



Grand Double Anniversary Celebration in San Francisco, Cal., at Charter Oak Hall, March 31st, and at Ixora Hall, April 2nd and 3rd, 1881—A Reception, etc.

BY WM. EMMETTE COLEMAN.

To the Editor of the Religio-Philosophical Journal: San Francisco has had an anniversary celebration such as it probably never had before.

It has been a regular old-fashioned revival—an occasion long to be remembered in the annals of San Francisco Spiritualism.

CHARTER OAK HALL, MARCH 31.

The hall was opened at 2 P. M., on the 31st, at Charter Oak Hall, under the auspices of Mrs. Ada Foy.

Mr. Allen said the results of our thirty-three years' experience, were in having learned to interpret correctly the phenomena which had been in the world for all time.

William Emmette Coleman gave a list of fifty different theories advanced by scientists and others in explanation of spiritual phenomena.

C. M. Plumb thought Spiritualists had not much cause for boasting over Christianity. Honest and loyal atheists and Christians deserve more commendation than the enlightened Spiritualist who does no more.

Mrs. R. A. Robinson read an original inspirational poem entitled, "Do Spirits Return?" "full of sweet poetic thought and melody."

R. A. Robinson urged the primary importance of our doing all the good we can here on earth, to live true honorable lives full of good works.

Mrs. Aitkin, entranced, spoke words of encouragement to Mrs. Foye and the other mediums. Mrs. Meyer, under control of a Scotch spirit, spoke in a Scotch dialect, referring to the intellectual growth apparent among Spiritualists.

Long before the time of opening the hall was densely packed; numbers stood up during the entire exercises, and multitudes had to go away unable to gain an entrance.

Thomas Gales Forster delivered the anniversary address, which was declared by many to be the finest oration he had delivered in San Francisco, and truly was it a magnificent effort, eliciting unbounded and rapturous applause.

After paying tribute to the memory of Epes Sargent, E. V. Wilson and D. C. Denmore, he gave a brief account of the inauguration of the spiritual dispensation in Hydeville thirty-three years ago, and beheld the results little dreamed of then.

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M. S. Phillips, under inspiration of a Scotch laird, sang a Scotch song with much vim.

Mrs. Foye urged harmony and union among all Spiritualists: on occasions like this all differences should be buried. The Children's Progressive Lyceum above all things also should be sustained; our whole energies should be devoted to the Lyceum.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2ND.

The exercises at Ixora Hall, under the auspices of the First Spiritual Union, were opened at 1 P. M., April 2nd. A large audience, filling nearly every seat in this very large hall, was in attendance.

An overflowing audience greeted the evening session. Mrs. Eliza Fuller McKinley was the opening speaker. To America, she said, belongs the credit of giving birth to a vital religion based on scientific facts and upheld by philosophic deduction.

Rev. J. N. Parker spoke of the great happiness he experienced as a Spiritualist in contrast with the gloom and suffering entailed upon him by Calvinism.

H. B. Champion, of San José, late President of the First Spiritual Society in Philadelphia, referring to the growth of Spiritualism, instanced its 53 periodicals and its literature of thousands of volumes.

Hon. Warren Chase delivered the closing address, first alluding to the great good done in all directions by Spiritualism. Thirty years ago pulpits were not decorated with flowers.

SUNDAY MORNING, 10 A. M.

The anniversary exercises of the Children's Progressive Lyceum were attractive and varied. The Secretary's report showed 140 children and 200 adults present.

An immense audience was present, filling every seat. After a beautiful invocation by Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. R. A. Robinson read a tasteful worded inspirational poem.

This oration of Mr. Forster's was one of his grandest, if not the grandest, he has given in San Francisco.

There is no matter, is more tenable than the opposing one, that there is nothing but matter. The senses are dependent on external or outer influences; without light, the eye would be useless and vision impossible; but the mind is independent of external influences.

The closing address of the entire anniversary exercises was then delivered by Thos. Gales Forster. The orthodox heaven being located outside the material universe, Adam and Eve, traveling with the velocity of light, have only as yet gone one three hundred and sixtieth part of the distance; they still have 189,000 years to reach the heavenly city.

The atheist, however, rejects the philosophical demonstration of immortality, and the church is unable to meet the difficulty. What remains to be done to supply great desiderata? Something is required that will appeal to the external senses as well as the inner consciousness; and thank God, Spiritualism does supply the required desiderata.

After a recitation by Miss Vaughn, Wm. Emmette Coleman first submitted fifty-four theories of scientists, etc., explanatory of spiritual phenomena, and then analyzed three of the principal theories, covering the three phases of phenomena, mental, physical and material.

Mrs. E. L. Watson with words of cheer, and alluded to the union of East and West to give freedom to the human soul. Mrs. Bred, the telegraphic medium, who was detained from the hall by illness, sent a communication from a spirit named Katy Moulton to E. V. S., which latter arose and testified to its appropriateness.

Mrs. Scates narrated the facts of her conversion from orthodox to Spiritualism, and the great good it had done for her; also the good done by the San Francisco Children's Lyceum, and Children's Aid Society.

Mrs. E. L. Watson, the "silver-toned" orator, delivered the closing address in the afternoon. It was a companion piece to that of Mr. Forster at the opening of this session, and was the finest effort this eloquent exponent of spiritual verities has given.

The audience much exceeded in number all preceding ones; such a tremendous crowd was probably never seen before in San Francisco at a spiritual service.

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RECEPTION TO MRS. E. L. WATSON IN SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Mrs. E. L. Watson has been lecturing every Sunday for the First Spiritual Union, in San Francisco, for two or three months, and has established herself as a universal favorite—

Residing in San José, and being in San Francisco only on Sunday of each week, our people have not had a favorable opportunity to enter into very intimate social relations with Mrs. Watson.

Nearly 150 Spiritualists availed themselves of the opportunity to greet our friends on the evening in question, this being the largest of all the many social gatherings the Spiritualists here have had this winter—its great size being partly due, no doubt, to its having been publicly announced several times during the anniversary exercises—and the extent of the social enjoyment was commensurate with the size of the assembly.

Commenting on the commendation and encomium bestowed upon Mrs. Watson by the last speaker, Mr. Forster remarked that she might be proud to receive such eulogy, for praise from Wm. Emmette Coleman is fame indeed; for, said he, "I religiously believe that no one would not flatter to flatter."

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W. E. Coleman, Mrs. McKinley, Dr. McLennan, etc., there were a number of lawyers, doctors, judges and other solid men of the city, including also a number of the handsomest men and women of San Francisco. The parlors were magnificently decorated with floral ornaments. Dr. McLennan's contributions in that line being especially noticeable.

Beautiful Spirit Facts from a Circle in Nevada.

DEAR BRO. BUNNY:—I am impelled to address you in terms of brotherhood, although personally unknown other than as a subscriber to your most excellent JOURNAL.

It will be of interest to you and your many readers to know that we have in this place a circle of gentle, genial and self-sacrificing workers, who meet regularly every Sabbath evening.

At eight o'clock we seated ourselves around an ordinary round table, and each placing the right hand over the left grasped the corresponding hand of the next sitter so that the circle was complete. The candle, which was the only light in the room, was then blown out by Judge Abbot. I have omitted to mention that on the table had been placed a guitar, two hand bells, a perfectly new slate which had been carefully cleaned, and a piece of slate pencil.

"The sunset of life gives us mystical lore And coming events cast their shadows before."

"Do you understand me, dear husband? Lovingly, ANNIE."

I must here say that I do not, as yet, understand how to apply this communication, but it was a most convincing proof to me and others present of spirit-precense or communication, especially as no other person in the room than myself knew my wife's name, nor did any of them know anything of my life-history, for in these mining districts we know each other only as we are, and not as we have been.

"Yes! Miss Moore, I told mother to send you that flower I promised you."

"I have been with you all [the omitted] evening and cannot wait longer."

This message was from a member of the circle, who had passed away from earth-life a few months since, and who is now the chief controlling spirit of our medium, W. St. Clair Long. The message to Mrs. Plunkett explains itself. That to Miss Moore is explained thus: At a previous sitting the spirit of C. F. Rogers had promised to send a flower to Miss Moore. No word of this sitting had been sent to his mother who resides in Kentucky, but knowing the brotherly affection with which he was regarded by all his friends here and especially by the members of the circle, his good mother wrote to Miss Moore a few days ago and enclosed a beautiful flower, saying it was his favorite. We believe that he impressed her to do so. Let others think as their mind leads them to think. The circle was again formed, and this time the following writing was found upon the slate:

Concluded on Third Page.









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