



HEADQUARTERS OF THE NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION,
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THE NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION.

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What the National Spiritualist Association has Accomplished.

First:—It has shown that ORGANIZATION is a necessity for Spiritualists.

Second:—It has obtained a hearing for Spiritualism before the courts, in the celebrated Emerson case, that would otherwise never have received.

Third:—It has enabled Spiritualism to enter the World's Congress of Religions, and be recorded there as one of the religions of the world.

Fourth:—It has united the Spiritualist Societies of the land, and placed them in touch one with another, thereby creating a better state of feeling among Spiritualists throughout the United States.

Fifth:—It has obtained reliable statistics in regard to the number of Spiritualist Societies, Camp Meeting Associations, Mediums and Speakers, membership of local Societies in the United States, so that the friends and enemies of Spiritualism can easily ascertain its exact standing in this country.

Sixth:—It has opened correspondence with leading Spiritualists in all quarters of the globe, and given the world much valuable information in regard to its standing in foreign countries.

Seventh:—It has established a fund for the defense of mediums who have been unjustly prosecuted in the name of the law, and has sounded the alarm all along the line, wherever unjust legislation against Spiritualists has been attempted in different states. It has urged co-operation in the defence of persecuted mediums, and led all Spiritualists to aid it in this most worthy object.

Eighth:—It sounded the alarm when Christians attempted to introduce the Orthodox God in the CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, and induced the Spiritualists of the country to remonstrate vigorously against such an innovation.

Ninth:—It has, through its Missionaries and liberal advertising, awakened an interest in Spiritualism in the minds of those who have hitherto failed to notice its sublime philosophy and wonderful phenomena.

Tenth:—It has made Spiritualism a legally incorporated religious association, under the laws of the District of Columbia, with power to hold and own property for religious purposes in every state in the Union.

Eleventh:—It has, through its incorporation, placed Spiritualism on equal footing before the courts with every religious body in Christendom.

Twelfth:—It has shown that the aggregation of numbers proves the strength of Spiritualists, and demonstrates their ability to demand and receive their rights under the law.

Thirteenth:—It has given the right hand of fellowship to every medium who has been unjustly arrested and given such aid as was in its power to extend, always stating that the lack of funds prevented it from doing more.

Fourteenth:—It has established centrally located and well appointed Headquarters in sight of the National Capital buildings, at Washington, D. C., which have been visited by some of the most prominent people in our land, and, at these headquarters, located its National Library in which the best books on Spiritualism can be found for the enlightenment of the masses; also a Directory of all the Mediums and Speakers and Societies in the U. S. A. and a bureau of information in regard to the progress of Spiritualism and the movements of its Mediums and Speakers.

H. D. BARRETT,
FRANCIS B. WOODBURY,
Secretary.

Pres. N. S. A.

Simple Principles Covering the Legal Points in Organization.

Organization and discipline are the means whereby a number of people are able to do that which cannot be done at all or not so conveniently without. They are thus able to combine their forces, and act in harmony for a common purpose.

It needs no argument to show that there are many things that Spiritualists ought to do, that render it

necessary that they should be organized. Some of these relate to the whole country and are of interest to Spiritualists in all parts of the country alike. A national organization, extending over the entire United States, is needed for such.

Other matters by virtue either of a more limited range of territory, or because of state laws and government, are of interest only to the people of the states separately. State association is proper for such.

Many others are of local interest, that is to say, of interest to groups of people, who can assemble conveniently at one place. These, therefore, require local organizations.

Because of the distance of travel, and the large number of persons interested, it is not practical for all to meet at one point, beyond a limited number, and range of territory, so that the state and national associations should be delegate bodies, one person representing a greater or less number of individuals.

Local societies are frequently so numerous and few in membership, that the national body would be unwieldy and expensive if composed of delegates direct from locals, and so that is often composed of delegates from state associations only. Where a large territory is represented, there is necessarily great inequality in the distance to be traveled and consequent expense. This sometimes prevents the remoter portions from having a full representation, and thus gives great preponderance of those near the meeting point. This is best remedied by equalizing the expense. A system of mileage to delegates from a common fund contributed equally by all is usually adapted for this purpose.

This process of organization is not difficult when once understood. It is in essence the formation of a contract, which contract is embodied in a constitution. This may be framed in any manner whatever. Sometimes one or more persons formulate the document, and then procure the desired number to agree to it, one by one; or a prospectus is circulated for signatures, which sets forth the general plan and purpose of the association, and the signers then meet, form a temporary body, and either act upon a constitution previously prepared and offered by some one, or else appoint a committee to draft one, upon which they act. When this constitution is completed and signed these signers are the society, and must qualify according to the provisions, and be bound by the conditions of the constitution.

By another method, the temporary body may consist of all who respond to a published call, setting forth the purpose of the meeting and inviting every one interested to participate. For conducting such meetings consult Roberts' Rules of Order, or any like manual of parliamentary law.

A constitution to be operative should contain at least five articles, setting forth:

1. Name and object of the society.
2. Qualifications of membership, which usually also prescribes conditions on which new members may be admitted.
3. Officers, their election and their duties.
4. Stated meetings of the society, only including the necessary meetings for electing officers, and other important business, leaving details to the by-laws.
5. How to amend the constitution. Which constitution should contain only essentials, and be made difficult of amendment.

The by-laws should contain details and be more easily amended.

The law recognizing such bodies as common law partnerships, and they may be formed of any number of persons, and for any legitimate purposes.

Such a society may assume a name as a body, but the law would not recognize its signature or seal, and it could not take title to and hold property, or appear in court by such name, but instead *all* the names of the members would have to be used, or signed, and all the members must sue, or be sued jointly. These and other difficulties, such as the liability of each member for the entire debts, the effect of death of members and descent of property, etc., gives rise to the occasion for incorporation. If the society is to be incorporated, the constitution should conform to the particular law under which it is to be done. Such laws usually define the purposes of the association, the number of trustees, amount of property or stock, and various other details. And the constitution must be made to harmonize with all these provisions.

The essence of incorporation is that by so doing the law recognizes the name adopted by the association as standing for a proper person, having many of the attributes of a citizen. It can by this name take title to property, sue and be sued in court, make contracts, etc., and does not die by the death of any of the persons that compose the membership. Its life may be for a term of years or in perpetuity, depending on the provisions of the law. Usually, but with some exceptions, the persons forming this corporation are exempt from liability for the corporation debts beyond the amount stipulated in the constitution and by-laws adopted.

Corporations must be, as a rule, formed under state laws, for the reason that the powers of Congress extend only to those enumerated in the constitution of the United States, and such as are incidental thereto. As an incident of the power of Congress over the money of the country, banking corporations have been formed, but this has always been seriously questioned. It is very doubtful whether Congress can constitutionally create corporations at all, by virtue of its delegated powers.

The authority of a state government extends only

over its own territory, of course, but every state recognizes the corporations of other states, and governments. These are called foreign corporations. More or less distinction is made between foreign and domestic corporations, according to various laws relating to the same, and the various kinds of corporations. As a rule, there is but little discrimination against the corporations of other states, especially those for religious, benevolent and educational purposes.

A corporation organized under the laws of one state can easily conform to all the requirements of every other state, so as to operate nationally or throughout the entire country. Thus a society having members all over the country, such as a Grand Lodge, Supreme Lodge, National Grange, etc., if incorporated, is domestic in the state where it is incorporated, and foreign in all the rest. Each of its subordinate associations must be separately incorporated under the state law, to act in its own name.

A delegate body comes under the foregoing principles and rules in respect to its organization and incorporation. The societies are the members and are represented by their delegates. The constitution of this delegate body is the contract, which is agreed to by the chartered societies by soliciting and accepting of the charters. These charters are in effect certificates of membership of such associations. The constitution determining their right, privileges, duties, obligations and qualifications.

Organization is the contract relation of the persons or societies to each other, in the formation of the particular association, and is embodied in a constitution and by-laws.

Incorporation is the relation of such associations as a whole to other people, and is found in the corporation laws of the state and the act of incorporation of the association.

In short, a society adjusts its internal relations by organization, by individually agreeing to its constitution and by-laws, and adjusts its external relations by incorporating collectively as unit by the "act of incorporation" and the laws of the various states.

L. V. MOULTON.

Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 17, 1895.

The Imperative Necessity of Sustaining the National Spiritualist Association.

All people feel the need of associative effort in any reform work.

After the first years of disintegration and individualization incident to the outgrowing of narrow creeds and dogmas, Spiritualists are now convinced that they should band together, not upon any credal basis, but on the broad platform of absolute individual LIBERTY

OF OPINION, for the purpose of mutual encouragement and strength in carrying forward the work of spreading the "glad tidings" of spiritual truth, and for mutual defense against any and all encroachments, legislative, judicial, or otherwise, upon their individual right to pursue Spiritualism either as a science or religion.

Slavery was legalized under the constitution of the United States, and the organization of the anti-slavery society was not so much for the purpose of aiding individuals to escape from bondage (although that was resorted to when other measures failed) as to change the laws by educational and legislative means; had the people been ready for this there need not have been the terrible bloodshed incident upon the war of the rebellion, in order to wipe out the stain of chattel slavery from our escutcheon.

Temperance, labor, woman suffrage—in fact, every movement looking toward human progress—has been thoroughly organized—why not Spiritualists?

The experience of nearly two years in the work of the National Spiritualist Association has proved more conclusively than ever, if any added proofs were needed, that the whole body of Spiritualists—believers, mediums in all phases, ministers, speakers, teachers—need to unite their efforts.

Individual advocacy does not suffer by associative effort; the strong are made stronger, and the weak are strengthened by union. Local and distant societies are made one with all other societies in the general work for the cause; each integral part (society) possesses the strength of the whole body.

SPIRITUALISTS: We have enemies in Church and State and Judiciary—Organize!

We have opponents, ignorant or prejudiced, among all classes of people—Organize and meet and teach them!

There are legislative enactments, pending or in active operation, against mediumship in its phenomenal phases, in every state in this nation—Organize! and repeal already existing laws and prevent the enactment of other laws inimical to our rights and privileges!

The truths of Spiritualism are eternal and can afford to wait for recognition, but Spiritualists cannot afford to be idle; it is their opportunity of showing the reason for the light that is in them, and showing that light.

Organize under your local laws for local work, under your state laws for state work, and UNITE WITH THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION for the general work throughout the United States.

"IN UNION THERE IS STRENGTH."

CORA L. V. RICHMOND,

Chicago, June 17, 1895. Vice-President N. S. A.

Do you support the spiritual papers? If not, do so at once.

The Spirit of the Organizers of the N. S. A.

With full hearts and reverent faces turned towards the hovering hosts of beloved spirits, we sense the presence of a great spiritual wave, increased and intensified by the accumulation of pent up energies of this most magnetic and therefore the most dominant of all continents. The flood-tide of the wave is now here. It is wise and timely for us, as assembled delegates from the spiritual centres of the Nation, to seize upon this opportune moment to form and perfect a Central National organization, which shall prove so practical and so wise in all of its working parts, as to insure its continued and permanent growth, and bring to us, as an aggregate body of gifted people, an ever progressive, harmonious movement towards the accomplishment of a mighty work."

"It has been the peculiar province of Spiritualism to bring prominently before the world, woman as a minister, teacher, counselor and guide. On our rostrum everywhere, how nobly she has demonstrated her entire fitness for the work! * * * Her true mission as savior and regenerator of mankind is to be demonstrated beyond peradventure. With the commencement of the twentieth century comes the beginning of a new cycle, and with it woman's golden era." * * *

"My beloved brothers and sisters, fellow-delegates to this Convention, let us make haste to band ourselves together and through the medium of our organization spread broadcast the great white light of this beautiful and wonderful truth. We have found the law of the healing of the nations. * * * Among the many important reasons why we as Spiritualists, should organize, the following stand prominently forth: No great work can be accomplished without harmonious co-operation. The grand law of co-operation lies at the basis of all social and industrial success. With spiritual achievements it should be and is the same. Therefore let us be prepared to take advantage of that law."—*Milan D. Edson, First delegate Convention, Chicago, 1893.*

* * * "It is our pleasing duty at the outset, and before any one knows what will be the result of this Convention, to welcome you as Spiritualists to Chicago; to welcome you as the representatives of the grandest, freest and most blessed light that heaven has ever given to man. * * * Twenty-five, thirty or forty years ago, to talk to Spiritualists about organization, was like talking to one who had escaped from prison about going back again, or like shaking a red flag in front of a very formidable quadruped; but Spiritualists now know there are organizations and organizations, and although we recently heard in that great assembly, the Parliament of Religions, one very great worker in his line say that he was less and less in favor of organization, we did not wonder at it in view of the fact that all things connected with human life have been organized to death.

"But friends, the view that now seems to present itself is this. When the sunshine is offered by the Infinite, when the atmosphere is offered for you to

breathe, when all the blessings of the earth and air are at your command, it is not shall we organize sunshine or fresh air, or whatever blessings are given, but is it necessary to organize to prevent them from being taken from us? We seem to think by our presence here that it is.

* * * "When you make the final report, this should represent the highest testimony of the truth that the spirit world has brought you: 'That you organized for unity in carrying forward the light of the spirit world as it has been brought to you, and that you restrain, restrict and in no wise bind any one in the organization or its auxiliaries either to see the light as you see it, or to pursue it as you pursue it, so long as no human being infringes upon the rights, privileges, aspirations or highest life of any other individual.'

"Truth was organized before you or we or any human lives were born; but those who accept a truth may, under the guidance of that truth, combine for the better observation, the better bringing forward of that truth in unity. There is but one truth that Spiritualism needs to emphasize, and that is SPIRITUALISM. No qualification is necessary. It is neither Christian nor Pagan, it is neither physical nor religious, it is not essentially scientific or theological; it is Spiritualism, pure, simple, unqualified, and applies to every heart as the sunshine does to the earth, whereof every flower, and all the trees of the forest, and every living thing, shall appropriate as much and the sunshine that is needed for the individual growth." * * * *Address of Welcome to the delegates at the Chicago Convention, by Mrs. Cora L. V. Richmond.*

"I want to show our friends in Chicago and the committee who have at this time called the attention of the Spiritualists throughout the world to the necessities for organization that we are awake. We have listened, we have noted the signs of the times. * * * Again I say, with our hearts and minds intent upon a larger possibility for spiritual unfoldment and acknowledgment by the world at large, we pledge ourselves as delegates to honestly work not for self, but for the great cause which we have been sent here to represent."—*Mrs. Ada Sheehan, at the Chicago Convention; response for the delegates.*

* * * "The magnitude of the task set before us need not be enlarged upon by me. We all feel the gravity of the situation, and, I trust, have come here for the purpose of proving to the world that we are endeavoring to embody the great principles of right and justice upon which Spiritualism rests, in our daily lives. * * * With these object lessons before us [referring to the various combinations in legislation against human freedom] ought we not, as Spiritualists, as lovers of liberty, to recognize the necessity of co-operative efforts among our people for the sake of maintaining the few rights we now possess, and to prevent persecution in all forms? In union there is strength, and by thus uniting we shall have the power of concentrated efforts, through which we can advance more rapidly as a people, and also have a business center, from which shall emanate no dictations in regard to what people shall think, say or do, but helpful information in regard to the progress of Spiritualism throughout the world."—*President Barrett's Address at the Chicago Convention.*