

Religio-Philosophical Journal

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NEWSPAPER DECISIONS.

1.—Any person who takes a paper regularly from the post-office...

LOOK TO YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS.

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CHICAGO, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1876.

KNOWLEDGE IS THE TRUE SAVIOR.

Benefits Resulting from Organization.

"THINK FOR YOURSELF AND EXPRESS THAT THOUGHT!"

"FREE THOUGHT WILL GIVE US TRUTH!"

There are Spiritualists scattered all over the civilized world. They are holding communion daily...

The inquiring Spiritualist is becoming familiar with conditions that exist upon the spiritual planes of the after life.

Millions of money is annually collected from the people and paid out to dogmatize, and indoctrinate them into the fallacies of old and inflexible systems of theology.

While the world is progressing in the arts and sciences it should keep pace in the field of thought.

Experience has taught the civilized world, that by united governmental efforts, great good is effected...

By proper local organic efforts, the fact of spirit communion will be brought home to every neighborhood.

In these moments of sorrow and deep mourning, a well organized society of Spiritualists will be appealed to...

Its doors being wide open for the entrance of all, without creeds or dogmatic assumptions...

As members increase, influence and capital would aggregate. As a result, enterprises innumerable could be devised...

But as yet, we have spoken only in general terms, of the wonderful revolutions in thought and practice that await the civilized world...

DECLARATION. We the undersigned do hereby organize ourselves into a Society of Spiritualists...

MOTTO. "THINK FOR YOURSELF AND EXPRESS THAT THOUGHT!"

"FREE THOUGHT WILL GIVE US TRUTH!"

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION.

Article First. NAME.

This Association shall be known as the SOCIETY OF SPIRITUALISTS of

Article Second. OBJECTS OF ORGANIZATION.

The objects which the members of the Society have in view, in organizing, are, in general terms, the attainment and promulgation of knowledge...

Article Third. MEMBERSHIP.

This Society may receive members on such terms and conditions as its By-laws may provide.

Article Fourth. OFFICERS.

The officers of this Society shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Representatives, three Trustees...

Article Fifth. REPRESENTATIVES.

For the purpose of co-operation with other Societies of Spiritualists, formed upon a similar basis, this Society may annually elect one representative for the Society at large...

Article Sixth. AMENDMENTS.

The articles of association of this Society may be amended by a two-thirds vote of all its members...

Article Seventh. BY-LAWS.

By-laws not inconsistent with these articles, may be adopted and amended at any regular meeting of the Society...

Article Eighth. RESTRICTIONS.

Any amendment of, or addition to, these articles of association which shall provide for a creed, articles of faith or platform of principles shall be utterly void...

Article Ninth. OFFICERS; HOW ELECTED.

The first board of officers may be selected on

the day of organizing the Society, without formally. All subsequent elections shall be held in accordance with the By-laws of the Society.

Section First. VACANCIES, HOW FILLED.

Any vacancy which may happen by death, resignation or otherwise, of any officer may be filled in such a manner as the By-laws may provide.

Article Tenth. POWERS OF THE SOCIETY.

The powers of the Society are unlimited, except by the provisions of these articles of association, the By-laws of the Society, and the laws of the land.

BY-LAWS. Section First. ANNUAL MEETINGS.

This Society shall meet annually on the first Sunday in January, for the election of officers at the usual place of holding meetings...

Section Second. ELECTION BY BALLOT.

The officers shall be elected by ballot, and the one receiving the highest number of ballots for any office shall be declared elected.

Section Third. TERM OF OFFICE.

Officers shall hold their offices one year and until their successors are duly elected and enter upon the duties of their respective offices.

Section Fourth. VACANCIES, HOW FILLED.

In case a vacancy shall occur by death, resignation, or in any other manner, of any officer of this Society it may be filled pro tem. by appointment of the President.

Section Fifth. DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

The duties of the officers shall be similar to the usual duties of the officers of other Societies.

Section Sixth. In general terms the President shall be the presiding officer, and in his absence the Vice-President shall perform his duties...

Section Seventh. The Secretary shall keep a regular record book, in which he shall enter the proceedings of all meetings of the Society.

Section Eighth. The Treasurer shall keep a regular account book, wherein he shall make specific entries of all money received and disbursed by order of the Society...

Section Ninth. The Trustees shall see to the incorporation of the Society in due and legal form, under the statute laws of the State of

thereby securing the necessary franchises for the holding of estate, real, personal and mixed; and shall discharge all other duties devolving upon similar officers in other societies...

Section Tenth. All other officers and agents that may at any time be appointed or elected, shall perform their duties in accordance with the directions or resolutions of the Society.

Section Eleventh. The President may call a Society meeting at any time he may deem it expedient, and at the request of any ten members shall do so.

Section Twelfth. MEETINGS, HOW CALLED.

Meetings shall be called by posting a notice in some conspicuous place on the building where the Society usually meets, or by a verbal or written notice to a majority of the members.

Section Thirteenth. MEMBERSHIP.

Members may be admitted into this Society at such times and on such terms as shall at the time be deemed expedient, provided the candidate for membership shall receive a majority vote of the members present...

Section Fourteenth. LETTER OF FELLOWSHIP.

This Society may on application of any member, grant a Letter of Fellowship to him or her, certifying that such applicant is a member of this Society, in regular standing, of good moral character, and worthy of fellowship in any other similar Society.

Section Fifteenth. FORM OF CERTIFICATE.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN. Society of Spiritualists of. Hereby certifies that is a member of this Society in good and regular standing, of good moral character and worthy of fellowship in any other similar Society.

Section Sixteenth. IN WITNESS WHEREOF we have hereunto subscribed our names, at County of and State of, this day of, A. D. 18

Organization. In a few days we shall be prepared to furnish a neatly bound Book of 300 pages of heavy paper, which will contain the foregoing form of organization in beautiful type. Any

change in the form can be made, deemed expedient, as the book will be made of the best account book paper.

The book will also contain forms for keeping the records of the proceedings of the meetings, that will be concise and of great practical utility.

It will be nicely gotten up and sent by mail to anyone ordering the same on receipt of \$1.50.

THEODORE PARKER.

He Occupies the Rastrum at Grows Opera Hall, and Inspires Mrs. Corn L. V. Tappan-Richmond.

Theodore Parker was the controlling spirit who inspired Mrs. Tappan-Richmond on Sunday evening, Dec. 8th. A large and enthusiastic audience greeted the speaker, and all seemed deeply interested in the sublime truths that fell from her lips.

Mr. Parker was naturally aggressive. Wherever he saw what he conceived to be an error, he vigorously attacked it, and his influence on such occasions was always felt.

I have to thank you first for singing the hymn just sung. It was my favorite hymn when on earth during my ministrations. The fervor of its thought is taken from the sorrow of human life.

Of the religions of the past, we know their history, and I presume the most of you can feel their influence in the world to day. In nations, the infancy of the race is depicted by its religion.

We have among us the children of Israel, the evidence of this power of pride, etc., to influence remote nations. Falling to recognize the divine spirit of Brahma, their God recognized his ability to save them from danger.

We have also among many of the Eastern nations actual physical power by which God or the Deity claims to control by force of prayer. But it was left to the God of the Hebrews to manifest this physical tendency alone.

The Lord of the Egyptians was the spiritual monitor of the Israelites. The unseen powers demonstrated their presence constantly. All the time prophets were springing up, revealing the evidence of spiritual power, while the people would wonder amid conflicting opinions.

Did not the Children of Israel expect that the literal kingdom would come? They did not fully understand this manifestation of the spirit, and that their own love of power was crushing them; it was the fostering of the external, and they had reason to dread its effects.

encouraging influences, in infancy surrounded by strife, secured its spiritual place and power at once in the world; it came with vigorous potency, the spirit of Christ; the spirit of truth in him descended in Rome; in Protestant America, as to day.

The religion of Christ had not been in the world 800 years before it gave rise to contention. It had not been in the world 600 years before it made progress as a State religion; had not been in the world 1000 years before the invasions of the Northmen; had not been in the world 1600 before the fires of the reformation were kindled.

The religion in the past, in the form of inspiration, was the great wave to uplift mankind. Religious institutions, however, are the shackles which human beings have bound one another, for the purpose of individual ambition.

Truth scintillating with light makes heretics of souls. The sun light of inspiration, the dew of love, call forth responses of truth. Let the soul set immured in creeds, thinking all of God's truth has been revealed to the ages past, and it loses its brightness.

Human beings are babes whatever their previous existence has been, if the love of power takes the place of the love of humanity. We hope the time is coming when religious worship shall cease; when injustice, and oppression, and wrong shall cease.

I will not plead in France; it is the subject of every human will that can sway her people. I will not plead in England; she is working her way upward, but she can not yet push apart the shackles of Church and State. I do, however, plead here; there are no shackles

