

NEW-ENGLAND SPIRITUALIST.

A JOURNAL OF THE METHODS AND PHILOSOPHY OF SPIRIT-MANIFESTATION, AND ITS USES TO MANKIND.

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"LIGHT! MORE LIGHT STILL!" — GOSWOLD.

TERMS, TWO DOLLARS A YEAR, IN ADVANCE.

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FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1857.

No. 3.

Phenomenal & Philosophical.

"FRIENDS OF HUMAN PROGRESS."

The third annual meeting of a Religious Association bearing this title, was held at North Collins, Erie Co., N. H., on the 25th, 26th and 27th of September last. From the minutes of its proceedings, as published in the *Age of Progress* of Oct. 24th, we learn that ANDREW J. and MARY F. DAVIS were prominent among the speakers on the occasion. The following, among other declarations, or "testimonies," put forth by the meeting, indicate its liberal and practical tendencies:

HOME AND BIRTHRIGHT.

Happy homes, wherein wise affection rules, are of priceless value, giving in life's early morning, joy and cheerful strength to the soul, imparting that hopeful courage, that capacity to meet trials with an even mind, those habits of self-control, that love of truth, that health of mind and body so essential to the right conduct of life. Children born under such blessed influences, and coming into the world amidst such an atmosphere, have that rich endowment of mental and spiritual wealth and physical vigor and purity, which is the unalienable birthright of every human being; of which no parents have a right to rob their offspring by impurity or perverted passion in their married life. We earnestly commend to all parents a high standard, in their own homes, of purity of thought and action, an avoidance of vulgarity of speech, a high courtesy of deportment, an abstinence from all unseemly personal habits, and filthy or unwholesome stimulants, and a familiar, kindly cheerfulness of manner and speech. Then shall they seek to bestow this birthright on beings yet unborn, and thus set fit examples to those around them; not by arbitrary government, crushing intellect and affection in submission to their despotic will, but guiding and controlling by the magnetic influence of power of mind and qualities of character, maturer, stronger, more perfect in development than those of their offspring. Children should be younger companions, enjoying with affectionate reverence the parent's society. Our material surroundings are influences of no small moment. We would urge that every dwelling be tasteful in its finish and interior furnishings, which can be the case, even with limited means, by the thoughtful exercise of correct taste. In the pleasant and cheerful location of the homestead and its surroundings of landscape, trees, grass and flowers, much can and should be done to develop beauty and harmony of spirit in those who may dwell therein. Let nothing be underrated which can help to make homes pleasant and happy, for such homes must redeem the world; those born therein shall have richer spiritual wealth, larger capacities receptive of those great truths which come like good angels to help humanity onward and upward.

EDUCATION.

Appreciating the importance of intellectual and moral culture, we should use efforts to keep our public schools free from sectarian influences, (in accordance with the spirit of our laws,) and also to awaken a feeling of the need of higher moral influence, which shall do away with degrading corporal punishment. As friends of justice and equality, we should patronize those private schools, academies and colleges which are most free from narrow bigotry; which encourage most the frank, respectful utterance of the honest opinions of students in debate and compositions, and which accord an equal educational privilege to all, without distinction of sex or race. We especially commend in such institutions, the joint education in the same classes and literary societies of young men and women, and their familiar social intercourse, wisely regulated as in a well-conducted home, as tending to awaken the intellect, purify the morals, and give that natural development to the social faculties which is the best safeguard of the young. Viewing education, in its wider sense, as the bringing into harmonious action, strengthening and developing of intellectual and moral powers, affections, social, moral and religious sentiments and intuitive faculties, acting through healthy physical bodies, we would seek to bring within reach, and surround ourselves by such aids of home schools, pure, healthful and progressive literature, public meetings, social enjoyments and physical activity as shall conduce to those great ends; thus calling out and awakening to life, growth and beauty, the germs of powers that lie folded in our natures.

AUTHORITY AND INSPIRATION.

We see in the present, and still more in the past, how men are and have been in spiritual and mental bondage to human authority, making life mean and slavish, building up false institutions in church and state, to fill the world with superstition, tyranny and want; sanctioning the power of a corrupt priesthood; cursing men with blind reverence for most wicked laws. We would be free, and strive to make others so, in the highest sense of the term; free to know and obey God's everlasting Gospel, as written in the laws of our being, and of the Universe.

We would accept no creed or book as master of the soul; believe no message, purporting to come either from earthly or heavenly spheres, with blind and unreasoning obedience, but accept from each and all with joy and thankfulness whatever our own souls hold to be true, and reject all else. It must be safe, right, and the royal road to truth and salvation, to use the high faculties of reason, conscience, religious sentiments and intuition with which we are endowed. To renounce these faculties, and not dare to use them, is to be infidel —

unfaithful to our own souls. We cannot believe in the false teachings of the church and the clergy, that Inspiration ceased when the Bible was finished, and that God only revealed himself to the few Jews who were its authors. Such an idea is false to the great fact of man's progressive and expanding powers. We believe that God's inspirations come now as ever, free, impartial, glorious, if we will but so live as to be fit to receive them. It has been well said, "When a man once feels confidence in the eternal laws of God, and resolves to devote his life to their study and observance, he obtains a ground of faith compared to which all churches, atonements and infallible books, appear very trifling and unimportant." Let us seek that ground, and with our freedom higher truth shall dawn on us.

SPIRITUALISM.

Resolved, That the phenomena of Spiritualism present many remarkable facts, well proved by many intelligent witnesses, which demand investigation and questioning as to their origin, uses, and the laws by which they are governed. That while we would use a wise discrimination in this — as in all other subjects — we commend, in the ideas of the more advanced and rational teachers of the harmonical or spiritual doctrines, a recognition of the need of purer love, joined with higher and broader wisdom in the conduct of life, or of the importance of gaining knowledge by and through the perceptive, reflective and intuitive faculties, all in well-balanced operation; of the importance of daily effort for harmony of thought, action and development; of life beyond the grave as a condition of growth and progress, of activity and duty; of the beautiful faith, that voices of cheer and consolation may come to us from those who have gone before to a higher existence; earnest warnings against the baleful effects of bigotry; and emphatic injunctions not to accept their words as authority, but receive or reject them, as they may seem true or false to the free inquirer.

DRESS REFORM.

Whereas, every organ and function of the human body, as every faculty of the mind, requires freedom as a condition for an expansive growth and harmonic development of all its powers and capabilities, in their true, natural and divine order;

And whereas, the present style of woman's dress tends to dwarf and belittle the physical organism, and, through it, the soul —

Resolved, That as men and women of enlarged and liberal views upon certain subjects, and as sisters, to our brothers and sisters in bondage, to the millions who will come after us, to speak earnestly and practically in behalf of Dress Reform. A loosening of waists and a shortening of skirts, so as to allow free respiration and unfettered movement of the limbs; discarding such articles as paper shoes, apparition bonnets, and the like, and that we ought to sustain with our sympathy and co-operation, in public and private, all those who feel it in their souls to adopt a reform dress, and live a more pure and healthful life than is possible to them while held in bondage to Custom and Fashion.

WOMAN AND MARRIAGE.

Resolved, That woman being the mother of the world and a co-equal with man in the heritage of immortality, should be favored with every advantage enjoyed by her brother, for physical, intellectual and moral education or development; that all civil and political privileges and emoluments should be as accessible to her as to man; that the same remuneration should be granted to her as to her brother for the same kind and amount of labor; and that, in the marriage relation, she should be fully secured in her natural rights to property, to the legal custody of her children and to the entire control of her own person, that thereby fewer and better children may be born, and humanity be improved and elevated.

Do Good. — Thousands of men breathe, move and live — pass off the stage of life, and are heard of no more. Why? They do not partake of good in the world, and none were blessed by them, none could point to them as the instrument of their redemption; and not a word they spoke could be recalled, and so they perished; their light went out in darkness, and they were not remembered more than the insect of yesterday. Will you thus live and die, O man immortal? Live for something. Do good, and leave behind you a monument of virtue that the storm of time can never destroy. Write your name in kindness, love and mercy, on the hearts of thousands you come in contact with, year by year; you will never be forgotten. No; your name, your deeds, will be as legible on the hearts you leave behind, as the stars on the brow of evening. Good deeds will shine as the stars of Heaven. — *Dr. Chalmers.*

A MYSTERY. — A man, in the presence of a certain woman, is struck by the sudden fascination under which he has fallen. Confused memories come thick upon him as he looks: the tone of her voice, the character of her smile, nay, her individual features seem familiar to him; he loves himself in the idea that he has surely seen her — known her — loved her before; and at length he thinks, half with a smile, half with a pleasing dread, that the thing is an impossibility as regards this life, it must have occurred in some former state of existence! And he is right: it did occur in another state of existence; for such are all our new phases of thought. It is hard to say what trifle in her external appearance, or perhaps in her expression, served to connect her with the distant train of fancies and feelings; but the connection once established, however slightly, the rest was easy, and she became identified with the things and thoughts of the "former birth." — *Phila. Sat. Eve. Post.*

For the New England Spiritualist.

THE PANIC.

BY S. M. PETERS, S. R.

Every fact in Bible history, every fact in human life, has a spiritual significance underlying its external expression; and these facts, when classified, constitute the science of mundane existence. Every effect is the sequence of a cause immutable in its operation, and becomes, by virtue of its office, the cause of an effect still to follow. By studying these causes and their certain effects, we may learn how to live; and they who know how to live, are always prepared for that glorious change, called death. They who live in accordance with the eternal laws that govern the universe, never fear death, never clutch despairingly at the phantom hopes of a death-bed repentance, never send for a priest at the last hour of earth-life, to be psychologized into a faith which they have professed for years.

But we have not been educated in this way, and now, when this tremendous financial crisis is upon us, the worshippers of the "unknown god" are adrift upon a stormy sea, without compass, or rudder, or any guide of action whatever. The clergy preach sermons on the panic, and, as usual, float about in the vapor of a chaotic theology, where "darkness is on the face of the waters." No two of them agree as to the origin of the trouble, and not one of them has come within a "shadow of a shade" of the real cause. And their hearers go home from church no better satisfied with the prospects of the coming winter, than they were on the Saturday night previous, when they were discharged from employment.

This is a good time to test the intrinsic value of the spiritual committees of the "Church Militant," and it will be observed that their decline exceeds that of temporal food.

Every hour in the day I am consulted upon the present condition of the laboring classes, by men who have heretofore considered me a "dangerous member of society." A good presbyterian, after listening to a panic sermon, comes to me, when the following dialogue ensues: —

Presbyterian. "Well, Mr. Peters, you look as unconcerned as if every thing was right. I wish you would tell me how I am to get along another week."

Spirit Rapper. "Take no thought for the morrow; sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

Presbyterian. "But I must think of the morrow; — how am I to get along for my family?"

Spirit Rapper. "Seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all things will be added therewith."

Presbyterian. "This is all nonsense; I did not come here to talk about religion. I have no money, no credit, and I am out of work."

Spirit Rapper. "If you can't live your religion, what is it good for?"

Presbyterian. "My religion was given to teach me how to die, not how to live."

Spirit Rapper. "O, very well! You are all right then; you will soon be out of trouble. Any reasonable man can starve to death in nine or ten days."

Presbyterian. "But, do you think that the Christian religion can be of any benefit to a man in this world, in such a time as this?"

Spirit Rapper. "Certainly, my friend; you just said that I looked 'unconcerned,' and I am. I am living upon the Christian religion to day, for, like yourself, I have no money, and am out of employment. I am unconcerned for myself, for I know that 'all things work together for good to them that love the Lord.'"

This is a time for deep thought; this is a time, if possible, to ascertain where and how we got switched off the track, and switch ourselves on again, soon as we can. This is a time to examine the charming machine of society, and see how many screws are loose, how many shafts and springs are broken or bent, and how many journals want greasing. This is a time to equalize the wages of the working bees, and chase the drones from the hive. Every individual of us, is, to a certain extent, responsible for the present condition of the country, and we can learn more from the experience of the last year, and its results, than from all the panic sermons that all the clergymen in the world can preach in a thousand years.

There are, at this moment, provisions enough in the country to feed the entire population for two years to come. The demand for the necessities, conveniences, and comforts of this life, is as great as ever; there is no scarcity, no pestilence, no war, and lo, the machinery of business stands still, the hammer of the smith lays in the anvil, and the factory bell no longer calls the white cuffs of the North to enjoy the luxury of hard work and poor-house wages. And the real producers of wealth, the men who fashion and form the crude materials of earth into all the utilitarian purposes of life, are confounded, and wholly at a loss for the causes and the remedy.

There is a spiritual significance in all these things, and the man who fails to profit by them must expect to drudge on at the mercy of charlatanism, in the pulpit, and everywhere else. "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof," but who believes it? The human soul is more precious than fine gold, but who believes it? Every institution, every custom, every popular opinion in this country is based upon the opposite idea. Labor stands secondary to capital; man is governed by money; gold is the god of America. The wages of labor, the profits of productions, the regulations of traffic, are under the especial supervision and control of a class that produces nothing, and consumes at pleasure.

There is no necessity for the present state of things.

There is an abundance of all the requirements of life in the country, and if the real producers of all the hoarded wealth and stores of corn are content to sit down and starve, while a shameless few riot in plenty, the fault is only with those who starve. Self-preservation is the first law of nature, and the Lord helps them that help themselves. The Lord works by means and instrumentalities. Now I have the most perfect trust in our Father. During the past summer, the rain has fallen, and the sun has shone, and fields of golden grain have waved in the gentle breeze, and plenty was seen everywhere. But I am not a farmer, I am a mechanic, and, as I think, a necessary member of a civilized community. The shop door is closed on me now; I have nothing to do; winter is near: and my wife and children will want food, and they shall have it. As I said, I trust in Providence, but I have no faith in "soup-houses." If professional benevolence has any extra pigs' tails and noses on hand, let them be taken to "donation parties," but do not insult laborers and artisans — Nature's noblemen — with the proffered salvation of soup, "eaten on the premises." I say to the men who hold the resources of this country in their hands: Gentlemen, if you have any charity, keep it for yourselves, for you will need it all when you get over Jordan, if not before; but give us work and fair wages this winter, or take the consequences — that's all.

Panics have their mission. Like all other excitements, they arouse the latent energies of the mind, and unburden it of hereditary or educational perversities. When the mind is active, the man will get himself out. At such a time, hypocrites become suddenly afflicted with sanctimoniousness, and priests, under the cloak of benevolence, strive to regain lost power. A very amusing instance of this is seen in the organization of a society in Boston, for the "Prevention of Pauperism." This society, under the very transparent gauze-wrapper of charity, proposes to "kill off" Spiritualism, by calling upon the press to refrain from publishing notices of spiritual lectures, and furthermore appoints a committee to wait upon the Mayor and Aldermen, and ask them to institute measures to suppress spiritual meetings. In this we have evidence that the squaw-converting, quaker-persecuting, and witch-burning propensities of Puritanism, have not entirely evaporated. It behooves us, therefore, to assist these successors of Cotton Mather in throwing off the foul humors of the blood that they have inherited from their ancestors of Salem-witchcraft notoriety. I resolve myself, therefore, into a committee of one, to "kill off" the last spasmodic remains of puritanical intolerance, and I recommend that the "Society for the Prevention of Pauperism," (aliases understood) shall hold its meetings half way between Bunker Hill Monument, and the ruins of the Ursuline Convent on Mount Benedict, so that Deacon Grant's committee can have a fair view of both monuments; one, sacred to liberty, the other, to religious persecution. And I further recommend that Secretary Woodward open these meetings by reading portions of the early history of New England, especially that portion wherein it is recorded that the non-resisting Quakers fled from the mild sway of puritanism, to ask and receive freedom and protection from the Roman Catholic colony of Lord Baltimore, in Maryland. And I further recommend that the press all over the country shall publish all the transactions of the "Society for the Prevention of Pauperism." All the return I ask for this advice, is, that the "Society" shall do its utmost to "kill off" Spiritualism by forcible means.

Truth always prospers under difficulties, and when this panic is over, it will be seen that right has made a long step in progress, when appearances were very unpromising. Deacon Grant's committee will "kick against the pricks," while the sick and supernaturated are provided for by the less windy and more practical philanthropists of the land; and the strong-armed working men will post themselves up in the *modus operandi* of panics, in times of plenty, and institute measures to prevent a frequent recurrence of the same.

GOOD ADVICE. — A man strikes me with a sword and inflicts a wound. Suppose, instead of binding up the wound, I am showing it to every body; and after it has been bound up, I am taking off the bandage continually, and examining the depth of the wound, and making it to fester, till my limb becomes greatly inflamed, and all my general health is materially affected; is there a person in the world who would not call me a fool? Now such a fool is he, who, by dwelling upon little injuries, or insults, or provocations, causes them to agitate and inflame his mind.

How much better were it to put a bandage over the wound, and never look at it again. — *Jamison.*

Remember this, that after a system is well settled upon positive evidence, a few partial objections ought not to shake it. The human mind is so limited, that it cannot take in all the parts of a subject, so that there may be objections raised against any thing.

TRUTH. — Truth, like the juice of the poppy, in small quantities, calms men; in larger, heats and irritates them, and is attended by fatal consequences in its excess. — *Middleton.*

Glorious indeed is the world of God around us, but more glorious is the world of God within us. There lies the land of song, here lies the poet's native land.

Many a man of true genius passes through life unaccredited, except by a sacred few — who have themselves won no recognition.

For the New England Spiritualist.

"Q. E. D." AND THE BOSTON COURIER.

[The following communication expresses the view of a candid mind upon the course of Prof. Felton and the Boston Courier against Spiritualism. It should have appeared last week, but was crowded out by a press of other matter, relating partly to the same topics. — Ed.]

The article in the *Spiritualist* of Oct. 17th professed to show up Prof. Felton's Address at Salem on Spiritualism, in his own words, and it seems to me, on comparing it with his address, that it does so with perfect fairness. The editor of the Boston Courier seems not to like it, and he criticises it in his way, by magniloquence and calling hard names. The picture, such as it is, is drawn by the Professor's own hand, and the editor, by his own rule, heretofore promulgated, confesses the likeness, as he does not prove a single misrepresentation. He attempts, in the usual manner of small politicians, to get up a trivial issue about Mr. Mansfield, who may, for ought I know, be a reliable or unreliable person; and whether he is so or not, has just as much bearing upon Spiritualism as the question whether Dr. H. is a quack, has upon the theory and practice of medicine; or whether the Reverend Mr. B. or Deacon C. is a hypocrite, has upon Christianity. The going about at the examinations of public schools, denouncing individuals in any sect or profession as quacks, is certainly a humble calling, though exposing such on proper occasions, and in decent terms, in the course of one's proper function, is useful. Mere denunciation and railing and scurrility do not become the party who resorts to them, or tend to mend the parties railed at.

The editor, in the leader in question, adopts the Professor's style. He says that the article in the *Spiritualist* is "elaborately bad," — "foolish," — he says of the writer, that, "like all Spiritualists, his brain is softened," — [a clumsy phraseology, by the way.] "though malignant, he is impotent," — "he does not disprove a single fact," — he "misquotes," &c. Now the Prof. and the editor seem not to be the proper persons to reproach any one with malignity. By "elaborately bad," the *Courier* probably refers to some clumsy phrase like his own above quoted, and like a similar one in the letter addressed to Mr. Pierpont, which shocked the editor so much, and upon which he pronounced the letter not to be written by Wm. E. Channing. The *Courier* is great in matters of grammar. Somebody, somewhere, says, that matters of state, philosophy, &c., discussed by grammarians, become questions of grammar. As to the brain, the editor's own is in some danger, if he gets a few more hits from Mr. Woodman, unless his skull is very thick.

But his main objection is, that the contributors of the *Spiritualist* article do not disprove one of the Prof's facts. For instance, the Prof. says all Spiritualists are comprehended in two classes, viz., knaves and fools. This is among his facts, as the editor calls them. Having announced this fact or facts, the Prof. and the editor modestly consider all mankind to be bound thereby, unless they appear before said Prof. and editor and disprove the same.

I understand the article in the *Spiritualist*, as every reader of it probably does, to be a transparent exhibition of the Professor's amazing satisfaction in his own and his conferees' knowledge and wisdom, and the duty of others to come and learn of them to distinguish their own right hands from their left. Another object of this piece, equally apparent, is, to exhibit the Prof's "elaborately bad" logic, viz., a series of gratuitous assumptions and sophistical inferences. That article did not call upon the Prof. and his collaborators, if he has such, at their peril, to appear before the writers of the article and prove the contrary. It exhibited the proofs in the very words of the Professor. If that evidence did not satisfy the readers of the article, of the "immense self-conceit" and sophistry intended to be presented, then, it was not worthy to be honored with the contempt of the Professor and the editors of the *Courier*.

Leaving alone the "immense conceit," then, if the *Courier* wants material issues, without dodging off upon a frivolous one, or, as in its reply to Mr. Woodman, a false one, it may find a number of such in the "foolish" article of the *Spiritualist*, which must be very obvious to every body else, if not to the editors of that paper. Among the same are these.

The Prof. assumes that, if out of some hundred professed mediums, some ten are proved not to be reliable, this is demonstrative evidence that they are all knaves, and Spiritualism is a "stupendous humbug." The *Spiritualist* article denies this by suggesting that by the same sophism you may, by finding a like proportion of hypocrites, denounce all professed Christians to be hypocrites, and Christianity a "humbug."

Again, the Prof. takes, as the ground of an inference, that no motion of a material object can be caused otherwise than by one of the known, ordinary mechanical powers. The *Spiritualist* article suggests the contrary, and instances motions of material substances, familiar to every body, which are not the result of those powers.

These two examples cover a great part of the logic, if such it may be called, of the Professor's address and "elaborately bad" articles in the *Courier* relative to Spiritualism, not excepting the lucid communication from Professor Eustis about the Hindoo juggler. If the Professor and the writer of the *Courier* leaders will give discussions upon these issues and others equally material, in a manner usual with philosophers and Christians, and those who hold themselves and others in some respect, instead of vociferating vain denunciations, vituperation and defamatory personalities, and counselling and reprimanding such persons as Mr. Woodman and Mr. Pierpont, as if those persons were mere tyros put under their instruction and discipline, they might by so doing, render some service to truth and to the public.

The Spiritualist.

A. E. NEWTON, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot hear them now."—Jesus

BOSTON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1857.

MR. MANSFIELD'S MEDIUMSHIP, AGAIN.

We last week stated some of the facts which had convinced us of the reality of the remarkable powers claimed to be exercised through Mr. J. V. Mansfield; and we also exposed the triviality of the evidences on which rest the charges of fraud and imposture which have been formulated against him.

We wish now to add a few suggestions, for the guidance of such as desire to avail themselves of his powers, and in answer to various inquiries which have been addressed to us.

By reference to Mr. Mansfield's card, in another column, it will be seen that he requires \$1.00 in advance, for each letter to which a reply is desired, with a stamp to prepay postage on the reply when sent by mail. To many, this looks like an extortionate charge for so trifling a service; and the impression has gone abroad that, whether honest or otherwise, Mr. M. must be accumulating a fortune by the occupation he is following. Furthermore, as he does not consider himself bound to return the fee in cases where letters are unanswered, this is thought strong evidence, if not proof conclusive, of his charlatanism.

But we would ask the attention of candid people to the following considerations: In the first place, Mr. M. invites *nobody* to send him letters, or to take up his time by seeking tests of his powers. This is a business he has not sought for himself. The power exercised through his organism was developed without his asking; it is not under his direct control. In consequence of it, he has been thrown out of a profitable business, with a dependent family for whom he is bound to provide. *It seems, then, but just that those who, from curiosity or any other motive, make demands upon his time, should do so at their own risk, not at his*—since he does not pretend to be able to meet their wishes in any case. He claims only to be the instrument of a power or powers beyond himself, to which he cannot dictate, and whose operations are influenced by conditions which he even understands but partially. Hours of valuable time are often spent fruitlessly over a letter, in vain endeavors to detect its electrical or nervous emanations, while the contents of another are clearly perceived by a few passes of "that wonderful finger." Hence no individual should think of applying for the exercise of this phase of mediumship, unless such applicant has sufficient curiosity, or desire, to be willing to bear his own risk to the amount of the fee required.

If, however, all applicants for Mr. M.'s services were careful to comply with his terms, he might do a tolerable business for these times; but such, he informs us, is not the case. *The great majority pay nothing, not even their postage.* On four several days when we made inquiries, the statement was as follows: First day, 30 letters received, of which three only contained the fee; second day, 17 letters received; three only paid for. Third day, the same. Fourth day, 14 letters; four containing the fee. Out of these letters the proportion of eight in ten, or four-fifths, on the average, are replied to through Mr. M.'s hand. The spirits, or whatever may be the power which gives the answers, pay no regard whatever to the matter of prepayment; in fact, the greater proportion of the answers pertain to *unpaid* letters. Mr. M. says he has never refused to return such replies as are given, whether paid for or not—prepaying the return postage himself. Sometimes these answers are brief, the postage costing but a single stamp; oftener they are long, and being written coarsely (as is the case with nearly all mechanical writing through mediums), they cover a large surface of paper requiring a number of stamps,—the postage sometimes amounting to thirty and even thirty-five cents on a single answer. In this way, the amount received by the day's mail is often nearly all (sometimes more than all) absorbed in repaying return postages. The reader will make his own calculations as to how much, under such circumstances, Mr. M. can put in his own pocket as compensation for his wearisome application, and from which to draw the support of his family.

"But," the reader will say, "of course, those who receive these replies, remit the fee afterwards, with the postage too?"

This surely might be expected of people who have either manliness or conscience; but Mr. M. assures us that this has been done *in only two instances* in all his experience;—and in one of these cases so grudgingly, that the sender of the fee accompanied it by another letter which he thought ought to be answered for the same dollar!

Besides all this, many persons in writing to Mr. M. have been so neglectful as *not even to pay their first postage*; and he has received numerous notifications from postmasters in various parts of the country that unpaid letters for him were lying in their respective offices. For many of these he has heretofore sent; but has wisely resolved hereafter to pay no attention to such notifications.

After these statements, the reader will be prepared to credit the further declaration of Mr. M., that, so far from "growing rich" by the "shallow juggle" he is practising, as has been alleged, he would have been long ere this reduced to actual want, had it not been for some small savings in former years in the business he has been obliged to abandon. His gains, for nine months of the present year, up to Oct. 1, he states, have been *more than two hundred dollars out of pocket!* We make this reference to Mr. Mansfield's private affairs, without his permission, because we think it due to him and to those interested in his peculiar powers.

It will at once be suggested that Mr. M. should throw aside all letters which are not accompanied by the required fee; but this, he avers, would be unavailing, for the reason that the answers come often without his attention to the specific letters answered—he not knowing for whom they are intended till the end is reached. He might, indeed, refuse to forward the replies in such cases; but he very properly hesitates to adopt this rigorous course, even though it would be but a just protection against the meanness which is practised upon him. He may yet be driven to it.

Another annoyance to which Mr. Mansfield is sub-

jected, arises from unreasonable complaints respecting unanswered letters. As he cannot compel answers, and does not choose to "concoct" them himself, letters often lie for weeks or months unattended to; the writers get impatient,—want to know why their applications are not as successful as others,—demand an immediate reply or the return of their money,—and often indulge in accusations and denunciations as unbecoming to their authors as they are hard for an honest man to bear. One has staked all his faith in Spiritualism upon the result, and he threatens to go over to the enemy's camp, if he is not speedily satisfied; another has foolishly bet a large sum with some skeptical neighbor, and both he and "the cause" will become the laughing-stock of his townsmen if he loses the wager;—and so on.

Again, when replies are obtained and forwarded, they are often not just what the applicants hoped to get; they fail to afford positive proof of proceeding from the particular spirit addressed; or, some inquiry of special importance to the writer is not definitely answered; or the answer is so very pertinent that the writer is sure the envelope *must* have been opened, though he can find no other evidence of such foul play;—and thus on through an almost endless series of objections, quibbles, complaints, insinuations, and not unfrequently coarse abuse. To many of these trivial complaints Mr. M. finds it impossible to reply for want of time, and his silence is charitably construed into a confession of guilt.

Besides these private annoyances, which alone are sufficient to make his position anything but enviable, even if it yielded an abundant pecuniary compensation, Mr. Mansfield has been, of late, one of the chief objects of the violent and monomaniacal public onslaughts of a noted university Professor, who has rendered himself nearly as familiar with the modern vocabulary of crime and denunciation as he is with the dialects of ancient Greece. For permitting the use of his hands as instruments of communication for invisible beings, he finds his name held up before the public, day after day, as synonymous with the agreeable words, "forger," "charlatan," "impostor," "knave," "liar," etc., etc. The man who would continue a career of known imposture under such circumstances, and for such pay, is surely a marvel of depravity—a martyr to profitless crime. No: the theory of imposture is incredible in the case. The candid reader, we think, will agree with us, that nothing but a sustaining conviction of truth and duty can prompt a man to such a course.

The treatment to which Mr. Mansfield has been subjected, as all must see, cannot be specially favorable to the successful exercise of the peculiar gift with which he is endowed. The ascertaining of the contents of letters through perception of the electric or nerve-auric emanations from the writing, requires keen nervous susceptibilities, or an extraordinary degree of sensitiveness to the subtler magnetic influences. To maintain this sensitiveness in a reliable condition, there should be a good degree of mental quiet, or freedom from anxiety, as well as good bodily health, and an avoidance of mixed and conflicting magnetisms. Hence, could Mr. M. be allowed entire seclusion, away from all disturbing influences, he would doubtless be a far better instrument for the peculiar work to which he has been called. Such seclusion, however, would, of course, be interpreted by the skeptical as an almost conclusive evidence of fraud—though, possibly, it might afford such additional facilities for the communication of convincing tests as to more than overbalance such suspicions. At least, all candid persons will see the propriety of abstaining, not only from hasty or rash imputations upon his honesty, but also from needless demands upon his personal attention. None should apply for the test of his powers until they are not only willing to risk the fee he asks as a compensation for his time, but also prepared to bear patiently and philosophically both delays and disappointments in the gratification of their wishes. If they obtain evidence unquestionable of spirit-agency through his mediumship, very well; let them believe accordingly. If not, they of course cannot believe, though it by no means follows that nobody else has received such evidence.

Another thing which all applicants to Mr. M., as well as to other mediums, should remember, is this:—that if spirits do really in any way manifest themselves and communicate, it is undoubtedly done, as they claim, through the agency of a subtle fluid or force akin to electricity or magnetism—that every individual is undoubtedly surrounded by a sphere or aura of electrical emanations peculiar to himself, which he imparts to every thing and person he touches, and which may or may not harmonize chemically with that of the medium or the communicating spirit—and where there is disharmony or repulsion of these spheres, the agency of communication is disturbed and cannot work successfully. This suggestion embodies the obvious reason why Mr. Mansfield, or the spirit acting through his hand, can readily ascertain the contents of *some* letters, and not of others; also why this can be done in the presence of *some* persons, and not in that of others.

Materialistic science and materialistic ignorance both ignore the existence of these subtle elements or forces, and hence are skeptical of their effects, attributing their action to "delusion," "trick," etc. But when science shall become spiritualized, and ignorance enlightened, both may learn that there are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamed of in the cloisters of universities, and that even "the ball of the finger" may become an instrument of conveying intelligence between this and the realm immortal.

Thus much we have felt called upon to say, in behalf of one of the most prominent as well as useful instrumentalities of the spiritual movement in this section—and we say it, not for his sake merely as an individual, but for the sake of the truth. We commend Mr. Mansfield to the sympathies and encouragement of the lovers of truth every where.

SPIRIT-TELEGRAPHING.—We are allowed to copy the following item from a private letter received by a gentleman in this city from a responsible correspondent in San Francisco:

"I have an extraordinary instance of a spiritual manifestation to relate, which occurred here some three weeks since. A respectable lady was informed by a spirit that the steamer 'Illinois' had been wrecked off Cuba, &c. This announcement she made known to her friends, who, of course, as is usual here, ridiculed the idea. But their sneers were silenced by the arrival of the 'Golden Age,' a few days later (14th inst.) bringing news that the 'Illinois' had been run ashore off Cuba at the time and place described!"

MEETINGS LAST SUNDAY.

Through the mediumship of Mr. T. G. Forster, the Spiritualists were favored with two more eloquent discourses at the Melodeon, on Sunday last. We were only able to hear the afternoon lecture, on the text: "Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? May I not wash in them and be clean?" The speaker made the experience of Naaman in being cleansed of leprosy, typical of the manner in which spiritual truth is generally received. When the leper was told to wash in Jordan he was wroth; in his opinion the rivers of Damascus were superior to Jordan. The prescription was too simple and humbling. If he had been told to do some great thing, he would readily have obeyed; but he could not at first stoop to dip himself in a stream he despised. But when at last he yielded, his leprosy was cleansed.

Thus it was, too, with the appearance of Jesus. The truths he brought were, with himself, despised and rejected, because they came through the poor son of a carpenter, aided by a few humble fishermen. If he had appeared in pomp and splendor, doing some great and dazzling thing, he would have been accepted by the proud Jews, who could not tolerate the teachings of these simple, childlike minds.

So it is to-day. The doctrines of modern inspiration are rejected because they come through such simple means as weak-minded girls and unlearned mediums. If these things had come from Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of the popular church, they would have been accepted; but men are too proud to bathe in the Jordan of Spiritualism. It is too simple; they prefer some great thing. The close of the discourse impressed upon mediums the importance of being simple-hearted and unselfish, like Elisha; and of looking upon their gifts as something to be grateful for, and not as anything upon which to build pride or self-conceit.

The morning circle at No. 14 Bromfield st. filled the hall with persons anxiously seeking for communion with their departed friends, and for the greater unfolding of their own medium powers.

In the afternoon, Dr. Child concluded a course of lectures on the evidences of Spiritualism. He said that the tacit persuasion of the soul, which is the influence of an unseen power, that certain conditions invite, is, more than all external evidence, the cause for a belief in Spiritualism. Two persons, under the same external conditions, might witness the same manifestations of Spiritualism; one would believe, one would disbelieve. Two persons might read the same Bible evidence to prove Spiritualism; one would accept, and one would reject. Two sisters might read spiritual papers and books, and be brought up, side by side, under the external manifestations of Spiritualism; one would believe, and the other would disbelieve; one would say, how beautiful; the other, how miserable. Why is this? It is the condition of the soul that invites the inflowing of spirit-power,—that makes the silent persuasion, which is a sure knowledge to the consciousness of the soul. The outside covering of Spiritualism is uninviting and repulsive; but this power compels all on whom it may fall, to believe and love it; and

"Not all the wealth, or honor of the earth
Can seduce the soul again to leave
The ever-blooming sweets that satisfy its longings,
For God implants the secret bias of His soul.
And His expression full soon shall reach
Beyond the power of words."

In the evening, the Rev. Mr. Thayer made some interesting and pleasing remarks on the subject of Bible Spiritualism.

Mrs. Hatch spoke twice at Washington Hall, Cambridgeport, to crowded audiences. In the afternoon on Autumn and its Suggestions; and in the evening from the text, "Whatsoever thy hands find to do, do it with thy might." Among the listeners to the latter discourse was Prof. Felton. At its close, the Professor made a speech, complimenting in high terms the eloquence and merit of the lecture. He most heartily subscribed to the sentiments uttered; wished the medium to rid her mind of the delusion that they were the result of spirit-influence, and then go on giving the world such beautiful doctrines as she had then advanced.

HOW THE LITTLE ONES READ US.

It is singular how the merest children penetrate the minds of their seniors, and detect the false colors of inconsistency, even when they are hidden from older eyes filtered with customs and conventionalities. With what perfect clearness they see the difference between mere profession and a deep heart-conviction. How quickly they sense words that are filled with the soul's vitality and reject the emptiness which often passes current in adult markets.

"Mamma," said a little girl, five years of age, "do you think Aunt Fanny really believes that cousin Nellie has gone to Happy Land?"

"Certainly, my child; why do you ask such a question? Don't you believe Nellie has gone to Happy Land?"

"Oh, yes, Mamma, I know she has; and I think she sees me when I'm playing, and when I try to be good; and I love to talk about her, she was so good; but if I say any thing to Aunt Fanny about Nellie's going there, she cries! And then, mamma, you always say, 'Hush, Minnie!' Now, mamma, does Aunt Fanny really, truly think Nellie is in Happy Land?"

A PROPHETESS BEFORE DELHI.—During one of the recent engagements before Delhi, a female, dressed in green, was seen leading on the rebels. She was taken prisoner, and confined in secure quarters in the British camp. She is described as an ugly old woman, short and fat, and is said to be a prophetess of some note in the degraded city. It was first intended to release this woman, but by the last accounts she was still kept prisoner, in the hope, we presume, of eliciting some important information from her.

A NEW LECTURER.—In our list of speakers will be found the name of Mr. JOHN HOBART, who proposes to receive calls for lectures on Spiritualism. Mr. H. was formerly, for many years, a prominent clergyman of the Methodist communion—having acceptably fulfilled appointments in Portland, Bangor, Providence, Newport, Fall River, and other places. He is a man of liberal education and good abilities, and will hereafter devote himself earnestly to the advocacy of spiritual truth.

MORE OF THE FELTONIAN LOGIC.

"He could distinguish and divide
A hair, 'twixt south and southwest side."—Hudibras.

We have received the following characteristic note from Prof. Felton:

CAMBRIDGE, Oct. 29.

To the Editor of the New England Spiritualist:

I have just seen your article in vindication of Mr. Mansfield, in your paper now published, but dated Oct. 31.

You publish Mr. Mansfield's statement in reference to the coiled hair. I have no reason to suppose that you do not believe that statement literally true.

But it is in every particular false. I do not ask you to publish anything of a controversial character against Spiritualism; but as you have published Mr. Mansfield's assertions as facts, you will perhaps allow me to say, in your next number, that I can prove to your satisfaction, and to the satisfaction of any committee of Spiritualists, or of any jury, or of any body of rational men, any where, at any time, the literal accuracy of the carefully prepared statement in the *Courier*, and the complete untruth of the statement which Mr. Mansfield has palmed off upon you.

I will meet Mr. Mansfield and his "responsible witness," in your presence, or in any other presence, civil, religious or judicial, and will show beyond all question or cavil the absolute truth of what I now affirm.

Allow me to re-quote the sentence which you quote from the *Courier*: "Will the Spiritualist writer deny any one of these facts? and if he does, will he undertake to disprove them legally? He will not dare to submit to that test."

You say "that none of these 'facts' are worth disproving, either legally or otherwise." I differ from you in opinion. If they are true, you cannot fail to see the inevitable conclusion as to Mr. Mansfield's practices. If they are not true, Mr. Mansfield is entitled to a complete vindication. If they are not true, those who have asserted them owe to Mr. Mansfield the most ample reparation. For one, if they are not true, I desire to make that reparation. But they ARE true.

Respectfully yours,

C. C. FELTON.

Mr. Felton has a right to his opinion as to the importance of this coiled hair affair; but we still regard it as altogether too diminutive to suspend such an immense "conclusion" upon, or to afford profitable matter for a le or any other investigation. We are willing to concede that Mr. Mansfield may have been mistaken in regard to the details of the case, or that we misapprehended the statements he made to us respecting it; and we will freely admit, for the sake of the argument, the entire accuracy of the *Courier's* statement. The facts, at best, furnish but *circumstantial* evidence of the most trivial character, and when balanced against the direct and positive testimony of our own senses, as set forth last week, to the effect that Mr. Mansfield can ascertain the contents of letters *without* opening or seeing through the envelope, and therefore has no need to practise dishonesty,—their weight is but as that of a *single hair against a mountain of granite!* And we doubt if any "committee of rational men," or any legal tribunal, would for a moment entertain evidence of so flimsy and uncertain a character.

We will add, in justice to the "responsible eye-witness" referred to, that the reference to his testimony was inserted in our article after it had passed from our hands, by another person, who misapprehended the point to which this witness designed to testify. This gentleman meant to state—and we are confident his reliability will not be called in question by any party,—that he was an eye-witness to the first opening of the letter as it came from Mr. Mansfield's hands, and that it was opened in such a flurry of excitement, and under such circumstances (near an open window, and in a breeze of air), that the fact of the hair's not being observed, *afforded to his mind no proof that it was not there*. The gentleman who makes this statement was personally cognizant of the whole matter, and expresses himself ready for a full investigation,—confident that an exposure of *all* the facts in the case (a part of which only were embodied in the *Courier's* "carefully prepared statement") would be to the credit of Mr. Mansfield's claims rather than otherwise.

It is due also to Mr. Mansfield to say that he informs us that he was in error in supposing the first opening of the letter in question took place at his room. He saw it opened on one occasion, in great haste and under excitement, and had always supposed this was the *first* opening, until assured to the contrary since our article was published. In some other particulars, moreover, he thinks we misapprehended his statement to us, and hence the version of the story given in our last may have afforded some ground for the denial which is made by Prof. Felton. Be this as it may, we have already shown that the matter is of insufficient consequence to the question at issue to be worth spending further time over.

In addition to the above note from Prof. Felton, we find in the *Courier* of October 31, some comments upon our article; probably from the same source. The article is pronounced a "very feeble defence of Mr. Mansfield." There is a class of philosophers with whom facts are always "very feeble" when opposed to their theories.

Our statement of facts is met by a "proposition," as follows:

"We say that we will write any number of letters to friends or acquaintances in the spiritual world, upon matters known to Mr. Mansfield. We will take these letters, one at a time, with Mr. Newton and any friend or friends he may desire. We will stay as long as they may desire with each letter: we will continue it with any number of letters, until we have exhausted the whole circle of our spiritual acquaintances. We will devote all our leisure time to this experiment, night and day, Mr. Newton and any friend or friends of his being present all the time. If a single one of the questions we shall write in any one of the letters shall be answered by Mr. Mansfield through his forefinger, in our presence, and in the presence of Mr. Newton, so that any three disinterested persons shall say that the question is really answered, and really implies the presence of the spirit to whom it is addressed, we will admit that the controversy between us and Mr. Newton, so far as concerns Mr. Mansfield, has gone against us. We have no other motive in these discussions, but to ascertain the truth, and to expose error. We wish to have it shown, beyond a doubt, that these things can be done. There is nothing unreasonable in this."

The Professor very adroitly changes the issue. The point we undertook to establish was, that Mr. Mansfield could ascertain the contents of letters without "opening or holding them up to the light," or any other dishonest means, as charged by his accusers. Having established this point beyond question, these accusations fell to the ground. Whether the spirit addressed, or any spirit, dictated the replies, or had anything to do with the matter, was a question which we distinctly waived, as immaterial to our then present purpose. The reason of this adroit manoeuvre of the Professor's is transparent.

If the above proposition is intended to imply that we are incompetent to observe and decide upon such facts as we have borne testimony to, without the presence and oversight of a Cambridge Professor, we most respectfully decline any action which shall admit this implication.

tion. We have investigated, to our own satisfaction, on the specific point in question, and we have no occasion to spend further time upon it; but if this writer is not satisfied with our testimony, the way is open for him to investigate for himself to any extent he chooses. It is quite possible, for reasons we have indicated in another article, that he may not succeed in finding the evidences which we found; but this would by no means prove that we were mistaken.

But it appears that our defence, "feeble" as it was, has had the effect to induce the *Courier* to modify materially its charge. It now says:

"We must repeat that Mr. Mansfield never answers a letter which is not left with him, unless he has been able to obtain, in some simple way, the contents of the letters."

The italics are ours. The way in which Mr. M. obtained the contents of our letter, may be termed very "simple," indeed, nevertheless it was *honestly* done; and if he could do it honestly before our eyes, it is a fair inference that he could and would do it with equal honesty in our absence. There is no need of the "supposition of trick in any case; and the *Courier's* "demonstrative evidence" leads to nothing beyond a supposition.

The *Courier* admits, qualifiedly, all we claimed to have established, but imputes to us what we did not avow. Referring to our statement that Mr. M., through the sensitiveness of his finger, perceived the words we had enclosed in an envelope, it says:

"Now, taking this statement as literally correct, so far from proving the pre-existence of a spirit, it demonstrates, in the most absolute manner, that the whole performance was merely physical, and that its success depended on the long-developed sensitiveness of Mr. Mansfield's forefinger-ball, by which he was able to trace, through the paper, those words which were more strongly written than the rest of the letter. This is the only possible conclusion, assuming the exact truth of the narrative in the *Spiritualist*. Mr. Newton's own premises utterly overthrow Mr. Newton's conclusion, as he must see."

We did not claim,—and this writer must have known it, unless he is most inexcusably heedless,—that the facts proved "the presence of a spirit." We stated no such "conclusion," and we cannot very highly honor the integrity of a writer who will make such a misstatement of an opponent's position. We quote again:

"We say that every jot and tittle of the *Courier's* statements can be legally established: Mr. Newton says they are not worth disproving. Is this Mr. Newton's estimate of the value of moral character? If the statements are facts, Mr. Mansfield is a cheat and impostor; if not true, then his character, *quoad hoc*, stands unimpeached, and we, who assert them, have been guilty of doing him a grievous wrong."

The mental obliquity manifested in this paragraph is astonishing. We submit to all men of intelligence and perspicacity everywhere, that the "facts" of the *Courier* when fully admitted, *prove nothing whatever* against the "moral character" of Mr. Mansfield. At most, they merely give occasion for a *suspicion*—which suspicion is thoroughly annihilated by the *positive evidence* which we and others have presented.

Finally, the *Courier* assumes to catechise us after the following fashion:

"We will venture to ask him, whether he believes the spirit of young Bird had anything to do with the letter published under his name in the *Banner of Light*? We will venture to ask him, further, whether he believes the spirit of Dr. Channing had anything to do with the letter which came to Mr. Pierpont through Mr. Mansfield? And, finally, we will venture to ask Mr. Newton if he believes the English doggerels addressed to Prof. Felton, under the name of the Greek poet Menander, were really dictated or suggested by the spirit of that poet, or that Menander had anything to do with them?"

And again: "What does the *Spiritualist* think of Mr. Hume's *supernatural history*—which is a history of wonders and miracles, and proved to be a stuffed glove?"

Without conceding the right of our interrogator to an answer to such miscellaneous and irrelevant questions, we will frankly say that we have not sufficient knowledge of either of these matters to have any opinion respecting them; and it is not our habit to form opinions in the absence of knowledge,—especially when those opinions involve a charge of "fraud and imposture" against a fellow-being.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

ANCIENT SORcery AS REVIVED IN MODERN SPIRITUALISM, examined by the Divine Law and Testimony. By Rev. CHAS. MUNGER. Boston: Henry V. Degen, 21 Cornhill.

This is a pamphlet of 90 pages, in which the author admits the spiritual origin of the modern manifestations, argues their identity with those of ancient times under the names of "demonism," "sorcery," etc., and insists that they are wholly of an evil and wicked character. His theory and his arguments are essentially the same with those of Charles Beecher, Porter, and others; and what occasion there can be for another work of the kind is more than we can imagine—except that the former productions have been wholly ineffective in staying the progress of the truth. This is not likely to be more successful. The following *elegant* extracts will show the *loving* and *Christ-like* spirit cherished by its Reverend author, who is a clergyman of the Methodist Episcopal church:

"Now, be it known unto you, spirit-jobbers, that God's word can never be abandoned, or mutilated, not even to save your necks (if you have any necks) from the halter. You seem to think, in the light of that word, that you ought to be hung or stoned. You certainly cannot prove that you ought not to be, and neither can you make it appear that if you had your *deserts* you would not be. If you dare follow in the footsteps of your illustrious predecessors, some of you doubtless will be."

"If you conform to the customs of the denizens of this mundane sphere, society will doubtless tolerate you; if you do not, society will catch and hang you, if possible, just like any other offenders who deserve it. So if you have a taste for hanging, you can be accommodated."—pp. 59, 60.

Beautiful! isn't it, reader? How like Jesus! Doubtless, should this loving disciple of the Nazarene succeed in stirring up his brethren in the churches to "dare follow in the footsteps of their" "illustrious predecessors," and enter upon a new crusade of hanging and witch-burning, he would highly relish an appointment to the office of Hangman-General; or, at least, like old Cotton Mather, elect himself to the position of General Superintendent of Executions! He alleges that Spiritualism teaches "another gospel" from that which is "of God." It is quite evident that it teaches a gospel diametrically opposite to that which inspires his hangman-like proclivities; and which is the more likely to be "of God," the reader will have little difficulty in determining.

Mrs. CORA HATCH will lecture at the Melodeon the two coming Sundays; in the Lyceum Hall, Lynn, on Friday evening, Nov. 4th, at 7 o'clock; and probably in Newburyport, on Tuesday and Thursday evenings of next week.

