

7-25-71

**PAGE MISSING
NOT
AVAILABLE**

PEN-FLASHES FROM OHIO.

BY C. H. MATHEWS.

To the Editor:—At this critical moment, while the Cubans struggle for independence, I have ruled the following paragraph from the pen of Thomas Paine in his celebrated book, "Common Sense," addresses itself to every lover of liberty:

"The cause of America, in a great measure, is the cause of all mankind. Many circumstances have, and will arise, which are not local but universal and through which the principles of all lovers of mankind are affected, and in the event of which their affections are interested. The laying of a country desolate with fire and sword, declaring war against the natural rights of mankind and extinguishing the defenders thereof from the face of the earth, is the concern of every man to whom nature hath given the power of feeling of which class, regardless of party enmity, is the cause of all mankind."

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Feb. 14, 1908.

Noted The Progressive Thinker has referred to the cabinet of the President, William McKinley.

SPREADS THE LIGHT.

The Fort Wayne, Ind., College of Medicine, at a banquet given March 10, 1897, called on Dr. V. Swearingen to respond to the toast, "What is the Ultimate Destiny of Man?" The doctor is uniformly happy in his responses; and the banqueters, in this instance, probably got more information than they bargained for, in regard to the future life. His eloquent utterances appeared in No. 355 of "The Thinker." Dr. Swearingen does not hide his light under a bushel.

LONG TIME TO LEARN.

In the 10th century the average length of a doctor's life was about thirty-six years; in the 11th century, in the 17th century it was forty-five years and eight months; in the 18th century forty-nine years and eight months; and in the 19th fifty-eight years and seven months. It thus appears that doctors have been 800 years in learning not to take their own medicine. What a happy thought—for the doctors.

THE ANGELS CAME.

There were "several remarkable incidents connected with the death of Miss Cecil Cheek, who died near Black Hawk, Licking Co., Ohio, April 18, 1897." She had been told that she would not live, and expressed a desire to see her schoolmates. The school marched to the house, and kissed the girl an affectionate farewell. "Mother, it will not be long now before the angels will come and take me home," and true enough it was but a few days until the spirit was taken from its home of clay to its higher and better home in spirit land. Of course, there was no Spiritualism in this "remarkable incident."

VERILY, WHY NOT?

"At the 'City of Brotherly Love,' April 4, the 'Heavenly Chimes' were departed from entering the cemetery to decorate the graves of their dead with rosettes, etc., a religious rite; but, it seems not to be a religious rite. While the Christian Bible is full of sacrifices and burnt offerings, I think the Chinese might be allowed to burn their ancestors and propitiate the gods unmolested, and in their own way. Why not?"

A FAILURE.

Upon the crowned heads of all Europe lies the responsibility for the blood that is shed in Armenia—Pittsburgh Dispatch. This is the legitimate result of the attempts of the zealous of Christianity, so-called, to "regenerate" the world. What a miserable failure it has been.

LET US SING.

A regular stiff-neck took place in the McKee M. E. church, Allegheny Co., Pa., March 20, between two members of the choir and pillars of the church, as to how a certain piece of music should be sung. An investigation will now be in order, and the belligerents may expect to have their hair raised among the paying members of the church.

AN APOSTATE INSTITUTION.

A few days ago I was expressing my well known opinion of the Christian religion—that we are all unlawfully taxed to help propagate, when my friend suddenly became offended at my making such "cutting remarks." In a few minutes I picked up the "Commonwealth" newspaper, of New Philadelphia, and my eye caught the following: "The attitude of the dominant churches is to present the strongest bulwark of existing social and legal iniquity. The deadly hatred and determined opposition of the so-called church to all proposed social and political reforms, together with the fact that the public sins and iniquities of the age are the fault of the church, and not the church, is the whole body of this so-called church, proves that she is an apostate institution. That which opposes the interests of humanity is not the spirit of the Son of God."—Rev. William H. Guy, 59 Rosewood Ave., Cleveland, Ohio. This beats my "cutting remarks" all to pieces and I feel easier.

A DELUSION AND A LIE.

Then I picked up the March number of the Arena, 1897, and found it replete with interesting material. It always is, and my eye caught the following "cutting remarks," by the editor, entitled, "Democracy—Its Origins and Prospects." "The new era in Europe and America professes to be Christian. It professes to be intellectual, refined, artistic, poetic, like the Greeks. It professes to possess and to cherish the freedom and independent spirit of the Teutonic races. It professes to espouse the principles of human equality and to promote the democracy of man. But the modern era knows in its heart that its profession is a delusion and a lie.

The man has become an object of indifference or aversion to every state, and in a measure to every ecclesiastical establishment in the world. He who looks abroad among the nations to find an organic structure under which a residue of genuine democracy is cherished, such democracy, as would be agreeable to the founder of the Christian religion, or to Socrates, is not to be found long or search in vain. . . . Every ecclesiastical organization which is not created and kept in the service of man is an insane and baleful portent that deserves extinction wherever the rivers run, and the straight path falls."—John Clark Bidpath, L.L.D.

After reading these "cutting remarks" by Bidpath, in the Arena, I thought it unnecessary to apologize to my friend. The truth is, the whole religious outfit has been weighed in the balance and found wanting; and our duty to the world enjoins us to keep it before the people; to cry aloud and spare not.

FADING AWAY.

Prof. Richard Hodgson, in the April

number of the Forum, says: "It is easy to suppose that the conviction which would produce the conviction in all rational human beings that there is a 'future life,' between which and ours there is 'intercommunication.' It is to be regretted that after several years investigation, by the aid of 'psychic science,' Prof. Hodgson has not arrived at a clear revelation of the system of spirit return and intercommunication. Spirit photography has done, and is still doing a great deal, to establish these vital truths. 'Inefficiency' in this regard, I am glad to say is fading away; slowly, but surely."

PEARL BRYAN.

Jackson and Walling, the two young men, who caused the death of Pearl Bryan, near Newport, Ky., in the winter of 1885, were hung on Saturday, March 20, at 10 A.M. They agreed to "die" therefore, a elegantly and was introduced, who prayed and sang songs with them. It was a very aggravated case. They cut off the girl's head before they were certain that she was dead. If capital punishment is justifiable in any case, it certainly was in the case of the murderers described in a report of the murdered certain item, he would "come back" and "haunt him." But we are told they can't come back. Nous verrons. Since this was written I have seen a communication from Pearl Bryan corroborating the facts as brought out in the trial. She still lives.

A TRANCE MEDIUM.

Charles Anderson, "a shock-headed boy of fifteen, whose school days have been limited to three short years," upon the lecture of the mediums of the world, now and in the past. His hearers pronounced his discourses deep and learned. Of the lecture platform he is "illiterate." This boy is evidently a trance medium, and if properly developed, may yet do some good, notwithstanding the fact that he is credited with "volitional ignorance of the commonest rules of etiquette." Stick a pin thru.

NO BIBLE AT HAND.

When Washington was inaugurated in 1789, says a correspondent of the Cleveland Plain Dealer, the Puritans of New England were greatly shocked that no one Bible was to be found in the federal building. The home of the Christian government had no Bible; oh, horrors! Chancellor Livingston knew of a Masonic lodge near by, and went and got one. Washington kissed the book and said, "I swear, so help me God, that I will be true to the principles of the Bible." The Bible was then placed in the early days this government has become Christianized; at least it may be believed the utterances of the outgoing president. Some of the descendants of those same Puritans were no doubt badly disturbed when they read that the United States Senate met and transacted business on the Lord's day, Sunday, February 28. By a parliamentary fiction, we are told, the session was a part of the legislative day, which began on Saturday; and took a recess at 2:30 a. m. Sunday, until 3 p. m. The good Christians will call it a work of necessity, which knows no law.

WICKED GLEE.

A facetious New York correspondent of the Pittsburgh Dispatch says: "A handsome apartment house is to be erected on the lot where stood Talmage's Brooklyn Tabernacle. Since the church burned down, the lot has been vacant. Russell Sage held a \$50,000 mortgage on the Tabernacle, and as this mortgage was secured by insurance on Talmage's life, instead of fire insurance on the church, it looks as if Uncle Russell has been beaten both ways, as the church is gone but Talmage is still here. Now, if he had taken out a fire insurance on the church, and not a life insurance on the church, and if Sage is really beaten at last, and by a deal with a minister, Wall Street will be thrown in to a succession of joyous fits."

SPIRIT DOINGS.

Paris has developed a haunted house, or rather a haunted girl: Rappings, rumblings and knockings, together with fantastic phantoms pursue this innocent French girl. When the whole house was searched by a posse of strong-nerved men, some huge body like an elephant came crashing down the stairs in the full glare of the light, yet invisible. The account adds: "It is impossible to be explained by fraud or by natural causes." Now it may be that the philosophy of Spiritualism would shed a flood of light on these strange doings of every day. These knockings, in one house that we visit, are nearly an everyday occurrence; they create no consternation, and are welcomed as the visits of relatives and friends; and, like Hamlet, with his father's ghost, we bid them welcome.

WARM FLESH AND BLOOD.

Chas. H. Thompson, Chicago, March 20, 1897, writes The Progressive Thinker: "I have yet to know that spirit can take on matter in the shape of warm flesh and blood. If any materializing medium will at any time hold a seance at my residence, and produce a materialization, I will not only make a public retraction, but will give the medium a purse containing \$100." There ought to be plenty of takers. As to the "warm flesh and blood" part of the contract, that might depend on the temperature of the seance-room, or the temperance of the medium. But the thing has been done; has been done thousands of times. Given the proper conditions, the manifestations will be made apparent. Not deceived.

ONLY TRANSLATED.

"Jacob Knoblauch, of Trenton, N. J., March 10, committed suicide on his wife's grave, by sending a bullet into his head. He had been melancholy since her death. Had Mr. Knoblauch had a knowledge of Spiritualism; that his wife was not 'dead,' but only translated to another and a better world, he would have bided his time, with the assurance of meeting her again in 'that realm where the rain-bow never fades; where the stars shall be spread out before us like islands that slumber in the ocean, and where the beautiful beings, that here pass by us like shadows, stay in our presence forever.' Beautiful!"

RELIGIOUS BIGOTRY.

The Pittsburgh Dispatch, March 29, announces that "Edw. Klotz Jr., son of the Allegheny Spiritualist, died yesterday." It was alleged that the boy was incorrigible. But, how many preachers' boys are notoriously bad? And why the necessity of announcing that his father was a Spiritualist? He was probably educated in an orthodox Sunday-school. Had his father been a Methodist, Presbyterian, or even a Catholic, not a word would have been said, as to his religious views. Such is the religious bigotry and intolerance of the so-called Christian world of today.

MARVELOUS CURES.

The Vitalist School of Medicine.

REPORT OF A VISIT TO DR. DUMAS, OF PARIS, WHO IS PERFORMING WONDERFUL CURES BY A NEW METHOD.

Here is what happened, according to a Paris newspaper, at the visit of a Parisian journalist to the offices of Dr. Dumas, the head of the Vitalist School of Medicine, and a locally recognized authority on Occultism. The house of the new medicine is in a magnificent hotel in the Rue de Lisbonne. In answer to the question whether he believed that there was any correlation between the agents of vitalism and the magnetic fluid he replied in words which will better express his meaning by being quoted verbatim:

"Yes; I fully believe there is," he said. "And the exteriorization of will power is nothing else but a part of the changes undergone by the medium. The medium is a person who has the gift of exteriorizing his ambient vital force, as some have called it, or a 'vital force.' But with this difference, understand, that the exteriorization of a dynamical contingent of his being will have but a momentary effect on the subject benefiting by the exteriorization."

"It does not follow from this, though, that magnetism does not cure, but it certainly does not cure a magnetic fluid, which it exteriorizes, may not agree with the subject in whose favor this exteriorization is made. I am not a medium, but I believe in vital dynamism because I can prove its efficacy to you now. I have a patient, a young man, twenty patients waiting for me. I have eight among them whom I will relieve before your eyes, without uttering one word or giving them the shadow of a suggestion."

"Touching an electric button an attendant, who had been standing behind the patient, and who had been holding his hand, said: 'The patient is cured.' His face was pale, his eyes bright with fever, and it could be plainly seen that the little one could hardly stand. The doctor took up a little instrument, about the size of a five-franc piece, and applied it to the patient's forehead, talking to the mother all the time. Two minutes had hardly elapsed before every manifestation of an alleviation in the child's condition was visible, and, in fact, when the doctor took his apparatus away the boy was brighter, gayer and promised a complete cure."

"A second patient was then ushered in, but this one was a woman, who had come to relate a marvelous cure, not to seek medical aid. She told of a friend who had been given up for dead by doctors, and who had been lying in bed for months. The patient of the new school, had hastened to Dr. Dumas and obtained from him his apparatus, which she had immediately applied to the apparently dead woman's temple."

Hardly five minutes after the application signs of life were discernible, and at the end of half an hour the apparently dead woman was on the fair road to recovery. "Now, my dear sir," concluded the doctor, turning to me, "are you enlightened on the value of vitalism? I could show you a score of patients under course of treatment. You could question them, did you so desire. You would see consumptives who have left their beds, cured and with no fear of a relapse. And when they turn to me you may rest assured that they have been given up by official doctors. And you would also discover that paralysis in all its forms does not long resist the influence of vitalism."

A CHANCE IN THE PROGRAM.

The Illinois Spiritualist Camp-meeting for 1897 will begin July 15th and close September 1st, instead of beginning July 1st and closing August 1st, as previously announced. The Peoria Fair and Driving Park has been secured by the camp management for this our first camp-meeting, and every indication points to a successful enterprise. This park is well fenced with a high board fence and contains 100 acres, forty of which is a beautiful grove. The grounds also has an amphitheater with seating capacity for 7,000 people, and a mile driving track in connection. The management of this camp expect to hold a Boy's Tournament five or six days during the season, the prize awarded to be presented by the merchants of Peoria. The Central City street car line runs direct to the Park gate and the company proposes to issue 200,000 triple coupon tickets to be used during the season. The first coupon will carry the holder from the depot or any part of the city to the camp-meeting grounds; the second will admit them and the third will pay their return fare. The ticket itself will be given to the First Annual session of the Illinois Spiritualist Camp-meeting for July 15th to September 1st, 1897, and may be had by the purchaser as a memento of that event.

THE ILLINOIS PSYCHIC SCIENCE COLLEGE.

will be opened in connection with this camp-meeting with a full staff of competent teachers. Hypnotism, mesmerism, animal magnetism, mind-reading, mental telegraphy, mental, spiritual and Christian sciences and mediumship in particular will be taught, expounded and demonstrated.

Mrs. C. C. Scovell, of Elgin, Ill., who has her credentials as a minister of Spiritualism, from the Illinois State Spiritualist Association, is now serving the First Spiritualist Church of Peoria, and will continue her good work as speaker and test medium until the opening of the camp-meeting, at which time she will enter the Illinois Psychic Science College as one of its teachers. She will also appear in the camp work as a speaker and test medium. Full particulars will be given in the "Camp-meeting Bulletin," which will be sent to any address upon request.

C. T. H. BENTON, Sec. MRS. C. C. SCHOVELL, Asst. Sec.

ONE MILLION! ONE MILLION!

We want to reach 1,000,000 new readers. We want to illuminate the minds of those Spiritualists who take no Spiritualist paper. We will send all new subscribers The Progressive Thinker three months for fifty cents. Read the article on fifth page headed "Fifteen Cents." It will give full particulars.

"Religious and Theological Works of Thomas Paine." Contains his celebrated "Age of Reason," and a number of letters and discourses on religious and theological subjects. Cloth binding, 430 pages. Price \$1. For sale at this office.

"Woman, Church and State." By Matilda Joselyn Gage. A royal volume, of more than common intrinsic value. The subject is treated with masterly ability; showing what the church has done for women, and what it has not done for women. It is a well-known and most profound treatise. Cloth, \$1. For sale at this office.

MRS. RICHMOND.

A Token of Appreciation.

IT IS INTERSPERSED WITH POETRY AND GOOD FEELING—THE VETERAN WORKER, LYMAN C. HOWE, TAKES A PART.

At the close of Mrs. Cora L. V. Richmond's address the last evening of the Syracuse Convention for organizing a State Association in the Empire State, and just before the delivery of an improvised poem, Mrs. M. H. Cowan, of Syracuse, stepped upon the platform and thus addressed Mrs. Richmond:

"As a representative of the Spiritual Research Society of Syracuse, recognizing in you one of the pioneer workers of our beautiful cause, the cause of truth, the cause of Spiritualism that we in Syracuse love so well, also recognizing the great honor conferred upon us by your presence with us, we desire to present you with these flowers, the Easter Lilies, a token of the resurrecting life of nature; their beautiful spotless white so emblematic of your pure and true life, also representing that higher life which you represent; their beautiful fragrance so emblematic of your own perfect and still growing soul. We take upon ourselves the honor and it affords us eminent pleasure to present to you this beautiful emblem of your life."

Mrs. Richmond said: "We thank you for this gift and the words of appreciation accompanying it, and with our brother we will try to weave the beautiful tribute to our poem." Mrs. Richmond had already requested Lyman C. Howe to unite with her in an improvised poem, the first subject having been handed her by a representative of the press, "Easter Morn." The audience suggested, "Immortality," and last but not least the beautiful tribute from the Spiritual Research Society of Syracuse, these Easter Lilies.

Mr. Walker, presiding officer, asked Mr. Howe to come forward and assist in the poem.

EASTER MORN—IMMORTALITY—THE EASTER LILIES.

It sweeps up from Galilee,
The breath of that wondrous morning;
It comes from out the northern sea,
Where Odin's Halls with light adorn;
Where Friga comes with magic might
To renew on earth her wanted light.

Mr. Howe:
It comes from out the silent hearts
That wait at Death's pale altar,
And in its breath life's hope imparts
Where the weeping spirits falter;
It rises from the silent tomb,
Clouded with desolation,
Unto the morn of hope and bloom
Which smiles throughout creation.

Mrs. Richmond:
It comes from where isles (with Hor) re-mains
Near the Lotus in its blooming.
It comes across the western plains,
Where storm-clouds brood in gloom;
It comes from the hearts now torn
With pangs of deepest sorrow,
Breathing the life of the glad New Morn.

In the message of the morrow,
It comes in the messages of love
Which sweep from shores immortal;
And opens the gates of joy above
Earth's cold and darkened portal;
It comes with a smile of sweet relief,
When the soul is touched with sorrow;
It touches the heart which strives in grief,
And points to the radiant morrow.

Mrs. Richmond:
There is no death in this message saith
The great and lowly Teacher
Came from the shadow of pale death
To be the immortal Preacher;
For where he trode the lilies bloom;
There life and love eternal
Wakened from out the shadowed tomb
As a vision of the Supernal.

Mr. Howe:
And upon these blessed leaves of light
The emblems of the heart impressed
By the soul of each angelic breast:
This morning sheds its hallowed joy
Over the world's dark portal,
And we see in the bloom of this world's light
The prayer of life immortal.

Mrs. Richmond:
And crystallized in these petals white
From the shadow of death so chilly,
Receive the message of immortal life
Breathed from the heart of the lily;
As your lives grow and expand in praise

So ye unfold to blossom,
And all along the shining ways,
Upon each angel's bosom.

Mr. Howe:
The soul of the lily smiles to the skies
With a face so sweet and tender,
That the Easter Morn of life replies
In the lilies' vision of splendor;
And the prayers of the soul that
Brought these flowers.

And the token expressed to our sister,
She'll bear to her life in her beautiful bowers,
The souls of all those who cluster
At this altar of light and sweetness
And bliss
In the light of our sun and heaven's
warm kiss.

Mrs. Richmond:
(Turning to all the speakers on the platform and motioning them to come forward.)

And these dear friends, who have aided in speech
To unfold the heavenly treasure,
May heaven bring love and hope's
bloom to each.

In our own sweet welcome measure;
That you as flowers of life may shine
In this wonderful garden of heaven,
Until each with the message all divine
All the Lilies of Life have given.

"The Woman's Bible. Part I. The Pentateuch. Comments on Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy." The contrast between the thoughts of these brave women and the thoughts of the orthodox world during all time past, is very striking. Clear analysis, ripe scholarship and fearless adherence to the right, characterize this very interesting effort of some of the brightest minds of today. For sale at this office. Price 50 cents.

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"Commentaries on Hebrew and Christian Mythology." By Judge Parish B. Ladd, L.L.B., of the San Francisco Bar. This book is of more than ordinary value, giving the results of much patient thought and research by the author, qualified to sift evidence and arrange facts. In compact form it gives just what is needed on the subject. Paper, 75 cents. Cloth, \$1.50. For sale at this office.

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AN OUTRAGE.

Arresting Mediums in Milwaukee, Wis.

THE POLICE INTEND TO DRIVE ALL MEDIUMS FROM THE CITY, IF POSSIBLE.

Here in Milwaukee, there has, for the past few days, been much anxiety and excitement on the part of the local mediums, caused by the secular papers announcing that all mediums must leave the city, or be prosecuted—under an ordinance prohibiting fortune-telling. The first arrested were two women, who, the papers stated, acknowledged to being fortune-tellers and agreed to depart. The third was a man who is said to be a medium. Learning of this case, the president of the Unity Society and the writer called upon the Chief of Police to learn his intentions toward mediums. We were informed that mediums, clairvoyants and fortune-tellers—especially all mediums holding dark circles—would be classed under one head—humbugs—arrested and prosecuted, as fast as evidence could be obtained against them; that these people were receiving money from the credulous public without giving its equivalent, and that it was the intention of the authorities to "close out the business." We were then kindly given a half-hour of this gentleman's valuable time, in which I said to him in part:

"There is the greatest possible distinction to be made between a spiritual medium and what is known as a fortune-teller. The former being one, who, by the development of the psychic power, can commune with the so-called dead—our fellowman in spirit life—receiving the benefit of their experiences thereby assisting us in our search for light on the subject of life, and proving the fact of immortality; while the latter deal in chance and superstition. And as for prophecy, all mankind is constantly predicting the future of their future success; judges telling the prisoner of what he may expect when next he appears at the bar of justice; salesmen selling goods by predicting that this or that is to be all the rage the coming season; speculators prophesying a short crop and the price of grain; the astronomer informing us of a coming comet; the preacher, who, for a salary, tells us of the coming of Christ, the end of the world, the judgment day, the resurrection, etc., etc. All prophecies which time alone can prove true or false. As for dishonest people, we shall be glad of your assistance in closing up their business; and while you are at it, bear in mind there are others who take the people's money without giving its equivalent. Go up on Chestnut street and there behold the largest brewery on earth and look over its hundreds of saloons. Think you the wives and children of those who leave their week's earnings in these saloons, for that they have received its equivalent? Were it not for this traffic, Sir, honesty would be contagious and far less frauds on every hand in every kind of business. As for the medium, the genuine spiritual medium—he is here, sir;

HE HAS COME TO STAY!

In this city—in all cities, he is the student of psychic science, believing it to be his religious duty to develop and practice the spiritual gifts according to the teachings of Paul, the apostle, I. Cor., chap. 12. He is backed by millions of Spiritualists throughout this country, hundreds of churches and societies, with a National Association—also recognized by the Constitution of the United States as a religious—religious because seeking to improve the race—philosophical and scientific body of people, with the right of religious freedom which our Supreme Court is bound to respect.

I then stated that, being a missionary from the N. S. A., I should look after the interests of the local mediums who could prove themselves such, and as for myself I was constantly predicting of the future, in messages from spirit life, and before the public, during religious services, and asked him what he was going to do about it.

He replied that concerning all I had said, he took the position of the agnostic but would proceed to prosecute all who were obtaining money under false pretences.

