







Religio-Philosophical Journal

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CHICAGO, SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1873.

The Cream of English Periodicals--The Spiritual Magazine--The Spiritualist, The Harbinger of Light, etc.

Cream—who don't like it? There is a cream to Spiritualism, and it is rising gradually to the surface, and its superior quality is attracting the attention of all classes.

RHABDOMANCY.

In Glasgow, Scotland, the Spiritualists, ever having revealed to them something new, occasionally practice rhabdomancy, or divination by a wand.

JOHN KING.

Spirit faces are seen in England with the same distinctness as here. John King appears to take the lead, presenting himself in such a way that he can be plainly recognized.

MATERIALISM.

Mr. D. Hooper, of Trinity Square, London, surgeon, in the Lancet, of 28th December, 1872, alluding to the "extreme jealousy of scientific men in allowing anything like a metaphysical argument in proof of the separate existence of the soul," states that Dr. Maudsley, of Birmingham, believes that "Christianity has done more harm than good in the world."

MRS. JENNIE FERRIS HOLMES.

We are glad to notice the fact that Mrs. Holmes' seances in England have excited a wide spread interest, and that the manifestations are of a high order.

medium having recovered from the trance, and a candle having been lighted and placed at the end of the room, those present drew the table up to the screen and sat around it, within four feet of the square aperture.

TEST CONDITIONS.

The Daily (Eng.) Telegraph gives an account of a seance given by a Miss Cook. Miss Cook, after entering the cabinet, was tied by some power, at the wrists, round the neck and round the waist, to the back of the chair, with thread.

ANOTHER SEANCE.

At another seance with Miss Cook, "Katie" a spirit appeared, with her head-dress. Miss Cook was then entranced, six or eight feet from the opening, and Mr. Holmes was a little behind her, further off still.

A WITHERED GERANIUM REVIVED.

Dr. Newton, the healer, differed from ordinary mesmerists in the matter of his being a powerful medium, though he very rarely had any physical manifestations.

MRS. KATE FOX.

The manifestations given through this medium are now of the most interesting character. One who attended her seance writes: "We sat at the centre table and sang several spirit minstrel songs."

the centre of our table. The gas was shortly after lighted, and there, on the table, was the life bust cast of one of my sons, who passed away when a child, some twenty years ago.

PSYCHIC FORCE.

Mr. C. F. Varley, F.R.S., is reported to have recently said: "I do not know that we are justified in assuming that Mr. Crookes and Mr. Serjeant Cox were not Spiritualists."

PICTURES ON GLASS.

Sometime ago, we gave a full account of various pictures that were making their appearance on the window panes in Germany.

"The crosses have appeared at Bouley, five leagues from Metz, in the panes of windows, together with representations of the Sacred Heart. Also a beautiful lady with a child in her arms, and in a corner of the pane, armed men; an eagle, the emblem of the Napoleons, with its claws tied, and a death's head by the side; an entire village, but which it is impossible to identify; in the window of a convent, a rainbow; in another place armed heads of Prussians.

"These appearances were only to be seen on the outside of the panes of glass, and when the French blind was closed. On one window in a house not far from Thionville there were Zouaves fighting. The Prussians came in anger to destroy the obnoxious pane, but as they came in the night-time they missed it, and broke a window adjoining; next morning the Zouaves were departed, and a beautiful laurel in full blossom occupied their place.

MR. SERJEANT COX INQUIRES OF PSYCHIC FORCE, "ARE YOU MY UNCLE, ROBERT COX?"

In Human Nature for January, in an article on "Spirit Faces and Direct Writing," is an account of a seance, at which Mr. Serjeant Cox was present, and the following incident occurred:—

"The very well defined head of an old gentleman appeared, which, after a few moments, Mr. Serjeant Cox recognized as the likeness of a deceased relative. Mr. Cox addressed it thus: 'Are you my uncle, Robert Cox?'"

As the same incident was previously reported in the Medium, and its accuracy has not been impugned, we may assume it to be correct; and we can not but feel puzzled at the strange behavior of Psychic Force and Mr. Serjeant Cox on this occasion.

One might reasonably have expected it to have rather appeared as a baby—Cox's baby—as it is his offspring, and not yet two years old. It is a wise father that knows his own child, and to this height of wisdom Mr. Serjeant Cox had not attained on the evening in question, for he did not know his own bantling when he saw it, but by a strange hallucination he (as the reporter tells us with a fine touch of irony) only recognized it as the likeness of a deceased relative.

TWENTY YEARS AGO.

The following rules were adopted by the Fox Sisters when holding seances twenty years ago:

"ATTENTION"

"RULES OF ORDER."

- "1. All persons present at interviews are expected to observe the order and decorum which should characterize meetings of religious solemnity and importance." "2. No controversies with reference to the truth or falsity of the communications should be entered into during their continuance." "3. All persons should follow, without delay or discussion, all directions with reference to conduct, position, etc., as compliance with directions generally ensures satisfactory manifestations, while neglect or refusal usually results in their partial or complete cessation." "4. When any individual indicated by the spirits is in communication with them, no other person should interfere, as this often occasions discontinuance of the communications." "5. The ladies in whose presence the manifestations are made will use their best exertions to satisfy all inquiries; but since the manifestations, alike in their commencement, character, and duration, are above their personal control, they can not promise that all persons or all inquiries will obtain answers, no manifestations being made except as the spirits will." "6. Entire truthfulness, honesty, and good faith should be observed by all who seek correct responses. Those who resort to tricks and deceptions repel all good influences, and are answered by silly or deceptive spirits, thus making the interviews unprofitable and delusive."

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"EXPLANATIONS."

"The raps are always given in the affirmative, and when the alphabet is repeated, to indicate certain letters for the spelling of words." "Five raps in quick succession are understood to be a call for the alphabet." "Continuous light raps for several seconds are produced when an error has been made in the forming of a sentence by the alphabet." "Visitors should first ascertain what spirit raps to them, then arrange their questions definitely by writing them, and point to them or speak to them as they choose, or as may be directed by the spirit." "When one person is asking questions others at the table should give their attention, and not interrupt the inquirer with idle suggestions, nor disturb by promiscuous conversation." "Candor, quietness, and harmony are essential for the reception of satisfactory communications." "Inquirers should direct their questions to the spirits as if they were conversing with them in the body, but expecting that the answers received would be chiefly in monosyllables."

Lectures at Rice and Jackson's Hall.

Prof. Whipple's lecture Sunday morning, March 16th, was upon "The Attitude of Theology toward Modern Thought."

The speaker said we should all feel a mutual interest in the institutions of society. The tendency to organization in society is as pronounced as it is individual physical structures. The change from barbarism to civilization is marked by the adoption of provisional codes in religion and government, which serve but temporary and limited uses preliminary to a more enlarged culture and increased enlightenment.

But we have imported, said the speaker, institutions from abroad, which antagonize our native American tendencies, and these institutions are to-day waging a contest to secure absolute supremacy. Conspicuous among these, and that which is destined to give us the greatest trouble in the near future, is the Christian Theology.

First, it makes the assumption of infallible knowledge. When the University of Salamanca in 1771, was asked to teach astronomy as held by Galileo and Newton, the professors indignantly replied that these men did violence to revealed truth, and that their system was false.

Scientific censorship was established over scientific literature in the sixteenth century, and so in turn the works of Copernicus, Galileo, Bruno and Kepler were subjected to the scrutiny of a self-appointed infallible church, and condemned. The church committed itself upon all the problems of life and creation, before the dawn of modern science, and gave its interpretation of these grave subjects without the aid of scientific methods.

Hence the only course left the church was to fight science, and she is to-day following valiantly in the line of her early precedents. The "Ministerial Association of Massachusetts," published a "Pastoral letter" in 1837, for the benefit of their societies, which illustrates their feelings and methods at the present time. "One way," they said, "in which

the respect due to the pastoral office has been in some cases violated, is in encouraging lecturers on certain topics of reform to present their subjects within the parochial limits of settled pastors, without their consent. Your minister is ordained of God to be your teacher and is commanded to feed that flock over which the Holy Ghost hath made him overseer. If there are certain topics upon which he does not preach with the frequency, or in the manner that would please you, it is a violation of sacred and important rights to encourage a stranger to present them. Deference and subordination are essential to the happiness of society, and peculiarly so in the relation of a people to their pastor."

Second, theology assumes to be the fountain of progress. There are not wanting theologians who assert that civilization would be impossible without Christianity. They style Caucasian enlightenment, "Christian Civilization." Now since China, Egypt, Greece, and Rome arose independent of Christianity, the presumption is that modern progress is not dependent upon this alleged source. Religions older than Christianity contain all the moral precepts. So far as the past has influenced us, Greece has contributed more to American democracy and individuality than Judea ever did. To old republican Rome we are chiefly indebted for our ideas of jurisprudence. The barbarous Germans of the Middle Ages have helped us to an appreciation of the sense of personal independence. All that Christianity has done, has been to preserve and foster the Imperialism that was turned out of doors at the down-fall of political Rome. When the shell of Christianity is broken, this germ of unity will spring up in a new soil, and become a factor necessary to the solidarity of society.

The Christian Theology, the lecturer thought, is in its dotage, and its expiring struggles will be full of desperation. But the sun of a New Dispensation has risen. Its light and warmth quicken a million latent germs. The mountains reveal a new splendor and the valleys echo to strange voices. Trillion-tongued musicians in earth, air and sky, proclaim a new gospel, put a new song into our mouth, and clothe a skeleton world with the spiritual garments of immortality.

A Request.

DEAR JOURNAL:—It has been said by spirits recently, one of whom was Theodore Parker, that the taking off of iron rings from the hands and arms of mediums, is the result of scientific disintegration by spirits, of the particles of iron composing the ring, so that they are instantly parted or closed again. Now, Mr. Editor, if that is a fact, it is in their power in the presence of Mr. Bastian now at your office, to give a test that the world must receive—viz, leave the ring open that they take from the arm of the medium. If they take the ring apart, as they affirm, there can be no reason why they can not leave it apart or in pieces. Will you not try to have this done? If they can not, or will not try to do that, there is a screw loose somewhere.

Yours for the truth,

J. TINGLEY, Philadelphia, 411 Arch St., March 3, 1873.

We publish the foregoing, not for its own intrinsic value, but from the fact that millions of people never look beyond the material plane of being for any truth. They can not recognize the fact that God and nature, matter and spirit, are one; that is to say there is one eternal omnipotent substance, which has a real existence—its minimum is matter—its mediate or intermediate is mind, and its maximum is God. The higher comprehends the lower, and infiltrates itself into every molecular atom and monad in existence.

Now for the application: The Godlike principle which is found alike in every monad, exists as a matter of necessity in the iron ring and in the arm of the medium, subject, in both, to a law which is known to chemists on the spiritual plane of life, and the molecules in each can be made to pass by each other with the same freedom that two rings of vapor would interlock each other, or a current of atmosphere pass through a dense fog.

The rings are never separated when passing upon the arm or while being interlinked by spirit power; hence, they are never left divided.

This explanation we are aware "will be as clear as mud" to many readers; others will appreciate the principle involved. We will just say in conclusion that mind, intelligently exerted upon matter, has supreme control over it. It is a positive element to which the negative (matter) yields implicit obedience. In all of the practical movements of every day life, such is the case. As knowledge obtains, so are the results of the action of mind made apparent in moulding matter into practical use.

We say to yonder mountain be thou removed into the sea. An intelligent person would never give the command until he had the instrumentalities all at hand to intelligently produce the desired result. Before steam cars were known, the highest intelligence would use, perhaps, nothing better than a spade, horse and cart to perform the work with. Our correspondent would use to disunite and again unite the iron ring, a blacksmith's forge, hammer, chisel and anvil, or its equivalent. Those who better understand the laws of matter and mind use a more potent means, as much better at least as the steam car is superior to the old dirt cart for moving mountains.

R. T. HARRIS, formerly a Presbyterian clergyman, gave an address upon the subject "Old and New," Decatur, Illinois, on Sunday, March 2d. We understand that Bro. Harris gives good satisfaction and will receive calls to lecture. Address, Clinton, De Kalb county, Illinois.

JOHN H. LIENING is lecturing in various places in California.





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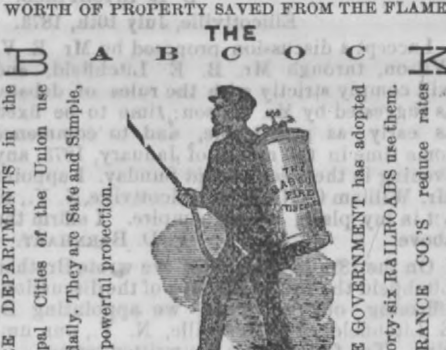
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