

THE PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL

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W. T. JONES
EDITOR

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No. 14

OUR ANNIVERSARY.

The following inspirational poem was read by the authoress, Mrs. Carrie Armstrong, at the anniversary services in Woodmen's Hall, Oakland, on Sunday afternoon, April 2d, 1905.

The cycle of time is rolling on,
Half-century come and gone;
Wonderful light to the world has been given,
Messages coming from our loved ones in heaven.

Fifty-seven years along on the way,
Bringing us news from day to day;
Telling the story, wonderful and true,
The loved ones are talking to me and to you.

Across the dark river they have glided along,
Into the land of sunshine and song;
Millions upon millions in God's house of the blest,
The weary and tired for ever at rest.

Guiding our footsteps along on the way,
Bringing us messages by night and by day;
Opening the doors of knowledge divine,
Bringing us nearer God's heavenly clime.

Coming with power from God's kingdom above.

Opening the door of knowledge and love;
Teaching the world that all life is divine,
That death has no terrors for thee or for thine.

Out of the darkness comes brilliant light,
Our loved ones clothed in garments white;

The robe of righteousness they've put on,
And live in glory beyond the setting sun.

Coming to us with outstretched hands,
Giving us visions of the heavenly lands;
Giving us comfort and joy divine,
That life and happiness are forever thine.

Small beginnings to us were given,
Little raps like stary gems from heaven;
And bid us ope the door and they'd come in,
And sup with us and we with them.

With power and knowledge all untold,
Fifty-seven years have onward rolled;
And like the stary gems of night,
Behold God's glories of eternal light.

Behold our loved ones always near,
To guide our steps to the heavenly sphere;
To listen to music on harps of gold,
And glories of eternal life unfold.

When the century shall roll around,
All things in progression shall be found;
In every home tests shall be given,
And ties of Spiritualism be closely riven.

My friends, we close our fifty-seventh year,
And may we meet again and bring good cheer;

Let's take all messages as they are given,
Until we meet with those we love in heaven.

SPIRITUALISM AS THE FRIEND OF PROGRESS.

BY J. P. COOKE.

Character is tested by emergencies, as well in the world of ideas as in the world of action; and it is by its bearing in the present crisis of our progressive knowledge of Nature, both material and spiritual, that Spiritualism is to be measured. Is it not a friend of progress—a noble progress—progress in known truth?

Down to the early part of the 19th century it had generally been believed that this world, with all that it contains, was suddenly called into existence a few thousand years ago in much the condition as we now see it.

The problems of causes and origins was authoritatively settled by theology and life, mind, man and all Nature were studied under the hypothesis of this sudden production.

Modern science was long restrained in its efforts, by the power of traditional beliefs, but the force of facts and reasoning at length proved too strong for these beliefs, and it was demonstrated that the prevalent notion of the recent origin of the world was not true. It was seen that the present order of things is the outcome of a vast series of changes running back to an incalculable antiquity. It was established that life has stretched back for untold millions of years; that forms arose in determinate succession, while the last appearing are highest in grade, and this life manifests a principle of order and progression which shows mind—intelligence—in the central, cosmic cause.

It is necessary for man to better understand himself and his cosmic relations. So let us justify the faith of reason and spirituality by scanning the fields of well-grounded knowledge. Consider the forces of gravitation, cohesion and chemical affinity as the basic manifestations of the power. Matter is brought together by gravitation simply as loose particles. Cohesion unites

the particles into separate bodies. Chemical affinity is the next higher power, as conditioned upon gravitation and cohesion. We here have the three great forces of organic matter in their order as lower and higher, each one of them being the basis of some form of physical science. Gravitation gives us astronomy, with the laws of falling bodies; cohesion gives us crystallography and portions of mechanics; and chemical affinity gives us the great science of chemistry. These laws are sufficient to themselves. They would produce a permanent world and system of worlds; but these would be useless except as a condition for a higher order. In crystallization and in crystals, through definite form, we find the lowest point of transition from inorganic to organic matter. Special mystery is supposed to be attached to the force that gives us organisms; but I do not see that it is more mysterious than that which gives us crystals. Indeed the whole mystery is given in every form of force—apparently impersonal—whether it can be expressed in mathematical formula or not; if it works so uniformly as to give what we call a law and to seem a necessity, yet it works in the interests of ends beyond itself and runs up into spheres of which, if it be regarded as impersonal, it can know nothing. So these laws work and are to be regarded as the condition of the manifestation and force which is next above them. This is vegetable life. These laws being given, and working upon suitable materials, we have the condition on which the cause of vegetable life can work. Without them this lower form of life could not be.

Again, having vegetable life given, meditating as it does between inorganic nature and animal life, by converting inorganic matter into food by the vital processes, we have the conditions on which animal life could be produced and maintained. This gives us animal life. Rational and spiritual life remain as still higher creations. So far we have a series of forces; namely—gravita-

tion, cohesion, chemical affinity, vegetable life, animal life and man. In this higher life we see the upward and onward steps of creation, taking with it all that was below and adding something at every step. Every particle that coheres also gravitates, and so on up to man, in whom we find a life that is merely animal, and also that higher rational, moral and spiritual life which is peculiar to himself. Everything is carried up, and then something is added. It is not developed from what is below, or caused by it, but added to it till man is reached at the top. "All things are held by the law of attraction," says Jesus, "and the attraction is God, that begets all things by the blending of essences which he extracts from other formations. Thus blended, all things become new; yet nothing is taken from, nothing is added to, the great almighty whole." Let us ponder these deep thoughts. It may help us if we now conceive of the universe as a Being whose centre is absolutely pure light; that is, pure conscious substance or spirit. Spirit is pure conscious substance. It has no composition of parts, is indistructable, and therefore eternal. This Being's life goes forward to the confines of immensity, and thence, returning through its creative path, animates the so-called forces of nature, or grades of materiality, assumes the various created forms, and is the inner life of all creatures.

Every aspirational creature will strive onward and upward to its native home of the Living Light. The only Living Light or Being is God.

The finite created spirit, as in man, takes on bodies of various grades of materiality until such body can be thrown off, and the infinitely ethereal substance of the essential spirit can be drawn back to its parent bosom through aspiration, development and the free acceptance of divine or spiritual law. Thus the spirit gains its freedom and personality.

Yes I am nearer Thee! Oh! calm and still,
And beautiful blessed beyond degree.

Is this surrender of my finite will,
Is this absorption of my love in Thee!

Spiritualism, through its instruments, has shown the truth and the reasonableness of the spiritual evolution side by side with the evolution of forms. Spiritualism in its noble aspects is showing humanity where to look for help, for comfort and for consolation in the time of trouble and sorrow. The spiritual philosophy sees that the universe is positively mind and negatively matter. There is no matter without a mind to know. A living knower! There is no object without a subject. Knowledge alone is, it is by consciousness.

These truths, the Spiritualism of 56 years past, has kept stating and agitating—"line upon line and precept upon precept"—and it will continue to do so. For mankind needs to know of the Living Light of the sub-conscious. The Living Son of the Living God.

NEW THOUGHT THAT IS OLD.

LYMAN C. HOWE.

The Journal is growing. Eternal growth is for all. Not eternal accretion to a form; but expansion of being and relations. New Thought is a sad much muddled. But I have found nothing new in the ideas of any of the school. They come forward with a flourish of trumpets proclaiming their superiority in evolution, and assume to teach New Thought, but when we get all they can give us, it is the old familiar thought that Spiritualists discussed forty and fifty years ago. They spurn Spiritualism as beneath their high throne of knowledge; but all they present has been long known to Spiritualists.

I note an article in the Journal of February 25th, giving Brother M. S. Norton's views of it. He tells us that "the New Thought is a very old thought in new combinations." But I have never found anything very strikingly new in the "combinations." He tells us "It stands distinctly for immortality in the flesh, claiming that death is unnecessary." This is not new, nor is it true. It is not only against all we know of nature and all experience, but if it were true, it would be the greatest of all calamities.

The only excuse I can see for such a doctrine is the crass materialism of a class that seek it. If we were immortal in the flesh, we would necessarily be bound to this infinitesimal speck of earth for ever, and the possibility of continued increase would soon be reached, and countless millions of human beings would be denied existence. Ages ago the last man or woman for whom there would be room on earth, would have been born, and not one now living could have had a being. This New Thought is too small and absurd for any one to be

proud of. Death is the greatest of all benefactors, the divine emancipator, the universal healer, the blessing of all blessings to the human race, and is as natural as birth. It opens the door of our mortal prison, and leads us forth into the limitless cosmos with eyes opened to see beauties and glories forbidden to eyes of flesh, and with ears attuned to music that is eternal silence to the physical sense. The old dogma of theology made death a curse, and life in the flesh the supreme good. After the "fall" this was patched up and immortality of the body was declared as the result of an infinite miracle—the physical "resurrection of the dead." Bosh! Nature has no such teaching. The body is temporal, serving a limited use, and naturally reaches a climax and dies. By its death the spirit is freed and immortality a triumphant fact.

OFFICIAL REPORT FROM N. S. A.

DEAR MR. EDITOR: It gives me much pleasure to report to you and to the readers of your valuable and helpful paper, our first report of contributions received for the mediums' relief and pension fund of the N. S. A. since our last appeal which opened the new list for the thousand dollars we are seeking to secure from Spiritualists at large, and consequently a second thousand for the same worthy object from a benevolent friend of this city.

It will be seen that since our appeal of February 1st, we have secured the handsome and encouraging sum of \$431.55, and we hope and pray that the hearts of all Spiritualists who have not yet given help to this noble work will be opened in this direction very soon and that we shall receive from them whatever they can spare to swell the list and thus make the securing of the desired sum possible. The grateful appreciation, thanks and blessings of the N. S. A. and of its veteran beneficiaries go to all who have aided in this work.

Since our last report one of the tired and aged pensioners, Mrs. T. C. Pardee of Ellington, N. Y., has passed from earth at the age of 93. The last days of this aged one were made comfortable and free from anxiety by the monthly pension devoted to her use by the mediums' fund of the N. S. A. Such work is blessed and brings its own reward.

Among the donors is the name of Rev. H. C. Dorn. Brother Dorn sent in his contribution as a result of a circle held by him for this object. This is not the first time that he has held seances for the benefit of the mediums' relief fund, having done so on former occasions. Bro. Dorn suggests that we call upon all the mediums to each hold a benefit seance once in three months for the

mediums' fund and send receipts to the N. S. A., a timely and good suggestion which we trust our many mediums will adopt.

"Veta" also makes good and practical suggestions to the effect that one hundred genuine lovers of Spiritualism and mediumship, who have been blessed by the same, donate five dollars each to this work, that five hundred true lovers of our cause also give one dollar each within sixty days, that we may not only secure the thousand but as much more as possible for the worthy beneficiaries. Contributions large or small will be gratefully accepted at this office and acknowledged. Please, dear friends, do not let this glorious work fail, but send your mite and the angels will surely bless you for each noble deed.

MARY T. LONGLEY, Sec'y.

600 Penn. Ave., S. E.,

Washington, D. C.

NOTE.—The names of donors and amounts given are omitted for lack of space.—Editor.

THE RELIGION OF FOUR GREAT AMERICANS.

To the Editor.—The dicta that Washington was an "orthodox" Christian is incorrect. Several years ago, Prof. J. E. Remsburg of Atchinson, Kas., offered \$100 reward for evidence that Washington had admitted that Jesus was a supernatural being. The same amount was offered for evidence that General Grant or President Lincoln had ever recognized the "supernatural" character of Jesus. Mr. Remsburg made thorough investigation, and his offer was published in several papers of wide circulation and no rebuttal or claim was made. The faiths of these great men was Theistic or Deistic, substantially the same as that of the Hebrew prophets, whose dictums Jesus reverently taught and declared would save those who kept them. His interview with the lawyer and also with the "young man" are in point. In response to being addressed as "good Master," Jesus said, "Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one—God." That scholarly statesman, Jefferson, was in the same cult as Washington and Franklin, and sharply denounced the "tinkers" who had perverted the simple ethical teachings of the prophets. A distinguished theologian, in a recent sermon, denounced the "vicarious atonement" in powerful language. Not only is it demoralizing but vitiate the book-keeping of God. There is no abrogation of the moral law. It is inscribed on the tablets of eternity. For every false word and unrighteous deed, for cruelty and oppression, the penalty has to be suffered. Justice, and love, and truth alone endure and live through all eternity.

QUAKER.

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The author says in the dedication: To those whose thoughts and longings reach into the unseen Land of Souls, this handful of asphodels, mixed with common flowers, is offered, hoping to give rest and pleasure while waiting at the way stations on the journey thither." Price, \$1.00, postpaid.

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	♏	Water	Oct 23 to Nov 22
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PSYCHOMETRIC DELINEATIONS.

The PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL extends its appreciation to its patrons and desires an extension of patronage to their friends and asks that they will give them a few lines of their own hand-writing and we will give to them a psychometric delineation of their character. We ask not less than five and not more than seven lines be sent. If you should not receive your answer immediately, we hope you will bear with us, as we have others already in, and will answer each one in their turn. We ask you to give a fictitious name, so that you need not be afraid that any one will know who you are.

Balinger, Runnell's Co., Texas. —With the influence of this writing I get one who, though of a congenial mind, has at times conditions of a nature very trying to bear, and we would advise you to be very careful, as we see there are changes of a nature that will bring into the home life more of a desirable nature. God is good and through His goodness changes will come to brighten your home. I hear a voice saying, "Fear not, I am with you," and though at times the clouds seem dark, we bring the light, and by that a power will come to you, for you are one of Nature's children of the forest, and life has indeed seemed dark. Yet through God's goodness you will attain a more desirable condition of mind. While writing we see a condition of body that to you has been a consideration of much thought. We would say do not worry. We will overcome it by concentration of mind, and you will yet be enabled to do much that will be helpful to humanity. You can, through the psychic forces, locate mines, can psychometrize minerals, and we would ask you to sit in the silence and desire the highest. Use much discretion in all pertaining to the hidden mysteries of the mind. You have a healing power. Unfold it, and through that, other powers latent within will unfold. Be careful, and much good can be accomplished through you.

Nellie Vahte, New Boston. —With the influence of this writing I get an inspiration that is beautiful, and I see you standing on a platform. I see many flowers around you, which have been placed there for the purpose of psychometry; and I also see you pick up a wedding ring, tied with a narrow ribbon, and I hear you say, "It is for a friend of mine who will shortly marry." I also hear you say, "It is good. It will be well." You are very prophetic. You can, through the forces within you, psychometrize minerals and locate mines. I see you, in the near future doing this work with good results. Concentrate more and it will bring about a more positive condition that will surprise you.

"ALICE" MESSAGE CORNER.

MRS. ANNA L. GILLESPIE, MEDIUM.

Milo Harris. —Do you know, you mixed me up a little last week, Alice? An elderly man with a twinkle in his eye comes to the circle with this remark and says there were so many in line giving messages that the names were mixed. This man says "My name is Milo Harris. I want to send a message to Lucie and Mary. I just want them to get it clear and right that they may know it is really from me. See that they do, please. Tell them that it is a great place over here and there are lots of folks we know. I know he will soon get a word that will do him a world of good. Tell them all I am all right and learning a little of the meaning of life."

Peyton Lester. —This man comes from a far distant country; yet he has many who know him that will read this. He is one who cared for the sick, not a doctor but a nurse. His face is heavily marked with scars of smallpox. He shows me a picture which I will describe. I see a small room, I feel the air hot and sultry, and a tropical scene without the window. I see a man lying on a large bed which is laid on the floor. I cannot see the man's face, but the hair is very dark. This is all of the picture, and we give it as requested. The message is for Mary Ellen Grant.

Laverna Mathews. —To my dear husband and many friends this is sent. They are very kind to let us send this, for I realize how many are waiting for the opportunity to reach the loved ones. I used to think I could have but little trouble should I wish to reach my friends, but I find the line crowded and must wait my turn with the rest. "No-No" is such a help as in earth life. She advises and leads the way. I wish you would tell my old friend William Rider that

The light of the land eternal
Has dispelled every shadow of earth;
Sobbing and heart aches vanished
Dispelled by sweet music and mirth.
No longer with eyes dim with watching,
For ships precious freighted to come
To wait in the harbor well knowing
That evening will bring them home.

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The most valuable, as it is, the most unique and remarkable contribution to the literature of spiritual phenomena. —Lillian Whiting.

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Mrs. Underwood's experience will afford valuable aid toward the definite solution of the psychic problem. —Progressive Thinker.

The wise answers from some invisible intelligence which knows facts and principles unknown to either party present, make the volume unique. —Christian Metaphysician.

I am poor, but if I had \$100 would willingly part with it, sooner than have missed the reading of the book. —B. B. Marshall.

Mediumship and its Laws,

Its Conditions and Cultivation.

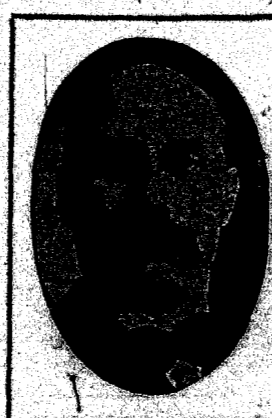
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W. T. JONES,
EDITOR.

Assisted by an Able Corps of Special Contributors.

SAN FRANCISCO, APRIL 8, 1905.

COMMENTS.

The anniversary has been kept. Spiritualists all over the land have stood up like Pharisees and proclaimed how much wiser and better they are than common folk. It may be well to adopt the view-point of the Christian Scientist and ignore all undeveloped good. But the wise general knows where the weak points in his army are, though he does not label them for the attack of his enemy. So, perhaps, it has been wise to emphasize only the strength of the movement in the annual celebration just closed. However, it will be well to note the weak points, and strengthen them as rapidly as possible.

Each society knows its own special weakness. Knows where it lacks power. Knows if it has been led by the light of the spirit, or if it has accepted the domination of some mortal. Eet it be whispered, in passing, that most of the societies that have failed, have failed through the aggressiveness of some member of the rule or ruin order.

On March 31st we re count all the blessed helpfulness of the spirit world to man. The words of appreciation cannot be too many or too eloquent to rightly picture the service of angels to mortals. And right here is the lesson if we will but heed it. Service to others is the means of happiness and advancement.

The spiritual movement has entered upon a new year. Would it not be well to make the motto of this 58th year "Service." We have been ministered unto so long, that we have grown forgetful of our part in bringing into realization the philosophy we preach and presumably believe.

While no two accept exactly the same statement of faith, hope and knowledge, there have been many

attempts to formulate one that shall be fairly representative. The California State Association have thirteen articles of affirmation or belief. One third of the thirty-nine articulated creed of the prayer book. The National Association has decreased this one-half, and have six

At the head of the editorial column of the Banner of Light stands this declaration of principles formulated by the National Spiritual Association. They are:

1. We believe in Infinite Intelligence.
2. We believe that the phenomena of nature, physical and spiritual, are the expression of Infinite Intelligence.
3. We affirm that a correct understanding of such expressions, and living in accordance therewith, constitutes the true religion.
4. We affirm that the existence and personal identity of the individual continues after the change called death.
5. We affirm that communication with the so-called dead is a fact, scientifically proven by the phenomena of Spiritualism.
6. We believe that the highest morality is contained in the Golden Rule, "Whatsoever ye would that others should do unto you, do ye even so unto them."

This last article brings us to the suggested motto for the year, "Service." It is not the great acts that are the genuine service. It takes not nearly the same amount of heroism to meet the one all-powerful trial of life, as is required to meet the daily perplexities and worries. So it will take more courage and patience to serve in the small ways, than to make the great sacrifice for the cause of truth.

It was not so hard in the enthusiasm of the awakening to step out of the place one once held, and to declare one's self a Spiritualist, as it has been to keep one's temper and bear with the pettinesses of one's fellow Spiritualists. There is this consolation, if one will but accept of it—the others have to bear with us. It is well to keep in mind that

There's so much good in the worst of us,
And so much bad in the best of us,
That it's hardly becoming in any of us,
To criticize the rest of us.

Let us try to follow the example of the unseen teachers, and be helpful to ourselves, our neighbors and the Journal during the coming year.

COMMENTER.

Material wealth, intellectual wealth and spiritual wealth all come in great abundance when we look within and not without for guidance, direction and leading.

OAKLAND NOTES.

"Who are these who fly as a cloud, and as doves to their windows?" asked one away in the centuries that are past, and we of modern times reply. These are the messengers of peace, and they bring hope, comfort and consolation to the weary one's of earth life. They bid them to look up and not down, forward and not backward. That the loved ones who have left our homes are not dead, that they have merely laid aside their mortal bodies, and are living still, coming often to help us in our daily avocations, and telling us to be of good cheer, that if we are true to ourselves we will overcome all things, even our last enemy—death.

April 2d dawned most auspiciously in Oakland. Nature seemed to be attuned with us in celebrating the 57th anniversary of Modern Spiritualism, for the sun shone most resplendantly, and everybody was in good humor, for what tends more towards that end than when Nature in all its varied beauties bestows its best gifts on mankind.

The platform of the lovely Woodmen's Hall was a bower of beauty—a veritable flower garden—bouquets and lovely set pieces sent by loving friends, to help to atone for their absence. These came all the way from Saratoga, Alverado and San Jose, and mingled with those of the Oakland friends. Mrs. Cowell, before closing the meeting, returned thanks to the many kind friends who had enabled her and her co-workers to make the platform so beautiful, for flowers tend very much to bring us all into harmony with one another.

Any one with a pessimistic turn of mind concerning the outlook for Spiritualism, would have become quite optimistic had they chanced to be present at either session, for the large hall was well filled in the afternoon and packed in the evening, and the harmony and good-will prevailing augured well for the future good of the cause, as all the various societies were represented, and most all had a part in the proceedings of the day.

All phases of Spiritualism was represented—from childhood and youth up to hoary age—either in giving the invocation, singing, reciting, speaking or voicing the messages of cheer from the loved ones on the spirit side of life; but where all acquitted themselves so well, it would be superfluous to individualize, so we will merely give the names of those who took part, and helped to make it a day long to be remembered. If we have omitted any names we apologize and thank them just the same. Mrs. Mary A. Wells, Mrs. Carrie Armstrong, Mrs. Drake, Mrs. S. Gordon, Mrs. Jennie Robinson, Mrs. Parsons, Dr. Stewart-Ellis, Mrs. Mollie Phelps, Mrs.

S. Cowell, Miss Helen Anderson, Miss Evelyn Hambly, and Messrs. Clark, Hambly, and Norton.

Now that we have begun work for another year, let us all cast away the sin (jealousy) that does so easily beset us, and work in harmony with all. If we cannot agree, let us agree to disagree, for all of us cannot be right. Perhaps none of us are wholly right, but surely from our different views there will arise a spark of truth, and that spark may kindle a fire that shall mark the road to progress and to freedom. Then let us be up and

Live for those who love us,
And for those who know us true,
For the heaven that smiles above us,
And waits our coming too;
For the cause that needs assistance,
For the wrongs that need resistance,
For the future in the distance,
And the good that WE can do.

J. G.

57TH ANNIVERSARY AT DECOTO.

Editor of the Journal: It is generally known that Mrs. E. P. Thorndyke holds the anniversary on the 31st day of March, the day that the Fox sisters established communication between those in mortal and spirit life. As many inconvenience themselves to meet on that day, it seems to bring appreciation from our loved ones and closer to us. Mrs. Thorndyke, our hostess, made a brief speech of welcome; Mrs. Crawford rendered fine music on the piano. Mrs. Wells, Mrs. Conell, Mrs. Amanda Smith, Mesdames M. S. Phelps, Paddock, Edwards, Crawford and the writer all gave short talks or tests. There was perfect harmony. Judge Collins, Mrs. Logan and Walter Hyde made their presence known. Several were there from the Masonic home; it was a bright day for them. I think all (fifty-three in number) felt it was good to be there. The fruit trees are in blossom and mother earth is covered with green and natural flowers. The view of nature in her loveliness was enjoyed going and coming. The dear messages from both our loved ones in spirit and mortal renewed new courage to meet life's troubles without complaint. We spiritual minded people must even admit the pleasure we felt at the bountiful repast awaiting us to partake of both before and after the meeting.

Mrs. Scott Briggs.

CHURCH OF THE SOUL.

A crowded house greeted the pastor and assistant pastor, Madam Young and Mrs. Sarah Seal on last Sunday night. The subject of the lecture was "Mediumship, its laws, its significance, its influence upon those having the gift, and its effect upon the world." The speaker said that mediumship belongs to humanity, and each individual should seek to develop its divine power and exercise its benign influence for the elevation of the race rather than for mercenary purposes.

**HERMETIC BROTHERHOOD
CONVOCAION.**

The twelfth annual convocation of the Hermetic Brotherhood was commemorated on Sunday, March 26th, at the headquarters, 509 Van Ness Avenue. The hall was beautifully decorated for the occasion by artistic hands. Drapery, wreaths and flowers were displayed in effusion on the four walls, mingled together with the various "knots" from the "other side and this." The variety of sweet flowers cast their fragrance everywhere.

Three sessions were held—morning, afternoon and evening. Many from outside of the city representatives were present, and letters of "God-speed greetings" were read from many states and some from Europe.

This was the first convocation after the transition of its late founder, Dr. W. P. Phelon, who established the order about twenty-five years ago in Chicago. Dr. Phelon was a great psychic, and received this secret doctrine from "the invisible section," which was in existence on Atlantis when that continent flourished in all its glory so many thousands of years before it became submerged. Its prehistoric date and philosophy is known only by the members of the Hermetic Brotherhood. Some idea of it can be had by reading Dr. Phelon's latest book, "Our Story of Atlantis."

Six months before his transition, Dr. Phelon installed Frances Rogers as the elder brother to succeed him, with Elder Brother Geo. R. Tuttle and L. A. Darling assistants, as an executive head, to which tribunal all appeals could be made.

The night session was an interesting one, and messages added to the good-will and harmony of all. The headquarters and the centre will continue to remain at its old home of potency, 509 Van Ness Avenue, in the future the same as in the past, where the vibratory influence of Dr. Phelon still prevails. H. B.

FIRST SPIRITUAL UNION.

The First Spiritual Union of San Jose, Cal., met at Eagle Hall, Sunday, April 2d. The conference meeting at 11 o'clock was well attended. Then followed the annual business meeting. Mrs. H. L. Bigelow, president; Mr. Joseph Murray, vice-president; Mr. L. W. Dexter, treasurer; Mrs. Dr. Dobson-Baker, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Cora D. Ringlep, recording secretary; Mr. C. L. Graessle and Mr. Anderson, trustees; were elected for the ensuing year. Mrs. Nettie Pease Fox was engaged as speaker for the present month. Our meetings are growing in interest and numbers, three new members joining the society Sunday.

Mrs. Dr. Dobson-Barker,
Cor. Sec., 230 N. Sixth street.

**THE PEOPLE'S CHURCH
ENTERTAINMENT.**

The entertainments and social dances inaugurated some months ago on the last Saturday evening in the month, have proven unexceptionally popular. The young men who have so successfully managed the business part have won the confidence and esteem of all who attended them, and the ladies who so kindly volunteered their services in providing and dispensing light refreshments each evening added much to the pleasure and financial profit as well. Mr. E. W. Briggs, the president of the society, always on the alert in promoting the good of the church, asked those present at the last party if they desired to continue them, and upon calling for a vote it was decided unanimously to hold parties the last Saturday evening in April, May and June.

A PROPITIOUS GATHERING.

Maple Hall, Oakland, on Tuesday afternoon and evening the 4th inst., contained a large number of representatives of the various "Centers of New Thought" and several Spiritualistic Societies of Oakland, Alameda and San Francisco, who had come with kindly thoughts and feelings and hearts filled with love and good wishes for the success of Mrs. Mary A. Wells of San Francisco and Mrs. Mollie S. Phelps of Oakland, who have associated themselves together for the purpose of establishing a center for Spiritual work. Space will be reserved for an extended report of this meeting in the next issue of the JOURNAL.

PERSONAL.

Mr. Daniel Hull, one of the veteran workers in Spiritualism, and an earnest advocate of every movement for the good of humanity, called at the Journal office this week on his way to Los Angeles. From there he will go to Vineland Kansas, where he expects to locate, and in time establish a sanitarium. We wish him success.

PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION.

The Mediums' Protective Association will hold their monthly meeting on Saturday, April 8th (tonight), at the home of Mrs. Carrie Wermouth, 436 Golden Gate avenue. All members are welcome.

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Mrs. Ethel Crindle, 328 Ellis Street, Materializing Seances Sunday, Wednesday and Friday Evenings. Developing Seance Tuesday 8 p.m. Spirit Photos Daily.

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Mrs. Hendee-Rogers, Nevada House, San Jose, Cal. Circle Tues. & Fri. 8 p.m. Readings daily. S. F., Cal. Sittings daily, also by mail.

Mrs. Sarah Seal, spiritual, healing and business medium, 1424 Market St., "Avondale," S. F. Readings and treatments daily.

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Mrs. M. Bird, Messages, 235 Larkin St. at 8 p. m.

Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Cobb hold Meetings on Sunday Evenings at Eight o'clock, Room 8, Odd Fellows' Building. Also same Hall on Thursdays on Two o'clock.

Mr. Arthur S. Howe and Mrs. M. E. G. Howe, Lecture and Messages. Room 8 Odd Fellows' Building, at 2.15.

Mrs. Sadie Eberhardt, Messages, 267 San Jose Ave., near 25th.

Covenant hall—Odd Fellows Building, Miss Mae Hunt, Lecture and Messages.

Childrens Progressive Lyceum, Odd Fellows Building, Room 8, 2nd, floor, 10:30.

Friendship Hall—At 335 McAllister St. Lecture and Messages. Mrs. C. J. Meyers

Peoples Church, 223 Sutter st., Lecture and Messages, Mrs. Anna Gillespie, Pastor.

Church of the Soul, 619 McAllister Street, Lecture and Messages. Mme. E. Young, Pastor; Mrs. Sarah Seal, Assistant-Pastor.

The Free Thought Association hold meetings every Sunday at 2 p.m. in Scandia Hall, 181 City Hall Avenue. M. S. Norton, Pres.

Societies and Meetings

Ladies' Aid Society business and social meetings every Wednesday at 2 p.m. in their own headquarters Room 8 Odd Fellows' Building.

Children's Progressive Lyceum meets every Sunday morning at 10:30, Room 8, Odd Fellows Building. Seventh and Market sts.

The Peoples' Spiritual Church, Elk's Hall, 223 Sutter Street, San Francisco. Mrs. Anna L. Gillespie, pastor. Services every Sunday evening, at 8 o'clock. All are welcome. H. U. PRINDLE, Sec.

The Band of Harmony meets in Room 8, Odd Fellows' Building, on the last Monday evening of each month.

The Happy Thought Club meets every Wednesday evening in the parlors of Mrs. Carrie Wermouth, 436 Golden Gate Avenue.

The Orrilia Sisterhood hold meetings at their headquarters, 689 Dolores st. Open meetings on the 13th and 27th of the month at 2 p.m., to which friends are invited. Mrs. Mary A. Wells, Directress.

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TO THE SPIRITUALISTS OF AMERICA.

Let us rejoice that justice is done. The will of a just man has been sustained, and his handiwork upheld. The Circuit Court of Walworth county, Wisconsin, has declared the trust formed by Morris Pratt whereby the magnificent property known as the Morris Pratt Temple became the property of Spiritualists, who should band themselves together for the purpose of establishing and carrying on an institution for the education of teachers and public workers in the cause he held dear to his heart, is a valid transfer, and that the trustees to whom the deed in trust runs have performed their part of the compact faithfully and in order.

Three years have now passed. The directors have been obliged to resort to almost ceaseless effort and struggle to bring this institution before the public in such a manner as to arrest their attention and enlist their sympathies. At first the cause of this was indifference, as Spiritualism has had very little system in the past in its organizations. Then came murmurings of a litigation, which, to take the conclusion reached by the average person who heard these rumors, was to be a long drawn out and very disagreeable thing, while in reality the case was won before it had a hearing. Much credit is due, no doubt, to the able and gentlemanly counsel who conducted the case in behalf of the trustees, Messrs. Frank W. Hall and S. Swansen of the firm of Tenneys, Hall & Swansen of Madison, Wisconsin. Their clear understanding of the case, and able presentation of the same, and the technical points of law as well as justice, so ably presented by them could not fail to place them where they are, among Wisconsin's valued lawyers.

They have won the suit and have given the property to the association a second time, as was the wish of the original donor. We are now in possession of it. We can make it one of the foremost institutions of learning in the world, free from sectarian bias, sect denomination or narrow-minded prejudice, and place upon the rostrum as able teachers as any denomination in the world can produce, and by so doing carry to the thinking public these truths which have been so long trammelled and rejected for want of educated men and women to properly present them. For while the world today is looking for them and longing for them, they cannot and will not accept them as presented by the average worker.

As workers we are conscious of these facts, but we have been bidden and have answered the call. We have a message to deliver; we would gladly learn of the Master, but where can we go and not be subject to ridicule? No place has

been found until good old Father Pratt founded this. He has given us the home and asked those who love the work as he loved it to keep it up by contributions. The litigation has cost \$500. This must be paid. Other expenses must be met. We should begin to have a movement fund. All schools must have to be successful. We can work toward it. There are many, many influential people in America who are conscious of the presence of loved ones gone from mortal sight who would gladly support a system that would give this knowledge to the world if it could be done in an acceptable manner to intelligent people.

I appeal to them as they love this truth, and for the sake of the comfort and joy it has brought to them and will bring to others, to come forward now, uphold the hands of those who are trying to place this school on a sure foundation that future generations may meet here and go out from its doors carrying to the world glad tidings of great joy. Make the school what you want it. Elect your officers and support them in their offices. Remember this is your property and not a private institution. Will you not do all you can to assist it, and do it now? Send in your contributions at once.

Yours, for education.
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GHOST OR SPECTER.

The following remarkable incident is related for the special benefit of those people who think that spirits are "fakes." A young lady in Roxbury was playing with some little children, when one of them ran toward the hall door of the house and seeing a strange "man" standing there, stopped in surprise and holding up its little hands in amazement, said: "Why, there's a man there." The child's mother in another room saw him and said to the young lady: "Miss —, there is a man waiting in the hallway. I guess he wants to see you."

The lady stepped to the hallway and was dumbfounded to see a New York man there, pale from consumption, holding a piece of paper in his hand. She knew him at once as her relative M— and he said to her, holding out the piece of paper toward her, "Here is something for you. I died last — and my funeral will be held next Wednesday in New York. I came to tell you about it." She stepped toward him to get the paper and he suddenly dematerialized before she could touch his hands.

This young lady did not know that the consumptive relative had really died, so she wrote to his people and asked if it was true that her relative, M—, had died and were they to hold the funeral on Wednesday? They answered back and said that he had died on the day she mentioned and would be buried the next Wednesday, but then they wanted to know how she knew he was dead as they had informed no one when her message was first sent to them, etc.

Now, was this a ghost, specter, spirit, apparition, sub-conscious ego, vision, etc., or did she dream and the child and the child's mother all dream the same thing at the same time in the same place? Many of these spirits have written messages, between sealed slates, they have had their photos taken. They have spoken through trumpets, mediums, etc. Probably thousands of spirits have proved that there is a life after death, and yet there are millions of people who do not believe it. They do not read any spiritualist papers, although several large sheets are published in the United States and many in other lands. The Holy Bible is full of spirit incidents, which are regarded by the experts as scientifically accurate. Still, there are people who say: "There is no life after death." Strange that such people should push into print.

Geo. E. Lothrop, Jr., Boston.

No More Last Man.

Diamond and Mercantile Contracts, even though they are lapsed, will be redeemed by me at Full Value, for two days only, secured by the new (Senator Selvage) Salvage Bill, No. 460, just passed by the Legislature.

S. G. MITCHELL.

406 Crossley Building, San Francisco, March 11th.

REWARD OF THE VICTOR.

LIDA BRIGGS BROWNE.

Victory brings its own reward. The world may not applaud, one's own friends may not appreciate the struggle, yet if the inner consciousness approves, the victory is complete.

In ancient times the victor was he who, with the clash of arms overcame his opponent, and to a limited degree this is so to day; but the greatest victor is he who conquers himself. The struggle for wealth, position, fame and honor is valueless, although successful in the eyes of the masses, unless he who fights does it honorably and comes off victorious with right on his side and with a clear conscience. Many who the world calls successful and victorious are pigmies in their own minds, for they know they used underhanded methods to accomplish their ends. Their victory has a bitter taste to the mouth and is worthless, as to obtain it they have seared their souls to accomplish their ends that in the great hereafter will have to be atoned for.

The aim of all should be to struggle for the right for right's sake, not for the plaudits of men. He who in his own judgment is in the right and struggles to maintain it according to his own conscience, come off victorious.

The old saying, "He who conquers himself is greater than he who takes a city," is equally true to-day as in the past. There are many things to overcome in oneself that have been transmitted by ancestors or cultivated by environment and surroundings. These traits are called selfishness, malice, revenge, hatred, anger, fear and sensualism. They crop up when least expected, and when one can say to them, "Peace, be still!" and can overcome these tendencies in himself, he is the real victor.

And the reward? It comes without stint; not only to one's self who can still the waves of trial and distress, but to all those around them. Everyone loves a sunny soul, one free from the canker of unrest, sorrow, anger and revenge. People love to serve him, and he attracts to his aura living souls who delight to be in his presence and assist him. This reward is far more lasting and permanent than the laurel crown or the silver cup or any trophy that gold or silver can buy. It is its own reward, the peace that passeth understanding.

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A TRUTH WITH A MORAL.

Trouble and Joy met near a poor man's door; Trouble looked angry. Joy observed, and said: "Why are you angry?" Trouble in gruff tones said: "I have visited this house often, and been made much of, but to-day, when I called, they did not notice me." "If that is so," said Joy, "then I will call in and try and make a long stay and will invite my friends, Peace and Plenty, to come there." "Well," said Trouble, "why haven't you called before?" "Because," said Joy, "those that make so much of you don't take the time to notice me."

Moral.—This goes to show if we do not welcome trouble, better company will come to us.

The officers of the Ladies' Aid Society for the ensuing year are—Mrs. Howe, president; Mrs. Mayo, vice-president; Mrs. Starks, secretary; Mrs. Riley, treasurer; Madams Place, Wood, Johnson, Foulsham and Morrelle, directors.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

As the tenth annual convention of the California State Spiritualists' Association is to be held in San Diego in September, 1905, a club of not less than sixty members is now being formed to secure a low rate of transportation. Arrangements have been completed with S. P. R. Co. for two-coaches for the round trip, including side trips and sleeper, at the low rate of twenty-four dollars each person. All wishing to avail themselves of this opportunity can do so by securing from the Secretary of your nearest auxiliary Society, or from W. T. Jones, 1429 Market St., Secretary of the C. S. S. A. A word explaining terms etc., which can be filled out and forwarded to the Sec'y.

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I think your work one of the greatest and most valuable of this century.—E. F. Gooprich, M. D., Boston, Mass.

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How vast the amount of good that would result from the general circulation and study of this work. The usual heavy volumes issued by medical authors do not contain any of the practical information that is included in Dr Babbitt's work.—J. C. UNDERHILL, Chicago.

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NOTICE OF MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Members of the Society of Progressive Spiritualists will be held at their Office, 3322 17th Street, on Sunday Afternoon, April 16th, at 2:30 o'clock, for the purpose of electing a Board of Directors for the ensuing year, and such other business as may come before the meeting.

JOHN KOCH, Sec.

San Francisco.

March 23d, 1905.

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Published monthly near Custer, Idaho, and devoted to the investigation of occult science 100 miles from a railroad, and 9,000 feet above the sea. Edited under inspiration—the reason for its publication. Send for a copy, \$1.00 per year. Reginald Coryell, editor; R. L. Cheney, manager.

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PEOPLE'S CHURCH.

"Spiritualism of the Bible" was the subject of Mrs. Anna L. Gillespie's discourse on last Sunday evening. She compared the Spiritualism of the last half century and its various phenomena, both mental and physical, with the marvelous occurrences recorded in the Bible, and showed them to be identical, caused, controlled and governed by and through the same or similar laws and intelligences. It is recorded in the Bible that in times of distress and threatened calamities, kings and rulers sought advice from prophets, seers and those supposed to have power to commune with the dead; and people in Bible time were seeking as eagerly after signs as are more modern people anxious for tests and messages. Physical manifestations in olden times were similar and produced by the same law as in our day. The placing of the three Hebrew children in a fiery furnace and their protection from harm, as related in the Bible, is no more wonderful and marvelous than the phenomena produced by our own mediums of today, namely: Mrs. Snydam Green of Los Angeles and Mrs. Isa Porter Kayner of Illinois, who, when under control of their spirit guides, handle heated lamp chimneys, and pass their hands, arms and faces over and through the blaze of a lamp with impunity. Sampson, the strong man of the Bible, was compared with little Georgia Winslow who, when under the control of her spirit guide proved herself stronger than the combined strength of several muscular men. David is said to receive from God ointment with which he was commanded to anoint God's chosen ones. A comparison was made of this with that of a woman in Battle Creek, Mich., who at times, by holding her hand out, there would come into it, as from the atmosphere, oil possessing curative properties, which she used with great success and marvelous results in the cure of ailments and disease, the speaker having been cured of throat trouble through this method.

In answer to a question often asked, "Why do not spirits of our loved ones manifest at our bidding?" the speaker referred the questioner to the only condition which makes it possible for com-

munication with those gone higher. "Seek and ye shall find. Knock and it shall be opened unto you," is as true to-day as when first spoken. In concluding this very remarkable lecture, the pastor said that with the exception of "spirit photography," all other phases of mediumship known in modern times were also known and are recorded in the Bible. Pure Spiritualism and true phenomena will continue to live. Their light will ever shine in the paths of progress, leading humanity on into truer lives and greater perfection.

MRS. MAUD LORD DRAKE.

One of the best known mediums in the spiritual field has been in San Francisco for two weeks, and in order to meet her many friends announced in the Sunday morning papers that she would hold a meeting in Prospect Hall, Odd Fellows' Building. The result being that the hall was well filled, and a very interesting service enjoyed. Mr. J. S. Drake arrived in time to assist in the meeting by giving a short address. Mr. Geo. Lewis also gave an interesting talk. Mrs. Drake followed in her usual inimical manner of work, voiced the loving messages from the spirit side of life. Among the many personal friends of Mr. and Mrs. Drake were Mrs. Judge Budd and her sister of Stockton, Mrs. Guile and Mrs. Kelly of Boston, Mas., and Mrs. Janney of Forest Park, Cal. Mrs. Drake can be found for a few days only at the Hotel Regina, 416 Turk street.

THE LYCEUM.

Topic for Sunday, April 9, 1905, S. E. 58,—"Man—a Progressive Being."

The gem of thought:—

From out the center of all good,
Immortal man is swung;
He moves by law, just as he would,
His fellowmen among.

Though through dark wastes the journey leads,

Progressing still he goes,
And finds each scene the one he needs—
By light and shade he grows.

For information concerning the Progressive Lyceum authorized lesson sheet of the National Spiritualist Association, address John W. Ring, Spiritualist Temple, Galveston, Texas.

On last Sunday the hall in which they met was too crowded for comfort. This speaks well for the new managers. Five new children and the same number of adults were received into the association, and increased interest is manifested. Let "expansion" be the watchword, for there are larger halls available.

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