

New York Department.

Subscriptions and Advertisements for this paper taken by H. D. Babbitt, D. M., No. 5 Clinton Place, N. Y.

Spiritualism and its Reviewers.

Some time since the "Golden Age" had an article entitled, "The Difficulty with Spiritualism," in which the writer who was I believe a Unitarian clergyman, proceeded to show the deficiency of mediums, and the "twaddle" given through them, etc. Soon after I answered this article in the same paper, and showed up the "Difficulties with Investigators of Spiritualism," and that there was a greater short coming there than with Spiritualists themselves.

To the Editor of the Golden Age.

In the Golden Age of April 17th, Mr. La Roy Sunderland, under the head of "Beliefs on Trust," takes exceptions to a portion of the article in which I quote from the eminent scientist Prof. Wallace, who asserts that "Spiritualism is a science that takes no belief on trust," also to his declaration that Spiritualism "has abolished the terms supernatural and miracle."

Now I deny that Spiritualism is built on phenomena which are "mystical" or "enigmatical" to minds that are not on the extreme verge of skepticism or materialism. The facts on every hand would seem to be overwhelming to an ordinary mind who investigates carefully, and they appeal not only to the inner spiritual nature, but to all the five senses.

Several of these in the circle were called up by this apparition, or whatever it was, and they in turn stood face to face and conversed in a low but distinct voice with the man. So plainly and distinctly visible was this man, or whatever it was, that the movements of the eyes and muscles of the face could be noted.

After this every member of the circle placed their hands within the cabinet upon the medium's head and some very queer manifestations followed. We were the first to do this, and among other things that happened, and cases which go to the credit of the truth of spirit communication through the same medium.

Mr. Sunderland closes with the following rash expression: "Were Modern Spiritualism what it is estimated to be by the many good people who implicitly rely upon it, it would, within the next twenty-four hours, command and receive the faith of ninety-nine per cent. of this nation, and within a week there could not be found a real skeptic on the globe!"

Oh! we have magnificent church machinery in this country; we have sixty thousand American ministers; we have costly music; we have great Sunday schools, and yet I give you the appalling statistics that in the last twenty-five years, laying aside last year, the statistics of which I have not yet seen, within the last twenty-five years the churches of God in this country have averaged less than two conversions a year each.

Echoes from the "Spirit-World."

BY W. P. CARROLL, OF THE NEWS.

Saturday night, by special request and invitation, we attended another seance given by the medium Peck, at the residence of Mr. Ford. This medium has been giving seances for the last two or three weeks; and during that time a great many of the prominent citizens of Cheyenne have attended for the purpose of seeing and investigating the matter, and, although Peck has been subjected to all sorts of tests imaginable in order to detect if it is a fraud, yet the belief is gaining ground at least that whatever it is that produces these singular manifestations, they can not be produced by the medium himself unassisted by some agency not of the usual order of things.

For the benefit of those who have not attended we have taken the pains to be present at two or three of them in order that we might place before our readers just what occurred—nothing more and nothing less—the same as we would do in the case of any other subject of which people desired to gather some information and it was in our power to give it, and in so doing, we simply state what has come under our own observation without speculation or comment, leaving our readers to draw their own conclusions.

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There is no greater mistake than to imagine, as so many do, that the so-called criminal classes are composed chiefly of the ignorant and depraved, who are bad because they choose to be so, and care for neither improvement nor reform.

We have related a part of what occurred, and many of the minor incidents have been omitted; and if our readers are not satisfied that these things occur as we have stated, they must go and see for themselves.

THE CHURCH COUNTING.

Gains Two—Loses Four.

BY S. H. PRESTON.

"Oh! we have magnificent church machinery in this country; we have sixty thousand American ministers; we have costly music; we have great Sunday schools, and yet I give you the appalling statistics that in the last twenty-five years, laying aside last year, the statistics of which I have not yet seen, within the last twenty-five years the churches of God in this country have averaged less than two conversions a year each."

A simple question of facts and figures, of loss and gain. It can be solved by arithmetic as well as prophecy. A man travels towards the north pole on floating ice. While he walks two miles north the ice drifts four miles south. How soon will he reach the pole?

Yes, Brother Talmadge, you can figure church statistics by subtraction now. "Eternal God!" you exclaim. Ah! don't swear, but put your trust in God, and figure away. "Go ye forth into all the world, etc." The gospel to be preached to all nations, and peoples, and kindred, and tongues, numbering some 1,300,000,000 precious souls to be ransomed for sweet Jesus, after being rescued from our Beelzebub. Only 200,000,000 Protestant Christians already rescued, and it is not certain but Beelzebub has yet a lien on the majority of them.

WOMAN, LOVE and MARRIAGE, BY F. SAUNDERS. Like the mystic wire that now begets the globe, do not these golden links—"Woman, Love and Marriage," encircle as with an electric chain, one common humanity? So, since the Faith, Hope and Charity, are they bound together by an indissoluble law of humanity, in hallowed relationship; while any attempt to divorce them, would be not only an act of violence to the inalienable rights, but an irretrievable disaster alike to our moral, as our social economy.

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are elevated by education, the higher classes are brought down by idleness. Any education, therefore, that does not furnish the possessor of it with the means of employing the hands as well as the brain, when necessity may require it, is defective.

COMMENTS.

The professional criminals of our large cities are organized into distinct communities, according to the class of crimes to which they are best adapted. They work under thorough organizations, equal in efficiency to any other well regulated government, equipped with a complete system of laws, administered by competent officers, a bank, and in some instances a Chaplain.

Crime as a general thing does not pay well, unless well fortified by legal status, carefully gotten up, for the purpose; if not so fortified, the police and other authorities force the criminal to divide plunder, on terms that are not at all satisfactory to the thief.

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A Trance Address, DELIVERED BY J. J. MORSE, Trance Medium, London, Eng., BEFORE THE BOSTON SPIRITUALISTS' UNION.

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Threading My Way, Twenty-Seven Years of Autobiography. BY ROBERT DALE OWEN.

TABLE OF CONTENTS. Dedication. To the Reader. Index. Paper. 1-My Ancestors. 2-Born in a Scotch country.

THE SPIRITUAL HARP, The New Music Book, For the Choir, Congregation, and Social Circle.

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Curious Phases of Witchcraft.

A chronicle of strange, and secret, and forgotten things.

The intelligence styling itself "Imperator" has indicated in these pages that there have been times and seasons in history when the millions of spiritual creatures that walk the earth unseen, ordinarily, both when we wake and when we sleep, have through unknown causes been permitted to draw nearer to human kind, manifest themselves more palpably, and interfere more intimately in mortal affairs.

Unknown—albeit lying near—To men the path to the demon sphere; And they that swiftly come and go, Leave no track on the heavenly snow.

These ideas present themselves in the earliest human records, run through the primeval mythologies, and enter under many shapes into tradition and superstitions of almost every race.

But in the first dim light of history, the idea and belief in the possibility of close communion between the inhabitants of the earthly and spiritual worlds is found prevalent—such communion as Genesis religion and worship has based on the intercourse of gods and mortals; the heroes and semi-divine personages, around whom the most glorious poetry in the world has crystallized, were the offspring of the gods by mortals.

These marvelous old stories may perhaps be read with different thoughts to what they would have awakened twenty years ago. "Imperator" asserts that the present is one of those epochs of special spiritual activity for which the mind of man may be hoped to be better prepared than in days when popular ignorance and terror could only be expressed in witch-burnings and murderous violence, though he warns us "the full time is not yet."

Finally to show how the notion dealt with in this paper still exists and is familiar to other races in distant lands, the following extract from an account of village superstitions in Southern India, written by a native in the present year, is submitted.

This book contains a record of mental and physical phenomena witnessed by the author, for which is claimed a supernatural origin. It may properly be called a Journal of his personal experience for twenty-five years, while investigating the various phases of Modern Spiritualism.

When making his researches in this department of human science, he selected no fair opportunity for obtaining the most reliable information pertaining to the facts presented to his senses and appealing to his judgment for indorsement.

His object has been to ascertain by indubitable testimony whether "if a man die he can live again," and if so, is it possible for him to make the fact of his existence known to those who dwell on the earth?

"snow." [A similar statement was very generally made in the witchcraft trials.] "From this time forth she was commonly once a day visited by her hellish gallant, and never wanted money." The tract goes on to relate how Mother Shipton was born, and was christened by the name of Ursula by the Abbot of Beverly, how her mother becoming sensible of her evil course retired to a convent; how as the child grew up it was often visited by the fiend its father, and performed many amazing exploits and manifestations.

William of Malmesbury has a story truly medieval in its wildness, how a young man of Rome, wealthy and noble, having newly married a wife and given a grand banquet, did after the feast propose a game at ball, and taking of his finger his betrothed ring put it upon that of a brazen statue of Venus which he had placed in the garden.

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Startling Facts in Modern Spiritualism.

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throats crack with profanity; but they can not scorch one hair of his head, and the maniacs know it. The foregoing will show the dark condition of the author's mind when he began to study the alphabet of spiritual literature, consisting of "table-tipping" and "spirit-rapping."

As already intimated, this book contains an account of startling and significant phenomena which have occurred in the presence of the author. To his mind, these manifestations of the Spirit-world proclaim the dawn of a new era in the history of the human race, the importance of which to the best interests of man he does not pretend to estimate.

While making this record he has not paused to consider the influence it may exert upon the minds of men. Truth has a good character for taking care of itself. It was enough for him to know that he was dealing with facts, and his business was simply to arrange these facts for the critical inspection of the mind's eye.

He asks the ingenious reader to discriminate between the author's opinions of a fact and the fact itself. The first are of but little value, because they are personal, and may be swayed from the plumb-line of rectitude by the common infirmities of man's nature; but the latter are of paramount interest to all men, because they co-exist with all time, seeking neither place nor applause, not bowing at any human shrine.

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The Influence of the Planetary Conjunctions Upon the Atmosphere. A Partial Elucidation of the Science of Meteorology.

THE KIND OF WEATHER WE MAY EXPECT FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS.

It is conceded by the Orthodox churches that the "ways of God are past finding out." Hence, if their statements are true, God has nothing to do with the "ways of nature," which are not past finding out, as fully presented in the following letter from Prof. John H. Tice, of St. Louis, to the *Republican* of that city. It will be read with great interest. He says:

As you have had the kindness to collect and publish abstracts of what I had written and published for some four or five months back on meteorological cycles, and also the goodness to speak in complimentary terms of my humble work in the field of science, I sincerely hope events will justify your generosity and show that everything done and said was deserving. To me it has given renewed hope and courage to continue my labor and persist in a sometimes almost hopeless struggle until a great work is achieved, which for years I have seen to be possible.

In the extracts you have given nothing whatever was unenlightened regarding THE LONG SOUGHT FOR METEOROLOGICAL CYCLES, except what we regarded as susceptible of verification and demonstration. It was presented in such a form that it was at once brought to the test of facts, to be proven either the truth or nothing. If true, then it is science, whatever the self-constituted judges in matters of science may think and say of it.

events took place. I have shown that when there was a repetition of the astronomical events, there was a recurrence of the identical phenomena. I have appealed to the present, and have pointed out what is daily occurring while such astronomical conditions are still impending. I have gone farther, and appealed to the future to test the truth of the meteorological principle proposed, I know too well the mental habits of the world, and therefore know what a storm of ridicule I would provoke in so doing.

A FORECAST OF THE PHENOMENA

for each period, to be delivered to friends and to be opened when requested. But I afterward thought this showed too much timidity and want of confidence on my part in the theory to command respect, even if verified to the very letter; besides it would not have the same effect as a verification by the public observing day by day the phenomena as they developed.

However, there were some, as there always have been and ever will be, why not only "do not believe Moses nor the prophets," but who, we are told, "would not believe though one rose from the dead." These said, "Oh, this was merely accidental. Tell what will happen at another time." After summing up the phenomena of March, which was printed on the very day the Georgia tornado, one of the most terrific that has ever occurred, took place, and therefore did not include it. I said this: "Let the believers in the accidental theory observe the phenomena of June," etc.

I OBJECT TO THE THEORY OF STORMS FOUNDED BY SCIENCE, falsely so-called, not only because that theory is illogical, but because it makes their occurrences accidental. Everybody knows that an accident is something that happens because we can not foresee it, and, therefore, can neither provide nor guard against it.

But I object to the scientific, or rather non-scientific theory upon higher grounds, namely, because it is not true, either in its facts or philosophy. It is well that our philosophers were not present at the creation, "to suggest improvements," as a French savant said, he could have done, had he been present and consulted. We certainly then would have had an effectual bar out to prying into nature's secrets; for it would then have been impossible to have intuition of her causes, and to have followed logically the operations of her laws in all their ramifications in any department of her wide domain.

Judging from the avalanche of letter (which I find impossible for want of time to answer), a misapprehension is growing up as to what I claim to have discovered, or what I am aiming at, or am doing. The grasshopper-stricken region of Kansas and Missouri, where they replanted after the grasshoppers left, want to know whether there will be abundant rains and good reasonable weather so as to ensure good crops.

At present it pleases of omnipotence, to attempt doing so. I claim to have discovered meteorological cycles that complete themselves in from 23 days up to 59 years. Cycles of such varying lengths must constantly intersect each other, and hence, sometimes crowd into a very short space of time.

At ordinary times, I claim to have discovered a new meteorological principle, one that will revolutionize the whole science, and one that will eventually enable us to make special forecasts of the weather, at all seasons. At present it pleases of omnipotence, to attempt doing so. I claim to have discovered meteorological cycles that complete themselves in from 23 days up to 59 years.

space of time. Know the lengths of the cycles the simplest principle of arithmetic will tell me when the crowding takes place. Having ascertained by observation what phenomena have occurred invariably at previous periods when those crowdings took place, I approximately can tell the character of the phenomena that will appear at any future crowding; and, from the planets involved, their probable energy. Observation has determined that most, and sometimes all the following phenomena occur when a Venusian cycle or equinox is crowded by the equinoxes of other planets, namely, sun-spots, auroras, electric storms in the earth, consequently earthquakes, frequent and extreme oscillations in atmospheric pressure, great electric tension in the atmosphere, frequent and violent thunder and hail-storms, often developing into terrific tornadoes, water-spouts, and toward the close of Summer and early Autumn tropical cyclones and generally tremendous rainfalls.

I have directed attention to the periods of extraordinary atmospheric, telluric, and we may say solar convulsions also, in order to get people to observe and think. It is not the discomforts these phenomena bring, but the alarm and apprehensions they excite, that lead people to listen to and reflect upon what, under ordinary circumstances, they would let pass by unheeded, as they do the idle wind that concerns them not.

PRACTICAL RESULTS

It has only been rendered evident that there are critical periods during which mariners should avoid as much as possible all seas infested with storms, and during which they should exercise more than ordinary vigilance and precaution. A knowledge of these cycles will also enable the farmer to secure and house his crops, if he have any exposed to the elements. But more must be done.

When it is my power, it would be the greatest pleasure to satisfy the public craving for information about the weather, or to gratify their curiosity about it. But I have fully as much to do as I will be able to accomplish in working out the general points. I will, however, give my data, and let every one that feels interested note the phenomena occurring at or about the periods. The following are PLANETARY EQUINOXES DURING THE REMAINDER OF THE PRESENT YEAR:

Table with 2 columns: Date and Event. July 10 and 18; Aug. 5, 25, and 31; Sept. 17 and 23; Oct. 10, 14, and 15; Nov. 2, 25, and 27; Dec. 18.

The strongest is the combination in October; the next in energy is that in the latter part of August; and the next after that is the November one. The July equinoxes both belong to the present Venusian perturbation. If there will be tropical cyclones, the August combination will bring them about. But where they will occur—if at all—will depend upon the locality where they originate.

Judging from the earthquakes that have occurred during the present Venusian disturbance, and during May, I think it is an unmistakable evidence that the Saturnian disturbance has already acquired considerable strength. The disturbance is of six years' duration, three before and three after the equinox which will occur in December, 1877. In July, 1877, a Jovian equinox occurs. Frequent and violent earthquakes may therefore be expected for the next five years; and general phenomena at the critical periods will be more or less severe.

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