

# THE LYCEUM BANNER.

A Spiritualist Magazine for Old and Young.

VOL. IX.

DECEMBER, 1899.

No. 108.

## THE ADVENT OF CHRISTMAS, 1899.

CHRISTMAS time is coming,  
Soon it will be here ;  
Think of those who love you,  
Those who hold you dear.  
Christmas comes to bless you,  
With gladness and good cheer.

In the streets and alleys  
Christmas comes and goes,  
Joyless to most hearts there,  
Pray you think of those,  
Noels without gladness :  
Junos without a rose.

Christmas time is coming,  
Every 'lass' and 'lad,'  
'Buckle to' and make it  
Bright to some, and glad,  
And you'll own this Christmas  
The merriest you've had.

KATE TAYLOR ROBINSON.

[Specially contributed to the Lyceum Banner.]

## LORD OF HIMSELF.

BY ANNIE E. FITTON.

Lord of himself, though not of land,  
And having nothing, yet hath all.

SIR H. WOOTON.

### CHAPTER XII.

"THANK heaven I can walk!" he ejaculated, as he tramped along the lonely shore with a strong wind directly facing him and the effort needed to battle with it helping to subdue the inward turmoil. And then came the thought of Guy, to whom the joy of untrammelled motion was a forbidden luxury, who might never revel again in that glorious sense of freedom which youth and strength alone give. And his had been the hand to rob the boy of his birthright, and the mother, no wonder she felt it impossible to forgive. Oh, that he could atone! Was there nothing he could do—nothing? Confronted thus with the grim wall of circumstance which he seemed powerless to surmount, chafing at his own helplessness, and bitterly deploring the past, Ralph turned homewards, feeling that the little holiday to which he had been rather looking forward, had begun badly, and he cared not how soon it was over.

Guy had gone to bed when he reached the farm, but he was wide-awake and for him decidedly cross when Ralph joined him.

"A nice fellow you are to desert one like this," he exclaimed, "here have I been looking forward to your coming, longing for your company for weeks past, and you take yourself off the very first evening, with neither a with-your-leave nor by-your-leave."

"An awful shame, I agree with you," said Ralph, as he sat on the bedside and began unfastening his boots.

"Why did you do it then?" asked the boy indignantly.

"Oh, you know why; I was in a rage and thought I had better walk it off."

"To avoid an explosion, I suppose?"

"Exactly, discretion being the better part of valour."

"And is the steam blown off by this?" asked the boy, with a keen glance at his companion.

"Not altogether, but it is under control and less dangerous."

"Well, I don't know how you stand it. It's a blooming shame, I call it."

Ralph sighed, "Don't talk about it. Let me forget myself if I can."

"What a pity that old river is dried up," said Guy, with humorous gravity.

Ralph stared blankly, "What do you mean?"

"Oh, don't you remember Lethe, its waters imparted forgetfulness. A lot of heathen rot of course, but it would be a convenient remedy for some complaints, if a draught of it were only available."

"I should just think so! Well, let us try and secure a substitute for a few hours at any rate. You go to sleep lad, and don't worry about me or yourself either."

"Physician, heal thyself," with which laughing retort Guy turned over and was soon fast asleep.

Not so Ralph; it seemed to him hours before he lost consciousness, and then his sleep was disturbed by dreams in which Guy was helpless and tortured, and he bound hand and foot and wholly unable to rescue or relieve him. Struggling to free himself from the unseen cords which held him as in a vice, he awoke to find his breathing impeded and the room full of smoke. A loud shouting in the garden below and the rattling of gravel on the windows roused him to action, and shaking Guy vigorously he hurriedly dressed and opened the door to reconnoitre. But the entrance into the room of a huge volume of smoke compelled him to close it promptly, proving unmistakably that the passage and stairway were already almost impassable.

Throwing up the window, he saw in the dim light of an October dawn an excited group below. The family had been roused in time to make their exit in safety, which was rendered easier by the fact that their rooms lay at the back of the house, and the stairway leading to them was comparatively free from the smoke and flames which were rapidly consuming the front part of the building. A ladder was being hastily planted beneath the window, but proved too short to be available.

Returning to Guy, who was dressing with nervous haste, his face white with excitement, Ralph lost no time in improvising a rope with which to lower the boy.

"Mrs. Dean's sheets will have to suffer," he exclaimed, as he tore them apart and knotted one end securely to the bedpost and the other round Guy. "Now old fellow, let me drop you, I see there is some one waiting to help."

It needed all Ralph's strength to sustain the boy while he gradually lowered him until the ladder was reached and the farmer's strong arm was around him.

"Thank heaven, he is safe!" ejaculated Ralph.

"Now, sir, swing yourself over," shouted Mr. Deane.

But Ralph was hesitating. There was his mother to think of; her room was more unapproachable from the

ground than was the one he was in. If he made good his escape how could she be rescued, she was alone, and with none to aid her would be practically helpless. But how to get to her. He thought of the blazing staircase and smoke-filled corridor, and then of who it was for whom he must run so fearful a gauntlet. The repugnance, verging upon hatred, which Mrs. Cardwell had excited in him so often, and never more keenly than but a few hours ago, was still present with him. But the alternative, to know she was in danger and make no effort to save her, his better self cried "impossible!" and not giving himself time for further parley, he shouted to the man below, "I am going to my mother's room, have the ladder ready," and turning to the bed he dragged off a blanket, threw the contents of the water-jug over it, and enveloping himself in the thick folds, opened the door and plunged into the smoke that filled the passage and poured into the room he had quitted. The construction of the house was tolerably familiar to him, or his difficulties would have been doubled.

The passage was soon traversed, and then followed a grim struggle with smoke and flame, as he fought his way across the landing and up the short flight of stairs leading to Mrs. Cardwell's room. He found the door unfastened and rushed in, thankful for a moment's respite from the horrible sense of suffocation he was experiencing.

Mrs. Cardwell had been aroused by the shouting in the garden below, and had hurriedly dressed. She, too, had tried the staircase, but had turned back appalled at the sight which faced her. The prospect of making her escape by way of the window was equally alarming, for she was a nervous woman, with little presence of mind in an emergency, and already she was in a turmoil of agitation, which she was making no mental effort to subdue.

If Ralph's presence was ever a welcome sight to her it was so now. She turned to him eagerly:—"Oh, Ralph, what must we do? the house is on fire, and Guy—you have left him—he will be burned to death," she cried frantically.

"Guy is safe," shortly responded her step-son, as without further delay he again proceeded to make a rope of the sheets and knot them securely to the bed-post.

"What are you doing that for?" she asked impatiently.

"I must lower you from the window, there is no other way."

"But I cannot, to look out of a window makes me dizzy, and to hang suspended by that! Ralph, I will not. Do you want to kill me!"

The situation was a grave one, but it had its comic elements, and Ralph could not help smiling as he replied, "I want to save you, mother. What else do you think I am here for?"

"But I cannot climb down, look at the height," she exclaimed, with a shudder.

"Mr. Dean is there with the ladder, see—he is waiting to receive you. Mother, for heaven's sake don't delay, the house is burning fast, it may tumble about our ears any moment. See, the room is filling now," pointing as he spoke to the tongues of flame already darting beneath the door.

Mrs. Cardwell saw and trembled, but she made no effort to help herself or aid Ralph in his efforts to secure her safety.

"Now, Mother, climb on to the window sill, and I'll lower you down, you will be quite safe."

But he spoke to deaf ears. Mrs. Cardwell seemed incapable of rational action.

"Be quick, Mrs. Cardwell," shouted Mr. Dean, "there's no time to be lost."

Ralph, at his wit's end, saw plainly that where persuasion failed he must use force, and without further ceremony he lifted her bodily through the window, and winding the linen rope firmly round one arm, he lowered her until the ladder was gained, and Mr. Dean's strong arms conveyed her into safety. Further delay would have been fatal, for already the fire from the lower windows had laid hold of the ladder, and as Ralph, exhausted with the efforts he had made, scorched with the flames he had passed through, groped his way down step by step, the burnt woodwork collapsed with his weight, and he was flung headlong to the ground just as the fire engine from a neighbouring village was driven noisily on to the scene.

It was never known with any certainty how the fire originated. Fortunately for the farmer and his family his loss was largely covered by insurance, and the gallant exertions of the firemen and neighbours, by preventing the flames from spreading to the outbuildings, very considerably lessened the extent of the disaster.

Of the long illness which followed Ralph's downfall little need be said.

Mrs. Cardwell nursed her step-son with more devotion than she had so far displayed towards him. It seemed, indeed, that his efforts to rescue herself and her son from the burning farm, and which ended so disastrously for himself, had roused as much gratitude in her as her nature was capable of feeling. The mother in her was drawn to the bruised and unconscious youth as it had never been to the boy in his strength and beauty. He had risked his life for her and hers, and in nursing him back from what threatened at first to be the gate of death, she was conscious of a softening of her feelings towards him, and of some doubt as to whether she had done him justice in the past.

For a time Ralph was too ill to notice what went on around him, but as soon as he had become sufficiently recovered to become observant, he wondered much at the unusual gentleness with which he was being treated, but being too ill to puzzle over the change, he accepted the pleasing alteration without comment, and by the time he was convalescent enough to come downstairs and gradually resume his ordinary habits, he had ceased to wonder, and was more than willing to meet his step-mother half-way and let past animosities sink into oblivion.

Guy was no worse for the excitement he had passed through, and the improvement which his summer at Black-Combe had effected proved the starting-point for a gradual restoration to health and comparative strength. A slight lameness it was feared would remain as a permanent reminder to Ralph of his unfortunate outburst. He needed no other. If his passionate nature again threatened to master his control, the sight of Guy's limp, or the thought of his suffering, was enough to bid him pause, and with each victory over self the struggle became easier as the chains of habit weakened. His work at the bank remained more or less distasteful, but by overcoming his repugnance sufficiently to thoroughly master its details, a greater interest was imported into its daily routine, and for the rest his beloved violin was his never failing comfort. He never distinguished himself as a composer, though his name might occasionally be found on some publisher's list; but though fame eluded his grasp, the artist's soul within him enriched him as the mere applause of society would have failed in doing.

In the conscientious discharge of duty, and the victory gained over self, happiness came to him unsought, character developed from within, and with it the dignity which only comes to him who, in the highest and truest sense is "Lord of Himself."

THE END.

### LYCEUM NOTES AND COMMENTS.—No. LXVIII.

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

THE outlook continues bright and healthy. The sales of the *Lyceum Manual*, *Spiritual Songster*, and *Physical Exercises* are well sustained. Interest is being manifested in the Lyceum work in new quarters. New Lyceums have been opened at Grimsby; Grafton Street, Leicester; and Leyton, London, E.; and one is about to be opened at Glossop. The Lyceum at Hollis Hall, Sheffield, is making rapid progress. They have 56 names on the register, and have only been opened a few months.

The attention of Lyceum officers is called to the publications of the Union as being suitable presents for Christmas and New Year. Those who have had the task of selecting such will know how difficult a matter it is to select such as will not shock sensitive minds, by teaching of the blood of Jesus, being shed to wash away the sins of the world, or other orthodox teachings. A full price list will be sent to Lyceums in time for officers to make suitable selections. We hope to see it taken extensive advantage of.

The old, time-honoured Pagan festival, Christmas, will soon be here with all its fun, frolic, and festivities. The Pagans used to rejoice exceedingly, because their Sun-god was just born, to give increased light, warmth, and life to all the forces of nature, and clothe the hills and dales with new garments, decorated and trimmed with snowdrops, primroses, buttercups and daisies, etc. He will fill the woods and lanes and fields with the sweet-voiced feathered songsters. He will call the dead trees back to life. He will feed thousands with what would make only a few loaves if ground into flour. He will turn water into pure grape juice (wine). He will tame the mighty rushing torrents into gentle streams and laughing, rippling rills. In short, he will make "all things new."

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The mysteries are good, light comes to all who will receive it, and realising the beauty and grandeur of the ancient symbolism, we can enter more fully into the fun and frolic of the occasion. Knowing that the saviour of the vegetable and animal kingdoms, he who makes all things

new, is born again, which we trust will be emblematical of new hopes, new aspirations, new resolves and determinations born within each one of us. The consecration of our lives to realise these shall be our new baptism. And on each one the spiritual dove of righteousness and peace will descend, and the All-Father will say: "This is my beloved child, in whom I am well pleased." And so I wish my readers, one and all, A MERRY, JOYOUS CHRISTMAS.

## Lyceum Essay.

### OUR AIM IN LIFE.

BY G. A. DEAKIN.

DEAR FELLOW LYCEUMISTS.—I am sure it gives me great pleasure to put together a short lesson for your benefit as well as my own. I have tried to do my best to interest you, and I hope this lesson will be of practical benefit to you.

"How am I to get on in the world, and what shall I be?" is the question which every boy and girl asks at that eventful period when they take a farewell look at the rose-garden of their childhood, and prepare to step out into the thorny wilderness of the wide world. It is a step which decides your future success or failure.

The keynote of the reply to the first part of the question, namely, will be found in the words of a great writer which say, "While in all things that we see and do, we are to desire perfection, and strive for it;" and to the latter part of the question, namely, "Do that which you know you *can* do, and which your heart wishes to do, these are the secrets of success."

If we do our duty nobly, it matters not whether we are leaders in the battle or only common soldiers. In fixing upon a pursuit or future in this life, let us be guided by noble thoughts. The old saying is, "The greatest man is he who chooses right." We cannot all become great men and women, but our greatness will lie in doing the work before us with all our might.

Whatever our aims in life may be, let us take care that they are worthy of honest, truthful minds. Whatever we may be, do not let us set before us a low mark. For instance, do not let us live and strive simply that we may 'get on in the world,' but, let us have a firm steady purpose to withstand the sorest temptations, to bear the weightiest burdens, to be calm in the fiercest storms, and, even if we do not become great and famous, we shall leave an untarnished character behind us.

The poet Dryden tells us that "What the child admired, the youth endeavoured, and the man acquired." This, I am sure you will all agree is quite true. The labour that is to ripen into a golden harvest, must spring from the pure healthy mind of the child, and be carried out by a firm will in after life. In choosing a pursuit or occupation in life, it is necessary that we should be guided by what we may call our 'natural instinct,' and try to find out the exact limit of our power.

There was once a boy in the Isle of Wight whose whole soul was absorbed with the sights and sounds of the sea, whose mind was filled with dreams of great foreign lands. His parents, however, insisted that he should be a tailor, and apprenticed him to a worthy tradesman in the village of Niton. One day, however, it was reported that a squadron

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.

DECEMBER, 1899.

### OUR MONTHLY CHAT.

**Our Ninth Volume.** With this issue of the BANNER the present volume is completed, and our ninth year of labour for our children is closed. During the past year the progress of the paper has been fairly satisfactory, though still a long way from what it ought to show. But, as the majority of our Lyceums do their best for us, it were ungrateful to complain. Still, if they can manage a small increase all round it would be a decided advantage to us. Once again we must return our own and our readers hearty thanks for the assistance of our valued contributors, whose articles have appeared during the present volume. First to our faithful secretaries for their reports; next to the various members of Lyceums whose essays we have been able to publish; then to our several poetical contributors for their effusions; while we all thank Miss A. E. Fitton for her most interesting and in every way excellent story, that is completed in this number, a contribution worth far more than the nominal cost of a year's subscription to the paper. Then comes Mr. J. Harry Bunn, the inimitable conductor of "Riddler's Corner," whose contributions have been so popular, but the discontinuance of which we are regretfully compelled to announce. Our oldest contributor, and the one who has so steadily and unselfishly supported the paper by pen and tongue, is Mr. Alfred Kitson, the indefatigable Secretary of the B. S. L. U. His monthly "Notes and Comments" have been most valuable, keeping us all posted as to what is doing in the work in all parts of the country. To Mr. T. O. Todd for his able contributions month by month, we are all indebted; and last, but by no means least, a word of cordial thanks for kindly notices from time to time must be given to our contemporaries, "Light," in London, and "The Two Worlds," in Manchester, which were in

all cases duly appreciated and acknowledged. Each of these journals deserve every encouragement and support, for in their respective spheres they render invaluable services to the cause. The BANNER wishes them both "A Happy and Prosperous New Year." To all of them, and to all others who have in any way aided us, we tender our sincere and cordial acknowledgments.

**Our Tenth Volume.** The next volume, the tenth, will commence with the January issue, which will be published on the second Saturday of January, 1900. The full announcement concerning it appears elsewhere, but a word or two here may not be out of place. Our contributors for the next year will include Mr. Kitson, who will not only continue his "Notes," but, it is anticipated, will also send a series of special articles as well. Mr. J. Harry Bunn will conduct a "Herbal Corner," teaching the use of herbs, from a medical point of view, and possibly replying to questions on the subject. Our dear little friend "Daisy Dimple" will also enliven our pages, and Mr. T. E. Morgan will attend to the Temperance department of the work. Aunt Editha will report the monthly doings of THE GOLDEN GROUP, and the Editor will resume the publication of the Lesson Plan and Invocations, in response to a pretty general desire for their reappearance. But the feature of the new volume will be the issuing of the new four page monthly supplement, to be called THE SPIRITUAL REVIEW, which will be given free to every purchaser of, or subscriber to, the BANNER during the next year. There has never been any such journal issued for Spiritualists in Great Britain, and there is no doubt that it will be warmly welcomed by the adults all over the country. You will thus get two monthly magazines for the price of one. With the usual contents from month to month, the foregoing edition will make the BANNER the most interesting monthly journal for Lyceumists, their parents and friends, published at this time. There will be no increase in the prices, remember.

**Our New Year's Number.** The next number of the BANNER will be the usual GRAND NEW YEAR'S NUMBER, and will contain a variety of special features. There will be a large picture of the Members of the Burnley, Hammerton Street, Lyceums' GOLDEN GROUP, from a fine half-tone block. Also the "Daisy Dimple" Lyceum Home Supplement, including a specially-prepared portrait of that sprightly damsel, the whole being generously supplied as a gift by our good friend, Mr. Thomas Olman Todd, of Sunderland. A complete copy of the new paper, THE SPIRITUAL REVIEW, and a full page Almanac for 1900, containing a picture of Mrs. E. H. Britten, the best extant portrait of our arisen friend, and a variety of interesting reading matter, in poetry and prose. But there will be no increase in the prices. In consequence of the increased weight of the parcels, they will all be sent by rail, carriage paid. You will receive a post-card stating to which railway station your parcel will be sent, so that you can call for it. Now, as we are giving you so much for your usual money, it is not too much for us to ask you all to double your usual order for the January issue. It will be the greatest value ever given by the BANNER, or any other spiritual paper. Send orders early, to ensure quantity, as the edition will be strictly limited to number ordered in advance.

"Say au revoir, but not good-bye," he murmured. "That is a sensible idea," answered the girl, who has been engaged before. "If we start in to saying good-bye we won't get through for three hours."

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There was once a boy in the Isle of Wight whose whole soul was absorbed with the sights and sounds of the sea, whose mind was filled with dreams of great foreign lands. His parents, however, insisted that he should be a tailor, and apprenticed him to a worthy tradesman in the village of Niton. One day, however, it was reported that a squadron

of ships of war was off the island. The lad threw aside his needle, leaped from the shopboard, and mingled with the crowd that had gathered to watch the stately scene. All his old longings for sea-life came back to him; he jumped into a boat, rowed off to the Admiral's ship and offered himself as a volunteer, and was accepted. That boy was afterwards Admiral Hobson who beat the French at Vigo.

The boy Smeaton used to sit at the attic window with his little toy windmill fastened there, and his eyes fixed on its every motion. When he was fourteen years old he was compelled to measure out yards of broadcloth as a trade. This boy Smeaton afterwards produced the great Eddystone lighthouse.

Fourcroy, one of the greatest chemists of his time, began life as a copyist and writing-master. These and many other examples are only to show you how serious are the errors made in choosing an occupation in this life.

But we are liable to be influenced, and it is well that we should be influenced by certain external or outside circumstances, such as our home-training, and the examples set by our friends. Sometimes these agree with, and foster our our natural instinct; sometimes depress it. However this may be, their power cannot be denied.

The great poet Milton says, "The childhood shows the man, as morning shows the day." Indeed, this is quite true, the occupations, thoughts, and influences of our childhood are frequently found to colour our later life.

James Watt sits by the fireside with eyes intent on the tea-kettle, watching the expansive force of steam, and he receives an impulse and an impression which gives to the world the great gift of the steam engine.

It is of vital importance that in childhood we should be surrounded by everything that can assist in elevating, purifying, and strengthening everything that will cultivate all that is true, loving, honest, simple, and generous in our nature. It is in childhood that our temper can be disciplined, and our will brought into subjection. Our home influences are never forgotten; our earliest lessons are always the best remembered. We are to a great extent what our *mothers* make us. The lessons we learn from them, are the lessons which abide by us to the grave. The fruit grows out of the seed sown by our mother's hand. Let us ever love and cherish the best friend we have on earth—our mother; the one who takes your hand in hers, and causes you on your knees to say, "Our Father, who art in heaven."

Our aims in life, though they may be largely controlled by the influences of home, will also be not a little swayed by our companions and friends. One poet says, "Show us a man's friends, and you show us the man himself. If you would wish to have a friend, prove him first, and be not hasty to credit him, for some man is a friend for his own occasion, and will not abide in the day of thy trouble." Another poet says, "Keep good company and you shall be one of the number." These cautions are well worth bearing in mind, for your choice of a career in life, and your success in it, will depend largely upon the impulse you receive from your friends. "Choose worthy friends and your life will be worthy." Let your friends indeed be "tried friends and true."

Whatever our aims in life may be, let them be honest, and honestly pursued. It is not difficult to discover the "path in life" which we can follow with the greatest success. The natural instinct reveals itself in many ways, and the tastes of the boy foreshadow the occupations of the man.

To these remarks upon the conditions which the young should bear in mind when considering their "aims in life," I will add a couple of warnings:—

- (1) Having selected your profession or calling, do not be in a hurry to change it. Remember "A rolling stone gathers no moss." Be humble and patient.
- (2) Whatever your calling do not despise it. If it be humble, elevate it by the honesty and excellence with which you discharge its duties. Remember there is no discredit in being a shoemaker, but THERE IS in making a bad shoe.

The race in life may be a long one, and the way rugged and thorny, but we shall all feel, though we may not *all* see the presence of the angels to guide and keep us in the paths of truth and right. We have only to take heart. What has been possible to our ancestors is possible to us, and something which perhaps was never by them achieved. Is it not part of our spiritual nature, and have we not been taught many times that the thoughts and habits cultivated here will grow into a glorious harvest in the hereafter. That is the "secret to success," and if we all conscientiously act upon it, there will be *no* failure.

To be successful therefore in this life, we must choose our object wisely, and one which we shall have reasonable hope of attaining. The present is our time, not the past or the future, and the question of all questions is, "What shall I do with it?" to which I hope I have furnished a not altogether unsatisfactory reply.

## Our Temperance Department.

"FOR OTHER'S SAKE."


OFFICERS:—PRESIDENT, Mr. A. Smedley, Park Mount, Belper; TREASURER, Mr. G. Ormerod, Rishton, near Blackburn; SECRETARY, Mr. T. E. Morgan, 15, Burcot Road, Meersbrook, Sheffield, to whom all communications concerning this Department must be addressed.

PLEDGE.

I hereby promise to abstain from all intoxicating liquor as a beverage.

TEMPERANCE NOTES AND NEWS, No. 3.

BY T. E. MORGAN, SEC., S.N.T.L.

 DEAR FRIENDS,—I am still able to report progress in our movement, and am pleased to hear of our mediums, as well as members of our Societies, becoming members of our League. Although this work is progressing, it has not yet reached high level, for there is still work to be done, and in the words from the Bible, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few." We want more members, more workers, more helpers, in our League. A nation is made by its individuals, and a Society's welfare depends on each of its workers, the more the workers the healthier the Society.

Miss Maltby, Hassocks, Sussex, and Mr. Green, of Normanton, have pledge books, and will be pleased to get signatures.

The other day a very noted character in London, known as "Spring Onions," a man who has been convicted for drunkenness about two or three hundred times, attended at his favourite court, and told the magistrate (Mr. Mead) that that day was an anniversary day for him, as he had been teetotal since November 16th last year. Mr. Mead told

him he was pleased to hear it, and hoped to see him on the same errand next year.

To my mind this case alone fully warrants the work of the Temperance Organisation even if nothing else could be shown, for a man of the calibre of "Spring Onions" to be shown the folly of his ways and become converted to the temperance views is a feather in our caps.

I am grieved to have to record the passing on of a noble worker in the Temperance movement, viz., Mr. T. Whitaker, the Mayor of Scarborough. To lose men like him leaves a big gap in the ranks, and he will be sorely missed. Let us each one, my reader, resolve to work harder, and so try to divide his work amongst ourselves. Sheffield's Lord Mayor's term of office has expired, and thus a good Temperance worker is no longer holding the highest office a community can confer on such an one.


An example like this shows the good such Societies have done in a decade. To sum up the work each year, little seems to be done, but to look back and take a contrast, then and now shows the value of Temperance. Then a man was not considered a gentleman unless he drank so much intoxicants that his servants had to carry him to his carriage, and the usual thing was for two of them to quarrel towards the close of the banquet, rise up to fight, and then roll under the table to be carried into their carriage by their servants when it arrived.

Now a community shows its appreciation of a good Teetotal worker by electing him to be the Lord Mayor of the City. I have on more than one occasion advocated the teaching of our children as to *how* the drink affects them, and the disorders it causes in the body. It has been suggested to me that I should write so much in these notes on the matter each month. I should like to have the opinion of the readers of our BANNER on the matter, and so if you *all* will send me a note about this to my address I can mention the matter in the next month's number. [An excellent idea.—EDS.]

I have another suggestion to make, and that is, we follow the lead of our orthodox friends, and have a Temperance Sunday each year. Now, mediums, who will offer their services? Now, Societies, who will allow their platforms to be used for such a purpose once a year? I should also, on this matter, like to hear the views of the readers of this paper, and ask them to bring the matter before their Societies.

## The Riddler's Corner.

EDITED BY J. HARRY BUNN.

 DEAR RIDDLERS,—During the past year I have received many quaint and curious contributions from old and new riddlers, including Mrs. Kate Taylor Robinson, Miss Marjory Bolton, Miss Olive Knibb, Miss Ednor Turton, Messrs. A. Currie, George A. Deakin, Ernest Howarth, Charles Jockel, and, last on the list, but highest in number of contributions, Mr. John Cooke, of Rishton, Lancashire. I have sent this gentleman a special prize for his labours in the form of a handsome volume of 435 pages. The rest of my contributors I thank in the name of the readers and the proprietor of this journal, the LYCEUM BANNER.

The solvers of last month's riddles are:—Jack King, Thomas Featherstone, and Miss Olive Barnet. Correct answers to November riddles as follows:—

Mr. Cooke's Contributions:

Transposition: *Theatre* (The Rate). Logograph: *Slate* (late, eat).

Deletion: *Stairs* (stars).

Prize Puzzle: Maidstone.

The following riddles have the answers attached, and are splendid specimens of the riddler's art:—

MONOPHONE.

My first in the tribe of serpents is found;  
My next in South Africa doth dwell;  
My third is the hog, fierce and wild,  
Now what are we all, can you tell?

Answer:—*Boa, Boer, Boar.*

REVERSION.

My first is a crime, as sad as 'tis wrong,  
For which many have sacrificed life;  
Reversed I'm a diabolical drink,  
Causing poverty, sadness, and strife.

Answer:—*Murder* (red-rum).

ENIGMA.

Good-bye, dear riddlers, for my way I wend,  
I must bid you farewell, for my day's at an end;  
I am now old and feeble, my work it is done,  
I brought you some pleasure, some sorrow, some fun;  
Your grand parents rejoiced at my birth—my face  
Will ne'er be seen again, for in my usual place  
An infant sweet will stand. Now from me you must sever,  
Before you see next BANNER, I am gone for ever!

Answer:—*The Dying Century.*

JOHN COOKE.

With this issue the *Riddlers' Corner*, like all things mundane, will end. It started in December, 1897, and has run consistently and consecutively from first to last. In my "Introduction" I remarked that "My object is to sharpen your wits, and thus help you to see the funny side of things." This has been accomplished in its entirety, for during the past two years this Corner has been cramful of some of the brightest and wittiest poetical contributions the world has ever seen. Do not be sorrowful, for we all know that some day the best of friends must part. Yet we but part to meet again. Now I must tell you a secret: The *Riddler's Corner* and your Riddle Editor will, by a touch of a magic wand, be transformed into the "Herbal Corner" and the Herbal Editor! Did you say no fun next year? Don't you believe it! I shall work on the principle of—

"If you with knowledge the mind would cram,  
You must disguise the knowledge in jam!"

There will be no dry-as-dust business about the new department, for you will all be invited to contribute, and all medical reformers will have a leg up, and dozens of nails will be driven in the drug coffin, and —, well, I will tell you more next January. Meanwhile, you should get two or three of your friends to subscribe direct to the Proprietor, Mr. J. J. Morse, 26, Osnaburgh Street, London, N.W. A Postal Order for 1s. 6d. will obtain the journal for the whole of next year, post free.

Constructors, solvers, readers, and editor have all had a merry and profitable time. We are all two years older, and I hope two years better. Space presses, time is on the wing, I bid you all a brief and affectionate farewell.

Advance all, be happy and free  
In the coming Century?

41, Watlington Street,  
Reading-on-Thames.

J. HARRY BUNN.

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.

Adopted as the official organ of the British Spiritualists Lyceum Union, May, 1891.

## THE LYCEUM BANNER.

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FLORENCE MORSE: Associate Editor.

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## The Lyceum Banner.

DECEMBER, 1899.

### OUR MONTHLY CHAT.

**Our Ninth Volume.** With this issue of the BANNER the present volume is completed, and our ninth year of labour for our children is closed. During the past year the progress of the paper has been fairly satisfactory, though still a long way from what it ought to show. But, as the majority of our Lyceums do their best for us, it were ungrateful to complain. Still, if they can manage a small increase all round it would be a decided advantage to us. Once again we must return our own and our readers hearty thanks for the assistance of our valued contributors, whose articles have appeared during the present volume. First to our faithful secretaries for their reports; next to the various members of Lyceums whose essays we have been able to publish; then to our several poetical contributors for their effusions; while we all thank Miss A. E. Fitton for her most interesting and in every way excellent story, that is completed in this number, a contribution worth far more than the nominal cost of a year's subscription to the paper. Then comes Mr. J. Harry Bunn, the inimitable conductor of "Riddler's Corner," whose contributions have been so popular, but the discontinuance of which we are regretfully compelled to announce. Our oldest contributor, and the one who has so steadily and unselfishly supported the paper by pen and tongue, is Mr. Alfred Kitson, the indefatigable Secretary of the B. S. L. U. His monthly "Notes and Comments" have been most valuable, keeping us all posted as to what is doing in the work in all parts of the country. To Mr. T. O. Todd for his able contributions month by month, we are all indebted; and last, but by no means least, a word of cordial thanks for kindly notices from time to time must be given to our contemporaries, "Light," in London, and "The Two Worlds," in Manchester, which were in

all cases duly appreciated and acknowledged. Each of these journals deserve every encouragement and support, for in their respective spheres they render invaluable services to the cause. The BANNER wishes them both "A Happy and Prosperous New Year." To all of them, and to all others who have in any way aided us, we tender our sincere and cordial acknowledgments.

**Our Tenth Volume.** The next volume, the tenth, will commence with the January issue, which will be published on the second Saturday of January, 1900. The full announcement concerning it appears elsewhere, but a word or two here may not be out of place. Our contributors for the next year will include Mr. Kitson, who will not only continue his "Notes," but, it is anticipated, will also send a series of special articles as well. Mr. J. Harry Bunn will conduct a "Herbal Corner," teaching the use of herbs, from a medical point of view, and possibly replying to questions on the subject. Our dear little friend "Daisy Dimple" will also enliven our pages, and Mr. T. E. Morgan will attend to the Temperance department of the work. Aunt Editha will report the monthly doings of THE GOLDEN GROUP, and the Editor will resume the publication of the Lesson Plan and Invocations, in response to a pretty general desire for their reappearance. But the feature of the new volume will be the issuing of the new four page monthly supplement, to be called THE SPIRITUAL REVIEW, which will be given free to every purchaser of, or subscriber to, the BANNER during the next year. There has never been any such journal issued for Spiritualists in Great Britain, and there is no doubt that it will be warmly welcomed by the adults all over the country. You will thus get two monthly magazines for the price of one. With the usual contents from month to month, the foregoing edition will make the BANNER the most interesting monthly journal for Lyceumists, their parents and friends, published at this time. There will be no increase in the prices, remember.

**Our New Year's Number.** The next number of the BANNER will be the usual GRAND NEW YEAR'S NUMBER, and will contain a variety of special features. There will be a large picture of the Members of the Burnley, Hammerton Street, Lyceums' GOLDEN GROUP, from a fine half-tone block. Also the "Daisy Dimple" Lyceum Home Supplement, including a specially-prepared portrait of that sprightly damsel, the whole being generously supplied as a gift by our good friend, Mr. Thomas Olman Todd, of Sunderland. A complete copy of the new paper, THE SPIRITUAL REVIEW, and a full page Almanac for 1900, containing a picture of Mrs. E. H. Britten, the best extant portrait of our arisen friend, and a variety of interesting reading matter, in poetry and prose. But there will be no increase in the prices. In consequence of the increased weight of the parcels, they will all be sent by rail, carriage paid. You will receive a post-card stating to which railway station your parcel will be sent, so that you can call for it. Now, as we are giving you so much for your usual money, it is not too much for us to ask you all to double your usual order for the January issue. It will be the greatest value ever given by the BANNER, or any other spiritual paper. Send orders early, to ensure quantity, as the edition will be strictly limited to number ordered in advance.

"Say au revoir, but not good-bye," he murmured. "That is a sensible idea," answered the girl, who has been engaged before. "If we start in to saying good-bye we won't get through for three hours."

## BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

The QUARTERLY

## Visitation of the Executive Committee

Will be held in

THE SPIRITUAL TEMPLE,  
Heber Street, Keighley,

ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th, 1899.

At 10-30 a.m. there will be an **Open Session of the Lyceum.****PUBLIC SERVICES** at 2-30 and 6 p.m.

When Addresses will be given illustrative of Lyceum Work and Teachings by

Mr. J. J. Morse, London, President, B.S.L.U.; Mr. John Venables, Walsall, Past President, B.S.L.U.; Mr. S. S. Chiswell, Liverpool; Mr. Albert Wilkinson, Nelson; Mr. T. O. Todd, Sunderland; Mrs. Mary H. Naylor, Middlesbrough, and Mr. Alfred Kitson, Secretary, B.S.L.U.  
Collections in aid of the travelling expenses of the Executive.

A Cordial Invitation is extended to all.

ALFRED KITSON, Sec.

## ITEMETTES.

THE end of the eighth volume.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS to all our readers.

BEGIN the New Year by sending us 1s. 6d. as a year's subscription to the BANNER.

MR. J. J. MORSE will give his celebrated Lantern Lecture at Bootle, Halifax, Leeds, and Manchester during this month. Particulars elsewhere.

Our esteemed President recently celebrated the completion of his thirty years of public work for the cause. It is now the longest term of public professional service in our ranks.

THE Tranmere Lyceum, Birkenhead, is now added to the list of purchasers of our paper. This Lyceum has joined the Union. Good.

THERE is nothing fresh to report concerning the Home scheme at present. Such a project needs careful handling, so, possibly, the delay will be in its best interests, after all.

JUST as we go to press there will be a grand Social and Presentation at Sowerby Bridge, in honour of Mr. and Mrs. William Greenwood, who are removing to Hebden Bridge. A full report of the proceedings will appear in the BANNER next month.

EXCELLENT reports are given of Mr. Albert Wilkinson's Cinematograph picture of the Official Calisthenics. They show admirably on the screen, and excite boundless enthusiasm. Societies needing an excellent entertainment should consult Mr. Wilkinson for terms.

THERE will be very few bound volumes of this year's BANNER for sale at the end of this month. The price will be half-a-crown, carriage fourpence extra. Miss Fittons' Serial is worth more than the money stated.

THE Quarterly Visitation of the Executive will be held at Keighley, on Saturday and Sunday, the 16th and 17th inst. The meetings will be held in the Spiritual Temple, Heber Street, and our President has generously devoted his Sunday to the work of the Union on that occasion, free of cost.

THE Spiritualists' National Federation Fund of Benevolence, formerly the O.P.S. Fund, is in need of assistance. Who will send a contribution? Can we not arrange for a National Lyceum contribution early in the New Year? Let each Lyceum take up a collection on the first Sunday in the New Year, and send it to our President, who is the Secretary to the Fund.

THE demand for our November issue was quite large, and in spite of the fact that a considerable extra number was printed, the edition is now exhausted. Everyone praises the account of Mrs. Britten's life it contained, and the excellent portrait of our dear friend. The block is from the last portrait taken of Mrs. Britten, and shows her as most of us knew her.

MR. J. J. MORSE, President of the Conference of the National Federation of Spiritualists, is fulfilling a series of engagements at Cardiff, Barry Dock, and Merthyr. He gave addresses at St. John's Hall on Sunday upon "The Evil of Good, and the Good of Evil," and "A Spirit's View of Jesus"; and at Roberts' Hall, on Monday evening, trance replies to some twelve questions submitted by those present.—"South Wales Daily News."

BIRTHDAY PARTY.—On Saturday, at the Spiritualists' Hall, Wellington Road, a select and numerous company were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Medcalf, of Heaton Norris, the object being the celebration of their daughter's (Miss E. A. Medcalf) 21st birthday. The young lady is an energetic leader in the Lyceum School attached to the place, and the Lyceum Conductor, Mr. Edwards, in proposing the usual compliment, spoke highly of her sterling qualities as a worker. She gracefully acknowledged the gift of many handsome presents, expressions of esteem, and good wishes for her future. A most enjoyable evening was spent.—"Stockport Chronicle."

## SOWERBY BRIDGE AND MRS. E. H. BRITTEN.

THE Sowerby Bridge Lyceum, in Open Session assembled, on Sunday, November 5th, 1899, passed the following resolution, on the motion of Mrs. Greenwood, seconded by Mr. Ernest Law (conductor):—

"We desire to express our high appreciation of the life work of Mrs. E. H. Britten. Her work lives in our midst in sweet remembrances of high and lofty sentiments expressed in lectures; in the possession of many literary expositions of the truth of Spiritualism, of which she was such a loyal adherent and advocate; in her hearty co-operation with Mr. H. A. Kersey and Mr. Alfred Kitson, thus giving us our "Manual," so full of genuine spirit teachings; and last, but not least, for the example left us which each officer and individual member can emulate, viz.: thy first and last duty upon earth, and all through thy life, shall be to seek for the principles of right, and to live them out to the utmost of thy power."

This was responded to by the whole Lyceum standing.

## THE NATIONAL SPIRITUALISTS LYCEUM ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE second annual gathering of the above-named Association, says the *Banner of Light*, took place in Chicago, on Friday, October 20th, meeting in the afternoon and evening. That old and tried Lyceum worker, J. B. Hatch, jun., was elected as Conductor for the ensuing year.

The financial aspect was ably seconded by the remarks and action of Mr. B. B. Hill, of Philadelphia, who was instrumental in raising one hundred and fifty dollars for the treasurer.

The trustees decided to issue a small lesson sheet each month, for use in Lyceums, each issue to contain four lessons.

The Annual Report of the Secretary, Mrs. Mattie E. Hull, was not of a very encouraging nature. The usual difficulties, of lack of funds, and want of interest in this branch of our work, being reported. But, at the end of the Associations' year nine charters had been issued to Lyceums. A system of certificates at 1s. and 6d. each is adopted, though what such refer to the report does not make clear. Thirty-one of the first, and twenty-five of the second, have been issued. Mr. Thomas Grimshaw was present at the meetings.

## IN MEMORIAM.

OLDHAM (Bartlam Place Lyceum).—WILLIE STEAD, aged 5 years, son of Mr. J. Stead, of 8, Honeywell Lane, Oldham, passed to the higher life on Friday, October 27th. Great sympathy is felt for the parents, who were so fond of their little boy.

He's gone to heaven before us,  
But he turns and waves his hand,  
Pointing to the glories o'er us,  
In that happy spirit land.

## The Golden Group.

FOUNDED 1890.

CONDUCTED BY AUNT EDITHA.

MOTTO:—LOVE, TEMPERANCE, PURITY.

**Membership.**—Membership in the GOLDEN GROUP is open to all who belong to a Spiritualist Progressive Lyceum.

**Rules.**—I. That I will endeavour to be kind and loving to all human beings, and every living thing. II. That I will try to be temperate in all things, and strive to abstain from using intoxicants and tobacco. III. That I will not use profane or vulgar language.

**Certificates.**—Every Member upon joining must apply for a Certificate of Membership. To obtain this you must either send direct to AUNT EDITHA, or hand to your Secretary, One Penny to cover the carriage of Certificate. All names of Members will be published in the LYCEUM BANNER every month.

**Special Notices.**—AUNT EDITHA will be glad to receive short letters from Members of the GOLDEN GROUP upon anything they think would interest the Group.

### OUR OCTOBER SESSION.—No. LXXIX.

I WAS exceedingly sorry at not being able to give you my customary report of our doings last month, but our Editor, "tiresome man," says Master Johnny, sent me a letter saying he was very sorry that he could not possibly find room for me in the BANNER last month. The fact was his account of Mrs. Britten, and the portrait, took up so much space that not only my letter, but several others as well, had to be abandoned. Fortunately we did not do much business at our October gathering, there were no names presented, and nothing of note transpired, though we had some capital singing and recitations, and the usual nice little refreshments. There was some talk about another Dance, but nothing was decided, the feeling being that we had better defer it until a later time. There is one thing I am pleased over, that is the increased interest there is being taken in our GROUP, and I really begin to think that some time in next year we shall enroll the Twothousandth Member, who will receive the presents I mentioned a little while ago. Well, I will not say any more about our October meeting, but at once proceed to report,

### OUR NOVEMBER ASSEMBLY.—No. LXXX.

Punctually to time the Grand Conductor took her position and opened the Assembly in the usual form. Grand Secretary, Eva Justlove, read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were duly confirmed. The Grand Treasurer reported the receipt of another generous donation from "An Old 'Groupite'" of £5 5s. 0d., which announcement was greeted with loud cheers, and a unanimous vote of grateful thanks was at once moved, seconded, and carried with acclamation.

The G.S. then announced the receipt of three letters, one each from Rothwell, Burnley, and Middlesbrough. The first one contained a nice letter from Mr. Joe Naylor, the Conductor, and three little poems. The second letter was from Miss Lily Ashworth, the Secretary of the Hammerton Street GOLDEN GROUP, and it included ten new names for our Roll; while the third one was from Mr. Thomas Beynon, Secretary of the Lyceum, and included three new names for our Roll.

On the motion of Walker Greenfield, the G.S. was requested to read to the assembly the above-mentioned letters, which she accordingly did, as follows:—  
From Mr. J. Naylor, Rothwell, nr. Leeds.

"DEAR AUNT EDITHA,—I now have the pleasure of writing to you, asking if you will please to publish the three poems enclosed? As this is the first attempt made in the Rothwell Lyceum I hope you will be able to print them in the BANNER, and I feel sure, if you do, it will

encourage it to go on, and try to get the scholars to continue to do so. We are having another contest for the last Sunday in the year, it is to be prose this time, not poetry. As Leaders we are doing our best to teach the children the right way, but we are the same here as they are at most other Lyceums, we are short of workers, but we intend to continue in the good work as long as we are able to do so, and we know that it is the workers that win. Hoping you will do your best and try to publish the poems sent,—I am, yours fraternally,

Rothwell Lyceum.

JOE NAYLOR, Conductor."

From Miss Lily Ashworth, Hammerton Street, Burnley.

"DEAR AUNT EDITHA,—I have now great pleasure in writing to you once more. We are still going on with our GROUP, and we are having an entertainment on Saturday, the 18th. I hope it will be a success. We hope that Daisy Dimple's Home will prove a success also; and I am looking forward to the time when we shall be able to send you another donation when we get a little more in the funds. We have had our photos taken, as we have told you, and Mr. Morse is going to put them in the BANNER for us, so you can look out for them. I have got some good news for you! I want ten certificates, the names are enclosed. Please forward them to 35, Wren Street, Gannow Lane, Burnley. I think that is all at present.—I remain, yours truly,

LILY ASHWORTH,

Saturday, Nov. 18th, 1899. Secretary of the GROUP."

From Mr. Thomas Beynon, Middlesbrough.

"DEAR AUNT EDITHA,—Will you please to forward me three certificates for three new members for the GOLDEN GROUP? I enclose the names. I shall do all I can to get all our Lyceum children to join.—I remain, yours respectfully,

THOS. BEYNON, Secretary,

Boundary Road Lyceum, Middlesbrough."

The letters were generously applauded, and on the motion of Horace Righton, seconded by Eva Budd, the thirteen new members were unanimously accepted, and their names ordered to be entered in the Roll, and certificates issued in due form. Several more letters are held over until next month.

With regard to the photograph Miss Ashworth mentions, she informed us that arrangements had been made with our genial Editor to have a large block made from it, and he has told her that it will appear in the NEW YEAR'S NUMBER OF THE LYCEUM BANNER, an announcement which called forth much approval.

The G.C. then said she regretted to say that the last account she had of the health of our dear friend, Mr. T. O. Todd, was that he is still far from well, and was compelled to take great care of himself. No doubt they had seen in the November BANNER, Daisy Dimple's nice little mention of the message we had sent our friend, and no doubt they all sent him their sympathies this time, as before? at which there were cries of "Yes, yes," and "Our best love, too, from all parts of the room.

As the writers of the three little poems were not present to read them, it was arranged that Eva Justlove, Gerald Mayman, and Master Johnny should each read one, which was done, in the order in which they will be printed.

### THE DRUNKARD'S HOME.

By HILDA WARD, AGE 14.  
In a dimly lighted cottage,  
Seated all around the hearth,  
Were some tiny, little children,  
Full of laughter, joy and mirth.

But all at once their laughter ceased,  
 For outside the door was heard  
 The voices and stag'ring footsteps  
 Of their parents whom they feared.  
 Then each to her little corner  
 Ran the children in their fright,  
 And in came the drunken parents,  
 Fighting and swearing with their might.  
 Their home was gloomy and cheerless,  
 The walls were dirty and bare,  
 The tables and chairs were broken,  
 Such a place was ne'er seen elsewhere.  
 And every day the parents came home  
 Drunken and worse than beasts,  
 While the little starving children  
 On dry crusts were left to feast.  
 How cheerless is the drunkard's home,  
 How void of sunshine and peace,  
 But soon shall dawn that joyous morn,  
 Then drunkards and strife shall cease.

## YOUR DUTY.

By ELSIE LUNN, AGE 11.

Children in your playtime  
 Mind whate'er you do,  
 Don't be cross or tiresome,  
 For it will not do.

But to all your playmates  
 Try to do what's right,  
 And to be as gentle  
 As the sun shines bright.

If one should choose a game  
 Do not against it go,  
 But always be agreeable  
 As the others do.

If your mother calls you,  
 Do not disobey,  
 But say goodbye to playmates,  
 For that is the best way.

## KIND DEEDS.

By HARRIET LUNN, AGE 13.

When you see a poor man begging,  
 Help him in his need;  
 If you cannot spare a copper,  
 Do him some kind deed.

Take him home to your own cottage,  
 Give him a kindly meal,  
 And he'll never forget your kindness,  
 Though it was not a deal.

If you see a poor old woman  
 Going up the street,  
 Heavily laden with provisions  
 That they have to eat,

Go and help her with the parcels,  
 Or do some other deeds,  
 Do not laugh and scoff at her,  
 But do to her what she needs.

Try to make this world the better  
 For your living in it,  
 By helping all where you can  
 In every passing minute.

On the question being put: Has any member anything to present for the good of this Assembly in particular, or the GOLDEN GROUP in general? Benny Lelton rose and gave notice of motion for our next meeting in the following terms:—"That this Grand Assembly of the GOLDEN GROUP do hold a Grand New Year Festival on Wednesday, January 3rd, 1900, and that it take the form of an Entertainment, Dance, and a Supper." Evidently this met with general

approval, for a chorus of approval greeted the reading of the notice. This concluded the business of the evening, and the remainder of the time was passed in the customary manner. The assembly duly closed in good order and harmony at the usual hour.

There, my dear friends, that is my November Report, and I hope our Editor will be able to find room for it this time. With love and good wishes to you all, affectionately yours,  
 AUNT EDITHA.

## Members Elected at the November Assembly.

MIDDLESBROUGH (Boundary Road).  
 1388 MESSELINE MATTOCK 1390 JOHN MATTOCK  
 1389 SARAH HALL.  
 BURNLEY (Hammerton Street).  
 1391 ELIZA HALSTEAD 1396 FRED. RICHMOND  
 1392 LUCY CRACH 1397 WALTER HOWARTH  
 1393 ELSIE SMITH 1398 ROBERT MASON  
 1394 HILDA SMITH 1399 FRANK HOWARTH  
 1395 EDITH SMITH 1400 HERBERT SAWLEY

## A TRIBUTE TO MRS. E. H. BRITTEN.

NO milk-white steed had she to ride,  
 Like Joan of Arc in times gone by;  
 But her voice was heard on every side,  
 Her words and works will never die.

To all she spoke a word of cheer,  
 That filled their hearts with love;  
 Taught us all burdens and all tears,  
 But fit us for our life above.

She brought us messages of love  
 From those not lost but gone before,  
 Which shows us life begun below  
 Will last for ever, ever more.

Her life well spent, she gained renown,  
 All praise to her who of her store did give,  
 She has gained at last a victor's crown,  
 Her name in many a home will live.

Though gone before, yet still we know  
 Her spirit hovers ever near,  
 And helps us mortals here below  
 To feel and see our way more clear.

Sowerby Bridge.

By ROSANNA RUSHWORTH.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.

## LANTERN LECTURES.

"THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF SPIRITUALISM IN THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN":

This Lecture, illustrated by a series of Splendid Scenes and Lantern Slides, shown by a powerful Bi-unial Oxy-hydrogen LIME-LIGHT APPARATUS will be given

By MR. J. J. MORSE,

AS FOLLOWS:—

ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13th, 1899,  
 FREE MASONS' HALL, MERTON ROAD, BOOTLE.  
 CHAIR TO BE TAKEN AT 8 P.M.

ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14th, 1899, THE  
 SPIRITUAL CHURCH, WINDING ROAD, HALIFAX.

Mr. Morse gives his services free, in aid of the Building Fund for the New Church.

ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20th, 1899, AT LEEDS.  
 Particulars will be announced in our weekly papers.

ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21st, 1899, THE  
 SPIRITUAL CHURCH, COLLYHURST, MANCHESTER.

Mr. Morse gives his services in aid of the Church Funds.

CHAIR TO BE TAKEN AT 7-45 P.M.

A number of new views have been added to the intensely interesting lecture.

# The Monthly Record.

## LYCEUM REPORTS.

ACCRINGTON, Argyle Street.—We are progressing very nicely, and on Saturday, October 28th, we held a potato pie supper and social, for the benefit of our Lyceum. In the evening the marching and calisthenics were well gone through; also there were recitations and songs given by the Lyceum scholars, after which prizes were given for the best singing and reciting. Mr. Myerscough, of Accrington, also gave palmistry for the benefit of the Lyceum. There was a large gathering, and the evening was spent most pleasantly.—Miss M. CROSS.

BRADFORD, Milton Hall.—We held our open session on Sunday, Nov. 5th, when we had a very good and interesting programme, consisting of recitals, pianoforte solos, and a reading. Recitals by the Misses M. A. and E. Jackson, and E. A. Simpson, and Messrs. H. L. Bates and Arthur Beardsworth; pianoforte solos by Miss Jackson and Mr. Rhodes; reading by Mr. Haigh; conductor Mr. G. Moore. About 55 present.—WM. SUTCLIFFE.

BIRMINGHAM, Cantata.—The second annual Cantata of the Bloomsbury (Birmingham) Lyceum was held at the Oddfellows' Hall, on the 9th and 10th November. The honours of the evening were divided between Mr. Allender, Mrs. Lawman, and Mr. Reeves. Mr. Allender's care and patience with the children under very difficult conditions as to facilities for rehearsal &c., were manifest in the excellent singing and acting. The children failed to do themselves full justice on the first evening, owing to lack of the usual full dress rehearsal, especially necessary in a piece of the intricacy of the one attempted, "The Enchanted Palace." On the second evening, however, all the true vivacity and brightness that the Lyceum system engenders were fully manifest, and we regretted that the principal songs did not give our best voices their full scale. Alice Green figured in the parts of Prince and Princess, whilst Emmy Rudder took the part of The Jester with a contagious jollity that sometimes visibly influenced the gravity of His Majesty, Mr. Barker, at inappropriate moments. The taste and fancy of Mrs. Lawman and her gifted family in the fashion and variety of the dresses, was highly applauded, and their very excellence would have warranted our visitors in wrongly thinking their origin was foreign to our own capacity and resource. Last, but not least in value and ingenuity was the construction of the excellent stage by Mr. Reeves. Its splendid proportions, and the ease of its adjustment, to somewhat difficult conditions, reflected the highest credit upon the most kindly and generous of our loving helpers. The stage property now in the possession of the Lyceum has led to the promotion of a Dramatic Society of adults, which we hope may be the means of materially assisting the financial resources of the spiritual movement.—B. H.

BLACKPOOL.—Mr. S. S. Chiswell conducted Lyceum anniversary on Sunday, the 19th. The church was crowded at night. The addresses were listened to with intense interest, holding the audience from beginning to end, his humour being much appreciated. On Monday, tea and entertainment, nearly 200 sitting down to tea, the entertainment being given by Lyceum scholars. Miss Mewis gave a mandolin solo, Miss Flo. Jennings songs, Lancashire recitation, Mr. Hirst, flag and action songs, drills, and

calisthenics by the children, from 3 to 50 years old. Mr. Howes, the society president, Mr. John Ainsworth, and Mr. Coupe spoke a few encouraging words.

DARWEN.—Our anniversary was held on Nov. 12th. Morning, an Open Session. Over 100 Lyceumists took part in the exercises. The collection amounted to £1 7s. 0d. In the afternoon and evening, two stirring addresses were given by Mr. E. W. Wallis, of London. Collections for the day amounted to £7 7s. 0d. On the following Saturday the Lyceum Annual Tea and Concert was held. After doing ample justice to the good things provided, the Lyceumists treated the audience to a capital programme of songs, recitations, sketches, etc. On Sunday, Nov. 20th, the annual election of officers took place, which resulted in the re-election of our conductor, Mr. H. Holgate; Mr. C. Pearce, as secretary; Miss R. Holden, treasurer. The Lyceumists have recently joined in the Watson's soap wrapper scheme, in the hope of winning a piano. The Lyceumists responded to the best of their ability, and they have been rewarded with, not a piano, but a Jones's Sewing Machine, valued at about ten guineas. The idea was our conductor's.—C. PEARCE, Sec.

GATESHEAD.—Mr. Seeker writes that Mr. and Mrs. Robson, of North Shields, visited them, and that Mr. W. Dowell Todd lectured in the Lyceum during the past month.

HEYWOOD.—On Saturday, Nov. 18th, the first Lyceum Tea Party and Entertainment was held in the Spiritual Temple. Tea was provided by the scholars of the Lyceum at which 70 persons sat down. The entertainment consisted of songs, recitations, etc. Songs were given by Miss Lizzie Pollitt, Miss Florry Howarth, and Mrs. Aaron Walker; recitations by the Misses Taylor, Hardman, Briggs, and Mr. W. Taylor; violin solos were given by Miss L. Pollitt and M. A. Hilton; accompanist, Miss M. Duckworth and Miss S. E. Pollitt. The drama "The Factory Girl" was very creditably given by Messrs. G. E. Taylor, A. Hilton, R. Westall, A. Walker, and L. Duckworth, and the Misses Duckworth, Walker, and Nicholls. The entertainment concluded with Tableaux Vivants. The chairman for the evening was Mr. Chisnall, of Oldham, who spoke of the good work the Lyceum had done, and urged the workers of Heywood to keep on, and they would see before long the result of their labours. On Sunday morning we had a surprise visit from Mr. Smith, of the Higher Broughton Lyceum, who, after we had gone through the ordinary routine of the Lyceum, gave a short address, urging the Lyceumists on, and giving them a word of advice. This is the first time that Mr. Smith has been to Heywood Lyceum, but we trust that it will not be the last. We in Heywood are just beginning to feel ourselves, and a visit or two from Mr. Smith will improve us a great deal. We thank him very much for this visit, and we hope that he will accept the invitation to visit us again.—G. E. TAYLOR.

MANCHESTER, Tipping Street.—On Oct. 22nd, splendid recitations given by a friend from the Junction Lyceum. Very well rendered. Nov. 5th, very fair attendance of Lyceumists and leaders. Good recitations by Misses Harriet Roughsedge and Hilda Taberner. Nov. 19th, good muster of scholars, and very good recitations given in view of our open sessions on Sunday, Nov. 26th, by the Misses Annie Cheetwood, Isabella Taberner, and Master Alfred Sims. Marching and calisthenics gone through very well.—GEORGE VERNON.

MANCHESTER, Higher Broughton.—Our Lyceum held its Annual Tea Party on Nov. 11th, when upwards of 70 Lyceumists sat down to a free tea, generously subscribed to by the Lyceum Officers and friends. A very enjoyable afternoon and evening was spent. After tea we had a few recitations and songs by Lyceumists, and then they indulged in various amusements, which passed the evening away harmoniously. We also had a distribution of prizes to our Lyceumists on Nov. 12th, when 12 prizes were given, also 3 special prizes by Mr. J. Jackson, to Lyceum scholars. Attendance at Lyceum very good.—W. CRUISE, Sec.

OLDHAM, (Bartlam Place).—On Saturday, October 28th, a Lyceum Tea Party and Entertainment was given by the scholars. Our Assistant Conductor, Mr. N. Spencer, presided. There was a capital programme, consisting of songs, duets, solos, and dialogues. The entertainment was much enjoyed by a large audience. On Sunday, Nov. 19th, good attendance, marching in time. Calisthenics could be better done if a little more strength was rendered with the different movements.—W. S. C.

PRESTON, Weavers' Hall.—On Saturday evening, Nov. 11th, a Limelight Entertainment was held in connection with our Lyceum, the proceeds to be devoted to the purchasing of prizes for the children. The subjects were "The Land of Gold," and "John Ploughman's Pictures." The programme was interspersed with songs and recitations by the following persons: Wm. Thompson, Master Fred. Fisher, Miss Town, Alice L. Fisher, Mary A. Howarch, and Polly Hodson. The committee desire to thank all those who took part in the entertainment. Sunday, Nov. 12th, we held our monthly Open Session. The responses to the Gold and Silver Chain Recitations were taken up with alacrity. Marching and calisthenics excellent. Recitations by Mabel Town, Maggie Wilkinson, Annie Tearl, Girty Cartmel, Alice L. Fisher, and Ellen Pools. Our Lyceum, under the conductorship of Mr. J. Crookall, was progressing in a very satisfactory manner, but I am sorry to say since my last report our conductor has resigned his office. Band of Hope Meeting Monday, 4th Dec. Speaker, Mr. J. Brookare.—C. PARKINSON.

SHAW.—At our Open Session, on October 22nd, in the afternoon, recitations were given by Mrs. Fielding, and the Brothers Jackson. Marching and calisthenics were done in fine order, conducted by the Misses Shephard and Jackson. In the evening our local mediums, who rendered their services free, gave good clairvoyance, and we thank them.—J. B. JACKSON.

SOVERBY BRIDGE.—Nov. 5th, Open Session, which was especially dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Britten. The pieces chosen from the "Manual" were her own composition, and in all the exercises the children seemed to realize the real meaning of the meeting. The conductor, Mr. Law, called on various members to give expression to their thoughts after each verse of the musical reading, thus giving the opportunity for individual opinion. If Mrs. Britten had been present she must have felt glad, as the honest, simple expressions were uttered. One lady friend composed a few verses in the time intervening between morning and afternoon session, which were heartily received as her tribute of love and respect. After a duet, a reading, and a recitation, the BANNERS were distributed, on opening which was a splendid picture of the lady we had had so much to say about. Needless to say tongues were soon busy, and then after a parting song, the bell gave us liberty for further talk on this absorbing theme.—J. G.

STOCKPORT.—Glad to report useful, practical work by our compact and hard-working Lyceum. Nov. 11th, at the Central Hall, the quarters of the Gospel Temperance Union, a monthly body who provide excellent entertainments as a counter attraction to the public-house, a capital programme was rendered by members of the Lyceum, with two exceptions. Mr. J. Pickshall made the admirable arrangements; the Lyceum conductor (Mr. Edwards) presided, and the attendance was good. Evidently we were appreciated, as a further invitation to fill up an evening in January next has been given us. The result of our Cheadle Village propaganda (see November Banner) is a room for progressive spiritual services, which will be opened there by local friends on Sunday, Nov. 26th. How true the saying, "A little child shall lead them." We intend to be up to the standard. To be of use ought to be the chief aim of life.—T. E.

### DISTRICT COUNCILS' REPORT.

THE Societies in the Teeside District are so few and wide apart in this district that you will pardon me not sending you reports so frequently as the more favoured counties, Yorkshire and Lancashire, are able to do. In visiting the few Societies around here, I never lose an opportunity of pleading for the Lyceum cause. At times I meet with bitter opposition from those in authority, who have some strange ideas of Spiritualism, and regard its messages and teachings as being suitable to adults only. I am pleased to say these are in a minority, and I hope the seeds sown by the many will ultimately be productive of good. Hartlepool made an effort a short time ago, but it was short lived. I am hopeful of them trying again shortly, and shall do all I can to stimulate them. I have urged the friends at Crook to form a Lyceum for their children, and promised to assist them. I have lately written them on the matter, and am hopeful of a favourable reply. (I have just learned from our Union's Secretary they have ordered a supply of *Lyceum Manuals*, and are going to open one. I shall visit them as early as possible). I visited Spennymoor Lyceum on October 29th, and found the attendance small. I conducted the session at their request, and had good attention and conduct. I hope to see them in a better state when I visit them again.

MARY H. NAYLOR. D.V.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS.

STOCKPORT.—December 9th, Lyceum Social. December 25th, production on elaborate scale of Operetta "Aladdin"; splendid music, new scenery, appropriate costumes, good caste of character.

LEEDS LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.—The next quarterly conference will be held on Saturday, January 6th, at the Psychological Hall, Clay Pit Lane, Leeds. Business at 3 p.m. Social and Coffee Supper afterwards.—J. W. WEBSTER, Sec.

MIDLAND SPIRITUAL TRACT ENTERPRISE.—One thousand improved leatherette, gold-lettered cases for the pocket, full of tracts for the times, quite up to date, are now waiting for distributors. The cost is only 3d., post free, and it is still more "blessed to give than to receive." Seven thousand tracts have been distributed, but what are they among forty millions of people? At Christmas I intend to give ten valuable presents to the ten distributors who have given away the largest number of tracts. Bevan Harris, Radcliffe-on-Trent.

## Lyceum Lesson for our Children.

It is of the first importance, both to the future of every child and to the growth of our holy cause, that the Lyceum be sustained by all parents whose minds have become emancipated by the approach of Spiritualism. If we have any views, any convictions, any persuasions, as to right or wrong, as to human character and destiny that we think are worth holding, we should do our utmost to give them to our children.

### THE POSITION OF THE CHURCH.

**H**OW do we view the position of the church of to-day? That they are lavishing love and thought, time and money in mistaken ways and in pursuit of unreal objects.

What is the unreal object?

That they are merely drifting with the tide, carried along by the currents that move their social set; also much power is lost arguing at shadowy burdens instead of being expended in lifting the real burdens that crush out the lives of humanity.

What has been the one purpose of the church of the past?

Saving souls, and it mattered not what a person's conditions was in this world, or how he should get through, if he was only sure of escaping hell and entering heaven after death.

What was the creed?

Probation on this side of the grave—on the other side a fixed and eternal result.

What is the verdict of a certain teacher of religion?

It is no use to work for the re-construction of the present order of things, the world is a wreck bound to sink—our only hope is to get off as many of the passengers and crew as we can, and let her go.

What has been taught from the pulpit?

Trying to persuade men to accept their scheme of salvation which they say has been revealed to them, that Jesus came from heaven to earth to suffer, teach, and die; to those who accept this scheme they are to be saved and those who do not are to be everlastingly lost.

What do we all need to be saved from?

Evil, suffering, and ignorance, and taught how to live.

What are our bodies like?

Machines, and they will run smoothly and easily if only the conditions of health are understood and observed.

What element is in Christianity?

That of a dogma beyond which it is impious to advance, and freedom of thought and latitude of opinion are not tolerated. Reason is dethroned, free thought strangled, and the world held in awe by the mummied speculations of the past.

Where is the battle ground for freedom?

Within the fold of Spiritualism, for its mission is to discard mental bondage, warfare and crime, and those who surrender reason to the church are indeed slaves; in the past we have worshipped God and Jesus Christ, now, what is far better, and more reasonable, let us help humanity.

What is the basic truth of Spiritualism?

That man is a spirit, that no death can overtake him, he enters the Spiritual plane of life, can revisit the earth and be for all time a ministering angel.

What is its success due to?

To the fact that it appeals to the common people and has made more converts in its short career than has the church in three centuries.

## Official Bulletin.

### BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

FOUNDED, MAY, 1890.

Officers for 1899-1900.

President—

Mr. J. J. MORSE, Florence House, Osnaburgh Street, London, N.W.

Past President—

Mr. JNO. VENABLES, Hydesville, Foden Road, Walsall.

Treasurer—

Mr. J. SUTCLIFFE, Sowerby Street, Sowerby Bridge.

Secretary—

Mr. ALFRED KITSON, Royd Street, Hanging Heaton, Dewsbury.

Executive:

Mrs. H. NAYLOR, 33, Prince Arthur Street, Middlesborough.

Mr. S. S. CHISWELL, 11 and 13, Renshaw Street, Liverpool.

Mr. T. O. TODD, 7, Winifred Terrace, Sunderland.

Mr. ALBERT WILKINSON, 10, Percy Street, Nelson.

The Plans, Purposes and Objects of the Union will, in part, be better understood by the following short extracts from its Constitution:—

#### OBJECTS.

The objects of this Lyceum Union are to promote the welfare of the Lyceum Movement, by (a) An Annual Movable Conference; (b) District Assemblages, when and where necessary; (c) Extending the work in new directions; (d) Bringing Lyceums into closer sympathy, and promoting greater uniformity in the manner of working them; (e) Encouraging the publication of suitable literature; and (f) Such other methods as may be found necessary.

#### UNION.

The Union shall be a Federal Union of the Progressive Lyceums of the United Kingdom. Any Progressive Lyceum can join this Union by instructing the Secretary to place its name on the roll; such instruction shall imply assent to this Constitution. The Union charges no fee for entrance. The rate of subscription from each Lyceum enrolled is one penny for every name on the Lyceum register, to be paid in advance. When this is paid the Lyceum is entitled to full benefits.

#### ADVANTAGES OF MEMBERSHIP.

The Union offers distinctive advantages to its Members in the form of special cheap terms for books, such as Outlines of Spiritualism; The Spiritual Songster; and The Lyceum Manual.

#### REPRESENTATION AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

Representatives to the Annual Conference shall be duly appointed by the various Lyceums joining the Union. Those Lyceums which have under 50 members on their register shall be entitled to send one delegate; those who have over 50, but under 100, shall be entitled to send two delegates; and those who have over 100 shall be entitled to send three delegates; which number shall be the limit of representation allowed to any one Lyceum.

#### EXECUTIVE.

There shall be three Officers, viz.: a President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, to be elected annually at the Conference. There shall also be a Committee of four others, elected annually by the Conference.

#### CERTIFICATES.

A Certificate of Enrolment, printed in colours, duly signed by the President and Secretary of the Union, and a copy of the Constitution of a Lyceum, is duly furnished, free of charge, to every Lyceum on entering the Union.

The Secretary of the Union will at all times willingly furnish further information as to joining the Union, and as to its methods of work, and the advantages it can offer. While he will also be pleased to arrange for visits to institute new, revive lapsed, or encourage existing Lyceums, in any part of the kingdom. All communications to be addressed as above, and where reply's are needed a stamped and addressed envelope should be sent.

### LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCILS.

BRADFORD DISTRICT.—Secretary, Mr. H. Ainsworth, 9, Morley Street, Garnett Street, Bradford, Yorks.

HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD DISTRICT.—Secretary, Mr. G. E. Baker, Cross Hill, Greetland, nr. Halifax.

LEEDS DISTRICT.—Secretary, Mr. J. W. Webster, 9, Progress Terrace, Mount Pleasant, Leeds.

MIDLAND DISTRICT.—Secretary. No information.

NORTH-EAST-LANCASHIRE DISTRICT.—Mr. Thos. Wilkinson, 13, Salt Hill Terrace, Clitheroe.

MANCHESTER DISTRICT.—Secretary. No information.

ROCHDALE DISTRICT.—Secretary. No information.

\* \* Will District Council Secretaries please supply all omissions or corrections so that above list may be completed.



## Our Daisies' Page.

Edited by Daisy Dimple.

**M**Y DEAR DAISIES,—Here we are—right into the month of December, and another Christmas nearly come round. I have been wondering all day what I should put into the Daisy page for this month, and which ever way I tried to think, my mind always would turn to dear old Father Christmas, and even now as I sit near the fire with my paper and pens I cannot get away from his jolly old face, and the wonderful heaps of toys which we always see in his pictures. What a sweet and good-natured old man he must be, to take such an interest in children, all these long, long years, for not only can our fathers and mothers remember his Christmas visit, but grandfathers and grandmothers can tell us about his coming to visit them, and that their grandfathers and grandmothers used to speak about his generous gifts. I am just wishing very hard indeed that he would come into my room now, whilst I am awake, so that I could have a talk with him, and then I could tell you all about him, but his visits are always made so slyly, and only once a year, that we don't get a chance to make his acquaintance.

\* \* \*

Hallo! there's a knock at the door, I wonder who it can be, both mother and Bob are out and it's not time for them to return yet, I must go and see.

What a surprise! There standing in the snow was an old man exactly like Father Christmas, and although it was quite dark outside I could see the merry sparkle in his eyes, and his broad, sweet smile, as he stood before me. I was not afraid of him the least bit, and asked him to come in as easily and as naturally as if I had known him all his life.

Shaking the sleet off his long cloak, and kicking the snow off his boots, he came in, and I led him to the sitting room where I had begun to write the Daisy page.

Getting him to take off his thick furry coat was an easy matter for the room was very warm, so I put it beside his hat on the couch, pulled the armchair near the fire, and got a stool for his feet.

"Thank you, Daisy, I am glad to find you so very attentive to the comforts of old folks" he said.

"I could not help it," I replied. "I am so delighted to see you, and want you to stay ever so long, I have so many things to talk with you about, so many things to ask you, and—"

"Yes, yes, Daisy, I understand, I also have things I want to talk to you about—"

"With me, how is it possible I can help you, or tell you anything that you don't already know much better than I do?"

"Just so, Daisy, but you see I never get a chance to talk to the boys and girls—whenever I go to their houses, they are always in bed and fast asleep—you see I cannot visit any children in the day time, it takes me 365 days and 364 nights to get all my toys and presents made in time for Christmas eve, so you will see I have only one night left in which to distribute them."

"Do you work all the twenty-four hours every day?"

"Certainly I do, how could I manage all my work otherwise?"

"Then how have you managed to get a night off, and come and see me?"

"Well, for the past week I have worked during my dinner hour," said the old man laughingly.

"Well, it does seem curious that you should select me for your host."

"Not in the least. Don't you write the Daisy page in THE BANNER" he said, pulling out his pipe and filling it with tobacco.

I was glad he got out his pipe and lit it, because that showed he was not in a hurry, and I was anxious he should not go away too soon.

"Yes, I write for the Lyceum Daisies—when I feel inclined."

"I thought so, and that is the reason why I have come to see you" said the old man, and as he said it I fancied I saw a tear getting ready to drop from his eye.

"But what can I do for you in the Daisy page?"

"A great deal" he said, "the boys and girls now-a-days have got so self-conceited and opinionated that they will not believe what their parents tell them, though I am glad this does not apply to Lyceum children, but yet I want you to tell all the boys and girls that I am going to be like grandfather's clock."

"Do you mean to say that you are going to stop short and never go again" I said, with a certain amount of dread.

"That's just it," said he, "the game's dashed up and the shop shut up," and then the tears trickled down his cheeks, for he could hold them back no longer.

"Well, I'll tell you exactly all about it" said he, "if you will listen patiently, and then I want you to put it all in the Daisy page."

"I'll do that with pleasure," I replied, "I was just wishing for something to write about Christmas when you came in, here are pens, paper and ink."

At this Father Christmas cheered himself up, re-lit his pipe which had gone out, and whilst the smoke was ascending in rings to the ceiling, I took down Father Christmas' grievances—word for word—as he spoke them very slowly, at the same time fixing his gaze on the fire as though he saw therein pictures of the things he spoke of.

\* \* \*

### FATHER CHRISTMAS AND HIS GRIEVANCES.

"FIRST of all Daisy, you will remember I told you I had to work hard for 365 days and 364 nights every year to get all my Santa Claus presents collected, and then I had to work dreadfully hard to get them all distributed on the only night I had left. I suppose you will want to know when I got my holidays. Well, I got only one day and one night off every four years,—don't look surprised, Daisy, it's a fact, and that holiday was on the 29th of February every leap year. During the past year I have been working harder than ever, for there are more presents wanted this

year than ever before, and I was looking forward to my usual holiday next year on the 29th of February, and when I bought Old Moore's almanack for 1900, and was going to put a red mark opposite the 29th of February, when I found that February had only 28 days. I complained to Old Moore about it, but he says it's not his fault, because he doesn't make the almanack. Now, next year ought to have been leap year, and I should have had my holiday, and don't you think it's too bad, Daisy, for me to be treated in that fashion!"

I was just about to tell old Father Christmas why 1900 was not a leap year, when he interrupted me by saying "Never mind, Daisy, it cannot be altered now, because all the almanacks for 1900 are printed, and what cannot be cured must be endured. But that is not all I have to complain about. Every year my work gets harder and harder, and everybody gets more difficult to please. Now, a good few years ago, all that was expected of me was that I would fill one stocking for each of the children in every house. Now, they all want two stockings filled, and they are not content with their own stockings, because they think them too small (how greedy) and actually go and seek out the biggest stockings they can find, and it's not fair. Then, a few years ago, the elder children began to put their stockings up, and to make all alike, I gave them presents. But that was not all, the fathers and mothers thought they would have a try, and so the things got worse and worse, and because I wanted to make all happy I attended to everybody's wants."

I was just about to say that it did look rather severe on him, when he continued as though he were not listening to me.

"Nor is that the worst, Daisy, for a few years ago, when I put a pretty Christmas card, a few sweets or chocolates, and a penny toy into a stocking, the children were delighted. And if I put a little book with just one colored picture, it was something to talk about for a whole year, but now—oh—well, there must be colored pictures on every page inside, and on the outside as well; and as for penny toys, why they are treated as rubbish. Only last Christmas I gave one boy a beautiful toy grocer's shop, with a man at the counter, and real tea boxes, and packages with real sugar and sweets in them, and he cried because the shop had not electric light in."

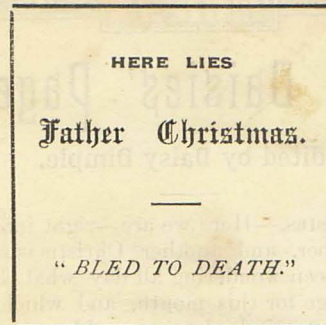
I saw now that the tears were again coming into the old man's eyes, but I said nothing, and only took down what he further said.

"Then, again, when the young ladies began putting their stockings up I did what I could for them, and put sometimes a sound sensible book, sometimes a cookery book, and with such a present they were as happy as a sweetheart could be, but now! Why these young ladies when they go out with their sweethearts, actually take them to a jeweller's window, and point out the handsome ring or brooch, or even a gold watch which they hope Santa Claus will bring them, things which cost heaps of money, and then, for fear of being called "stingy" I must do my best to get something exactly like what they want."

"But, Daisy, it gets worse and worse, the fathers and mothers are just as bad—even worse—the mothers go out with the fathers, and they just scheme and scheme as to how much they can bleed out of the poor old man—Father Christmas,—Mother casts her eyes on a 'guaranteed real mahogany' sideboard only £21 10s. worth £30, and father graciously hints he would like that easy chair next it, the

one with the foot-rest, and bookstand, you see,—Daisy, it's really coming so strong that I am going to announce that old Father Christmas is *dead*—dead—" Just then he rushed round the room to where his cloak and hat were, but I urged him to stay.

"No," he said, "I've stood it for years, and the climax has come, put on my tombstone—"



"Oh, Father Christmas," I said, "you will surely give Daisy a Christmas gift?"

"What would you like?" said he.

"Oh, not much"

The thing that girlhood chooses with;  
Confuses with; amuses with;  
The thing affection oozes with—

"Yes," said he—

A kiss, a laughing kiss!

"And you shall have it."

And I got it, too.

\* \* \*

"Come, Daisy, wake up; you have gone to sleep instead of writing the Daisy page."

And there was mother, rousing me up. I looked round the room, there was no tobacco smoke, nor smell of any, nor there was there any snow outside, nor was the paper written upon, but anyhow I determined I would write it all, and so you have it.

Good-bye, until next month, and a Merry—Very Merry Christmas to you all, is the wish of

Your loving friend,

*Daisy Dimple.*

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