

# THE LYCEUM BANNER.

A Spiritualist Magazine for Old and Young.

VOL. IX.

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No. 99.

## OUR WORKERS.

### BRIEF SKETCH OF MY LIFE.

WILLIAM MASON,  
BORN JULY 19TH, 1856,  
At Stretham, near Ely,  
Cambridgeshire.

I CAN remember being taken to the Wesleyan Sunday School when very young, and from my earliest thoughts I was spiritually inclined. Perhaps this is owing to my father and mother being so at the time. Nothing very striking took place in my life till I got up to about 12 years; then I began to take a greater interest in the school and chapel, going to all the meetings, taking good care never to be late. I remember once being very much affected at a farewell sermon by Rev. Mr. Russell, at Stretham Wesleyan Chapel, who spoke on death. I was more frightened than any thing, which was increased by some of them speaking of the world coming to an end. I think a great responsibility rests on such people for talking in that way.

Coming along till I was about 16 or 17 years of age, I left home for service on a farm in the country. Here I thought I might do pretty much as I liked as having left home, I had no one to look after me. It was not long before a friend gave me an invitation to the Baptist Chapel. The preacher was a young man; he addressed himself to the young, and I made up my mind to be a good lad. I attended the meetings, and became very much affected until it was a very serious matter with me. I went night after night, and got no relief, and no one tried to give me any. I had to fight my way through by myself. At last one night I could not hold any longer, so in the middle of the meeting I got up and gave out the following verse:

O for a heart to praise my God,  
A heart from sin set free;  
A heart that always feels thy blood,  
So freely spilt for me.

Having made known my thoughts and feelings, I went home what I called happy, and I tried to live happy.

I removed from there to another part of the country, to Oakworth, Yorkshire; here I connected myself with the Wesleyans, and was a teacher for some years at this place. We had a good minister, Rev. G. H. Shafto, who arranged some special services, and very successful they were; so much so that we branched out to a neighbouring village, and took



MR. W. MASON.

and happier. I visited all the lowest of the lodging houses in the town, talked and prayed with the men and women, and got many to lead better lives; and to-day I can see some of the fruits of my labours.

One day at my work I had to go a journey with a workman, and during the conversation the subject of Spiritualism was mentioned. Of course I did not know anything about it. I was asked my idea of it, and I said the only thing I knew was that of the Sister of the Good Templar Lodge, who said she would hover over us and watch us: so I began to think, and I asked my companion if I could be allowed to go to their meeting, to which he said he would see, and he did, but it was a long time before I got into this circle. When I got into it, I was soon made leader of it, and I believe the first description I got was of the young woman that made the promise to hover near to us; they even gave me the colour of the regalia, and the letters on it, that she used to wear in the Lodge Room. All the sitters were strangers to me, and had never been to the place nor seen the young woman. I also received tests of my home and many other things. It was one of the best circles that I was ever in, but things crept in that made a discord, and so we did not get on as well as we might have done.

At this stage the Society was formed in Burnley; I joined

the place by storm: one public house had to shut up. I became a teetotaler, and was made a member of the Good Templar Lodge. I found true friends, some that I shall never forget; some have passed on to the other side of life, and I hope to meet them in the future, and have a grand welcome. I became so religious that I thought it a sin to go to a concert: I was getting on, was I not?

A member of the Lodge was taken ill and passed on, and she left a message for us all. I shall never forget it; it was this: "Keep together; I will hover over you." I myself was taken ill, and was near passing on, and very much wanted to go, but it was not permitted, and I recovered. Circumstances forced me to leave and come to Burnley, and here I joined my old friends the Wesleyans, and became a teacher in the Sunday School, joined the Good Templars and the temperance bodies; and as I worked for them all, I tried my best to make humanity better

it, and left the Wesleyan Body. I worked quietly for a time, and went to a few circles. At one that I attended I got tests of a sister of mine that none of Burnley people knew; this helped to make me stronger. Another little incident came to me that was very striking; it was this: a little girl that controlled a medium asked me if she could do anything for me, and I said—"Yes: please go to my home, 200 miles away, and have a look at my father and mother, and come back and tell me how they are and what they are doing." She said she would do it, but I was not to tell the medium after she had left her. I let the medium go home, which was ten miles from Burnley, and in two days I had a letter from the medium's husband, with the desired information in it. She had been controlled at the tea table, and told it. I wrote home to my father and mother to ask if it was correct, and I had a letter back to the effect that all was correct.

### MR. MASON'S IDEA OF CONDUCTING A LYCEUM.

It may be I have taken a job in hand that I cannot do so well; anyway, if I do my best, spirits can do no better than their best.

First of all, then, there must be a practical life in the Conductor, for an example to the young. It is not an easy matter to be a Conductor of a Lyceum, that is, if you want it to be a good one. It has cost me many hundreds of hours of earnest thought to get to where I am.

Next is punctuality: Never allow a minute to be lost. Remember you cannot make one, and if you allow one minute on the first session, they will take two at the next and so on.

Invocation: Let it be short and to the point. Never say anything you do not mean, and let the Lyceum see your conduct in harmony with what you say.

Be sure to have order all the way through. In the Musical Reading have cheerful singing, trying to get all to take part. In Silver and Golden Chain Recitations, after they have gone through, do not take them through three or four times, but ask them to remember them, and try to carry them out in their everyday life. Do not preach a sermon from every recitation, nor too many of them.

Exercises: Try to get all to take part in them; have some lively marching tune, so all can march in harmony, and go through the Chain March as well. Go through them every week, and try to impress on the minds of the children that to do them everyday would do them good.

Calisthenics: Take about two series of them at once, so that they do not get tired of them, and be sure never to miss them.

Lessons: After calisthenics a short practice of new tunes; then lesson, either in groups or from the platform. If you take it from the platform, let it be something you can illustrate on the blackboard, so as to make it more interesting. Let the lessons be short, and let the subjects be on many topics: first, to know themselves and their relation to each other, the influences that surround them, and how to cope with them.

All these things are great subjects to deal with, and I think the Lyceum is the proper place to teach them in.

Our young men are being developed into speakers in our Lyceum, and to my mind this is one of our most important subjects. They should instruct themselves, that is, they should practise speaking independent of control, and if they have a control able to use their powers, then they will have

helped by their studies both themselves and the controlling intelligences also.

I speak this out as my idea of dealing with those in the Lyceum. I not only speak of it but I have got it in working in our Lyceum, and am proud to hear them give their short speeches in the Lyceum.

Much depends on the way in which Lyceums are governed. They should all be on one level; no high, no low, but all brothers and sisters, teaching the one grand principle that all men are my brothers, all women are my sisters, and that we live to make this world brighter and better for us having lived in it.

Such are my ideas of conducting the Lyceum. I feel that this is such a vast subject to deal with that I am not able to do so to its full extent.

[Specially contributed to the Lyceum Banner.]

## LORD OF HIMSELF.

BY ANNIE E. FITTON.

### CHAPTER III.—Continued.

Ralph looked up hastily and pleadingly, fearing he knew not what, and dreading revelations which the boy should be the last to hear. She was so injudicious that not even her love for her son could restrain her tongue where Ralph was concerned.

"Now mother, please don't scold Ralph, or you will drive him away."

"He has been here long enough as it is; you won't sleep if you talk too much."

"Mother is right," said Ralph, who had noted a look of weari-ness on the boy's face and feared to excite him further. "I'll say good night now, old fellow, you'll be better able to talk to-morrow."

"Come in before you go to the bank, will you Ralph?"

"If I may," and with this conditional promise the brothers parted.

Guy's illness proved to be a long and a tedious one, as was at first feared, the fall had injured the thigh, and abscesses forming, the poor boy was quite taken off his feet and for some months was confined to his bed. He bore the pain better than the enforced inaction, which tried him sorely. Ralph devoted most of his spare time to interest and amuse him, and Doris was equally as undefatigable in her attentions.

Poor Ralph suffered as keenly as did Guy. Remorse and deep regret for the consequences of his passionate outburst robbed him of his peace of mind and impelled him to feel no sacrifice too great if by any means he could atone for the injury he had inflicted. The fear that it might prove a permanent one haunted him like a nightmare and both the present and the future were clouded over by the dark foreboding. Only Doris knew the full depths of his remorse, and the keen bitterness of his repentance. Guy dimly guessed at something of his brother's feelings, and by making light of his sufferings tried to ease the burden which he knew Ralph was carrying.

Mrs. Cardwell maintained a cold indifference towards him and would have preferred to banish him wholly from Guy's room, but this was out of the question, the boy must be amused by someone, and none succeeded in this as did Ralph. His resources seemed inexhaustible and his patience simply untiring. When weary of lying and restless with the pain and the enforced inaction, Ralph would carry him

about with a deftness of touch and a gentleness of movement which no one else could imitate or acquire. When conversation flagged, Ralph would suggest some game or ingenious puzzle, or produce an amusing story, and if these failed to please or to soothe the irritated nerves of the suffering boy. Ralph would bring his violin and improvising some soft melody, would find to his delight, that the sweet notes had soothed his brother to sleep, and he would steal away with a sigh of satisfaction.

To Ralph his violin was an unfailing consoler; it lightened the boy's heart of much of its bitterness, importing an element of harmony into the discord and irritations which were part of his life at this time.

His work at the bank was irksome in the extreme to him. The routine wearied him by its sameness, and he felt something like a caged bird beating its wings in a vain effort to escape. There seemed no scope for his energies, no stimulus to exertion in this monotonous desk work and money-grubbing, as he contemptuously called it. To his father the Bank has enchanted ground, the centre and circumference of his thoughts and aspirations, and that his eldest son should be in the business from so different a standpoint was a disappointment and a continual annoyance to him. In justice to Ralph it must be said that he did honestly try at this time to overcome his repugnance and identify himself more closely with the interest of the firm. He felt he owed this much to his father, if only as some reparation for the past, and as he was a youth of considerable resolution he made up his mind as a matter of duty to set his own preferences on one side and make the best of the position he was placed in. But only for a time he told himself, a more alluring path might one day open before him, and a long cherished ambition be then within his grasp.

From a child music had for him a fascination and a charm which he could feel but not understand. A street piano or a strolling band filled his childish heart with rapture, and the first time he heard a church organ was a red-letter day to the little lad, who listened with all his soul in his eyes, conscious of emotions it would have puzzled him to explain.

His father, after much persuasion on Ralph's part, allowed him to include the study of music amongst subjects of much greater importance in the father's eyes, and the progress he made in both the practise and the theory of music astonished his teacher and delighted himself. With the violin he seemed the most at home, and it became to him alike, inspirer and consoler. With the discovery of a power to improvise came the longing to catch the fleeting melodies as they passed from brain to hand and give them a more objective existence. Here was the secret of his ambition, and it was as a composer he longed to distinguish himself. No wonder, with dreams such as these, a stool in his father's bank seemed a very prosaic alternative, and the boy had rebelled openly and secretly against a career so opposed to his own tastes. But Mr. Cardwell was immovable in the position he had taken up. Neither argument nor entreaty could convince him that his son would be anything but a fool in refusing to follow in his father's footsteps for the sake of pursuing a mere "will-o'-the-wisp," as he contemptuously designated the profession the boy hankered after.

Thus, short of actual rebellion and wilful disregard of his father's wishes, Ralph had been compelled to yield to the pressure put upon him, which he had done, it must be confessed, with a bad grace, which had irritated his father, and widened the breach between them. And now, this terrible catastrophe had come about, and present and future were alike clouded over.

Only one course opened before him; duty, stern and imperious, beckoned him on, and with a courage born almost of despair he resolved to follow her guiding hand, put self and its discontented longings firmly on one side, and try if he could not in some measure give practical proof of the sincerity of his repentance. The task he had set himself was no easy one, prosaic and commonplace though it was, and with patience almost exhausted to distaste for his work, amounting to an actual loathing, poor Ralph was tempted many times to give up the struggle, and take his destiny into his own hands.

But this would involve a separation from Guy, which, in the boy's present condition was simply impossible, and thus duty and affection conquered, and though the contest was a hard one it was fought bravely and was not without its effect in moulding the character of my young hero.

A lovely day in early June found Ralph hurrying from business with quick footsteps, his long legs skimming the ground and an eager anticipation brightening his face. It was Saturday afternoon, and he and Doris had arranged to transport Guy to a lovely ravine some two miles distant from the town. Here they were to spend the long summer's afternoon, taking tea at a little cottage overlooking the glen, where lived an old servant of the banker's family. It was the first outing the boy had been able to take since his accident, and was looked forward to by him with the rapture which only those who have been long deprived of their freedom can understand.

Ralph, as soon as he got out of the town, took to his heels, but came to a full stop in the arms of another youth who was coming in an opposite direction, nearly knocking him down by the force of the collision.

"I say, do you want to floor me!" ejaculated the other, as he managed with difficulty to maintain the perpendicular, "What a steam engine you are, to be sure, Ralph Cardwell."

"I beg your pardon, Charlie, I hope I haven't hurt you!"

"You have shaken my nerves I can tell you," laughed the youth, "and you've crushed my button-hole, you clumsy fellow," looking ruefully at the delicate flower which adorned his jacket.

"I'm awfully sorry, but what a swell you are, Charlie, are you going to a wedding?"

"Not I, such ceremonies are not in my way; I am going to a picnic in Grantham's Woods, our people are arranging it just at the last minute; will you join us, Ralph?"

"I can't, thanks, I have an engagement."

"Oh bother, its nothing important, throw it up and come along, we are expecting lots of fun."

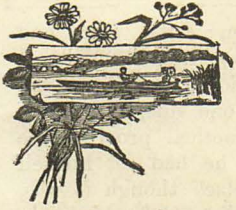
"I can't Charlie, and it is very important. We are taking Guy to the Glen and he has been talking of it all the week."

"Poor little chap, is he getting better, Ralph?"

"I don't know," said Ralph, gravely, a pained look crossing his face, "but I must not stay talking, I want to get home."

*(To be continued.)*

SOUTH-EAST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL.—The next Quarterly Council Meeting will be held at the "Spiritual Temple," William Street, Heywood, on Saturday, March 18th. A Young Men's Tea Party and Entertainment in connection with the same at 5 o'clock, price 6d. each. The Heywood Lyceum will give an Exhibition of Calisthenics and Marching. Delegates are requested to assemble early as there is a lengthy programme to be gone through.—F. SHAW, Secretary.



## Our Daisies' Page.

Edited by Daisy Dimple.

**M**Y DEAR DAISIES:—Wasn't that a lot of bother, all about there not being any Daisy page in January? Well! its all over now, and the sun still shines. Was not I astonished when I saw Bob's letter in the February BANNER. Just think of it! If you were in my place would you like everybody who reads the BANNER to know that you had been punished? It was no use thinking that you would perhaps not see Bob's letter, because it was printed on our own Daisy page, and everybody reads that page even if they read no other. But I deserved my punishment, although I did not deserve to have it spread about and made an Object Lesson for Daisy Groups in the Lyceums. But did not I give it Bob when he came home from his office, one night a week after. You bet! He thinks I am no use about the house, but I let him see for once. When he came home he asked if his tea was ready.

"No, and I won't give you any until you say you are sorry for sending that cruel letter to the BANNER, so there!"

"But it was all true, Daisy, and you cannot write to contradict it."

"Well, but you need not have told everybody about it, and I am surprised Mr. Morse put it in, because he likes me so much."

"But Mr. Morse never saw it until the BANNER was printed, I sent it direct to the printer and he put it in, because you vex him so often through not sending your Daisy page until the very last minute."

"Well, I am not going to bother with your tea until you say you are sorry. Mother has gone out, and Jessie has gone out, and there's no one in the house but we two."

"Now, Daisy, be a good girl and get my tea, for I am mighty hungry."

"Yes! and I am mighty vexed, so there!"

"Well, Daisy, I felt that your readers should know it was only your own fault, and I may say that hundreds of them are sorry for you, and love you all the more, because you are a little girl just like themselves. And the boys are sorry for you, because they would rather miss the Daisy page every month, than that you should be punished, and if you get my tea ready I will show you a nice letter I have received, and which will please you."

"But are you sorry?"

"I am as sorry as I am hungry, and I will never do it again, because I don't think it will ever be necessary."

"Then come into the sitting room and get your tea, for it is all ready."

Before Bob came home I had got his tea ready, made some nice toast, buttered it well, had a good fire on, warmed his slippers, and got a nice paper out for him to read, and he had not known of this, so he was a bit surprised. "Well, Daisy, you are a gem, and a real good one after all."

Whilst he got his tea I played some music on the piano, and when he had finished he read me the following letter:—

MR. BOB DIMPLE,

Feb. 7th, 1899.

MY DEAR PAL—It was very nice of you to write a letter to the Daisies. I must not enlarge on what has already been said about Daisy's absent page, or it may be "still

there's more to follow" (that is with reference to the thrashing). But I would like to give Daisy a little encouragement, by stating that her "pages" are indispensable to the Daisies.

Poor Daisy, and that after being so poorly, and after such a beautiful dream she had. I did feel so sorry for her; I felt as though I could have stood in her stead. If you are not careful she may be the first in-patient in that convalescent home. But there, mother knew best, and she bore it like a true Briton.

You must know, Bob, that I have four boys of my own, but sad to say no girls, so I was extra sorry for Daisy, if it had been you, well!— I imagined you (while that performance was taking place in the parlour) jumping about and capering like a jim-crow and otherwise disporting your figure, and having a regular pantaloons all your own. But I say, Bob, did you notice a tear in your mother's eye when she returned. Oh! just while I am thinking, do you owe a shilling. Our youngsters say, your Bob owes our Bob a bob, and if your Bob doesn't pay our Bob that bob he owes our Bob, our Bob is going to give your Bob a bob in the head. But there, that's all right, Daisy has spent hers, or you might have borrowed it for regular.

Well now, I have to teach a class of little boys and girls for the first time, as we have just formed classes, and the first lesson shall be Bob's letter, and its beautiful lessons. So express to her my deepest sympathy, and tell her she has been absent two months now (but don't tell mother) yet, "absence makes the heart grow fonder." So we are waiting patiently for the next letter, if it licks "The grocer's boy," it will be a champion. With kind regards to yourself and Daisy and all the family.

J. COOKE, Rushton.

I don't think I ever laughed so much as I did when Bob was reading this letter, and I am not so sorry now after all, that Bob did send his letter, only, I hope the grocer's boy has not seen it. After my tricks on him, he said he would never touch the BANNER again, not for all the peacocks in the world.

Bob still thinks it was rare fun for me to get punished, and is always making fun about it. When I had put the tea things away he said, "let's have an experience meeting." "What is that?" I asked.

"Well, at an experience meeting the members get up in turn and relate their experience on any special subject, such as Salvation, Methodism, Spiritualism, and so on."

"But I have no experience of anything except School and Lyceum, and —"

"And a good thrashing"—said Bob, "what did you do when it was all over?"

So I sat down and told him, and as Bob says you would all like to know, I may as well make a good ending to a bad business—"All's well that ends well."

"When mother had finished thrashing me, she sat down in a chair, and I could see she was pained, herself, at having to punish me, so I threw my arms round her neck and said how sorry I was, and that I knew very well I deserved all she had given me, and I hoped it would never happen again that her own Daisy should need to be punished, and to show how sorry I was, and how I still loved her, I had got her a present, and I gave her the parcel which you already know about. She talked for a minute or two about the sacredness of promises, and how careful we should be to keep them, though it might happen at times that circumstances would arise to prevent us carrying them into effect, and that we should be careful about the nature of our promises, not

promising more than we could reasonably fulfil or accomplish.

"Then mother, I have learned my lesson by experience, and I promise to remember my promises, and I promise to fulfil them to the best of my ability, and I promise that I will not promise unless I mean to fulfil that promise."

"It is rather ambiguous," said mother; "you are a promising child in more senses than one, and I understand what you mean, now give me a kiss, and good night."

I could see the tears in her eyes, and they carried a lesson to me stronger and deeper than her words, and when she had gone, I jumped into bed. But I could not fall asleep, my mind was so wild, and would not keep quite, and I thought what a horrid, bad place the world would be if God did not keep His promises, if the sun did not shine, and the corn and flowers did not grow, and the rain stopped, and worst of all if the angels stopped and our spirit friends did not come—for all these are God's promises, and He fulfils them constantly, and does not forget us, and then, as if in answer to my own thoughts, there was Dewdrop standing by my side, and the last thing I remembered was that she was smoothing the hair back off my forehead and kissing my cheeks; her touch seemed magical, for under its influence I soon was fast asleep.

"Why Bob, I declare there are tears in your eyes now, come, liven yourself up, and let's sing a nice duet."

Good bye until next month.—Your loving friend,

*Daisy Dimple.*

#### NOTES AND COMMENTS.—No. LXI.

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

It is rumoured that Parkgate Lyceum has been re-opened, but I am unable to learn anything definite about it. Will some kind friend please send on the name and address of the secretary, and the time the Lyceum meets.

It is also rumoured that a Lyceum has been opened at Plymouth. But a letter to a Mr. Forbes who wrote me some time ago asking for information has met with no reply. Perhaps he is ill, or has removed. If so, will some one please say whether they have done or not? I may add that a Lyceum was opened in Plymouth fourteen years ago, before the *Lyceum Manual* and *Spiritual Songster* were published.

ROYTON LYCEUM is re-opened and promises to make headway. I wish them increased success.

A NEW LYCEUM has been opened at Harpurhey, Manchester. They have joined the Union; and one has been opened at Dearnley, near Rochdale. This is good news.

THE LYCEUM belonging to St. James' Church, Bradford, has, along with the Church, removed to St. Paul's Church, Laisterdyke, to larger premises. The Lyceum and Church are separate buildings, both on the ground floor, being connected with a vestry. The new premises were opened on Saturday and Sunday, February 4th and 5th, amid congratulations and rejoicings.

BRIGHOUSE LYCEUM celebrated its tenth Anniversary on February 5th. The officers and members sang special hymns, and the writer spoke three times to appreciative audiences.

THE Executive meetings at Leicester were highly appreciated. See the report on another page.

DELEGATES to the forthcoming Lyceum Conference at Nottingham, look out for some very pleasing news in the BANNER which will highly interest you.

No Lyceumist should miss reading the letter of fraternal greetings, and thanks from Mr. Andrew Jackson Davis which appears in this number of the LYCEUM BANNER.

THE Lyceum meeting at Boundary-road, Middlesborough, is making splendid headway. Their numbers are continually increasing. If the two Lyceums could make arrangements to invite the Executive to pay them a visit and give addresses at both places, much more good would be done.

IT is with deep feelings of sympathy I learn that Mr. Thomas O. Todd, of Sunderland, is ill in bed. It was on February 20th he became too ill to leave his bed. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

I WISH to inform those Lyceums who are anxious to obtain a few more of the Jubilee Medals, before the dies are destroyed, that they can do so by writing to Mr. Todd, 7, Winifred Terrace, Sunderland, who has a few more to dispose of. Write early, as the supply is limited.

THERE are quite a number of Secretaries who have not sent in their returns. All such will greatly oblige by hurrying up with them without further delay.

THE Leeds Lyceum District Council will hold its next Quarterly Meeting at the Leeds Psychological Hall, on March 11th, at 3-30 prompt. Tea on tables at 5 o'clock; entertainment at 7-30, to be presided over by Mr. J. W. Webster. The entertainment will consist of songs, recitations, and tableaux, and conclude with a sketch, entitled, "Wanted, a Wife." Admission to tea and entertainment, 6d. and 4d.; entertainment only 2d. A prompt attention of delegates would be encouraging.—J. E. ARCHER, Hon. Sec.

WE all regret that Bro. Todd has lately been quite seriously ill. Happily, he is recovering nicely. He is too useful a man to be laid aside.

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OF THE

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1898.

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## The Lyceum Banner.

MARCH, 1899.

### OUR MONTHLY CHAT.

**An Approaching Necessity.** THE time is at hand when, as a matter of necessity, the Union will have to face the responsibility of establishing a Supplies Depot. This could also be the headquarters of the Union and residence of our Secretary. In such case that official must needs devote his whole time to our work and be paid a proper wage. Spiritualists cannot afford to 'sweat' those who work for them. The depot should be the official supply office for registers, membership and reward cards, badges, flags, handbills, books, *Manuals*, Songsters, and everything needful to fit out a Lyceum for work. We still lack system and accuracy in the registration of membership and attendances; it is impossible to procure badges, flags, etc. Let our Union stock and sell all our Lyceums need, create a depot and headquarters, and by uniting all its forces under one roof increase its usefulness for good.

\*

**To our Friends.** It is gratifying that we are able to report an increased interest on behalf of the BANNER in many quarters. Several Lyceums are doubling their orders and others are pushing their sales with vigour. It is scarcely credible that some Lyceums—and in the Union, too—do not take their official organ. There is not a copy taken by the large Lyceum at Blackburn, for instance! A little more help would turn a loss into profit and enable us to clear off the arrears due our printers. While asking for increased circulation, we are grateful for our improving prospects.

A NEW ZEALAND WOOING.—The conclusion of this pretty story is unavoidably held over until next month.

### ITEMETTES.

LAST month's BANNERS are all sold.

THE Keighley Lyceum has greatly improved during the past year. Miss Whitaker leads the music in a very satisfactory fashion indeed.

READ the Davis—Longstaff—Greenwood—Address—and Silver Medal letters in this issue. You will all be delighted.

OUR Editor was given an enthusiastic reception, by the Home and Visiting Lyceums, at the Salford Spiritual Church, on Sunday, February 19th.

LONDON is now quite well supplied with Sunday meetings. Battersea, Stratford, Hackney, Stoke Newington and Marylebone, each obtaining full audiences. Lyceum work takes root but slowly though.

MISS ADA VENABLES, eldest daughter of Mr. Jno. Venables, of Walsall, our esteemed and honoured B.S.L.U. President, was quietly married in London last month, to Mr. Harry Shekleton, of Walsall. We wish the happy pair long life, happiness, and troops of friends.

THE Junior Spiritualist Club hold their dance at the Cavendish Rooms on the 6th inst. See advertisement on front page of cover. This body is in a thoroughly healthy and financially sound condition. Its weekly meetings are largely attended.

BROTHERLY love is hardly sustained when one body of Spiritualists refuses to assist a kindred organisation. A little more practice, and a little less profession, would be useful in many parts of the United Kingdom among our people.

WE particularly request all our Secretaries to remit promptly on the accounts sent them this month. Quite a few are over due from December last. Our printers must be paid, they are good folk but they cannot carry on their business without money. A word to the wise is enough.

A NEW Body, "The Occultists' Defence League," sent our Editor an invitation to assist at its formation in Manchester, recently. The Circular read: "It is requested that all who desire to have the protection of the League will not fail to attend and give in their names and subscriptions (10/-) as members for the year." Mr. G. H. Bibbings is Treasurer; thereby adding another to his labours as Lecturer, Editor of *The Torch*, and Secretary to the Temperance Union, is it? formed in Manchester last Easter.

KEIGHLEY was well to the front last month. Mr. Joseph Clapham, one of the oldest members of the Old Guard, celebrating his eightieth birthday, his Golden Wedding, and forty-five years connection with the Keighley Spiritual Brotherhood Society. He, his family and friends, were entertained to Tea on Shrove Tuesday, in the Heber Street Temple by the Society and friends, who also presented him with a very fine Illuminated Address, commemorating the above-named events. The Temple was packed to suffocation. Mr. J. J. Morse, "our" Editor, and President of the National Conference for this year, occupied the chair. It was, in all ways, a noteworthy event.

## THE HERALD OF SPRING.

### LIFE AND GOOD HEALTH.

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

### Madame Burchell's Medicine and Pills

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

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

Every description of ailment taken in hand through the medium of correspondence, and carefully considered, by sending a Lock of Hair, Age and Sex, with a brief description of disease.

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

Madame Burchell may be consulted daily. Trams pass road.

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

# THE GOLDEN GROUP.

Motto:—LOVE, TEMPERANCE, PURITY.

**Membership.**—Membership in the GOLDEN GROUP is open to all who belong to a Spiritualist Progressive Lyceum. All that is required is an assent to the Rules governing the GROUP, and an earnest endeavour to live up to its three-fold motto of "Love—Temperance—Purity." in **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 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 cost and carriage of Certificate. Names are not published, or entered upon the Roll, until the above rule is complied with. 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 could interest the GROUP. Please give the name of your Lyceum, and your number on the ROLL.

## OUR FEBRUARY ASSEMBLY—SESSION LXX.

**D**URING the past month Auntie received a very gratifying piece of news. I hope it is the forerunner of many similar intimations, as it concerns no less a matter than the formation of the first Golden Group Assembly, instituted according to the plan adopted for the Grand Group. It has been constituted by Mr. W. Mason, and is held at the Lyceum, Hammerton Street, Burnley. By Mr. Mason's letter you will see they have elected their officers. The GROUP will no doubt meet eventually on a week evening, and a regular programme will be provided for the entertainment and instruction of the members.

### THE BURNLEY G.G. ASSEMBLY, No. 1.

"DEAR AUNT EDITHA,—Just a few lines to say we had our first GROUP Assembly this morning, after the Lyceum. Miss Sarah Parkinson was elected G.C., Miss L. Wilkinson G.S., and Tom Richmond, G. Treasurer; others will be elected as needed at our next meeting. Reports of our meetings will continue to reach the good and kind Auntie, who is always working for the good of the young. I must not now write a long letter, but will at once give you the names of new members. Trusting that our work will continue to improve, and that our dear friend Daisy Dimple will soon be well and strong again, I am, yours fraternally,  
W. MASON."

The names will be found, as usual, at the end of my letter. On reading the above letter to our Assembly it evoked a most hearty round of applause, and on the motion of Percy Attwood, seconded by Master Johnnie, the following resolution was unanimously passed:—

"That this Grand Assembly of the Golden Group sends its hearty congratulations to the Burnley Assembly No. 1 on its successful formation, and wishes them a long continued career of happiness and prosperity."

At the conclusion of the minutes of our last meeting the names appended to my report in the BANNER for last month were then voted upon, as also those printed at the end of this letter. The result of the voting was that the G.C. declared them all duly elected, and entitled to receive their certificates, which G.S. was instructed to prepare and forward.

The G.C. next stated she had received a pretty little letter from a daughter of our beloved Lyceum Union Secretary, Alfred Kitson, which she would now ask G.S. to present to the Assembly, whereupon the following letter was read:—

### LETTER FROM MARY ELLEN KITSON.

"DEAR AUNT EDITHA,—Last time I wrote to you I said that I was trying for a first prize at the Batley Carr Lyceum, and I am pleased to tell you that I have won a first prize. It is a workbox made of best oak, and I can lock it up. When I got it I opened it at once, and there I found in it one bobbin of black thread, and one of white; one packet of needles and one of pins, and it has several compartments. This was presented to me on New Year's Eve, when we had a children's free treat—tea and entertainment. I recited six times, and the titles are as follow: "The babies' Christmas," "Dot's punishment," "Little things," "To a Redbreast," "Dorothy," and "The Strayed Kitten."—From your loving niece,  
Hanging Heaton, Dewsbury.

MARY ELLEN KITSON."

## THE CINDERELLA REPORT.

The Grand Secretary then produced her report of the Cinderella, which read as follows:—

To the Grand Conductors and members of the Grand Assembly: Your Secretary takes pleasure in presenting her report of the late Cinderella. The event was, in every respect, a gratifying success. The attendance exceeded our anticipations, and the various committees carried out their duties efficiently and well. The financial statement submitted hereto shows the cost of the gathering, and your Secretary suggests an order be drawn upon Grand Treasurer to pay the same.

One regrettable instance of insubordination occurred, but as the member has sincerely apologised to the Committee on general arrangements, it is recommended that the apology be accepted, and the name of the offender be not mentioned, either in our minutes or in the G.C.'s letter to the LYCEUM BANNER. The heartiest thanks of the Assembly are due to the Committees on music, decorations, refreshments, and general arrangements. Fraternally submitted—EVA JUST-LOVE, G. SEC.

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

To Rent of Hall . . . . .	£1 12 6	By Donation from	
„ Refreshments . . . . .	3 3 4½	'Old Groupite' . . . . .	£5 0 0
„ Printing Tickets		To Cash due to Sec-	
and Programmes 0 15 8		retary to balance 2 13 9½	
„ Sundries . . . . .	0 7 3		
„ Music . . . . .	1 15 0		
	<u>£7 13 9½</u>		<u>£7 13 9½</u>

On the motion of Wattie Wilson, seconded by Daisy Jones, the G. Secretary's Report was adopted. Henry Bunson moved that the Treasurer pay over to the G.S. the amount due to her (£2 13s. 9½d.), which, being seconded by John Charm, was duly passed.

A very pleasing thing then occurred. Chris. Topman rose from his seat, and walked up to the G.C.'s desk and said, "Grand Conductor and fellow members, I want to sincerely apologise to you all for my unfortunate misbehaviour at our Cinderella, and to thank the Secretary for her kindness in asking that my name be not mentioned. But as I did wrong in public my father told me I ought to apologise in public." There was a moment's silence, and then a great cheer, and Auntie shook Chris. by the hand, telling him she was delighted he was so brave. Johnnie said, *solto voce*, "Chris. is a brick!"

The Assembly then passed the remainder of the lesson under recreation, and the gathering was closed in the customary manner at the usual time. Lovingly yours—AUNT EDITHA.

### Members Elected at the February Assembly.

BURNLEY, Hammerton Street, Assembly No. 1.  
1309 W. Tattersall   1311 Jno. W. Parkinson   1313 Arthur Dean\*  
1310 Roland Harrison   1312 Bracewell Crossley   1314 Alvinza Lambert  
\*Grand Doorkeeper.

## A LETTER FROM ANDREW JACKSON DAVIS.

HE IS HIGHLY PLEASED WITH THE HONOR, MEDAL  
AND ADDRESS.

Boston, January 29th, 1899.

"TO THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION."

"Here is a greeting in fraternal love to you, one and all! The commemorative HONOR MEDAL is now shining before me, with its appropriate engraved pictures and letterings; and by me hangs the exceedingly beautiful ILLUMINATED ADDRESS finely framed in massive gold—roses in bloom on the picturesque margin—the aspiring Excelsior youth at the beginning of life's Mountain—the heavenly angel helping the child to unfold like the roses along an everlasting career—and, in most exquisite style, with honest lovingness is the address and your united blessing, which gratefully I appreciate, and most heartily reciprocate. Always lovingly,

ANDREW JACKSON DAVIS.

To Jessy Greenwood, President, B.S.L.U.  
Joseph Sutcliffe, Treasurer.  
Alfred Kitson, Secretary.

It will perhaps be remembered that the above Union, in Conference assembled at Walsall, on May 8th, 1898, decided to present Mr. A. J. Davis, the founder of the *Children's Progressive Lyceum*, with a Jubilee Silver Medal, and an Illuminated Address. The above letter is in acknowledgment of the receipt of the same on the 27th of January. It has been seven months in reaching him, an inexplicable delay we all deplore. However we rejoice to learn that he appreciates them so highly. Though he has reached a venerable age, yet he keeps a watchful eye on the Lyceum movement in England. He says, "Thank you for the papers you have sent me, and especially for the good work you do with your pen and tongue."—Yours faithfully, ALFRED KITSON, Sec.

## Our Golden Year.

LETTERS FROM ANDREW JACKSON DAVIS,  
CONCERNING THE  
LANCASHIRE LYCEUM DEMONSTRATION,  
AND THE  
ILLUMINATED ADDRESS AND SILVER MEDAL  
FROM THE  
BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

IT affords the BANNER very great pleasure to publish the following correspondence, as a fitting sequel to the events referred to therein. Our Lyceumists throughout the country will now learn, with undoubted satisfaction, that the various marks of honour and affectionate esteem they extended to our beloved Founder, at Manchester and Walsall, have been duly and most appreciatively received. The BANNER regrets its inability to present the text of the Union Illuminated Address, but will endeavour to repair the omission next month, if possible.

The following is the correspondence above alluded to:

[No. 1.]

Letter of greeting to Andrew Jackson Davis, from Secretary and Chairman, on Behalf of the Lancashire Lyceum Demonstration, held in the large St. James' Hall, Manchester, April 10th, 1898.

HONOURED FRIEND AND BROTHER,—A portion of the Jubilee Celebrations of Modern Spiritualism in this city, attended by representatives from all parts of the United Kingdom, was the Demonstration of our

Lancashire Lyceums held this afternoon, consisting of a large public procession, with bands and banners, including twenty-two Lyceums and numbering over 3,000 members, officers and friends, followed by an Open Session in the above hall, the whole being organised by the above-named Committee, and the meeting presided over by our faithful friend and brother, Mr. J. J. Morse, editor of the *Lyceum Banner*. The Session was held in the presence of the largest audience ever assembled to witness our work, it being estimated that over 5,000 spectators had assembled. On a motion duly made and passed, the entire audience unanimously desired that Greetings of Good Will and Brotherly Love from the English Lyceumists then present should be sent to your honoured self, as the founder of our blessed labour, and that the Chairman, Mr. J. J. Morse, be instructed to convey the same to you in person during his impending visit to the United States, as the Representative of the British Spiritualists at the Semi-Centennial Celebrations at Rochester, N.Y. The said motion was most enthusiastically adopted, and as Secretary to the Committee and Chief Marshal of the day, I was instructed to see the matter duly carried out.

Agreeably herewith I now have the utmost pleasure in sending you this letter by the hands of the bearer designate, and most cordially join in the expressions it contains. With heartiest fraternal greetings, believe me, your friend and brother.

J. B. LONGSTAFF, Hon. Sec. L.L.D.C. and Chief Marshal.  
J. J. MORSE, Chairman.

Boston, Mass., January 29th, 1899.

BELOVED OFFICERS, LEADERS, MEMBERS, FRIENDS, SPECTATORS!

To each of you, and to all of you—this comes full of affectionate gratitude, and breathing fraternal love and universal good-will. Here unfolded before me is your combined *Letter of Greeting* which in June last was put into my hands by your noble-hearted and high-minded representative to the Semi-Centennial Celebration of the Spiritualists at Rochester, N.Y., Mr. J. J. Morse, and by the psychical and inspired language of your most precious message I was at once made to conscientiously comprehend, and thus appreciate, the grand Demonstrations of the Lyceums in Manchester—could perceive, like physically looking upon a moving panorama, the bands of music, followed and preceded by old and young carrying the banners of Progress—could see that over all the great multitude, the embracing and uplifting love of a corresponding association of Lyceumists who now reside and promote similar manifestations in the adjacent Summerland, could behold, and almost *feel* the delightful enthusiasm penetrating and swelling and harmonizing your whole assembly, the thousands who had the good fortune to witness your remarkable Demonstration.

And now, beloved workers, what surprised me more than any incidental thing, was and is your spontaneous and enthusiastic remembrance of me! For myself, I can truthfully say my existence and past or present labours do not obtrude upon and dilate my thoughts or feelings. Hence, as you may easily imagine, I was in a degree dumbfounded when your eloquent and upright delegate (Bro. Morse) presented you all, and described in glowing terms your persistent and prolonged labour which had culminated in the wonderful great Demonstration in Manchester, and then handed me the loving *letter* of warmest goodwill, to which (after a long delay) this is my simple acknowledgement. As explained, or implied in a recent letter to the Hon. Sec. and Chief Marshal, the faithful and efficient Mr. J. B. Longstaff, I filed your Letter of Greeting away, to await the arrival into my possession of the Honorary Medal and Illuminated Address, to both of which Mr. Morse beautifully alluded in his presentation discourse. But days ran into weeks, and weeks lost themselves in many months before they came to me! (The various causes of this long delay I need not stop to explain, even if I could.) So here now is my heartiest acknowledgement, with my prayers that you will all pardon my persistent silence and seeming discourtesy or neglect. There must be "Joy in heaven and many helpful blessings descending over your work! To each and all my love and peace.

To ANDREW JACKSON DAVIS.

J. B. Longstaff, Hon. Sec. L.L.D.C.

J. J. Morse, Chairman.

The BANNER is indebted to Mr. J. B. Longstaff, Secretary of the L.L.D.C., for the foregoing, for which he his cordially thanked. Mr. Longstaff also sends with the above the following letter. There is evidently some slight confusion here, as the letter refers entirely to the B.S.L.U. presentation, and should, therefore, have been sent to Bro. Alfred Kitson, as Secretary of the B.S.L.U. However that may be, the result is that the Union and the Conference Delegates who were present at Walsall, have now Mr. Davis' explanation concerning the delay in acknowledging the receipt of the

Address and Medal; so, "All's well that ends well," as the Immortal Bard has it.

It will be noticed that the following letter bears a date ten days earlier than the preceding one, and it will be seen that Mr. Davis anticipated the almost immediate arrival of the Address and Medal, which subsequently reached him.

Boston, U.S.A., January 19th, 1899.

MY DEAR FRIEND AND BROTHER.—In the Children's Progressive Lyceum Work, a New Year's Greeting to you, and to all the good people (young and old) who have in heart and soul and body co-operated with you in past and present efforts in progression!

I have not acknowledged the "Illuminated Address" and the "Honour Medal" because I have not yet seen them. You and the others may be assured that I will duly acknowledge them as soon as they come into my possession, and that time will, I think, be this week. The expressman will now call and bring the much-desired treasure to my country home. A curious chain of impediments have kept me from receiving the grand gift of love and goodwill.

1.—Mr. J. J. Morse did not have the address with him.

2.—After long delay the package, being addressed c/o Editor of *Banner of Light*, it was found on the Custom Houses, and after more delay it arrived at the *Banner of Light* office.

3.—They kindly sent it their picture-frame makers to be repaired, and to have a new glass over it. (It came broken, etc.)

4.—Then the *Banner of Light* friends placed it on exhibition in the large shop window. I heard of many, *many* who had seen and expressed great pleasure and admiration over its artistic beauty.

5.—I live miles from the office of the *Banner of Light*, and have *no time* to call there in person (am all days overcrowded). Besides I thought the address should remain in their window for a few weeks, so the passing hundreds might see it. *And now I am about to become its possessor.*


Will you fraternally explain all the foregoing to all your associates, who, I trust, are also *my* friends—although they have been *disappointed* in not hearing before from yours most cordially,

ANDREW JACKSON DAVIS.

Mr. J. B. Longstaff.

## The Riddler's Corner.

EDITED BY J. HARRY BUNN.

 DEAR RIDDLERS.—My invitation to readers of this Journal for contributions to this Corner, has resulted in our being favoured with some of the cleverest original riddles it has ever been my lot to read. They are simply gems of wit and wisdom, and reflect great credit on Spiritualists in general and the subscribers to the LYCEUM BANNER in particular. But I will first of all give you the correct answers to the riddles of last month. They are as follows:—

Miss Turton's Contributions:

Verbal Charade: *Hope*. Logodrome: *Sea-Saw*.

Mr. Cooke's contributions:

Logogriph: *Growing* (rowing, owing, wing, gin). Conundrum: *Because both require artificial aid*.

Logogram: *J. J. Morse* (jay, jay, em! oh! ah! hiss! eh!)

Mrs. Robinson's contribution:

Conundrum: *Wedding Ring*.

The Riddle Editor's contribution:

Syllabic Charade: *Sea-weed*.

The correct solvers and prize winners are—Ellen Tree, T. R. Man, and John Lamp. A Birmingham correspondent, namely a young lady of thirteen summers, sent the following riddles, the first of which is a master piece of construction. Here they are:—

CRYPTOGRAM.

Five hundred begins, five hundred ends it,  
Five in the middle is seen;  
The first of all letters, the first of all figures,  
Take up their stations between;  
Join all together, and then you will bring  
Before you the name of an eminent king.

LOGOGRAM.

My first is a circle, my second a cross,  
If you meet with my whole beware of a toss.

ENIGMA.

I'm in the fire, but not in the flame;  
I belong to the master, but not to the dame;  
I'm found in the church, but not in the steeple;  
And owned by the parson, but not by the people.

OLIVE KNIBB.

Then our energetic Lancashire friend, who hails from Riston town, presents the following dishes for your edification:—

LOGOGRIPH.

I'm a place near the fire, so cosy and clean;  
Cut off my head, the world is now seen;  
Curtail and transpose, and I'm sure I will prove  
A sign of sorrow we all should remove.

TRANSPOSITION.

An Editor, please, we wish to remind him  
That "burn, oh gas," is the street to find him.

ENIGMA.

When first I was made, oh cruel my fate,  
For legs, arms, and body I was too late;  
But, thanks to my maker, my head is on right,  
And my face is always pleasant and bright;  
I've eyes that can't see, and nose which can't smell,  
Mouth without tongue, still the truth I now tell;  
If I am a prodigy, beyond your knowledge,  
Drop a line to the "Timsonian College." J. COOKE.

What has become of my Manchester correspondent? I shall be most pleased to receive a contribution from Miss Ednor Turton, the winner of the special prize of last year. Solvers must write their answers on a post card and send to the below address. They may thus win one of the three prizes offered each month to sharp witted riddlers. J. HARRY BUNN.

24, Towneley-street, West Stanley, Co. Durham.

SALFORD.—VISIT OF THE EDITOR.—On Sunday, February 19th the Editor of the LYCEUM BANNER responded to an invitation from the officers of this Lyceum to pay it a visit. Invitations had been extended to various other Lyceums in the district to meet him, and at the hour of commencement the Church was filled with the home Lyceum and visiting members. Mr. Braecgirdle, in the absence in Scotland of Mr. James R. Roocke, the conductor, opened the proceedings, and, after an Invocation from Mr. Moulding, invited 'our' Editor to act as Conductor for the day. Mr. Morse then carried out the usual procedure, complimenting those present upon the excellence and precision of their reading and singing, and the steadiness with which they went through the marchings. Various members and visitors gave recitations, in each case with excellent effect. Mr. Morse addressed the company in a brief and happy speech, eliciting loud applause. The following Lyceums accepted the invitation of the Salford co-workers, Pendleton, Collyhurst, Higher Broughton, Tipping Street and Hulme. A hearty vote of thanks was given by acclamation to our Editor for his presence and services on the occasion.

### THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION. OFFICIAL NOTICES.

#### NOTICE OF MOTION FOR MAY CONFERENCE.

THE SUNDERLAND LYCEUM:—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.—THOMAS OLMAN TODD, Conductor.

## Leaders' Department.

### LYCEUM LESSONS AND INVOCATIONS FOR MARCH.

Compiled by the Editor.

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

#### SECOND SUNDAY.

INVOCATION.—Let us uplift our thoughts to things pure and noble, that our souls may be attuned to the melodies of the angel world. Let us thank the dear invisibles for their protecting care during the past week, and let us strive to be even more deserving thereof in the days to come. Bless us and guide us, dear friends, help us to join with thee in ever coming nearer and nearer to our All-wise and ever loving Father, God, and our Great Mother, Nature.

LESSON.—THE RELIGION OF HUMANITY.—OUTLINE.—The Religion of Humanity means to realise and revere the Divine in man—The measure of the Divine in each of us is the good we do while here—The worship of this religion is in emulating the examples of all good lives—The altar of this religion is the human heart—Its ministers, ourselves—Its churches, our homes—Its sacred scriptures, the laws of nature and human life—Its prayers are deeds—Followed out in thought and practice the religion of humanity will help us to be strong in moral purity, benevolent and helpful to the weak and erring, and a positive power for good while living in the mortal.—S.C. 6, G.C. 112, M.R. 231.

#### THIRD SUNDAY.

INVOCATION.—Great Father of us all, Creator and Preserver of the universe, we again assemble in mutual love to thank thee for all Thy blessings. To humbly promise that we will strive more and more to use aright all Thou hast bestowed upon us, to the end that we may make the world better, and our fellows happier. We rejoice that we are in the experience of open communion with the Spiritual realms, and that we receive light and guidance therefrom. We, indeed, feel this is a blessed privilege. May the Good Angels be with us this day, and all days, and may we be ever worthy of the advice, counsel and love we ask at their hands.

LESSON.—THE RELIGION OF HEALTH.—OUTLINE.—Health of body and happiness of mind are closely connected—The baptism, sacrament, inspiration and prayer of the Religion of Health, are pure air, nutritious food, sunlight and exercise—The pledge of holiness is personal cleanliness—Health is a just requirement of every human life—Unjust labour, unhealthy dwellings, impure pleasures and vices, are crimes against individual health, and the welfare of society—Deprived of health, populations degenerate, the standard of morals is lowered, and social justice diminishes—The religion of health insures the obedience to all conditions, laws and duties that promote the physical welfare of mankind.—S.C. 10, G.C. 120, M.R. 203.

#### FOURTH SUNDAY.

INVOCATION.—As once again we meet together in the presence of the Angels, let us unite in fraternal love to give them the welcome of our purest emotions. That they may find our hearts and minds prepared to receive the lessons they are anxious to impart. Let us strive to grow more like unto them; let us endeavour to help forward a kingdom such as theirs, here on earth. Casting out all evil and uncharitable thoughts and unkind feelings towards any, may we find in the present hour that inspiration to lift us higher in all that dignifies, ennobles, and sweetens human life.

LESSON.—THE RELIGION OF USE.—OUTLINE.—The Religion of Use is that all our doings shall be for the best and highest use to our fellows—That we shall realise we are 'our brother's keeper'—That we must strive to abolish all injustice in the spheres of labour, and social and political life—That the right to the unrestricted exercise of our reason on all matters be maintained—We must be ready to bear burdens and make sacrifices that these inestimable privileges be sustained—The use of our energies for the welfare of men, is consecrating them to the service of God.—S.C. 48, G.C. 123, M.R. 219.

#### FIRST SUNDAY IN APRIL.

INVOCATION.—Let us give thanks to the supreme for the joys and the sorrows of our lot. Let us aspire to come into closer at-onement with the divine in nature, our fellows and ourselves. May we be able to so uplift our thoughts in this hour that we may come closer than ever to the angel hosts, and feel their nearness to us, receive their inspirations, and live to show how deeply we are blessed thereby. May brotherly love unite as one family for ever more.

LESSON.—MEDIUMSHIP.—OUTLINE.—Who are mediums—What is mediumship—Sensitiveness, the basis of mediumship—How do spirits control, or use, mediums, do mediums influence the phenomena occurring in their presence, or through their personality—Are their dangers in the practice or use of mediumship—Are mediums responsible or not for their conduct—Is mediumship a modern experience for mankind.

#### QUESTION BOX.

As some of our Leaders are at times in doubt as to points raised in these Outlines of Lessons, as we find from occasional letters sent to us, we have decided to institute a "Question Box," and append it at the end of these lessons each month. We invite not only questions, but suggestions for improvements, and contributions to the Lessons from all our Leaders, and the same shall receive our most careful consideration, either privately by letter, or publicly in this column.—THE EDITORS.

### BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

#### THE EXECUTIVE VISIT LEICESTER.

By ALFRED KITSON.

THE Executive visit to the Queen Street, Leicester, Lyceum and Society, on the 29th of January, was a special feature, and had been looked forward to with anticipations of a rich treat. A cordial welcome was accorded the E.C., the brief and spirited speeches were heartily received and applauded.

Mr. J. Venables, our esteemed President of the Union, presided, and in a few well selected remarks made known the object of the E.C. in visiting Leicester. It was their desire to draw more attention to the education of the young people in our homes in the facts and teachings of Spiritualism. The proper training of our children was a question of deep import both as a moral duty to them, and the future of Spiritualism. He spoke of the good work Lyceums were doing, and the importance of the children having an object in view, something to live for, something to aspire to. He urged the young men and young women, and the boys and girls to be faithful to their parents, companions, and the Lyceum, and then success would crown their efforts.

Mr. Thos. Olman Todd delighted all by his racy and witty remarks. He was always pleased to speak to children wherever he went, and he was always reminded of them when at home. A child had revealed the spirit-land to the world, and that act had done more than all the philosophy of the ages to comfort the mourner's heart. The Lyceum was revealed to them from the spirit-world, where little children who were removed from our homes by death were gathered together to learn the beautiful lessons of God's wisdom and love; and we on this earth were trying by our Lyceum movement to train our children in the same pathway of truth and goodness. And he wanted every Spiritualist in the land to help them in the noble work of training the young. The Lyceum movement did not originate on earth but was copied from the Lyceums in the Summer land by Andrew Jackson Davis. If their American cousins had their Davis, they in England had their Alfred Kitson, to whose indefatigable labours the Lyceum movement mainly owed its present high position; and they all honoured him for it.

Mr. Kitson wished to thank Mr. Todd for the very flattering remarks he had made in reference to his, Mr. Kitson's, humble efforts on behalf of the Children's Progressive Lyceum. He wished to remind them that the cause was equally indebted to his esteemed co-worker, Mr. H. A. Kersey, who so generously published *The Lyceum Manual*, at a time when there was no Executive, no Union, no

Publishing Fund to help the young and struggling movement in its hour of need. Then it was that Mr. Kersey, at his, Mr. Kitson's earnest solicitation compiled and published the *Lyceum Manual*, a book that was a wonderful repository of spiritual wisdom, facts and philosophy, a book they all loved, many of them treasured as their Bible, and broadminded reverends marvelled at. Mr. Kersey followed this up with the publication of *The Spiritual Songster*, thereby furnishing Lyceums with splendid tunes in one book for all the hymns and melodies contained in the *L.M.* This was done at great expense, inconvenience, and loss of valuable time. These were facts which the rising generation ought to know, and he thought this the opportune time to present them. The friends present, and the entire Lyceum movement owed a debt of gratitude to his friend, Mr. Kersey.

Mr. Kersey, in expressing his pleasure at being with them on that occasion, remarked on the difference between the happy Sundays the children enjoyed to-day to what they did in his day. Sunday with him used to be the most miserable day in the week. He did not have silver chain and golden chain recitations, he knew nothing of their bright and sparkling musical readings, nor were the school hours brightened and enlivened with their marches and calisthenics. No, instead of these things they had to read the Bible, which was often meaningless, and by way of change they had to learn the catechism, collects, and the creeds, which were a prolific source of religious bigotry and intolerance. Spiritualists had decided that for them the days of such teachings were past and gone for ever. They wanted a Sunday school that was natural and adapted to the requirements of the age, whose teachings should be in harmony with those of Spiritualism—hence the Lyceum. And if any act or effort of his had in any way assisted to establish such he was pleased to know that he had been of some service to the children's cause.

The same gentleman addressed the afternoon and evening service, along with Mr. Greenwood, the vice-president, and Mr. J. Clark. The latter offered some thoughts on the righteousness of selfishness, which was really an able plea for justice in every relationship of life. The duty of each individual was to look out for, and insist on having their just rights, was well presented. The subject was applicable to the moral, religious, and spiritual state of man, and so formed a strong plea for justice to be done to every child belonging to spiritualists to see that it is trained in the facts, teachings, and ethics of spiritualism in Lyceums.

Mrs. Greenwood bore testimony to the good done by the Lyceums. She loved to be among the children and note the profound questions they would ask, and the wise remarks they would make. To her the Lyceum was the hope of Spiritualism, and it depended very largely on the spiritualists of to-day as to what the future of spiritualism would be, whether it would be absorbed by the churches for lack of interest in the children, and an indifference to the teachings of spiritualism and its grand philosophy. After describing the working of their Lyceum at Sowerby Bridge, she brought her remarks to a close by appealing to the friends present to sustain their Lyceums by personal attendance, sending their children, if unable to bring, moral and financial support. Mrs. Place gave a few excellent clairvoyant descriptions at the evening service, one of which caused quite a sensation. She described the spirit of a man. He suddenly disappeared as if he had dropped into a well; he reappeared in a few moments with the request for her to tell them he was there. A lady recognised it, and remarked, "It was not a well he fell into, but a fly-wheel race, and was killed."

The Lyceum and Society generously donated the collections of the day, amounting to £2 6s. 4d., towards defraying the rail expenses.

[NOTE.—Our esteemed speakers might also have expressed the fact that this journal has been a valuable help to Lyceum work, equally with the other publications issued in its interest.—Eds.]

## The Monthly Record.

### REPORTS.

**BURNLEY (North Street).**—On Thursday evening, Feb. 2nd, a number of friends met to celebrate the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. T. Hodson (*nee* Miss Lizzie Coates). Songs, duets, etc., were contributed by a number of friends, and a reading was given by Mr. Harrison. The tit-bit of the evening was contributed by Mr. Towler, in rendering an imitation of a young gentleman enjoying the experience of a galvanic shock from a "penny-in-the-slot" machine." During the evening Mr. R. Latham (who officiated as Master of Ceremonies) called upon Mr. Harrison to formally present to Mr. and Mrs. Hodson, on behalf of the Liberty Group (of which Mr. and Mrs. Hodson are members), a tea service, an alarm clock, and also, on behalf of Mr. P. Anforth, a short poem beautifully mounted and framed, entitled, "Nuptial Greetings," composed by Mr. W. W. Graham, of Burnley. Mr. Hodson suitably responded on behalf of himself and wife. Mr. R. Anforth officiated at the piano with his usual skill. Dancing continued till 11 p.m., when the party dispersed after a most harmonious evening.—T. E. CHADWICK, Lyceum Secretary.

**EXETER.**—On Feb. 1st, the Exeter Spiritualist's Society, Friars' Hall Lyceum, gave a most successful entertainment, consisting of songs, dancing, pianoforte solos, and marching. Senor Bimbo, with his performing bear, caused great excitement and roars of laughter. At the close there was a large Christmas Tree, from which each child had a useful garment and toy. The entertainment was much enjoyed and appreciated by a large audience.—L. WILKINS, Sec.

**MANCHESTER, Grey Mare Lane, Bradford.**—Sunday, Jan. 1st: Good attendance; recitations and readings neatly accomplished.—Jan. 15th: Marching in time; calisthenics could be better if a little more strength was rendered with the different movements. Mr. W. Davies was elected Conductor, and Mr. W. Tonge, Secretary.—Jan. 29th: Recitations and musical reading good.—On Feb. 5th we had a good time in our Lyceum, the recitations being given by four of the Lyceum Scholars in excellent style.—Feb. 19th: Good attendance; marching and calisthenics very good. Recitations by W. Selsway, W. Tonge, and Annie Page. Musical reading by Messrs. Briggs and Tweedale. We are progressing slowly, but we think surely.

**LANCASHIRE LYCEUM DEMONSTRATION.**—At the last Delegate Meeting held at the Spiritual Church, Collyhurst Street, Manchester, it was the unanimous vote of those present that Mr. G. E. Braham, be Hon. Treasurer, (second year), and Mr. J. B. Longstaff, be Hon. Secretary, (seventh year). Allow me to thank those delegates who have assisted me in past years, and I think that I must have done my duty when elected once more, as one remarked, "Go on, you will be in the last year of apprenticeship to the Demonstration business." The past year has indeed been an eventful one, viz.: The Jubilee of Modern Spiritualism, and I am pleased to say that our Lyceums have done credit to themselves. The twenty-two Lyceums that took part has been the topic, even

now when the Easter Celebrations is mentioned, for their grand marching and calisthenics done on that auspicious occasion. They have be complimented by the English Press, and I am pleased to say by our beloved founder, Andrew Jackson Davis, and I feel sure when they have read the letters from him they will be stimulated to still greater efforts than hitherto to forward the Lyceum cause.—J. B. LONGSTAFF, Hon. Sec.

MANCHESTER, Harpurhey.—Opening of a New Lyceum.—This Lyceum was opened on Sunday, January 22nd, at the Young People's Institute, Rochdale Road, Harpurhey, North Manchester. Although the weather was bad, a capital start was made. We counted 46 present, which proved the need of a Lyceum in this district. After the usual routine of Lyceum work had been gone through in a fairly creditable manner, Mr. William Crutchley gave a spirited address to those assembled, which was thoroughly enjoyed. Mr. Percy Bewick, the newly-appointed visitor of the B.S.L.U., in a few well-chosen words, urged all present to go on in the way they had begun, and wished every success to the new venture. Recitations were given by Lyceumists with good effect. After the session the first election of officers was held; a goodly number of adults stayed, and there was a ready response to fill the various offices. Up to the time of writing we have had five Sundays, and are pleased to report continued progress. We have joined the B.S.L.U.; the spirit of unity and earnestness has prevailed, and our sincere hope is, that by fostering this, the officers may be rewarded with a successful and truly progressive Lyceum.—[An excellent commencement.—Eds.]

MANCHESTER (Collyhurst).—January 29th, open session. Morning, 54 present. Recitations by Masters Hugh, Arthur and Percy Arundale, and Florrie Francis. Afternoon, 105 present, 58 taking part in the marching, etc., which was ably led by Mr. Alf. Smith, jun. We were pleased to see our old friend and Lyceumist, Mr. Yates, take part in the marching; also Mr. J. B. Longstaff, Hon. Sec. to the Lancashire Lyceum Demonstrations Committee. Recitations by Rachael and Amy Wills, Florrie Francis, Carrie and Lena Morris from Higher Broughton Lyceum, Hugh Arundale, and Percy Arundale. In the evening a grand muster of the children and adults on the platform, who took part in the songs and choruses. A fine solo was given by Miss Ethel Waters. Duet by our young friends, Ethel and Arthur Wills; recitation by Master Arundale, followed by a short but excellent address by our late conductor, Mr. T. Taylor, on "The origin of the Lyceum." Clairvoyance was also given by Mr. Percy Bewick.—Feb. 5th: Calisthenics well done; recitations by Amy Wills, Arthur, Hugh and Percy Arundale.—The workers seem to be getting into harness again, and great hopes are entertained for the future success of the Lyceum.—JAS. HARVEY.

NELSON UNITED.—On Saturday, February 4th, we had a Lyceum tea party. A short entertainment followed, contributed by Mr. F. North, Miss Woodward, of Burnley, Master Leonard Duerdon, Master M. Kendall, and Miss May Barker. Accompanist, Miss Reed. Mr. W. Howell presented prizes, costing over £4, to 22 prize winners. There were also two special prizes for reciting during the past year. Mr. Howell then handed Miss Reed a present in form of a gold albert, with a card bearing this inscription: "As a token of love and esteem from the Conductor and members of the North Street Lyceum." Miss Reed, in a few words, thanked us heartily. Miss Reed is a most willing worker, and is worthy of our best praise. A silver medal was also

presented to Mr. Allsop, bearing the same inscription. Mr. Walmsley, ex-conductor, before handing the medal, spoke of the earnest and hard work Mr. Allsop had done for our Lyceum for years past. Up to a few weeks ago, when he retired from office, Mr. Allsop was much affected and could only say, "I thank you." The rest of the evening was spent in dancing. Sunday, February 5th, Lyceum Anniversary. Mr. Howell addressed the Lyceum, and was much appreciated by all present. Mr. Howell gave two excellent addresses in the afternoon and evening. We have 130 members now on the register, and are progressing nicely.—E. KIRBY.

NOTTINGHAM, Gladstone Hall.—January 28th was the date for distribution of prizes. Mr. Gregg made the presentation in a most pleasing and able manner, making very appropriate remarks to each one, and giving words of cheer and encouragement well calculated to inspire every one present with fresh hope, and persistent determination to go onward and upward with Lyceum work; then followed a lively programme. Recitations were given by the Messrs. Lewis, Sanderson, Elliott, Price, Flint, and Masters Sanderson, Elliott, Brown, Cledge, and Flint. The programme was brought to a close by a song, entitled, "The Gift," by our dear friend Miss Carson. A vote of thanks to Mrs. Gregg elicited in response her pleasure and satisfaction with entire conduct and discipline of the Lyceum.

OLDHAM (Bartlam Place).—Sunday, Feb. 19th. Good attendance; marching and calisthenics not done too well. Too much talking while marching; more attention to the Conductor and to the Lyceum duties is required, then we shall have good fruit. The young ladies are having a party on March 4th, in aid of a band for Whitsuntide, when we expect to unfurl our new Banner. Work on, ladies! Remember, the workers win, and we hope you will succeed.—WM. HORSMAN, Sec.

RISHTON.—Mr. Percy Bewick was the speaker at our Spiritualist Church, on Sunday, Jan. 1st, and being a D.V. (Manchester) he paid our Lyceum a visit, speaking very kindly to the scholars, and giving us much encouragement. He paid a tribute of praise to our Conductor, Miss Hanson, for her self-sacrificing work on behalf of the children. She is a young lady only 16 years of age, and nobly undertook the responsible positions of Conductor and Director of Calisthenics, at a time when we were in great need of workers. A pleasing and very thoughtful feature on New Year's Day, was the distribution of New Year's Cards to the Scholars by Miss Hanson, which were gratuitously presented at her own expense. On the following day the the scholars were regaled with coffee and buns, and in return they entertained parents and friends with a display of marching, calisthenics, etc. The officers for the ensuing year were also elected.—A new departure in our school is the formation of classes. Teachers have volunteered, and a lady volunteered as sick and absent visitor. Prizes are to be granted for regular attendance. Mr. Geo. Ormerod has presented to the Lyceum six copies of Mr. Kitson's "Outlines of Spiritualism." The thanks of the teachers and scholars were conveyed to Mr. Ormerod for his useful and generous gift.—J. COOKE, Sec.

ROYTON.—Lyceum tea party on Saturday, Feb. 25th. After tea a very pleasing entertainment, consisting of songs, solos, recitations, etc., by numerous friends and visitors.—[Came late, so is condensed.—Eds., L.B.]

WE were pleased to meet again our co-workers Mr. and Mrs. Wallis while recently in Manchester. They looked hale and hearty.