

Religio-Philosophical Journal

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the being after whom he had been searching so long. O Inquiring mind! on the wings of reason, you scale the starry heights, and hold communion with those in the spheres above you, and while listening to your own musings, watch for some white-winged messenger to bring you a knowledge of the higher spheres.

We falter for a moment in our search. In the region of the constellation Arctomea, we behold a magnificent world, and it is in flames! There is a conflagration there; a world is on fire; the elements are in terrible commotion!

World-making is attributed to God. Here but a God could form this earth, cause it to revolve, and adapt it to the wants of man. If God is omnipresent and all-powerful, he could put out flames with a mere wish, as it were, but we find that if a fire is ever extinguished it is done through the instrumentality of individualized intelligence.

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with the illimitable universe, and in order to advance himself in the scale of existence, he is constantly investigating new souls etc, and solving problems connected with his own life. Connected with the formation of every world is a circle of spirits. They control the forces that develop it, and prepare it for the reception of human beings.

Now, if a God were connected with all conditions of life, there could not be any failures; being all-powerful, omnipresent, and omnipotent he could not make a mistake. We know that worlds have been wrecked in the regions of space; that accidents have occurred there, and can a failure, a wreck, be attributed to a perfect being? The works of perfect men would not result in a miserable wreck, a failure—no, not one. Perfect action could only end in perfect results.

Nowhere, as yet, do we see God. He is not in the machine shops of earth, where engines are made. He is not in the regions where worlds are created and launched forth to bloom with civilization and refinement. He is not the maker of that ocean steamer; nor that comet with its long train of translucent light.

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bold exponent of the Spiritual Philosophy as it has heretofore been. While it will treat with the utmost courtesy all opposers who base their opposition upon sincere arguments, however untenable, it will not spare from exposure hypocritical cant and ostentatious pretensions, devoid of merit, however unpleasant the task.

It will be the aim of its editors to make the JOURNAL every way acceptable to the bold lover of truth. To that end we invite the cooperation of all old friends, and the kind and far-reaching spirit of new investigators in this great and revolutionary field of reform.

THE BANGS CHILDREN.

An Intro. view with the Spirits—Mrs. Bangs' Report of the First Manifestations in Her House—A Synopsis of what is Daily happening in the Presence of the Children.

We have on three occasions been invited to witness the wonderful physical manifestations of departed spirits in the presence of the Bangs children.

These manifestations take place in a fully lighted room, and yet musical instruments have to be enclosed in a box or dark room, in order to enable spirits to play upon them.

This family all seem to be mediumistic, but two little girls, aged respectively eleven and seven years, are considered the best mediums. The manifestations were so varied in our presence, that we shall give but a faint outline of them in this article.

A long, heavy, extension dining table is brought out, and an ordinary table-cloth is spread over it. The family are seated along one side, and as many as is convenient, fill up the circle around the table, excepting a space of about three feet between two of the children, which is left vacant. In this vacancy is placed a chair. The audience who may be present, are seated around the room.

It is then quite usual for some one of the family to ask a little spirit—son of the Bangs parents—if all is right. This little son passed to spirit life when only fourteen months old, but is now plainly seen and talked with by the other children. In response to that inquiry, an affirmative or negative answer is given by a certain number of raps or tips of the table, or by the tipping of the vacant chair above referred to.

Sometimes, some one plays the piano, then the chair above referred to, dances (apparently with delight), keeping time to the music without any thing or any one touching it. The table, also, often hops and skips about as if an intelligent being, keeping time with delight to the music.

The children are also clairvoyant. They hear the spirits talk, and give what they say to the members of the audience, whereupon the spirits in turn give their assent to the truth thereof by raps on the table, or by forcibly tipping the vacant chair. This chair seems to answer a very important purpose. It is always ready to respond to any one's inquiries, when requested. For instance, one directing an inquiry to the chair says, Chair, is John Smith—or some less noted character—present? The chair immediately responds by one, two, or three emphatic tips, which are understood to mean respectively,—no; I don't know; yes.

MRS. BANGS' REPORT. I will commence by saying that up to September 30th, 1871, none of our family had ever seen any spirit manifestations, had never set for them, and was not thinking about them. All at once, on September 30th, about five o'clock in the evening, hard coal was thrown in at the door. I thought it to be the neighbors' children, and requested them to stop. They answered that they had not thrown any coal; but of course I did not believe them, and closed the door.

I will say here, that we lived in the upper story of the house, about eighteen feet from the ground. The kitchen window was dropped about six inches at the top, and after I closed the door, coal commenced to come in at the top of the window, one piece after another. When my husband, Mr. Bangs, came home to supper, about seven o'clock in the evening, I told him the children had been throwing coal into the house. While he was at supper, the coal kept coming in all the time. After supper, Mr. Bangs went out around the house and concealed himself, with the expectation that he could find out who it was that threw the coal, but failed to see any one, but he could see the coal pass in at the window, and hear it fall on the floor. It was a pleasant evening, and the moon shone very bright. If there had been any one near by, he would have seen them. Mr. Bangs then came into the house, and shut the window. Several pieces fell in the room after that. The next morning, about seven o'clock, coal commenced to come in at the parlor window on the other side of the house, and next it came into the dining room. From seven to eleven o'clock nearly a peck was thrown in. We were not disturbed during meal hours, nor after eight o'clock in the evening. Coal continued to come in for four days. It made no difference whether the windows and doors were open or not. One large piece was dropped in the front room, weighing eight or ten pounds, when all the doors and windows were closed. Several other large pieces were brought in and placed around in different places. Several of the neighbors were called in, and can testify to the truth of this statement. They said it was some evil spirit that had got into the house.

On the evening of the fourth day, as the family were sitting around the table reading, ten pieces of coal were dropped, in a circle, on the bed in the room where we were sitting.

The next day, chairs and other articles of furniture were piled up together, in plain view, in a moment, and then returned to their places again. Dishes were put on the children's heads. A brick, and a tumbler full of water, was placed on the head of one of the girls several times. Most every dish and small article in the house was put on their heads, and kept me busy all day taking them off.

When evening came, they took the ribbon off of the oldest girl's head, and tied her fast to the chair with it, and did many other things. Then they hit her on the hand, several times, so that the prints of the teeth were to be seen very plainly. They tipped the chair she was sitting in. I had the impression to give her a piece of paper and pencil, and I asked the question, who it was making these demonstrations. Immediately she controlled one of the girls' hands, and wrote, "good spirit,"—the girl not having any control of her hands. In a day or two after that, she saw the spirit of Mr. Bangs' sister, and described her form and features perfectly. She never saw her in life. The spirit spoke in an audible voice several times, calling Mr. Bangs, "Brother Edward, brother Edward," one time when the children were not in the house; at another time when the children were asleep in bed.

The lamp was trimmed every day, for two weeks, by spirit hands, the wick being cut each time. Dishes were washed, knives were scoured by them in a few moments, and beds were made. The pantry floor was washed, and another floor was swept. One day while the eldest girl, Elizabeth, was ironing one part of a garment, a spirit took another iron and ironed the other part of the garment, and helped until all the clothes were ironed. I saw the iron move about on the cloth, but could not see the spirit. Presents were bought for the girls, and carried into the school-room and given to them. They had each a new circular comb and neck-ribbon given to them in the school room. The combs were put in their hair, and the ribbons tied around their necks. They did not know anything about it till some of the scholars asked them where they got their new combs and ribbons.

One morning I was quite unwell. A spirit said if I would go and lie down on the bed she would cook breakfast for me. I did so. Then she fried waffles-cakes, boiled eggs, and made tea. Everything was cooked nice. I wish to say here, that neither of the girls know anything about cooking; also, that the waffle-iron had been put away in a bureau, and had not been used for six months before. The spirit cooked all the food we ate for two days. She made bread and apple pies, fried potatoes, made some cakes and baked them. When we set the table for meals, she, the spirit, would set a plate and chair for herself, and would set to the table, and sometimes the food disappeared from her plate, as if she ate it. She often moved the chair. Some of the children could see her eat; others could not see her eat, but saw the food on her plate disappear.

The spirit wrote through our daughter Elizabeth's hand, that she wanted our family to hold a circle every evening for development. We did so. The first evening, they tipped the table, and telegraphed by raps, our daughter hearing the voice of the spirit at the same time, giving directions what they wanted us to do next. We sang, and they kept time to the music, by raps and dancing on the floor. We heard the sound of their feet plainly.

That evening the children saw other spirits of our departed friends. Among them was our little boy, who passed away when only fourteen months old. Since that time he seems to be constantly with us. He has drawn pictures on paper and on the slate, and writes on the slate without the aid of natural hands, giving very intelligent communications.

One evening, while all the family were sitting at the supper table, with a full light, our little girl Mary had her dress changed in a few moments by spirit power. We are all positive she did not move from her chair during the meal and yet her dress was changed, and the dress they took off from her was carried and hung up in her room. Quite often the girls have had their dresses thus changed, and their hair curled, before our eyes; that is, we could see that their clothes were changed, and their hair curled, but could not see any one doing it, but we do know the girls did not do it. The spirits have bought toys and other useful articles, and brought them into the house. They use their own money. Several times they have given the children small pieces of silver money and currency. I said to the spirits one day, that I wished them to put a piece of money onto the girl's head, if they could. I kept looking at her all the time. In a few moments they put twenty-five cents on her head. I know she did not have any money about her, and could not have put it there while I was watching. One day I put an apron in a bureau drawer, and locked the drawer. In a few moments the

VOLUME TEN.

This issue of the RELIGIO-PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL commences the TENTH Volume of a paper that has, by dint of perseverance of its proprietor and editors, won its way to the affections of the most highly-developed minds—the thinkers, the savants—as well as to the hearthstones of the searchers after truth, of every profession and occupation, from the most aristocratic, to those of the most humble walks of life, wherever the English language is spoken.

When we contemplate the fact that this triumph has been won despite the open and covert opposition from the various sects and denominations of so-called Christians,—which, however, we do not complain of, as we have, on all proper occasions, exposed their fallacies, and the corrupting and pernicious influence of their doctrines,—we do more fully realize the great truth that the power invisible is far more potent, and when once enlisted, will overcome all opposition to progress which may exist upon the material plane of life.

The power of the angel world is day by day becoming more apparent to the most casual observer. Instrumentalities are now in full operation for the speedy ushering in of the new dispensation of Spiritualism, in which intercommunication with the denizens of the next life will be as common as telegraphic communications in business matters now are. Every month in the year develops some new phase of spirit-communion, and of a subtle power possessed and under the intelligent control of spirits, which will be made practicable in every-day life upon this mundane sphere.

These events must be heralded to the millions, thus preparing their minds for the reception of knowledge heretofore unknown to mortals of earth.

Superior knowledge cannot be imparted successfully to children, nor can the wisdom of immortal souls, of millions of years in the spheres, be imparted to and understood by man, save as he shall be developed by lesser truths to receive the greater. Instrumentalities are at work to that end. As a journal to record, and as a medium of communication—as a means to disseminate such facts as from time to time are observed, however contrary to any known law,—the RELIGIO-PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL has been born into existence, and attained to that power and influence in the minds of the masses, to accomplish that end, for which it was projected.

From week to week its columns will be filled with a record of the most remarkable developments transpiring throughout the world, as wonderful and strange, in this,—even in this new philosophy.

The correspondents of this paper consist of such men and women as shall, wherever they happen to be, write up a report of what may transpire through media in their presence, and such thoughts as they may give utterance to on the philosophy of life.

The JOURNAL will continue to be the same

Price-List of Books.

Table listing various books for sale, including titles like 'Modern American Spiritualism 1848 to 1868', 'The Soul of Things', and 'The Inner Life'. Includes a 'List of Books for Sale at this Office' section.

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Advertisement for 'NATURE'S PATENT HAIR RESTORATIVE' and 'WATERS' NEW SCALE PIANOS'. Includes an illustration of a woman's face and text describing the products.

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WINTER ARRANGEMENT.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF TRAINS.

Table listing arrival and departure of trains for various routes, including Chicago and Northwestern, and Lake Shore and Michigan Southern.

Prof. Wm. Denton's Works.

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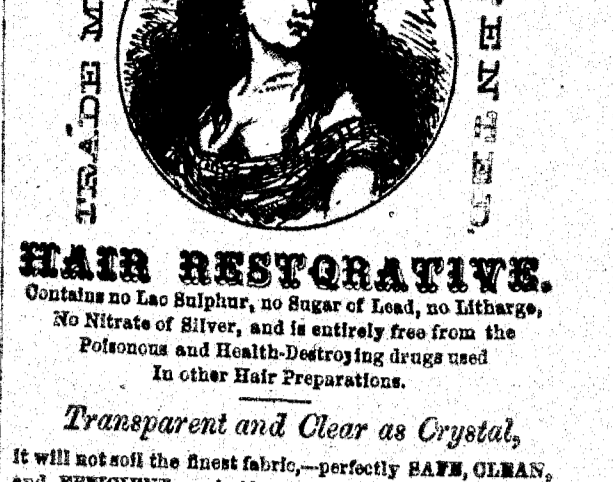
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