This being sent to Mr. Kitson instead of the Editor of the BANNER, arrived too late for insertion with reports. All communications for BANNER must be sent direct.—EDS.]

OUR Editor has suffered from a mild attack of Influenza recently. It incapacitated him from business for a few days, but he is now alright again. Correspondents will accept above as accounting for little delays.

GREAT BRITAIN'S FIRST LYCEUM.

By J. J. ASHWORTH.

A member of the Original English Lyceum.

THE coming important and interesting event of the visit of such a large family of promising children to the home of their parents, in the opinion of several friends makes it appropriate that I should offer a few lines to the "BANNER" detailing some of the early experiences of the working of "Great Britain's First Lyceum."

Having just returned from a garret "furrage," I have unexpectedly discovered No. 6 of *Human Nature*, published by J. Burns; bearing date of September 2nd, 1867, which contains, on page 350, a letter from Miss Gamble, (now Mrs. Yates, of Chicago), giving a report of the first Lyceum Anniversary held in England. It is dated, July 1867, and was written from the "Spiritual Lyceum," Robin Hood's Chase, and, strange to say, the Conductor of our Cobden Hall Lyceum here, Mr. Clark, lives only some hundred yards from the spot.

Miss Gamble, says, "It may be interesting to some of your readers to be informed that our Lyceum held its first Anniversary on Tuesday, the 16th inst. The party consisted of the members, leaders, parents, and friends, and a happy time they appeared to have. After an enjoyable tea the evening was spent in singing, recitations, games, and marching." "Our institution," she says, "is situated outside of the town, with a beautiful raised grass-plot before it, about 40 yards long, by 10 wide, so that we had plenty of room for marching, counter-marching, etc., and our groups with their banners flying, and singing, appropriate pieces from A. J. Davis' *Manual*, made a very attractive appearance, and, we believe, produced a very good effect on the outside lookers on." It will thus be seen from the above extract that we are a year older than is generally supposed, our Lyceum coming into existence in 1866. The old mansion above referred to, (which has long been replaced by a more modern one) was in the occupation of three families: Mr. Hitchcock, Mr. Bilson, and Mr. Storey, who had an equal number of rooms each. The two centre ones, with large glass doors approached from the lawn, being used as a Day School, Lyceum, and Meeting Room. Mr. Bilson for some time conducted a day school, and also taught the three R's to scholars of various ages, up to 75, at the Sunday Morning Sessions of the Lyceum, and he had several times been on platforms with and was a strong supporter of the teachings of the late Robert Owen, was the first conductor elected. I believe Mrs. Hitchcock was the next, and, considering all our knowledge was obtained by reading and studying the *Manual*, her services would compare with many of our conductors to-day. I well remember the happy evenings spent, during the early part of 1866, in reading and discussing the Lyceum plan. One evening weekly was for some time devoted to this purpose, the meeting being conducted by Mr. Hitchcock. Previous to residing at the "old mansion," as it was frequently termed, Mrs. Hitchcock had been holding house meetings (she kept a herbalist shop in Alfred Street), which were crowded weekly, and at which some startling tests were given. About this time unfortunate and unpleasant feelings were manifested towards us by others than our orthodox opponents, viz: "Spiritualists of different sects who had looked upon us with considerable suspicion and often with open hostility," so wrote J. Burns in a long article in *Human Nature* for October, 1868, in giving a very exhaustive report of what took place at our first Annual Picnic, held at Black's Head Gardens, Carrington. He does us the credit, however, of stating that "the progressive party have shown the most commendable spirit in calmly minding their own business, and developing their natural resources in such a manner as to make themselves a centre of action for the Cause with which they have identified themselves, rather than wasting their strength in fighting their enemies."

He writes enthusiastically of the Procession up Mansfield Road, headed by a large crimson banner, borne on two poles, and on which was inscribed, "Children's Progressive Lyceum." On account of insufficiency of numbers the groups were merged two in one, each group was headed by a banner carried by its leaders, bearing its name in gold letters, whilst the children carried little Union Jacks over their shoulders. An open phaeton containing the very youngest toddlers, comprising Fountain Group brought up the rear. Friends and visitors followed making us over 200 strong. The people of the town turned out in large numbers as the procession passed, and seemed to look on with feelings of mingled astonishment and pleasure. The writer being one in that procession is anticipating taking part in our coming Demonstration, which, after thirty-one years added experience, should leave such an impression on the minds of our fellow-citizens as to convince them that we Spiritualists must be considered second to none in our desire to look after the well-being of the future men and women of this Ancient City.



Our Daisies' Page.

Edited by Daisy Dimple.

MY DEAR DAISIES,—When you get your BANNER for this month the first week in May will have gone by, but whilst I am writing this, May is just opening, for this is May morning, and I thought it would be a nice time to write the Daisy Page.

Mother says that when she was a little girl she once lived in the country, and on May morning all the boys and girls used to get up very soon, and dress themselves very nice and gay, and all gather together on the village green, then they would have all kinds of games and sports, and have a maypole dance, which I think would be a most jolly affair, and before they finished their games they would select the prettiest girl in the village, and, with garlands of flowers, would crown her as the May Queen. So that she was Queen of the young people until the next May morning, when another one would be chosen as the May Queen.

Of course, this could not very well be done in the large towns, and as most of us live in the towns, I don't suppose we will ever see the May Queen crowned; but I think our Lycems could hold a May morning celebration of some kind, and even crown a May Queen if they cared to do so, and I think it would be most enjoyable. Daisy would enjoy it very much, and most boys and girls seem to like the same things that she does. Of course there would have to be a breakfast, and we could all enjoy that, especially if our "Queen" was at the head of the table. This would be a children's gathering specially, but I think the elder folks would not be far away. I wish I had thought about this last month, then some Lycems might possibly have tried it.

* * *

Some of you who like stories—and I think most of the Daisies do—will be wondering when I am going to give you another one, so I think I will now tell you one which was told to me by a gentleman some time ago, and is called

THE COACHMAN'S CHILDREN.

ONCE upon a time, and as this story is a true one it must have been once upon a time, there lived a rich gentleman who owned a beautiful mansion, with large gardens round about it. At the entrance to the grounds there was a pretty little cottage, where lived the gentleman's coachman, along with his wife and their two children, a little boy and girl.

They all loved each other very dearly, and it was a great trial to the father when the mother took suddenly ill and died. The two children were so young that they could not be made to understand that they would never see their mother again, although their father did what he could to make them understand what death really meant.

As the father was from home a good part of the day, it was necessary that someone should come to the house to look after the children, so a housekeeper was engaged, and although the children did not take to her near so well as the father could have wished, yet he hoped that they would soon be reconciled to her when they began to think less of their mother.

When the father returned home each evening from his duties, he was always pleased to find his boy and girl looking bright and cheerful, and so cleanly dressed, that he was glad that he had been able to get a housekeeper who took such pains with his children, and was so sure that they were well taken care of, that he never thought of asking the children what they did during the time that he was away from home.

The father soon found that the mother was not to be forgotten by the children as soon as he expected, for on several occasions when he was reading the newspaper, and the children were playing with each other, he would stop reading to listen to their childish talk, in which their dear mother was mentioned, and the great eagerness with which they looked forward to the time when she was coming to visit them, just as though they imagined that she had gone away on a holiday, and would return on the morrow.

One day, whilst the father was driving his master to a town a few miles away, an accident happened to the horse, and so lamed it that the master decided to walk the rest of the distance, whilst the coachman was to return home on foot, and, in the evening, bring a fresh horse to the village where they lame one, fetch the coach to the town and so bring the master home at night.

The coachman therefore set out at once on his return home, and arrived there about mid-day. As he neared the house he thought to himself how pleased and surprised his children would be when he came home so unexpectedly. At the entrance gates he met one of the female servants from the hall, who was surprised to find him returning so soon, and told him that his housekeeper was up at the hall, where she spent a great deal of her time instead of looking after the children.

"But she will have the children with her, has she not?" inquired the father.

"Oh, no," answered the servant, "she never brings the children with her, she always leaves them at home."

Expecting to find the children in the house the father entered at once, and although sure that they would be safe, he was dreadfully annoyed that they should be left alone.

To his great surprise the children were not to be found. He searched every room in the house, then went into the garden, but still failed to find them. Returning to the house he made another search, and was beginning to think that the housekeeper must have taken them to the hall, and that the servant must have made a mistake, when he was led quite unthinkingly to look into a long dark place under the stairs. Opening the small door to this place, he looked in, and there, at the far end, seated on an old clothes chest, were his two children.

As you may be sure, he was dreadfully angry that his children should be treated so shamefully, but he was somewhat subdued when they came out of their hiding place without the sign of a tear on their faces, but rather with smiling countenances, and a look of shyness, as though they were undecided whether to come out or stay where they were.

"Are you not afraid to stay in there by yourselves?"

said the father, seeing that they showed no signs of fear.

"Oh, no," said the little girl, "Why should we, WHEN OUR OWN MOTHER COMES TO SIT ON THE BOX BESIDE US ALL THE TIME?"

"Yes," said the little boy, "and tells us pretty stories all the time about the beautiful home where we are going, if we are good."

"And," said the little girl, "she sometimes brings our baby-brother, who went to live with the angels a long time ago."

I am sorry that our Daisy page for this month is not as good as it ought to be; perhaps that is because I have been so unwell for several weeks. But I am going to get better now, and then we, that is Dewdrop and I, will,—will,—will,—never mind what.

Your loving friend,

Daisy Dimple.

The Riddler's Corner.

EDITED BY J. HARRY BUNN.

DEAR RIDDLERS.—We are getting more popular than ever, and have gained yet another new contributor. But I will first tell you of last month's Corner. Well, I have sent a few consolation prizes to solvers who nearly, but not quite, "got there," as the saying is. The prize winners are—Percy Williams, T. Carching, and Winnie A. Pears; and the correct answers to the riddles as follows:—

Miss Bolton's contribution:

Enigma: *Alfred Kitson.*

Miss Turton's contributions:

Verbal Charade: *Parrot.* Monophone: *Beer* (bier). Conundrum: *When is it on the rack.*

Mr. Cooke's contributions:

Enigma: *Nowhere* (now here). Omegram: *Coal* (coat). Syllabic Charade: *Ladybird.*

Miss Knibb's contributions:

Diamond Puzzle:—

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| | T |
| Logodrome: | N U T |
| <i>Nosegay.</i> | T U L I P |
| Monophone: | T I N |
| <i>Cocoa</i> (koko). | P |

Now for the May dish! Mr. George A. Deakin sends the following riddles. To the first of these I give the answer in italics so as you shall see clearly its marvellous construction. I have named it

THE RECORD CHARADE.

My first takes the lead of both *Peter* and *Paul*;
My next appears second in every *brawl*;
My third in some faces (*i*) appears with such beauty
As to make admiration a positive duty!
My fourth on the top of each *mountain* found,
His next brother will always hide in the *ground*;
My sixth has a very round face of his own (*o*),
But his voice often sounds like a sorrowful *moan*;
My seventh, though crooked, stands high in the *station*,

And none in his equal in multiplication (*s*);
My last you encounter midway o'er the *sea*,
Yet first upon earth its position must be;
My whole is a simple but beautiful flower,
Shedding sweet smelling fragrance o'er meadow and *bower*.

Answer: *Primrose.*

ENIGMA.

Formed long ago, yet made to-day,
I'm most employed while others sleep;
What few would choose to give away,
And none would ever wish to keep.

PALINDROME.

A word that's composed of three letters,
And backwards and forwards the same;
It speaks not, and yet is stronger than tongue,
And to beauty lays principle claim.

CONUNDRUM.

Why is the letter "P" the most selfish of all the letters?
GEORGE A. DEAKIN.

The remainder of my contributors' favours are reserved for the June issue. My lady correspondents are all conspicuous by their absence this month. This is a remarkable coincidence, but Mr. Cooke has not deserted his Riddle Editor, and is to the fore as lively as ever. Here are his ever welcome contributions:—

PALINDROME.

Derived from the French, and mean "my lady,"
Reverse me, I still am the same;
I am simply a complimentary title,
And a complimentary name.

LOGOGRIPH.

A country am I, now look on the chart,
Cut off my head, I cause you to smart;
A letter delete, and when you've unfurled,
I'm as useful an article there is in the world.

SYLLABIC CHARADE.

My first a beautiful tint may be;
My second grinds your corn;
My third, you all may see with me;
My fourth is sipped at night and morn;
My whole is a virtue I want you to guess,
Which I hope you all may fully possess.

JOHN COOKE.

And now a word about myself. Being a Bunn I have never felt truly happy in the coal country, and have simply hungered for my lovely sunny south. Well, to cut a long story short, I have started a new home in the most appropriate place on earth—that is, for a Bunn—for I am living in the "Biscuit Town!" So send all your letters and post cards to my new address, and believe me to remain, as ever, your most devoted friend and well-wisher,

J. HARRY BUNN.

83, Blenheim Road, Reading-on-Thames.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION re WEEK-END TICKETS to the CONFERENCE.—Book to Southwell. Ashington (book at Newcastle), 14/-. Bedworth (book at Leicester), 3/4. Birmingham, 5/7. Derby, 2/-. Leicester, 3/4. Middlesborough, 11/-. Newcastle, 14/-. Nuneaton, 5/8½. Northampton, 6/4. North Shields, 14/9. Ouston (from Newcastle), 14/-. Spenny-moor (from Darlington), 10/9. Stockport, 5/11. Sunderland, 13/3. Walsall, 5/1½. Wisbech (book to Mansfield), 6/6.—ALFRED KITSON, Secy., B.S.L.U.

THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

THE JOINT COMMITTEES' VISIT TO BELPER.

THE Joint Committees' paid a visit to Belper on the 15th and 16th of April. The occasion had been looked forward to by the local friends in anticipation of a rich treat. And no less so by the Committee, it being the home and centre of the labours of our esteemed late comrade, Mr. H. U. Smedley, who laboured so earnestly as a member of the Publishing Fund Committee. The friends had been very diligent in their preparations, and had secured the large Town Hall for the afternoon and evening services; a quantity of hymn sheets containing silver chain recitations were printed for the audiences; and musicians engaged to lead the singing.

Letters of regret were read at the business meeting, held on the 15th, from Mr. W. Harrison, Mr. T. O. Todd, and Mrs. Jessie Greenwood, the former through pressure of secretarial duties, and the latter two from ill health. Telegrams were also received from Mr. H. A. Kersey, and Mr. Wm. Johnson, expressing deep regret at their inability to attend. Votes of sympathy were passed with the sick and absent members; and a vote of condolence with Mrs. Place in the sudden bereavement of her dear husband. Letters were read from Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Davis, of America, acknowledging the receipt of the Jubilee Medals, and expressing thanks for same. Royton Lyceum complained of irregularity in the election of the President of their District Council. The Committee was of the opinion that the remedy was in the hands of the Lyceums concerned. Bloomsbury Lyceum suggested improvements to the Lyceum Manual and the Spiritual Songster, which were ordered to be sent on to the Publisher. Salford Lyceum had a motion for Conference *re* proper Lyceum regalia. These were out of order as they had not been sent in in accordance with rule. Correspondence *re* the Conference being held at Newcastle were fully considered, and a vote of regret at the misunderstanding was passed.

Three good services were held on the Sunday, assisted by members of the Lyceum with songs and recitations. The President of the Union, Mr. J. Venables, presiding. Messrs. S. S. Chiswell, Wm. Mason and A. Kitson addressed the morning service. Master Jas. Sanders recited "The Boy who told a Lie," and Miss Pollie Bell, "Father is Coming," Miss Leitha Ford sang "Gentle Words." A vote of condolence with Mrs. Place was passed, the children taking part.

Messrs. J. Clarke and Wm. Mason addressed the afternoon meeting. The former gentleman on "Ideals," and the latter related some of his experiences and the change they had made in his thoughts on God, the hereafter, and duty to the children. Miss Maggie Wheeldon sang "The Sweet Land of Sunshine," and Miss Agnes White recited "'Tis Hard to Bear." Marching and Calisthenics were gone through in good order, this, along with selections of silver and golden chain recitations and musical readings, gave the audience some idea of the naturalness of the Lyceum system.

In the evening the President related some of his experiences, and his adherence to the truth caused the loss of friends and the fellowship of relations. Mr. Kitson spoke of the child's nature to receive spiritual truths. Their receptivity of the same was clearly shown. Mr. Chiswell ably dealt with the question of What is the Lyceum? and by a number of passages culled from the *Lyceum Manual* showed the moral and spiritual excellence of our teachings, which were warmly received by the audience. All were highly pleased with the singing by, the Misses Alice and Nellie Robinson, of "The Roses of Life."—ALFRED KITSON, Sec., B.S.L. Union.

THE BRITISH LYCEUMISTS' CORRESPONDENCE COLLEGE.

(ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.)

HONORARY PRINCIPAL: PROF. T. TIMSON, F.B.P.A. (LONDON). All correspondence for this Department to be sent to Prof. T. Timson, 3, Museum Square, Leicester, and B.L.C.C. written in front on left hand upper corner of envelope. A stamp must in all cases be enclosed when a reply is required.

THE BRAIN PROPER, AND SMALL BRAIN.

LESSON V.

As shewn in our last lesson, the brain is divided into 1st. the Cerebrum, (Brain Proper). 2nd. the Cerebellum, (Small Brain).

The former fills the forehead, the temporal, the coronal and the parietal region of the skull; the latter is situated in the lower back part of the skull termed the *occiput*. A line drawn straight round the head from the root of the nose, and lodging like a pen on the ears, and traversing in a straight line backward, will pass below the frontal portions of the brain; and the line from the ear to the back of the head will lie between the back part of the larger brain above, and the lesser brain below. The Frontal Region is occupied by three groups of brain centers called '*organs*,' and are described as first, second, and third Frontal Convulsions. First Group are found around the orbits, and under the eye-brows, and are named: Individuality, Form, Size, Weight, Colour, Order, Number. Second Group lie in a horizontal line about a quarter of an inch above the eye-brows and extend from the temples from side to side. These are termed Eventuality (or memory of events) locality, time, tune, constructiveness and language. The Third Group are located from the root of the hair line and extending in a line across the top of the forehead about three quarters of an inch deep from side to side. They are termed the Reflective, Reasoning and Comprehending Group.

The first group of organs are exercised by the activities of the mind directed by the will and attention in observation and cognising objects, solids, concrete and all powderable bodies that possess the properties of form, shape, size, colour, number of parts and the order of their arrangements.

The Second Group are occupied in registering and recalling (recollecting) the events, happenings, phenomena, and effects produced by the operations and activities of these primary ponderable bodies through their properties and qualities, and also to recognise the position, the situation, locality, time and date, when such phenomena occur, as well as to cognise any special and all sounds harmonious or discordant that occurs therewith and language enables the other faculties to name and dominate each object, colour, form, number, event, place and sound, by christening them with a particular name, whereby they shall henceforth be readily distinguished from each and every other object, property, quality and phenomena or event. The Third Group are engaged in meditating, reflecting, reasoning, comparing, classifying, analysing and distinguishing differences, causes, principles and the laws governing and operating through the whole of the primary objects and their qualities, conditions, changes and phenomena.

In the Temporal Regions are situated other groups which are occupied in combining, constructing, scheming, planing, building and adapting ways and means to accomplish ends devised and contrived by the understanding, comprehension, reasoning and classifications of the other three groups. So far all these pertain to the world of matter, physics, concrete and solid bodies and even liquids, fluids, and gasses, including the rays of colours, light and sound in natural physical phenomena.

In Memoriam.

E. J. DAVIES.

SINCE the previous issue of this journal our Liverpool friends have sustained a sad loss in the unexpected, and sudden departure to the Higher Life of our well-beloved brother, and earnest co-worker, E. J. Davies, whose passing away was the result of a very severe attack of rheumatic fever. Our friend, at the time of his illness, was acting as Honorary Secretary of the Congregation meeting at Daulby Hall, which position he was filling with conspicuous credit. At one time he was Secretary of the Liverpool Childrens Progressive Lyceum, No. 1, meeting at the same place, and in that position also, he won the confidence and esteem of all concerned by his zeal, courtesey and genial disposition. Young in years, full of the promise of good things to come, it was a painful surprise to his many friends when they learned of his departure. The Editors of this journal knew him personally, and, from their own knowledge, can, and do, most heartily endorse all the good things that have been said concerning our arisen friend.

On Sunday, April 9th, the Lyceum and Congregation meeting at Daulby Hall, took their earliest opportunity of recognising Mr. Davies services and personal worth, and expressing their sympathies to his parents, as will be seen by the subjoined resolutions. At the morning session of the Lyceum, after affectionate references had been made to our brothers past work for the Lyceum, and the sincere esteem in which he was held, the following resolution was passed, duly spread upon the minutes, and a copy of the same ordered to be transmitted to the family, all which was done in due course.

RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE LIVERPOOL CHILDREN'S PROGRESSIVE LYCEUM, No. 1.

The Officers and Members of the Liverpool Children's Progressive Lyceum No. 1, have heard with deep regret of the transition of their late Leader and Secretary, Mr. E. J. Davies and desire to convey to his Family, their deep sympathy with them in their hour of sorrow and bereavement, and to assure them of their very high appreciation of his services for and on behalf of the Lyceum and Children.

S. SOUTHERN CHISWELL, Conductor.
F. ALMA CHISWELL, Secretary.

At the Evening Service, on the same date, the congregation participated in a Memorial Service conducted by Mr. Walter Howell, the Resident Speaker, and presided over by Mr. John Lamont, the President, each gentlemen paying touching tributes to the character, services, and worth of our arisen friend. Prior to the address the Organist, Mr. Reginald Mountfield, rendered a selection on the Organ from Elijah, "O Rest in the Lord," with all his well-known artistic feeling. At the termination of Mr. Howell's address the following Resolution of Condolence was moved by Mr. S. S. Chiswell, seconded by Mr. Thos. Henry, and unanimously passed, by a standing vote of the entire congregation, during which the Organist rendered the "Dead March, in Saul."

RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE.

WHEREAS, in the order of Divine Providence our much esteemed Brother E. J. Davies has passed to the Higher Life, and

WHEREAS, we unite with the bereaved family in mourning a loss so irretrievable, and to all our hearts lamentable :

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that we tender to the afflicted family our heartfelt condolence.

It is always a veritable Gethsemane to part with our loved ones, but it is especially heartrending to bid the young, and a soul so full of promise, farewell "In the Valley of Shadows." How hard it is under these circumstances to say to our

Heavenly Father "Thy will be Done." Only those can feel who have passed through life's sorrows. We can sympathise with you for we are all brothers and sisters in tribulation.

In this world of mortal breath we can "Weep with those who weep," "One touch of nature makes the whole world kin."

We earnestly pray God and the Angels to bridge the seeming chasm between this sphere and the realms immortal, and thus assuage the grief that will have sway.

In this night of sadness may the stars of Faith, Hope, and Knowledge of a life beyond the grave be your consolation.

"Weeping endureth for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." At the breaking of the dawn the illumined face of your darling shall shine upon you, and with his wonted smile shall bid you "Welcome" to the home where death and disease are no more.

The home has been bereft of a son and brother, our society of an earnest worker an honored member, and the community of one who loved his fellow men, hence we mourn. Heaven has gained a worthy citizen, and the angels a comrade in the march of endless progression.

If he could speak to us from out the Silence he would say

"Weep a while if ye are fain,
Sunshine cometh after rain,
When ye come where I have stepped
Ye will wonder why ye wept."

Signed on behalf of the Members and Congregation,
WALTER HOWELL, Resident Speaker.
JOHN LAMONT, President.
J. ANDERSON, Financial Secretary.
GEORGE WHARMBY, Treasurer.

Though Mr. E. J. Davies has been so closely associated with our work, and was, in every sense, a Spiritualist, the interment of his body was conducted along conventional orthodox lines, which we understand was in consonance with the wishes of the family, though undeniably a matter of deep regret to many of the friends.

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J. J. MORSE, 26, Osnaburgh Street, London, N.W.

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.

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

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

The Lyceum Banner.

MAY, 1899.

OUR MONTHLY CHAT.

Our Secretary's Report. Our Secretary presents in this issue of the BANNER his Ninth Annual Report to the Conference. It is a concise, straightforward document, and will, no doubt, be accepted with little or no comment. The usual lament, as to the indifference of our Lyceums towards supplying the statistical information, again appears. Possibly, in a thousand years time, some of our Lyceums will awake to the importance of this question. In the meanwhile, our Secretary must keep pegging away to create more interest in this matter. The Editors of the BANNER appreciate the kindly reference to the Official Organ contained in the Report. But, it is gratifying to note that the advice tendered by the BANNER, as to the need of a Headquarters and Supplies Depot, is likely to bring forth fruit. Also, that another matter the BANNER has, from time to time, dealt with, the proper basis of the relationships between Lyceums and Societies, is becoming a question pressing for settlement. When these are settled the BANNER will be able to advise other useful measures. The Report discloses a large amount of work done by our zealous and hard working Secretary during the past twelve months, which deserves the heartiest thanks of all.

A Union Headquarters. IN the issues of the BANNER for March and April the question of a Headquarters for the Union, having a Supplies Depot as part thereof, was again laid before our readers. Several well-known workers have since our previous issue again personally commented favourably upon the suggestions this journal has offered, and our worthy President, Mr. J. Venables, you will see in his address, further follows the line we have laid down. The publishers of the BANNER have frequently had it suggested

to them during the past nine years this paper has existed that they should undertake the manufacture and sale of Lyceum supplies, but they have steadily set their faces against the idea, their settled conviction being that all such matters should be dealt with by the Union for the cause. The supplies needed by Lyceums, in or out of the Union, should in all cases be furnished through the Union's Secretary. There should be a uniform system of registers, minute books, cash and returns books, badges, banners, etc., and Lyceum Secretaries should go direct to our Union Secretary for all they need, and for Lyceums in the Union it should be imperative they do so. The production of supplies should be subject to open competition, so that the best work at the best terms for the cause be procured, consistent with the idea that no 'sweating' firms be patronised.

✱

A Problem. THE problem is: given a Headquarters and a fully employed Secretary, where are the funds to pay for both to be obtained? There, *per capita*, are several suggestions that could be made: an increased payment; the profits on trade transactions; the creation of a list of honorary subscribers to the Union—non-voting of course; the admission of associates, with votes—a course to be deprecated; while an Annual Union Sunday Collection throughout the Lyceums would bring in a tidy sum. A fully engaged Secretary could work up the latter matters. Our present Secretary could be retained entirely at a very moderate increase in his honorarium, for salary it is not. But whoever the lot may fall upon, something must be done—and speedily, too.

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The "Daisy Dimple" Scheme. MR. T. O. TODD has sent circulars round to our Lyceums concerning the project he has initiated for a Convalescent Home for sick Lyceum children. It is an admirable idea, and we hope it will be commended by the Conference, and adopted by the Union. If so, here again the need of a permanent Secretary presents itself, and Daisy Dimple's Lyceum Convalescent Home, as a department of Headquarters work, could appeal with confidence, through the Union, for support, and be managed under a Committee appointed for that purpose. Our Union must be the rock on which the house be builded.

✱

Four Extra Pages. THE BANNER presents its readers with four extra pages this month, which it gives you without charging extra or calling them a supplement.

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The Only Official Report. THE *only Official* Report of the Conference proceedings will appear in the next issue of this journal.

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In Memoriam.

MR. PLACE.

OUR beloved and esteemed conductor, Mr. Place, passed to Spirit-life on April 10th, at 2 a.m. His body was interred in Leicester Cemetery on Friday, April 14th, 1899. Messrs. Swindlehurst, Bibbings and Philipp officiating. The Lyceumists sang over the grave, and each one felt that he had lost a brother and a friend. He won the hearts of the children by his frank, honest nature and his genial humour. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his widow and orphans. He was respected by all who knew him, and in the midst of our grief let us remember that our loss is his gain, and that "God doeth all things for the best."—A. W. BURROWS, Sec.

BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

THE NINTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE,—THE COBDEN HALL, PEACHEY STREET, NOTTINGHAM,

ON SUNDAY, MAY 14TH, 1899.

President: J. VENABLES, Esq., Walsall.

Proceedings to commence at 10 a.m.

COBDEN HALL, SATURDAY, MAY 13TH.

4-30 p.m.—A Meat Tea. Tickets Ninepence each.

5-30 p.m.—A Public Procession, headed by the South Notts. Temperance Brass Band. See advertisement elsewhere.

6 p.m.—A Grand Evening Entertainment will be given.

PROGRAMME.

Violin and Pianoforte Solo.....Misses Brearley
Welcome to Visitors.....Master Herbert Clarke
Call to the Chair Proposed by Mr. Jas. Ashworth, Seconded by Mr. [J. ClarkeDuet....."Murmuring Sea" Messrs. Lewis and Sanderson
Chairman's Remarks.....John Venables, Esq., President, B.S.L.U.
Song.....Selected.....Miss Carson
Recitation....."Life".....Miss E. Dexter
Song....."By the Fountain".....Miss Lily Clarke
Recitation.....Miss Love
Pianoforte Solo....."Elvira".....Miss Francis Attenborough
Recitation.....Miss Ross
Humorous Ventriloquial Sketch.....Mr. L. Coppock and his friends
[Mr. and Mrs. KissamRecitation.....Master Willie Flint
Song.....Mr. Harry Thompson
Selections on Mouth Organs.....Lyceum Boys
Address.....Mr. J. J. MorseDuet Violin and Piano.....Misses Brearley
Dance French.....Miss Mabel Brearley
Address.....Mr. E. W. WallisSong....."Florence".....Miss A. Dexter
Address.....Mr. Brian Hodgson, Birmingham
Calisthenics.....Accompanied on Mouth Organs
Song....."My Grandmama's Advice".....Miss Florrie Sammon
Address (Short).....Mr. S. S. Chiswell
Song....."Sweet Sundown Memories".....Miss Dora Coppock
Dramatic Recital....."Scene from King John".....Miss E. Dexter
[and Master Herbert ClarkeHumorous Ventriloquial Sketch.....Mr. L. Coppock and his friends
Parting Song....."Auld Lang Syne".....The Entire Company

SUNDAY, MAY 14TH.

10A.M., OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE.

Delegates will be admitted to the Reserved Seats on presenting their Credential Cards to Messrs. S. S. Chiswell, and W. Mason, who are the Credential Scrutineers.

1 p.m., Dinner. 2 p.m., Conference. 4-30 p.m., Tea.

EVENING MEETING ARRANGEMENTS.

MECHANICS' HALL.

To commence at 6 p.m. with a grand Organ Recital by G. Astill, Esq.

Addresses will be delivered by the following speakers: Mr. S. S. Chiswell, Liverpool, Past President B.S.L.U.; Mr. H. Clark, Leicester; Mrs. Jessie Greenwood, Sowerby Bridge, Past President B.S.L.U.; Mr. W. Johnson, Hyde; Mr. H. A. Kersey, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Past President B.S.L.U.; Mr. Alfred Kitson, Secretary, B.S.L.U.; Mr. J. J. Morse, London, Editor "LYCEUM BANNER," the official organ of the B.S.L. Union, and President of the Spiritualist National Federation Conference for 1899; Mr. Alfred Smedley, Belper; Mr. Thos. Olman Todd, Sunderland, Past President B.S.L.U.; Mr. E. W. Wallis, Manchester, Editor of the "Two Worlds."

THE CHAIR WILL BE OCCUPIED BY:

JOHN VENABLES, Esq., of Walsall, President B.S.L.U.

AND

MRS. M. J. PLACE, CLAIRVOYANTE,

Will give Messages from the Spirit World.

Solos at intervals by Miss Ada Gates, of the Nottingham Concerts
Mr. John Rayner, Nottingham's favourite soprano, and G. Cooper, Esq.

THE CONFERENCE BUSINESS.

Order of Procedure.

- 1.—Hymn and Invocation.
- 2.—*Pro tem* appointments, if necessary.
- 3.—Minutes of last Conference.
- 4.—Correspondence.
- 5.—Secretary's Reports.
- 6.—Open Council:—
 - (a) Standing Orders.
 - (b) Notices of General Motions.
 - (c) Motions arising out of the business of the Conference.
- 7.—Election of Officers, Auditors, and Speakers.
- 8.—Decide place and date of next Conference.
- 9.—Votes of thanks to retiring officers, local societies, &c.
- 10.—Hymn and Benediction.

*NOTICES OF GENERAL MOTIONS.

- 1st.—"That the past President in future be the Vice-President during the following year of their office." Mr. J. H. Smith, Bradford,
- 2nd.—"That the Committee, at present known as the Publishing Committee, be and is hereby dissolved, and that the duties hitherto undertaken by such Committee be transferred to the General Executive." Sunderland Lyceum, per Mr. Todd.

INVITATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE NEXT YEAR.

Brighouse; Keighley; Liverpool, and Newcastle-on-Tyne.

OUR PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO THE CONFERENCE.

DEAR FRIENDS AND FELLOW WORKERS,—On behalf of the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union, it affords me much pleasure to extend a hearty welcome to the delegates and friends here assembled. To all I offer the heartiest greeting, and sincerely hope the business of the Conference will bring together from all parts of the country warm hearts aglow with love for the children's cause; and that your deliberations will not only afford you satisfaction and pleasure, but that we shall derive benefit and strength to go on in our glorious work. Our presence in this, the birthplace of our Lyceum movement, is like taking a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Little did the faithful few who first promoted the Lyceum movement dream of the progress that would be made in this short time. Now, Lyceums are scattered over the length and breadth of the land, and that thousands of children are now taught the glorious truths of our Philosophy is pleasing to think of. But much more remains for us to do. The forming of District Councils has had a great effect upon our movement; and the District Visiting has also had a most beneficial effect upon Lyceums and Lyceum workers throughout the Union. It has given a stimulus to the workers, and caused more work to be done.

In 1886 our first Conference was held in Bradford, and when we look back upon the past few years we have cause for much rejoicing at the progress made. We were called into existence for a purpose—for united work for the young, and we are proud to belong to such faithful workers who are labouring with heart and soul in the glorious cause we all love so well—helping to raise our children to a higher standard of truth, freedom, and liberty. God grant that the faithful workers will be long spared to carry on the Banner of Truth.

The calisthenics and marching, which is one of the chief features in our Lyceum work, is having a beneficial effect upon our children, in training them and developing them physically; and the mental culture we get from our Lyceum *Manual* is having its effect in the intelligence displayed by our Lyceum Scholars.

Let me here express the thanks of the Lyceum Union to the Editors of our children's paper, the LYCEUM BANNER. It affords us much pleasure to read those truly interesting articles, those beautiful lessons, and the general information it contains which makes it interesting and instructive. We must not forget the untiring efforts of our friends, whose hearts and souls are bound up in their love for the children's cause.

The past year has been one of active work. I have visited many Lyceums, and have in my humble way done my best to encourage the workers, and have tried, with object lessons, to win the children's interest in our beautiful philosophy. It is pleasing to note that in every Lyceum I have visited I have been met with brotherly and sisterly

love. This feeling one towards another encourages one in the good work, and helps to make the labour so much lighter. If our Lyceums are to be what we desire them to be—Progressive—we must appeal to the adults, as well as the children. It encourages the workers and the children to have your presence, sympathy, and help.

The Executive Committee have done good work since they decided to hold their meetings in different districts, and have public demonstrations on Sundays. This has had the effect of strengthening weak Lyceums—it has stimulated others to more active work, and where Lyceums have had to close for lack of workers it has been the means of them being re-opened. There is a long list of Lyceums desirous of the Executive visiting them, and this is one of the pleasing features I have to record. It is also pleasing to place on record the progress made during the year. Twelve Lyceums have joined the Union; many members have given great help and assistance wherever we have gone, and progress is everywhere to be seen. It only remains for the workers to continue in the good work, and we earnestly appeal to Friends interested in Lyceum work to render all the aid and assistance they can. We ask those not hitherto connected with us to come and join the band of workers. There is room for all. The friends will give you a hearty welcome. If you cannot take a Group, your very presence will be a help to the workers. We have a great future before us, and one of the pressing needs is, and I think the time has arrived when, we must have in connection with our Union a Depot or Central Office, and our worthy Secretary put in charge of it, where all information can be had, and where all books, badges, flags, registers, manuals, songsters—in fact everything needful to fit out a Lyceum—can be obtained, and thus do away with the disappointments to Lyceums in getting the things that are needful for carrying on the work.

Now let me thank the noble band of workers who have helped us in the good work. During the year I have had many letters from near and far, for which accept my thanks for your words of cheer and helpfulness. Our thanks are especially due to our faithful secretary, Alfred Kitson, for his untiring efforts in the children's cause; to our dear brother, A. J. Davis, of America, for the cheering and inspiring words in his loving letters to me, which does one good, coming from such a pure soul; to dear Dr. Peebles and dear Mrs. Cadwallader, who have unbounded love for the children; and to all our Spiritual papers both in England and America.

Now, in closing, let me appeal to all Spiritualists to buckle on the armour of progress, and work heartily for the emancipation of the children. We can see with Andrew Jackson Davis that within the child there is the repository of infinite possibilities, and our duty is to develop these possibilities, then our children will reap the benefit of our labours.—Fraternally yours,

JOHN VENABLES,
Hydesville, Foden Road, Walsall. President, B.S.L.U.

SECRETARY'S REPORT TO THE CONFERENCE.

MR. PRESIDENT AND DELEGATES.—In presenting my Ninth Annual Report to you I am pleased to say there is a spirit of progress exhibited all along the line.

THE PROPAGANDA MEETINGS are especially cheering, quickening the work in the Towns visited into greater life and activity, and imparting new life, new hope and enthusiasm to the local friends, winning new members for the Lyceums, and an improved attendance. Your Executive has visited the following places during its term of office: Brook-st., Huddersfield; Winding-rd., Halifax; Queen-st., Leicester; and Belper. Arrangements have been made to visit the following places, Stockport, in June; Wisbech, in August; Bloomsbury, in October; and Keighley in December. I may add that in each instance the collections have been generously donated to the General Funds towards defraying expenses.

THE PUBLISHING COMMITTEE has been able to make arrangements with the publisher of the *Spiritual Songster*, whereby that excellent work can be supplied at a great reduction, in accordance with the promise made last Conference. The arrangement also specifies that when recouped for the outlay incurred, he will generously make the Union a present of the stereo plates and copyrights of both *Spiritual Songster* and *Lyceum Manual*. The new series of Calisthenics have been determined and will be published as early as possible. There has been some difficulty in obtaining correct illustrations for some of the positions which has tended to delay their appearance. The sale of the *Lyceum Manual* and *Spiritual Songster* during the past year has been good. I am anticipating a marked improvement in the sale of the latter book when the reduction becomes generally known. The demand for *Outlines of Spiritualism* shows a slight improvement, but is not what it ought to be in such a growing movement as ours.

DISTRICT VISITORS continue their labours in visiting and assisting Lyceums in their several Districts. Mr. Thomas Olman Todd, the Visitor for the Tyneside District; and Mrs. H. M. Naylor, the Visitor

for Teeside District do their work in conjunction with their engagements, thereby saving the funds. Great praise is due to Mr. W. H. Lote for his close attention to the Lyceums in his District, which, as it comprises the Midlands, is very extensive. The Lyceums being far apart can only be visited at much inconvenience. I hope the time is near when this District will be able to compete with those in the North for numbers, and have its District Councils. Bradford has lately formed a District Council, and the officers are making strenuous efforts by visiting the Lyceums to cheer and strengthen the weak, and consolidate the entire District.

I am sorry to say that the vexed question of the proper relationship between Lyceums and Societies continue to mar the harmony that should exist between them. Something should be done in the matter towards arranging a proper and equitable basis of agreement that should be a bond of union between them, and give a sense of security to the funds and effects of the one, and the authority and importance of the other.

I am frequently asked where Lyceum regalia can be obtained, and Lyceums are disappointed to find there has been no system arranged and determined for general recognition and guidance. Has not the time arrived when this question should receive the serious attention of the Conference, and something definite be decided, and steps taken whereby Lyceums can be supplied?

Your Secretary has visited the following Lyceums for Anniversary, and other purposes, Milton Hall, Bradford; Bolton; Regent Hall, Rochdale; St. James' Church, Bradford; Heckmondwike; Keighley; Halifax; Belper; and Hyde.

NEW MEMBERS. The following Lyceums have joined the Union during the year; viz., Bacup; Great Harwood; Stalybridge; Phoenix Hall, Liverpool; Queen-st., Leicester; Dudley Hill, near Bradford; Battersea Park, London; Warrington; Gateshead; Midland-rd., Derby; Milton Place, Pendleton; Ashington; and Harpurhey, Manchester. Total on the Roll 101, as compared with 89 last year.

There are 19 non-federated Lyceums, as compared with 14 last year, making a grand total of 120!

CONTRIBUTIONS. I am pleased to report a marked improvement in the Contributions resultant on your decision last year that all contributions should be paid in advance. The slight misunderstandings that have arisen are only what might naturally be expected as arising from such an important change. There yet remains a few unpaid arrears, which I hope to get cleared off during the year.

STATISTICS. I am still unable to present you with complete statistics of our forces, arising from various causes, the chief of which is, I believe, *indifference*. Some of the returns give the total on the roll. Others give the average, so that the results are only approximate, and not definite. There are 86 Lyceums who have made returns. These show a total of 856 officers, and 4386 of members. The average attendance is 583 officers, and 2998 of members. If we reckon the 34 Lyceums who have made no returns at the same rate as those who have, we shall have a grand total of 1196 officers, and 6120 members. The average attendance of which is 787 officers, and 4188 members.

OUR OFFICIAL ORGAN, THE LYCEUM BANNER, has maintained its high state of excellence, and watchful attitude of the movement during the past year, and has accorded a helping hand at all times.

The editor has the honour, for the first time, of representing a Lyceum. While the Spiritualists' National Federation for the first time is directly represented in the person of Mr. James Swindlehurst, the missionary of the Propaganda Committee. Surely these are "signs of the times."

Thanks are due to *The Two Worlds* for the general assistance it has rendered during the past year, and specially for the *free* advertisement of our Propaganda Meetings.

ALFRED KITSON, Secretary.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1898.

| | | GENERAL FUND. | | |
|----------|--|---------------|----|-----|
| | | Receipts. | | |
| | 1898. | £ | s. | d. |
| Jan. 10. | To Nottingham, Morley Hall, donation..... | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| | " " Cobden Hall, donation..... | 1 | 6 | 10½ |
| Mar. 13. | To Sowerby Bridge, donation..... | 0 | 18 | 1½ |
| Mar. 28. | To Liverpool, Daulby Hall, donation..... | 2 | 5 | 8 |
| May 8. | To Walsall Conference, collections..... | 4 | 11 | 1½ |
| July 11. | To Huddersfield, Brook Street, donation..... | 2 | 9 | 7½ |
| Nov. 20. | To Halifax, Winding Road, donation..... | 2 | 15 | 10 |
| Dec. 31. | To Contributions..... | 27 | 5 | 7½ |
| " | Due to Treasurer..... | 13 | 13 | 2 |
| | | <hr/> | | |
| | | £55 | 14 | 0½ |

1898. *Expenditure.*

| | | | | |
|----------|--|-----------|----|----|
| Jan. 1. | By Due to Treasurer | 5 | 5 | 0½ |
| May 8. | By Railway fares for E.C. Meetings | 11 | 7 | 11 |
| " | By Printing Accounts for Conference | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Dec. 31. | By Railway fares for Joint Committees | 6 | 8 | 5 |
| " | " District Visitors | 6 | 15 | 4½ |
| " | By Mr. T. O. Todd's account for Printing | 3 | 15 | 10 |
| " | By Postage Stamps | 4 | 10 | 0 |
| " | By Sundry items | 3 | 9 | 5½ |
| " | By Paid to Secretary | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| | | £55 14 0½ | | |

PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT.

1898. *Receipts.*

| | | | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|------------|----|----|
| Jan. 1. | To Balance in Treasurer's hand | 70 | 16 | 3½ |
| Dec. 31. | To Sales of Lyceum Manuals | 48 | 7 | 6 |
| " | " Spiritual Songsters | 13 | 3 | 0 |
| " | " Outlines of Spiritualism | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| " | To Interest | 1 | 6 | 4 |
| | | £138 16 9½ | | |

1898. *Expenditure.*

| | | | | |
|-----------|--|------------|----|----|
| April 28. | By Mr. T. O. Todd's Account for Printing | 0 | 18 | 0 |
| May 9. | By LYCEUM BANNER, as per Agreement | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| July 11. | " for extra work done | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Dec. 10. | By Mr. H. A. Kersey, for Lyceum Manuals | 62 | 0 | 0 |
| " | " Spiritual Songsters | 13 | 15 | 0 |
| Dec. 31. | By Mr. T. O. Todd for carriage on parcels on L.M. | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| " | By Railway fares for publishing Committee | 2 | 9 | 5 |
| " | By Sundry items | 1 | 13 | 4½ |
| " | By Balance in Treasurer's hand | 44 | 19 | 8 |
| | | £138 16 9½ | | |

1898. VALUE OF STOCK IN HAND.

| | | | | |
|----------|--|---------|----|----|
| Dec. 31. | To Spiritual Songsters | 5 | 11 | 0 |
| " | To Lyceum Manuals | 28 | 5 | 7½ |
| " | To Outlines of Spiritualism, cloth | 1 | 17 | 4 |
| " | " " gilt | 2 | 17 | 2 |
| " | Ditto, unbound | 17 | 16 | 3 |
| " | Ditto, in the hands of Agents | 0 | 19 | 4 |
| | | £57 6 8 | | |

Audited and found Correct,

E. ALLEN KEELING, } Auditors.
THOS. GEO. DEXTER, }

March 18th, 1899. ALFRED KITSON, Sec., B.S.L.U.

ANNUAL STATISTICAL RETURNS FOR 1899.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|----|-----|----|-----|---|----|--|----|
| 21 | Bradford, Otley Road | | | | | | | | |
| 22 | " Temperance Hall | | | | | 6 | 25 | | 1 |
| 23 | " St. Paul's Church | | | | | | | | |
| 24 | " Dudley Hill | 8 | 40 | 6 | 30 | | | | 1 |
| 25 | Brighouse | 20 | 100 | 15 | 75 | | | | 2 |
| 26 | Burnley, Hammerton Street .. | 14 | 100 | 9 | 53 | | | | 1 |
| 27 | " North Street | 8 | 71 | 6 | 45 | | | | 1 |
| 28 | " Guy Street | 6 | 46 | 5 | 38 | | | | 1 |
| 29 | Bury | 6 | 84 | 5 | 60 | | | | 1 |
| 30 | Cleckheaton | | | | | | | | |
| 31 | Clitheroe | 4 | 12 | 4 | 10 | | | | 1 |
| 32 | Colne | 7 | 40 | | | | | | |
| 33 | Darwen | 8 | 92 | 6 | 65 | | | | 2 |
| 34 | Derby, Midland Road | 8 | 52 | 6 | 35 | | | | 1 |
| 35 | Dewsbury | 10 | 67 | 6 | 37 | | | | 2 |
| 36 | Elland | | | | | | | | |
| 37 | Exeter | 8 | 16 | 5 | 14 | | | | 1 |
| 38 | Gateshead | 8 | 40 | 6 | 35 | | | | 1 |
| 39 | Glasgow | 4 | 32 | 3 | 25 | | | | 1 |
| 40 | Great Harwood | 7 | 25 | 7 | 16 | | | | 1 |
| 41 | Halifax | 32 | 168 | 25 | 140 | | | | 1 |
| 42 | Heckmondwike | | | | | | | | |
| 43 | Heywood | 11 | 44 | 9 | 26 | | | | 1 |
| 44 | Hollinwood | 5 | 59 | 4 | 48 | | | | 1 |
| 45 | Huddersfield, Brook Street .. | 17 | 38 | 15 | 28 | | | | 1 |
| 46 | " St. Peter Street | 9 | 50 | 7 | 30 | | | | 1 |
| 47 | Hyde | 10 | 70 | 8 | 60 | | | | 1 |
| 48 | Keighley | 2 | 58 | 2 | 40 | | | | 2 |
| 49 | Leeds | 11 | 34 | 8 | 26 | | | | 1 |
| 50 | Leicester, Queen Street | 14 | 84 | 11 | 50 | | | | 1 |
| 51 | Leigh | | | | | | | | |
| 52 | Liverpool, Daulby Hall | 26 | 66 | 18 | 49 | | | | 1 |
| 53 | " Phoenix Hall | | | | | | | | |
| 54 | Liversedge | | | | | | | | |
| 55 | London, Battersea | 9 | 69 | 8 | 53 | | | | 1 |
| 56 | " Camberwell New Road .. | | | | | | | | |
| 57 | Macclesfield | 7 | 33 | 6 | 28 | | | | 1 |
| 58 | Manchester, Collyhurst St. .. | 8 | 73 | 7 | 63 | | | | 1 |
| 59 | " Harpurhey | | | | | | | | |
| 60 | " West Gorton | 14 | 70 | 8 | 30 | | | | 2 |
| 61 | " Higher Broughton | 8 | 46 | 7 | 40 | | | | 2 |
| 62 | Middlesboro, The Crescent .. | | | | | | | | |
| 63 | " Boundary Road | 8 | 40 | 6 | 34 | | | | 2 |
| 64 | Milom | 8 | 24 | 7 | 24 | | | | 1 |
| 65 | Morley | 15 | 30 | | | | | | 22 |
| 66 | Newcastle-on-Tyne | 26 | 69 | 21 | 50 | | | | 1 |
| 67 | Nelson | 14 | 114 | 11 | 75 | | | | 1 |
| 68 | Northampton | | | | | | | | |
| 69 | North Shields | 3 | 13 | 3 | 13 | | | | 1 |
| 70 | Normanton | | | | | | | | |
| 71 | Nottingham, Gladstone Hall .. | 9 | 45 | 7 | 25 | | | | 1 |
| 72 | " Cobden Hall | | | | | | | | |
| 73 | Oldham, Bartlam Place | | | | | | | | |
| 74 | Ouston | | | | | | | | |
| 75 | Pendleton, Cobden Street | 3 | 40 | 3 | 35 | | | | 2 |
| 76 | " Milton Place | 12 | 24 | 10 | 18 | | | | 1 |
| 77 | Preston | 11 | 62 | | | | | | 1 |
| 78 | Parkgate | 10 | 48 | 6 | 36 | | | | 1 |
| 79 | Rawtenstall | 14 | 48 | 10 | 41 | | | | 1 |
| 80 | Rishton | 8 | 42 | 4 | 23 | | | | 1 |
| 81 | Rochdale, Penn Street | | | | | | | | |
| 82 | Rotherham | | | | | | | | |
| 83 | Rothwell | 4 | 40 | 3 | 32 | | | | 2 |
| 84 | Royton | 6 | 43 | 5 | 23 | | | | 1 |
| 85 | Salford | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 86 | Sheffield, Bridge Street | | | | | | | | |
| 87 | " Langsett Road | 6 | 30 | | | | | | 1 |
| 88 | Shepley | 8 | 32 | 5 | 11 | | | | 1 |
| 89 | Skipton | 7 | 44 | 4 | 18 | | | | 1 |
| 90 | Slaitwaite | 11 | 18 | 6 | 12 | | | | 1 |
| 91 | Sowerby Bridge | 21 | 63 | 10 | 50 | | | | 2 |
| 92 | Spennymoor | 6 | 26 | 3 | 19 | | | | 1 |
| 93 | Stalybridge | 6 | 48 | 5 | 35 | | | | 1 |
| 94 | Stockport | 8 | 50 | 6 | 36 | | | | 1 |
| 95 | Sunderland | 2 | 40 | 2 | 35 | | | | 1 |
| 96 | Wakefield | | | | | | | | |
| 97 | Walsall | 9 | 46 | 7 | 38 | | | | 1 |
| 98 | Warrington | 10 | 32 | 8 | 26 | | | | 1 |
| 99 | West Vale | 2 | 26 | 1 | 18 | | | | 1 |
| 100 | Wisbech | 5 | 45 | 4 | 25 | | | | 1 |
| 101 | Yeadon | 3 | 21 | 2 | 15 | | | | 1 |

LIST OF FEDERATED LYCEUMS.

| No. | | No. on Register | | Average Attendance | | Sessions per Sunday. |
|-----|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------|--------------------|---------|----------------------|
| | | Officers | Members | Officers | Members | |
| 1 | Accrington, Argyle Street | 16 | 32 | 13 | 30 | 1 |
| 2 | " China Street | 8 | 52 | 6 | 48 | 1 |
| 3 | " The Temple | | | | | |
| 4 | Armley | 8 | 46 | 5 | 32 | 1 |
| 5 | Ashington | | | | | |
| 6 | Bacup | 10 | 46 | 8 | 28 | 2 |
| 7 | Barrow-in-Furness | | | | | |
| 8 | Batley Carr | 9 | 30 | 9 | 26 | 2 |
| 9 | Batley | 8 | 40 | 6 | 22 | 2 |
| 10 | Bedworth | | | | | |
| 11 | Belper | 17 | 88 | 9 | 44 | 2 |
| 12 | Birmingham, Bloomsbury | 11 | 46 | 10 | 24 | 2 |
| 13 | " Smethwick | 15 | 51 | 12 | 42 | 1 |
| 14 | " Small Heath | | | | | |
| 15 | Blackburn | 14 | 76 | 12 | 60 | 1 |
| 16 | Blackpool | 10 | 40 | | | 1 |
| 17 | Bolton, No. 1 | 7 | 35 | 6 | 25 | 1 |
| 18 | " Bradford Street | | | | | |
| 19 | Bootle | 6 | 30 | 5 | 20 | 1 |
| 20 | Bradford, Rebecca Street | 25 | 60 | 20 | 55 | 1 |

NON-FEDERATED LYCEUMS.

| | | | | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|---|
| 1 | Ashton-under-Lyne | 20 | 80 | | 60 | 1 |
| 2 | Bishop Auckland | | | | | |
| 3 | Cardiff | 13 | 45 | 8 | 40 | 1 |
| 4 | Dearnley (near Rochdale) | | 35 | | | 1 |
| 5 | Derby, Normanton Road | 9 | 69 | 6 | 26 | 2 |
| 6 | Dukinfield | | | | | |
| 7 | Hull | 14 | 70 | 10 | 53 | 1 |
| 8 | Lancaster | | | | | |
| 9 | London, Canning Town | | | | | |
| 10 | " Stratford | | | | | |
| 11 | Manchester, Ash Lodge | 5 | 45 | 4 | 35 | 2 |
| 12 | " Bradford | | | | | |
| 13 | " Tipping Street | 12 | 80 | 10 | 60 | 1 |
| 14 | " Hulme | 8 | 44 | 6 | 38 | 1 |
| 15 | Openshaw | | | | | |
| 16 | Rochdale, Regent Hall | 12 | 81 | 8 | 52 | 1 |
| 17 | Shaw | 7 | 36 | 7 | 30 | 1 |
| 18 | Barry Dock | | | | | |
| 19 | Morecambe | | | | | |

I have received no returns from those Lyceums with blanks opposite their names.

ALFRED KITSON, Secretary.

Open Council.

TO THE PUBLISHING COMMITTEE.

To the Editors of THE LYCEUM BANNER.

DEAR EDITORS.—On Sunday last, April 9th, the following resolutions were discussed and passed by the Bloomsbury Lyceum, Birmingham.

That the Publishing Committee be requested to consider the possibility of adding to the Manual twelve leaves of plain paper and twelve leaves of ledger ruled music paper as a means of enabling the Lyceums to add new hymns and music according to their judgment.

That the P. C. be asked to consider the advisability of adding to the *Manual* and the *Songster* more hymns of the intuitional type as distinct from the rational type.

The first was passed in view of the New edition of the *Manual* being published. The philosophic principles upon which it was based will be clear to most Spiritualists. We have for the most part experienced in Churches and Chapels the tedium of weekly repetition of well-known prayers and proverbs. If however, it is possible to each Lyceum to build up a bible and hymn book of its own according to its own judgment and choice, I feel we shall have realised a great principle of progress.

The second resolution I proposed as embodying necessities arising from my own experience. I feel that many Conductors will have shared with me the great difficulty of invoking the Higher Spirit when in the spiritual condition that follows after the Lyceum has sung one of the hymns of the *Manual*. Realising this difficulty I obtained and added to the *Manual* eight of the non-doctrinal hymns of the type of "Lead, Kindly Light," "As pants the heart," "Nearer, my God," "Thy will be done," &c. I found the atmosphere to be changed and a loftier spiritual sense to pervade the Hall, rendering true invocation far more possible.

I may point out that the acceptance of the above resolutions would add to the value of, and therefore, the circulation of the "BANNER," as, when a beautiful hymn or recitation was printed therein it could be cut out and pasted in the spare space in the Manual if thought well of by any Lyceum. New music could also be obtained in this cheap and

expeditious way.—Yours fraternally, BRIAN HODGSON, Conductor, Bloomsbury Lyceum, Birmingham.

BAND OF HOPE WORK.

DEAR EDITORS,—I should like to make a suggestion to the readers of this valuable paper who are interested in Band of Hope work.

As the number of scholars attending our Lyceums increase, we begin to feel the great responsibility of training the children. I feel that one great subject has been neglected, and that is Temperance. If our children are to grow up into noble men and women we must keep strong drink from them, which, in my opinion, destroys both body and soul. When we see the poverty that is surrounding us on all sides, we ask ourselves, How is it? Who is to blame? Some people tell us that it is the employers who are to blame for paying poor wages, which I grant might have something to do with it, but in most cases drink plays a prominent part. When a man becomes a slave to drink, he gets careless at his work, and eventually gets discharged. When he again seeks employment, he finds it a very difficult task, owing to his previous intemperate habits. This is one way in which drink is the cause of poverty, therefore I would ask that as many Lyceums as possible form Bands of Hope of their own, and show the children that are under their care that if they wish to enjoy life they must not indulge in alcoholic drinks. A Band of Hope has recently been formed at Bury, and has a membership of 70; one has also been formed at Royton. Who will be next?

The object of this letter is, that when a few Bands of Hope have been formed, their Secretaries communicate with the Secretaries of the above-named societies, in the hope of forming a Band of Hope Union for the South-East Lancashire District.

Hoping that my brother and sister Lyceumists from all parts will take this matter up, and carefully discuss it in their respective groups.—I remain, yours fraternally,
286, Hollins Lane,
Whitefield, nr. Manchester,
April 18th, 1899.

H. JACKSON,
Sec. to Bury Lyceum
Band of Hope.

E.M.C., British Columbia, of the Manaimo Lyceum, has our best thanks for order and remittance covering twelve copies of the BANNER per month for one year.

R. K. PRASANNA GHOSH BAHADUR, Dacca, Bengal. Hope you have received the bound Volumes of the BANNER, and parcel of Mr. Morse's Lectures safely. Many thanks for your kind words concerning this Journal and its Editors.

Mr. Peter Lee, as many of our readers no doubt are aware, for six months edited the "Two Worlds," the organ of the Spiritualists, during the absence of the editor in America for the benefit of his health. Mr. Lee's editorship was highly appreciated by all concerned as is evident from the large number of unsolicited testimonials to that effect he has received from all parts of the globe. Mr. Lee wields a trenchant pen, and can write logically, argumentatively, and even humorously on almost any subject. He is intelligent and well-read and generally up-to-date.—*Rochdale Times*.

SEERS OF THE AGES. This volume of 400pp, (Ninth Edition) treats exhaustively of the seers, sages, prophets and inspired men of the past, with records of their visions, trances; and defines the beliefs or doctrines of Spiritualists. Price 5s. 6d., postage 5d.

London: J. J. MORSE, Sole Agent, Wholesale and Retail,
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The Monthly Record.

REPORTS.

ACCINGTON, (Argyle Street).—On Sunday, March 26th, our Lyceum Scholars gave a Service of Song, entitled: "Rest at Last," which was well rendered. We had a very successful day. On Saturday, April 15th, we had our Lyceum Tea Party, which we got up for the benefit of our Society. The Lyceum Scholars sang solos, recited, and the calisthenics were gone through with charm bells. It was a great success.—MARTHA CROSS, Sec.

ACCINGTON, (China Street).—On March 26th, we held our tenth Lyceum Anniversary. The Lyceumists made it a red letter day. The singing and reading were good and highly appreciated. Master G. W. Walmsley and Miss M. A. Cowbourn gave two recitations. Miss Emma Holmes two solos. Mr. Tomlinson's String Band accompanied the organ, and the singing was under the conductorship of Mr. J. Holmes, of Church. Mrs. Walmsley, of Accrington, gave Clairvoyance at each service. Owing to the state of the weather we had only a small audience in the afternoon. In the evening we had the room packed to excess.—G. W. WALMSLEY, Sec.

BURY.—March 18th, Anniversary party. After tea, Mr. Colding distributed the prizes which numbered 17 first, 8 second, and 9 third. Afterwards recitations, songs, violin solos, glees, &c. On Good Friday, March 31st, the weather prevented the ramble which the Lyceum had arranged for, so we remained in the Hall and had a very enjoyable afternoon and evening. On Tuesday, April 11th, a Social Party was given in aid of the band fund for Whit-Friday, which made over £4 15s., clearing the fund. A fine programme was gone through. Mr. A. E. Kershaw was the chairman; Miss Clough the accompanist. Glee, "The Huntman's Chorus," by the Choir. Song, "White Squall," Mr. Fletcher; Violin Solo, Mr. J. Swarsbrick; Song, Mrs. Crompton; Stump Speech, "Drink," Mr. Crompton; Cornet Solo, Mr. Martin; Dialogue, "Blundering Barney," Messrs. W. Howarth, V. Howarth, A. Key; Mesmeric Sketch, Messrs. Crompton, Key, Wand, V. Howarth and R. Charnley; Song, "Somebody whispered," Miss P. Chadwick; Recitation, "The Crippled Boy," Miss Lindley.—A. E. Kershaw, Sec.

BLACKPOOL, Spiritual Church.—After a long spell of unpleasantness between the Church and Lyceum, I am happy to report that we have got into working order with the breach made up and the Lyceum very little weakened as regards numbers. We miss some few who have rendered good service to the cause in the past. For their services we are thankful and we hope soon to see them again taking an active part in the work they love. The work is too great and the opposing forces too powerful for us to spare a single worker and time is too short for any to rest. The Lyceum elected its officers on Sunday last, as follows: Conductor, Miss Liversedge; Assistant: Mr. S. Busby; Guardian of Groups, Mr. F. Howes; Librarian, Mr. Roberts; Musical Director, Miss E. Roebuck; Treasurer, Mr. Pixton; Representatives on Church Committee, Miss Liversedge and Mr. L. Hurst. We hold our Lyceum Tea on May 1st, to which we are inviting Mr. Kitson, the Union Secretary, to attend to distribute prizes for attendance. Our scheme of working is not materially altered except as follows: we have only one Treasurer for the Church and Lyceum. The Lyceum elects its own officers and manages its own affairs. Two representatives from the Lyceum Committee attend the meetings of the Church Committee with equal voting power on all business in connection with Church or Lyceum. We hope to see the Blackpool Lyceum second to none in efficiency and unity, and trust to be able to help the BANNER to double its circulation during 1899.—J. ROBERTS, Sec.

HALIFAX, (Raven Street).—At the morning sessions of the Raven Street Lyceum on March 5th, the ceremony of naming an infant was performed by Mrs. Briggs, when the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Blackburn received the name of Alice Prudence. As this is the first time a function of this kind has taken place in our Lyceum, it was most interesting to those present.—L. BRIGGS, Sec.

MANCHESTER, Bradford.—We have had very good sessions during April. The exercises were creditably done each Sunday. Mr. Cross, Mr. Crutchley, and other friends visited and instructed us, and Masters Tonge, Tweedale, and Selway, with the Misses Tonge, Liddia, Duffy, Page and Tweedale contributing readings and recitations. Our highest attendance for the month was fifty.—W. TONGE.

MANCHESTER, Harpurhey.—On Easter Monday, I wended my way to the Harpurhey Society, who were having their first Tea Party, Social and Dance, and the reception I received was, to say the least, of such a character as made me feel at home and know that I was among friends, and true Spiritualists. After tea a most happy evening was

spent in games, interspersed with Irish and Scotch songs, and Lancashire readings, given by members of the Institute, and some good singing by members of the Lyceum, ably led by Mrs. P. Smith at the piano. A most happy and enjoyable evening, one that will be looked back upon with pleasure, was terminated with the usual hand shaking, and a hearty invitation to any of the Society's meetings, trusting that they may always work as they have begun is the earnest wish of—THE CRITIC.

OLDHAM, (Bartlam Place).—April 16th, open session, when we had a record attendance, 104 scholars being present. The children one and all doing their marching and calisthenics very well. A prize was given to Ethel Ashworth, aged five years, for proficiency in reciting, she having said eleven out of a possible thirteen for the last quarter. Other recitations by Miss Stott, Miss Potter and Miss Ivy Platt. A solo by Miss Devonport, accompanied by Miss Brook, was neatly accomplished. Our room was full, both friends and parents seemed delighted with the session.—W. HORSMAN.

ROCHDALE, (Regent Hall).—Sunday, April 23rd, was the annual Lyceum Day at Rochdale, Mr. John Venables, of Walsall, President of the B.S.L.U., and Mr. W. Mason, of Burnley, President of the S. E.L.D.C., were both present. Mr. Mason having been compelled to walk from Bury, a distance of six miles, to be in time for the Lyceum session. The work of the Lyceum may be described in the phrase *ne plus ultra*, the marching, calisthenics, and general discipline, being all that could be desired. Messrs. Venables and Mason addressed the members of the Lyceum, in short, sympathetic and commendatory speeches, at the same time emphasizing their admiration of the perfect manner in which conductors and scholars alike had done their duty. Services were held afternoon and evening, at which Messrs. Venables and Mason were the speakers. Mrs. Johnstone giving clairvoyance in the afternoon, and Mr. Thos. Wild at night, both being highly successful. A well selected programme of hymns and anthems had been printed, and too much praise cannot be given to the choir for the hearty and highly creditable way in which they performed their respective parts; and that we may not be invidious, it is due to the choir-master and organist to say that the success of the musical proceedings the surest evidence of the great care and patience which they must have exercised. Referring to the Lyceums in general, and so far as the music to the marching concerned, we venture to suggest that if the tunes could be varied it would be much better, the ear tires of one tune when played too long, and whatever it may be to those engaged in marching and the calisthenics, to the spectator it is apt to become monotonous.—PETER LEE.

SHAW.—Sunday, April 2nd. Afternoon, open session. Marching and calisthenics very good, recitation by Mrs. Fielding on "Joan of Arc in prison"; also recitations by the children. Evening, Service of Song, "In Heaven's name," by the members of the Lyceum, the reading being ably done by Mrs. Fielding, of Shaw. Successful day.—JOSEPH B. JACKSON, Sec.

SOWERBY BRIDGE.—On Saturday, April 1st, the annual Eastertide Tea and Entertainment was held, at which there was a good attendance at each function. Tableaux, Action Songs, Violin Solos, Juvenile Christy Minstrels, Recitations, an Operetta, "The Fairy Ring," and a Dramatic Sketch, "A Cool Deception," being included in the programme of the Entertainment. The successful nature of the performances was due to the untiring care and training of all concerned by Mrs. Jessie Greenwood, who laboured incessantly to produce result.

DISTRICT COUNCILS. VISITORS' QUARTERLY REPORTS.

MIDLAND DISTRICT.—NOTTINGHAM (Gladstone Hall).—Visited Lyceum January 22nd. Good order and harmony, improved since my last visit; hope to find greater work being done for the children in Nottingham, as it is the birthplace of the Lyceum Movement in England. Onward is their motto. Cobden Hall visited February 12th. Session good considering that it rained very much, which prevented many of the Lyceumists from attending. One bright little fellow stated it always rains when Mr. Lote comes. However, we had a good time.

NORTHAMPTON.—March 5th. Sorry to say up to this date all interest in the children's movement appears to be below Zero, however, I hope and pray that the good Angels will awake them from their slumbers.

WALSALL.—Visited Lyceum where the presence of our president shone forth with his great love to the little ones, may he live long on the plane, to keep the lamp shining. A very good session, everything satisfactory. A grand improvement since my first visit. Mr. Gilly makes an excellent conductor of exercises.

BELPER.—Visited Lyceum February 26th. Pleased to meet old friends. Order and harmony prevailed. Session good. A grand example to the Midland.

DERBY, (Midland Road).—Lyceum growing. Full of hope. An

excellent paper by Mr. J. E. Buttle, a liberty group member, entitled "The Unity of Spiritualism," which was much enjoyed. A good session.—W. H. LOTE, D.V., M.D.

LEEDS DISTRICT.—Liversedge would do to be more punctual. More earnestness on the part of the adults would be an improvement. I found Morley Lyceum had made a decided improvement. The lessons in the groups were edifying and interesting. Heckmondwike, the interest here in the welfare of the Lyceum seems to be flagging. More punctuality and earnestness on the part of the adults greatly needed. Batley Carr still maintains its excellent discipline. Group lesson specially interesting and edifying. There is a marked improvement in the Dewsbury Lyceum. A little more enthusiasm and "push" on the part of the adults still desirable. A great improvement is readily seen in the Lyceum at Leeds. If the same earnestness is maintained it has a good future before it. Liberty Group is doing exceptionally well.—JAMES KITSON, D.V.

HUDDERSFIELD AND HALIFAX DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT.

THE Quarterly Meeting of the above Council was held at Peter Street, Huddersfield, on April 8th, with a full attendance of delegates. After the usual business had been dealt with, the Demonstration arrangements were discussed and it was unanimously decided that—The first annual Demonstration be held at Brighouse, on Whit-Monday, May 22nd, 1899. The procession to commence from Brighouse Station at 2 o'clock, prompt, to march through the main streets, headed by the Sowerby Bridge Brass Band, to a field procured for the occasion. After a few introductory remarks by some of our Lyceum workers, the Lyceumists will give an united Exhibition of Calisthenics and Marching, intersepted by Musical Readings and Hymns. A Public Tea will be provided for visitors, etc., in the Spiritual Church, Martin Street, price 8d. Tea, Coffee, and Buns will be provided free for Lyceumists in the Central Hall. If the weather is wet the proceedings will take place in the afternoon in the Central Hall, followed by a Concert in the evening. A hearty welcome is extended to all and we shall be glad to receive all friends, both old and new.—THOS. WALKER HOYLE, Sec.

The "Banner" Letter Box.

AN EXPLANATION.

DEAR EDITORS.—Please kindly insert the following letter in your next issue re Mr. A. J. Davis' letter, No. 2. It appears to me that Mr. Kitson is quite in a "fog," and imagines that he has lost something. Allow me to inform him that he never had the above-mentioned letter, as it was sent to my house direct from our beloved founder, in answer to a letter I sent him. He requested me to explain "to all my associates, who, I trust, are also my friends, why they have been disappointed." I may say that I read this letter (No. 2) at the home-coming of Mr. and Mrs. Wallis, at the Spiritual Church, Salford, last January, and also sent copies to the *Two Worlds* and LYCEUM BANNER. So I followed out the instructions given to me. As to whether he was under the impression that we were connected with the B.S.L.U. or not I am unable to say. The Lancashire Lyceum Demonstration Committee are composed of ladies and gentlemen who have the Lyceum cause at heart, and have shown by their united action what can be done, and they are proud of their six year's service to the cause, a record of which it is hoped will be a lesson to others to do likewise. They have treated the B.S.L. Union with the utmost kindness and courtesy, have been a valuable aid in more ways than one, and at the present time are all in the Union, with but one exception. This is our position: The letter sent to me by Mr. Kitson was a letter for me, as Secretary of Lancashire Lyceum Demonstration, and Chief Marshal of the largest gathering of Lyceums in the United Kingdom held last year in Manchester, therefore, dear sir, it could not be for Mr. Kitson. Trusting this explanation will somewhat enlighten our friend, though I think it would have been much better if Mr. Kitson had written to me direct on this subject.—Yours fraternally, J. B. LONGSTAFF, Hon. Sec. L.L.D. Committee.

THE Huddersfield and Halifax District Council have arranged a montre United Lyceum Demonstration, to be held at Brighouse, on Whit-Sunday, the 21st of this month. All the Lyceums in the District are busily employed in learning a special uniform set of Calisthenics to be used on the above day. There is likely to be a large gathering and a successful time.

THE REDEMPTIVE POWER OF LOVE.

EMMANUEL CAMPBELL.

☒ BEAUTIFUL illustration of the redemptive power of love over a person considered low in the scale of culture, was related to me many years ago, says B. O. Flower, and as it is so typical in its character, I give it as nearly as I can recollect it. The incident occurred in France during the gloomy days of the terrible religious persecution in that then ill-starred land. A philanthropist named Jerome Harel, who saw and felt the sufferings of the masses in their fierce struggle for life, frequently went into the streets where the poor were crowded together in misery and wretchedness, and freely dispensed money to the distressed. One day he came face to face with a young man "on whose haggard face despair had stamped its frightful impress." Irresistibly drawn to this youth by that strange magnetic power of which the wisest know so little, yet feel so often, he accosted him kindly, and inquired into the trouble that so visibly manifested itself in his countenance. Frankly, the youth replied that he was suspected of being tainted with heresy, and his employer had discharged him some days since. His parents were dead; a sister, to whom he was devoted, was his only near relative. She was now dying with fever; he had no money for medicine or food; he had tried everywhere for work, but all gates were closed against him. Jerome Harel heard his story; gave him means, and visited his sick sister, who died a few days later. Subsequently the youth was arrested and sent to the galleys, his only crime being that he was "suspected of heresy." At the galleys Listolier,—for such was the youth's name—coming constantly in contact with criminal natures, breathing an atmosphere of brutality and crime, became himself hardened, as have tens of thousands of other innocent victims who have been sent to prison comparatively good men, but to emerge from confinement ruined wretches, destined to curse the race. In the course of time Listolier was set at liberty. He made his way to Paris. Here the argus eyes of the police watched him from time to time. He felt conscious of the stamp of shame he carried with him. He sought work, only to meet with repeated refusals. He begged bread, he almost starved; and then came the fearful struggle in a man's nature when starvation joins with the forces of evil for the conquest of spiritual promptings. The conflict in his soul was frightful, and at last he fell. Two months later he was making his livelihood by robbery. One night he broke into the mansion of a rich bachelor; he entered the bedroom where peacefully slept the master of the house; the moon-beams fell through the window, across the bed, lighting the face of the sleeper. Listolier approached, knife in hand, murder in his heart. Suddenly he seemed rivetted to the floor; his face grew strangely white; from his hand the glittering blade fell with a crash; on his knees by the bed sank the robber, while from his lips escaped a groan such as mortals only utter when the soul writhes with remorse. Jerome Harel—for the sleeper was none other—awoke, and seizing a weapon prepared to defend himself. He soon found, however, he had no cause for fear. Listolier, in the agony of remorse, narrated the details of his career after his arrest, closing by saying: "Now, sir, kill me or call the police. I came here prepared to murder. I never saw before how hopeless a wretch a man may become." "You came here to murder," said Harel, slowly, "you shall remain here a saved man. I know," said the aged philanthropist, "the causes that led to your ruin, for you were not sinful when

the cruel edict of intolerance sent you to the galleys. Society is as much responsible for your downfall as you yourself" (and to himself he added, 'far more so.'). "Now I, a part of Society, will help to redeem you. Stay with me, my trusted servant; to-morrow I go to the South of France for some months; you may accompany me. When you return your associates will have lost sight of and forgotten you, and you yourself will be so changed that you will not fall into temptation. The gates of the future open before you and offer you the opportunity to be a true man."

Listolier was saved. He became invaluable to Harel—brave, noble, frank and trustworthy, with a great heart ever throbbing in sympathy for the poor and oppressed. Before his death Harel gave a large sum, saying in so doing, "The poor will be blessed when I am gone." And they were, for long after Harel's face was seen no more, the poor blessed M. Morrel the good, who was none other than Listolier the convict.

This story is a sublime illustration of the power of love, whose sweet influence uplifts every soul that encourages its development, and sheds on other lives the glory of the higher life, the richest blessing from above, the splendour of a divine influence.

THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

G. H. BIBBINGS AND NEWCASTLE.

THE Executive of the above Union present at Belper, on Saturday the 15th April, 1899, regret to learn that owing to partial statement respecting the engagement of Mr. G. H. Bibbings with the Newcastle-on-Tyne Society they were of the opinion that Mr. Bibbings had declined to give way so that the Lyceum Conference this year might be held there. The Letter from Mr. W. Moore, Conductor of the Newcastle-on-Tyne Lyceum (printed at foot) very effectually disposes of such impression, and the Executive take the earliest opportunity of publishing the fact and desire to express to Mr. Bibbings their sincere regret that such an erroneous impression should have gained publicity.

JOHN VENABLES, President.

ALFRED KITSON, Secretary.

MR. MOORE'S LETTER.

21, Cuthbert Street, Gateshead-on-Tyne.

DEAR MR. BIBBINGS.—"I am in receipt of your letter of the 8th, (addressed to Newcastle instead of Gateshead), and in reply thereto beg to make the following statement. When I wrote asking if you could alter your May date, I did so on behalf of the Lyceum, not on behalf of the Society, and had you been able to alter the date, I would have had to ask the Society for their permission to do so. Now, when you replied that you regretted your inability to alter the date, you also said that you would willingly cancel the date, so as to make room for a Lyceum Conference to be held in Newcastle. On putting your reply before the Lyceum Board, it was passed unanimously that we should not ask the Society to cancel your date, as they did not see their way to deprive the Society and Newcastle people of one whom we had rarely amongst us. This is as the matter stood, and I hope that those who get to know of this declaration, will see how necessary it is to know the real facts before they pass remarks.—I beg to remain, yours sincerely,
March 9th, 1899. W. MOORE, Conductor, Newcastle Lyceum.

MANCHESTER, (Tipping Street).—On Sunday, April 9th, we held our Half-yearly Meeting, when the Election of Officers took place, and the following were elected for the next six months: Conductor, Mr. Braham; Assistant Conductors, Mr. Leigh and Mr. Roughsedge; Treasurer, J. Simkin; Secretary, C. Barrington; Musical Directors, S. Warwick and G. Vernon; Librarian, Miss Braham; Sick Visitors, J. Simkin and Miss Tabener. Sunday, April 16th, Marching and Calisthenics very well done; piano solo by Bessie Shawcross, and well rendered. Recitations by Annie Cheetwood, who also gave us some excellent clairvoyance.—C. BARRINGTON, Sec.

ITEMETTES.

LAST month's issue has all been sold.

OUR One Hundred and First issue!

READ Brian Hodgson's letter.

CONFERENCE time has come again, and the indications point to a large attendance. But why processions? One is plenty, but two!

CAREFULLY read our Secretary's excellent report. Mr. Kitson serves our Union ably and well, and deserves our best thanks.

OUR last month's Itemette, *re* Newcastle and this year's Conference has borne fruit. Previousness is awkward, at times.

THE Editor desires to put a special question to every Delegate attending the Conference at Nottingham. Please ask him what it is.

BIRTH.—Mrs. Tom Taylor, Harpurhey, Manchester, April 15th, of a Son. Hearty good wishes to the new comer and his parents.

J. SAUNDERSON, NOTTINGHAM.—No room this issue, will use next month.

THE *Two Worlds* and the *Torch* are cordially thanked for their kind words regarding this journal.

REDUCTION IN PRICE.—The excellent work "A Spirit's Idea of Happiness," published at 3/6 has been reduced to 2/-, postage 4d. Just a few left to clear out. Order at once.

THE MISSES BREARLEY, of Nottingham, we are pleased to learn will contribute instrumental and terpsichorean items to the Saturday Evening Programme at the Conference.

I THINK the BANNER is very interesting lately. I like Miss Fitton's pretty story, "Lord of Himself" very much. I am sorry "A New Zealand Wooing" is ended as it was so good.—EDNOR TURTON.

OUR Editor is not a faddist of any kind. Just a plain straightforward Spiritualist, without trimmings. Like others, he wishes to see the world made better, but, unlike some, he is too busy trying to help to improve things, just a little, to spare time to tel what he would like to do.

THE Directors of *The Two Worlds* Publishing Company, Limited, have appointed Mr. Will Phillips as the Editor of the Journal, *vice* Mr. Wallis, resigned. The BANNER congratulates Mr. Phillips and wishes him every success. It is a matter of surprise, though, that Mr. Peter Lee was not re-appointed.

MR. FRANK CHISWELL, Liverpool, completes his majority on Tuesday the 9th inst. The event will be celebrated by a "Coming of Age" Dance at Daulby Hall, for which invitations have reached the Editors of the BANNER, who, while heartily congratulating our young friend, regret exceedingly they are unable to do so in person.

MANCHESTER, Longsight, 17, Rushton Street, Ardwick.—Our Lyceum is still progressing, we had a good attendance of 54 Lyceumists present last Sunday, April 23rd. The following officers were elected for the next six months, Mr. J. Roughedge, Conductor; Mr. P. N. Humphrey, Musical Director; Mr. W. H. Lawson, Hon. Secretary; Mrs. Thomson, Treasurer.—W.H.L., Sec.

GOOD THINGS TO COME.—A bright little story, "Jenny Hood—or 'I Cling to Thee,'" by Walter Booth. "A Mad Freak"—a True Story, by Ednor Turton, full of interest. An excellent article on "The Battles of Daily Life," by Emily M. Dexter, of the Cobden Hall Lyceum, Nottingham; also another Lesson on "Brahmanism," by Brian Hodgson, a fine contribution. They will each appear at the very earliest opportunities. Look out for them.

SEVERAL copies of *The South African Spiritualist*, edited by our old friend, Joseph Freeman, have reached this office. It sets forth brightly what is being done in South Africa. There are Societies at Kimberly, Cape Town, and Johannesburg, the latter being the only one having a Lyceum. The cause is also growing in Natal. Prices are evidently high, as the little paper of eight pages of reading matter, rather under two thirds of the contents of an ordinary BANNER, costs threepence per copy.

THE LYCEUM BANNER, started in 1890, reaches its hundredth issue with the current number for April. From very humble beginnings, it has, under the able direction of Mr. J. J. Morse and Miss Florence Morse, steadily grown in worth and influence, and is now an important power in our movement. No greater benefit can be conferred on the cause of Spiritualism than the wise guidance of our young people—and this the 'Lyceum Banner' achieves with conspicuous success. We heartily congratulate Mr. and Miss Morse on the zeal and ability with which they are carrying on their good work.—*Light*, April 15, 1899.

MR. JONAH CLARK, president of the Joint Committee of Nottingham Lyceums, and his co-workers have put an enormous amount of labour into the arranging of the Conference. It says wonders for them all to note what has been done, and the Conference must not be allowed to close without most heartily recognising the invaluable services rendered to it by the Committee and its indefatigable president. The BANNER is pleased to acknowledge Mr. Clark's able assistance in furnishing the materials for the announcements, both last month and this.

BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

THE

Ninth Annual Conference

WILL BE HELD IN THE

COBDEN HALL, PEACHEY STREET, NOTTINGHAM,

On SUNDAY, May 14th, 1899.

JOHN VENABLES, ESQ., WALSALL, PRESIDENT.

Saturday Afternoon and Evening Notices to Delegates and Friends.



We are hoping to see a record gathering for this Conference. We desire to make all perfectly happy and comfortable, and in order to ensure this, the Committee ask everyone to do their best to follow out the instructions given later in this notice.

The journey to Nottingham may be made a pleasant one for the majority of you, if advantage is taken to

TRAVEL IN THE SALOONS

which are being put on the trains at Blackburn, and Bradford (see our Secretary's circular.) On arrival at Nottingham each party will be conducted to the

Cobden Hall, Peachey Street,

where a MEAT TEA will be ready at 4-30 p.m. Price Ninepence each.

With regard to those brothers and sisters who cannot join the parties, I shall be glad to have a post card stating the time your train is due at Nottingham (please state which Railway Company) when someone will be appointed to meet you and bring you to the Cobden Hall. Be good enough to time your arrival between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. if possible, as it is very desirable that all should be able to take tea together, and thus get into good form for the

PROCESSION

which is timed to start at 5-30 p.m., headed by the SOUTH NOTTS. TEMPERANCE BRASS BAND.

Delegates travelling alone should exhibit a copy of the LYCEUM BANNER for the purpose of being recognised at the station.

Our idea is to stir up some enthusiasm, and at the same time afford the Delegates and Friends an opportunity to view a part of our City.

Returning to Cobden Hall about 6-45 p.m., friends will find an opportunity for a little social chat until 7-0 p.m., when the Members of Nottingham Lyceums will present a

GRAND ENTERTAINMENT

in honour of our visitors. This will consist of Music (vocal and instrumental), Recitations, Ventriloquial Sketches, Selections on Mouth Organs, etc., interspersed with short Speeches from Messrs. Chiswell, Morse, and Wallis.

SUNDAY ARRANGEMENTS.

Morning, Cobden Hall, at 10 o'clock.

It is hoped that everyone will be in their places when the clock strikes Ten on Sunday Morning, so that the business of the day may be proceeded with at once.

The mid-day Adjournment is timed for 12-45 p.m.

Dinner at 1 p.m.

Afternoon Meeting at 2 p.m. Resumption of Conference Business.

Tea at 4-30 p.m.

EVENING, AT 5-45.

Assemble at *GLADSTONE HALL, Lamartine Street, St. Ann's Well Road*, for Procession to **MECHANICS' HALL**, led by the Midland Railway Brass Band, reaching the Hall at 6-10 p.m., where a

Grand ORGAN RECITAL by G. Astill, Esq.

Commences at 6 p.m. (See printed Programme.)

THE EVENING MEETING

In the Mechanics' Hall,

promises a glorious time as regards the musical portion of it, while the Speakers need none of my recommendation, they are so well known to you all. **ADMISSION WILL BE FREE**, but a **SILVER COLLECTION** will be taken at the doors to meet expenses, which are necessarily very heavy, for this extraordinary effort.

Permit me to call attention to the Statement of Fares and booking instructions for visitors to the Conference. I think nearly every Lyceum is mentioned. This will save both your money and your time. (See April LYCEUM BANNER for particulars.)

Any further information which may be desired will be gladly given on receipt of reply post card by

GLEN ROY VILLAS,
115, ROBIN HOOD'S CHASE,
NOTTINGHAM.

JONAH CLARKE,
President, Lyceum Conference
Committee.