

Book Review.

POETICAL WORKS OF WILLIAM BLAKE, with a Prefatory Memoir by W. M. Rossett.

A book of peculiar and great value and interest to every thoughtful Spiritualist and psychological student. William Blake was a living evidence of the open door between this world of sense and the spiritual realm; a clairvoyant, a medium, a Spiritualist, before those names were known. The biographical memoir, earnest, appreciative and eloquent, shows this, and the poems confirm it. It is set off by the facts of Blake's life, but the difficulty is in stating sufficiently high the extraordinary claims of Blake to admiration and reverence without stirring over other considerations. Such as his "amazing genius and noble performances in two arts (engraver and painter) and his incapacity for doing what others could easily do. He was loyal to his inspirations, and perverse to other things, yet genial and attractive in person and character. He was the son of a hatter, and was born in London in 1757, had but scanty education, was apprenticed to an engraver, married his beloved Catherine in early life, won a reputation as engraver, painter and poet, not so much from the multitude as from such as could appreciate his rare artistic designs, inspired by his spiritual visions and insights. He gained small wealth in gold, but he got out of the cold grip of poverty and led a peasant life. On the day of his death, Aug. 12th, 1827, he composed and uttered some of his Maker so sweetly to the ears of his Catherine, that as she stood to hear him he looked affectionately upon her and said, "My beloved, they are not mine now, they are not mine!" He told her he should always be near her and care for her. "His eyes brightened, his countenance became fair, and he burst into singing of the things he saw in heaven, and so passed sweetly away. Fit passer to end a rare spiritual life on earth!

At ten years of age he saw a tree filled with angels, with wings of star-like brilliancy. He dreamed that he held converse with Moses, Homer, Dante and Milton, and described them as "majestic shadows, gray but luminous, above the ordinary weight of man."

To him indeed the spiritual seemed reality, and the physical but a fleeting phantom. His views and opinions on religious and social questions were original, independent, and intuitive. A hundred and fifty pages of the prefatory memoir are filled with most interesting and valuable history of his work and thought and experience, and over two hundred pages give the collection of his poems, rare and admirable to such as can appreciate their style and spirit. Such titles as My Socks and Fine Array, Mad Song, Cradle Song, A Dream, Holy Thursday, The Fly, the Angel, The Everlasting Gospel, The Deists, To Christ, I'ma, Idolatry, Prayers, Plough Not, Prayers, Resign Not, Raphael and Rabens, When Nations grow Old, may give some idea of their range of thought, and a verse from a poem—"The Tiger"—gives a glimpse of his insight and expression.

"Tiger, tiger, burning bright In the forests of the night, What immortal hand or eye Framed thy fearful symmetry? In what distant deeps or skies Burned that fire within thine eyes?"

The publishers, Roberts Brothers, of Boston, have done good service in giving this rich English book to us in a handsome volume of 400 pages, which should be in every home, especially of the students of spiritual realities. G. B. STRUBBINS, Washington, D. C., Dec. 28th, 1874

Deluded Colonists.

P. M. Smart, of the Georgetown (Col.) Miner, gives a woeful account of the situation of those who started from this city last fall under the leadership of an imbecile by the name of Shirte, to found a colony in Utah. He says:

"Upon my return from our location upon lower Bear River, I met, at the Gore Pass, the remnants of the party of colonists, brought from Chicago by Shirte, the Utah man. A majority had fallen off, finding he was not leading them right. There were eighteen persons left, three women and three or four children, three wagons drawn by an insufficient team, nearly worn out, loaded with, to them, useless material, with four or five hundred pounds of flour and little else in the line of provisions, and no money; and without the least knowledge of the country or route before them, and in winter, Dec. 8th.

"This is a position for them of great peril. Nothing but the positive absence of snow will save them. Their objective point is in Southern Utah—some El Dorado lying in an immense valley at the junction of the Green and Grand Rivers, or a valley called Dirty Devil. To reach such a point, had their leader a knowledge of the country, he would not have placed them here. I informed him of the fact and he says he advised their return to Middle Park, which I counseled them to do, most positively; for I did not believe they could reach our location upon the lower Bear River; but they decided to go forward.

"I then advised them, upon reaching Egeria Park to go into winter quarters, for I was satisfied they could get no further west, and as soon as their stock was recruited, to take them and try to pack in supplies from Hot Springs, or Georgetown, or go on to our point and get supplies of the Morgan Bros., who have a store.

"They will have to endure much suffering, if they get out of this predicament at all."

\$1.65 cents renews trial subscriptions one year.

Postage.

Our subscribers are sending up the advance postage most honorably. Many hundreds of letters are received daily, and our clerks enter the letter "1," (which signifies postage prepaid) as fast as possible.

We believe every subscriber means to prepay postage—hence we shall send the paper, keeping an eye single to all who do not promptly remit, as we do to those who are indebted for one year and more on subscriptions. Opeya, friends, let us work together, in this good cause, and when you read this, a new year will be upon you;—just as demands that you begin the year by remitting at least all you owe for the JOURNAL, and postage in advance for the ensuing year, without further delay. This demand does not include those who have suffered from the grasshopper ravages, nor those who have been burned out. Another year has been granted to all such, as will be remembered, in a former notice.

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Philadelphia Department

HENRY T. CHILD, M. D. Subscriptions will be received and papers may be obtained...

What is Spiritualism Doing?

This question is often asked by those who believe it is accomplishing little or nothing in the world. It is a very important one, and can only be answered by giving a clear idea of what Spiritualism is...

The minister in the pulpit, and the church member, may sneer at Spiritualism, and turn with scorn from those through whom its manifestations are presented...

If the Spiritualists can not know these things, it is not to be expected that those who are opposed to it, who will not listen to its teachings, should be able to appreciate them.

Even the most crude and undeveloped forms of life are not exempt from these influences; it is, however, in the more refined and spiritual circles that this great and important work is moving on steadily...

Mankind are learning that it is not a future hell that they are to labor to avoid, but a present one; that it is not a future heaven that is to be sought for, but one that shall be here now, in the living present.

thoughts and intents of the human soul in the right direction, and to strengthen these so that men shall walk in those paths which lead to peace and happiness.

Lives of great men all remind us, We may make our lives sublime, And departing leave behind us, Foot-prints on the sands of time.

Foot-prints, that perhaps another, Sailing o'er life's solemn main, A forlorn and shipwrecked brother, Seeing, shall take heart again."

The Spirit World.

A DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE INNER LIFE. [For some time past my spirit friends have been urging me to add to the Philadelphia Department, etc., in which they may have the opportunity of sending their thoughts to the world.]

ONLY WAITING

A COMMUNICATION FROM ANANDA W. SLADE THROUGH MISS TOWELL.

Only waiting, till the shadows Are a little longer grown, Only waiting till the glimmer Of the day's last beam is down.

Only waiting till the angels Open wide the mystic gate, At whose portals I have lingered Weary, poor and desolate.

Only waiting till the shadows Are a little longer grown, Only waiting till the glimmer Of the day's last beam is down.

AN INVITATION, BY J. J. MOORE, ON THE OCCASION OF A LECTURE UPON DEATH AT LINCOLN HALL, PHILADELPHIA, SUNDAY EVENING, DEC. 13TH, '74.

Oh! thou source and fountain of all life, thou art the life of our life, the light of our light, to whom we turn in the hour of trouble, as in the day of trial, thou to whom humanity in all ages hath reared their shrines...

Communications Through Katie K. Robinson, of 2123 Brandywine Street, Philadelphia.

JUDGE UNDERWOOD.

It may seem strange that I should come to your circle to-day, but I see with you an old friend whom I have often met when in the form, Judge Oldfield, of Wheeling, Va.

you how much their world is like this, and how much you can improve this by the lessons they can give you.

CARRIE GOOD.

Dear mother and father and brother, I don't want you to feel so sad because your loved one has passed away from your earthly home, for I have met with many dear friends, not only those I knew in this city, but in the dear old England home.

JOHN MARSHEN.

Well, you see, the old man can walk around now without any trouble. I have come here especially this morning to say a few words to my family.

Business Notices.

- F. S. EMMONS sends \$3.85 to this office, but gives no post-office address. S. MITCHELL sends us \$1.00, but gives no post-office address.

EXPLANATORY.

From R. W. Flint, Medium for Answering Sealed Letters. I am controlled by one spirit purporting to be my guide who is the scribe for the spirits, delivering (in his own hand-writing) what is dictated to him by the spirit communicating.

The Wonderful Healer and Clairvoyant—Mrs. C. M. Morrison.

This celebrated Medium is the instrument of organism used by the invisibles for the benefit of humanity. Of herself she claims no knowledge of the healing art.

Mrs. Morrison is an unconscious Trance Medium, Clairvoyant and Clairaudient. From the very beginning, hers is marked as the most remarkable career of success that has seldom if ever fallen to the lot of any person.

When Medicines are ordered, the case is submitted to Mrs. Morrison's Medical Band, who give a prescription suited to the case. Her Medical Band use vegetable remedies, (which they magnetize) combined with a scientific application of the magnetic healing power.

If you have been troubled for years with dyspepsia, have tried all the physicians, and a great many remedies, and can not get any relief, do not despair, but go to your druggist and get a box of West's Sugar Coated Liver Pills.

Passed to Spirit Life.

Passed to Spirit Life. Mr. H. C. Baker, Dec. 23rd, 1874, at the residence of J. J. Moore, Brandywine St., Philadelphia. He died at the age of 59 years, after a long and painful illness of one year.

Passed to the Higher Life. From Lowell, Mass. Nov. 18th, 1874. Elizabeth Harrison, aged 48 years.

Friend Hariged was for many years a consistent spiritualist, and for a time President of the First Spiritual Society at Lowell.

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The Voice of Nature tells no falsehood, and in her communication to this author she represents God in the light of common sense, diverting him of all superstitious notions, and presenting him to the world in his unchangeable and glorious attributes.

EXPLANATORY. From R. W. Flint, Medium for Answering Sealed Letters.

I am controlled by one spirit purporting to be my guide who is the scribe for the spirits, delivering (in his own hand-writing) what is dictated to him by the spirit communicating.

Poems of Progress. By MISS LIZZIE DOTEN.

Author of "Poems from the Inner Life." In this book will be found all the beautiful Inspirational Poems given by Miss Doten since the publication of her first volume of "Poems."

THE INFLUENCE. Christianity on Civilization. BY R. F. UNDERWOOD.

In this pamphlet of about one hundred pages the author has embodied a large number of facts obtained from a long, extensive and severe course of study; and as all his authorities are fairly and honestly quoted, the work is of great value on this account alone.

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BY WILLIAM McDONNELL. Author of "Keter, Hall, etc., etc." The author in his preface says: "Owing to the great success attending the publication of Keter Hall, a second volume is now being prepared for the fourth edition."

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BEING A REVIEW OF "CLOCK STRUCK ONE" AND A REPLY TO IT—AND PART SECOND, SHOWING THE HARMONY BETWEEN CHRISTIANITY, SCIENCE AND SPIRITUALISM.

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Author of "Poems from the Inner Life." In this book will be found all the beautiful Inspirational Poems given by Miss Doten since the publication of her first volume of "Poems."

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A Book for Skeptics, A Book for Scientists, A Book for Thinkers.

Price, 25 cents; postage free. For sale wholesale and retail at the office of this paper.

"HOW EASY AND DELIGHTFUL IT IS TO DIE" - CONTINUED - NO. 10.

Interesting Particulars in Regard to Death - Views of Eminent Men in the Past - "I Thought Dying More Difficult" - "If this be Dying, it is a Pleasant thing to Die" - Cowper Thought he was in Hell.

CHAPTER VII.

Death Reported as an Easy Thing - Some of the Views of Eminent Men in the Past - "I Thought Dying More Difficult" - "If this be Dying, it is a Pleasant thing to Die" - Cowper Thought he was in Hell.

These examples of mourning and intense grief manifested on the part of surviving relatives and friends, show that death has been regarded as an undesirable visitor, an arch enemy whose approach should be feared by all.

It is really refreshing to know that among the ancient philosophers, were many who entertained clear conceptions in regard to the glorious transition from the material to the spiritual side of life, and who regarded death as a beautiful angel of heaven rather than a hideous monster, as pictured by the various Evangelical churches of the present day.

There is a purpose in our life, when we recognize it distinctly or not, and it is but fulfilled when we live out our time to the last. The attachment to life is a propensity implanted in us to hold us here and make us careful about unnecessary encountering of danger.

A healthy person is never eager to encounter death. The pagan votary who performs self-immolation voluntarily, if there is any such, is in a morbid abnormal condition, and life has little value in his eyes.

Accepting the event of death as ordered by the same law as that which caused our existence to begin, the motive that impelled the establishing of both conditions must be alike God-like, and equally benevolent and beautiful.

We need dread no hereafter, whatever that is, it is in the same hands, governed by the same laws, and tending to the same goal as the present. We die cheerfully and with confidence that it is for better and not worse.

In other days religious fanaticism induced men who had made God in their own image to think of him as a grand torture master, who delighted in the seriousness and suffering of men, and was offended by mirth.

Emmanuel Swedenborg explains the process of dying as follows: "When the body is no longer able to perform its functions in the natural world, then man is said to die. This takes place when the respiratory motions of the lungs and the systolic motions of the heart cease; but still man does not die, but is only separated from the corporeal part which was of use to him in the world, for man himself lives continually. He goes on to define that the inmost communication of the spirit is with the respiration and with the motion of the heart, its thought being with the respiration and the affection with the heart; wherefore, when those two motions cease in the body a separation immediately ensues.

There is a likelihood and liability of such a separation where a person is in the habit of heavy dreaming or trance. The spiritual individuality in such cases becomes more or less concentrated in itself, and the physical capacity becomes in a great degree separated, and sometimes physically dead.

appearance of a corpse, and he seems to have contemplated it as a thing distinct from himself. Pliny relates that he was once insensible for fifty years, but this is doubtless an exaggeration. Plutarch also mentions Hermodorus of Clazomenae, who was many times in ecstasies, and had the power of inducing and of continuing the apparent death for a long period at pleasure.

It is evident from such examples, which are more numerous than it is imagined, that persons liable to trances are likely to escape from corporeal life painlessly, as a bird leaves a cage, or a traveler his inn; persons sometimes die from having no desire or energy of will to live.

The rack and the scaffold, the tremendous torture, and execution by hanging is, perhaps, not as a mode of torment, now that crucifixion has gone out of fashion. It has long been a subject of marvel with us that Englishmen and Americans, boasting of their superior enlightenment and Christianity, adhere so frantically to such a barbarous infliction.

Most diseases remove the source of pain as they approach a mortal issue. The "signs of death" are but struggles or writhings, in which there is no suffering whatever. There are muscles which are moved or kept in quiescence by the influence of the will upon them.

Asphyxia, or suffocation, results from suspension of respiration or the arrest of oxygen to the blood. At first the heart receives venous blood into the left side and transmits it over the body. This operates on the brain, suspending sensation, the medulla is paralyzed, and with it the pneumogastric nerve, the lungs refuse to transmit non-oxygenated blood, and the heart and other vessels cease to act.

The death of Socrates by drinking the juice of hemlock (Cotoneum maculatum) illustrates the operation of narcotic poison. Having finished the draught and appealed to his friends to forbear lamentation that he might die with good manners, he walked about the room till the arrested circulation in his legs began to paralyze them, he then lay down.

A little knowledge of physiology is sufficient to show that neither of the modes of dying are attended with any considerable suffering, and generally with none at all. Disease, in its progress, when involving the nerves of sensation, or any violence to those nerves, will inflict pain to any degree of which the person is susceptible.

Death generally occurs when we are asleep or unconscious, and so comes upon us insensibly, like repose upon a weary man. Nature strives to render us indifferent to, or oblivious of, the end. While life is really precious, she intensifies the desire to live, but as its uses are accomplished, she makes us willing to leave.

It is a beautiful illustration of the law of compensation, that death is as fortunate an event for us as any that occurs. "To die is one of two things," said Socrates to his judges, "either the dead may be annihilated and have no sensation of anything whatever, or there is a change and passage of the soul from one mode of existence to another."

Lord Bacon says: "It is as natural to die as to be born, and to a little infant one is as painful as the other. A great deal of weight must necessarily be attached to his statement, a man with such a clear mind and comprehensive understanding of nature's laws.

By a natural association in the common mind of fear with suffering, the act of dying has been commonly supposed to be painful. So general is this belief that the term agony, or the expression, the 'pangs of death,' and 'last struggle,' are almost universally applied to the termination of life, as if it necessarily involved torture and suffering.

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New York Department.

Subscriptions and Advertisements for this paper received at the New York Magnetic Cure, 233 East 34th Street, by Dr. Babbitt.

New York Items.

The Spiritualists now hold meetings at several places, the central place in which the parent society convenes being at the handsome new Opera House between Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth streets, on Broadway.

A seance is held at Judge Carter's parlor, 237 West Fifteenth street, every Tuesday evening, by Mr. Eaton, through whom some of the most masterly ideas are given while entranced.

Madame Blavatsky who is now in Philadelphia, is most busily engaged in translating Mr. Olcott's letters to the New York Graphic, concerning the Eddy Brothers, into Russian for publication in a St. Petersburg periodical.

The pretended exposure of New York mediums in a late number of the Herald was written by a clergyman who was a renegade from the Unitarian church to the orthodox fold.

Dr. Miller, the lion hearted destroyer of what he considered the jugglery of some of the materializing mediums, has visited the Eddy Brothers, and caves in before the grand truths there demonstrated.

Harper's Weekly like many other periodicals, shows a stupid ignorance of the history of Spiritualism. It is a great deficiency for an editor so able on many points, especially in worldly wisdom, to be so superficial in these things.

The husband's duty to his wife, the best age for bearing children, the health of the mother, the adaptation of husband and wife, the effects of tobacco on offspring, the latest discoveries as to the determining sex of offspring, the mother's influence on the child, the health of the mother, the effects of intellectual activity on number of offspring, the size of pelvis, and its relation to healthful parturition, etc., etc.

HISTORY OF THE GRANGE MOVEMENT OR THE FARMER'S WAR AGAINST MONOPOLIES. Being a full and authentic account of the struggles of the American farmer against the extortion of the Railroad Companies, with a history of the rise and progress of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry.

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Amusement for the Young BLANKMAN'S 200 Poetical Riddles, NEW AND INSTRUCTIVE. The best thing of the kind out. Only 5 cents. Sent post-paid by mail, on receipt of price.

New Books.

Look Here!

ANY person reading this column through shall have free on sending us a 3-cent stamp, a little book of 24 pages, entitled the HEALTH OF WILLIAM CUTLER DRYANT AND WILLIAM HOWITT, written by them selves.

The Herald of Health.

October, November and December numbers for 1874 free to new subscribers for 1875, who send in their names now.

- Kindergarten.
The Building of a Brain.
Cause and Cure of Headache.
Evanescence of Evil.
Kings and Slaves of Business.
Stair-Climbing and Girls' Health.
Diet and Constipation.
Prenatal Influence.
Physical Bankruptcy and its Cause and Cure.

GREATEST PREMIUM YET.

Works of Shakespeare, Works of Shakespeare, Works of Shakespeare, GIVEN AWAY, GIVEN AWAY, GIVEN AWAY.

Sexual Physiology.

This work contains the latest and most important discoveries in the Anatomy and Physiology of the Sexes, Explains the Origin of Human Life; How and when Conception, Impregnation and Conception occur; giving the laws by which the number and sex of offspring are controlled, and valuable information in regard to the begetting and rearing of beautiful and healthy children.

Parturition without Pain. This work has rapidly passed through twenty editions, and the demand is constantly increasing. No such complete and valuable work has ever before been issued from the press.

What is Said about "Parturition without Pain." Godley's Lady's Book says: "We give our cordial approbation to this work, and would like to see it in the hands of every mother in the land."

Eating for Strength A New Health Cookery Book. By M. L. HOLBROOK, M.D. Which should be in the hands of every person who would set to retain and regain health, strength and beauty.

WOOD & HOLBROOK, Publishers, 13 and 15 Light St., New York.