



Christianity, Science and Fire Versus Spirits.

To the Editor of the Religio-Philosophical Journal: It seems to have been an easy matter in the past and even in modern times for the people to kindle and keep in full blast immense fires for an indefinite period of time without the least expense or labor to obtain the required fuel.

Exactly where this terrible fire is located no one in ancient or modern times, has been able to say; but Christian authority has given such assurances of its real existence, that a large portion of the most enlightened people have looked upon it as a real fact, and have not dared to doubt its truth upon pain of being exposed to its eternal burning.

It is not my purpose to offer any arguments upon the subject pro or con in this article, but simply to state the general opinions of our advanced minds and also the views of intelligent spirits, whom I have reason to think I have had the privilege of conversing with upon this and other matters.

The spirits also inform us that no disproportionate amount of fire has ever been used in the construction or development of our world; that we have about the amount which might be deemed expedient and necessary for its proper unfolding, and no more.

It is generally supposed by those who claim to know, but who really know nothing, that the crust which holds this raging fire in duration, is about forty miles in thickness, making the globe of fire eighty miles less than the earth and containing in solid contents thirty-four thirty-fifths of the whole.

But this fire so vast in dimensions, is as nothing compared with another one recently ascertained to exist within the limits of the solar system. The constituent elements composing the body of the sun has been a puzzle for the learned since the days of Newton and Kepler.

If, as Jere Black says, "a pre-existent self-conscious being with power and wisdom to us inconceivable," created this in such a manner and there was vastly more fire then than now, he must have had a great desire to make things a little hot for somebody, or perhaps he had been out in the cold so long he might have created things in that way for his personal accommodation.

I do not like to form an opinion in direct conflict with the experimental evidences of the ablest scientists, still I can but think "there is an enormous quantity of saek for so little bread," and as nature has always managed her affairs with such wisdom and apparent economy of material, as far as we have had an opportunity to make critical observation, I can but think that reasonable proportions of the required elements would have been observed in the construction of planetary bodies, and that there is in our solar system and every other system in the universe, only a proportionate amount of that destructive element—what is really needful and no more.

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valent among the Egyptians and read from the hieroglyphs by Maspero, furnish us the key to this problem. An immortal second self, ka, somewhat resembling the "eidolon" of the Greeks and the shade of the Romans, was believed to spring into being with every mortal, grow with his growth, and accompany him after death.

Hollow Globe—Polar Paradise.

To the Editor of the Religio-Philosophical Journal: "Error of opinion may be tolerated as long as truth is left free to combat it." We perceive in your last number (Feb. 4th) under caption of "Our Exchanges," some remarks implying, amongst other matters, the possibly superior climate of our polar region, and that philosophers can not fail to admire the ingenuity of the theories brought forward to support the idea of a hollow globe communicating with the surface of the earth, "as naturally as the waters of the ocean lead to the antipodes."

As to the admiration of philosophers, anyone worthy of the name, would read at a glance in this last quoted sentence the utter want of scientific culture implied by it. What! the waters turn a short corner and flow into a hole at the pole "as naturally as the waters of the ocean lead to the antipodes?" Absurdity! There appears no ingenuity in this theory, only a want of correct appreciation of the situation.

Let us reason a little a priori. The theory of the formation of the earth and other heavenly globes, is by condensation from a primitive nebulous state. Such a condensation, by any kind of attraction, begins at the centre. It would be as rational to look for hollow rain drops or hollow shot from a shot tower, as to expect a hollow earth to be originally condensed from nebula by constantly aggregating attraction.

Again, physicists have succeeded by elaborate and ingenious experiments in determining the earth's average density to be about five and a half times that of water. It would be interesting to relate how a problem, seemingly so difficult was accomplished; but space forbids it, and we can only say that such is the latest decision at hand, and is the average result of many experiments that varied little from each other, and in whose reliability we could perceive no defect.

As respects the polar climate of "genial warmth" there is a bare shadow to build it upon. The warm ocean currents from the coast of Japan, sweeping diagonally across the Northern Pacific and entering Behring's Strait, may sufficiently soften the otherwise terribly frigid condition of that far northerly region, to prevent its being other than a land of unrelieved desolation, unfit for even arctic life; but when thrown into opposition with a six months night of darkness, alternated with six months of a slanting sunshine, never averaging, within the Polar circles, more than 23½ degrees above the horizon, much of the time obscured by storms; methinks it would hardly be able to produce that climate of wonderful "healthfulness" seen in the visions of the clairvoyant.

Surely, our explorers who, in the summer season have penetrated within five hundred miles of the pole, and therefore, not probably half that far—not a ten hour's railroad drive from the shores of this fairy land, should have had their cheeks fanned by some blessed airs wafted from groves of spices—should have discovered something besides the dim distant frost mist over open sea—some relic, animal or human, drifted by Northern storms from the teeming shores so near to them.

How Women Learn. Women everywhere use Parker's Ginger Tonic, because they have learned by experience that it overcomes dependency, indigestion, weakness in the back and kidneys, and other troubles of the sex.—Home Journal.

TURKEY MANIFESTATIONS.

A Tale of New Year's Turkeys Beginning Seventeen Years Ago.

To the Editor of the Religio-Philosophical Journal:

On the evening of December 31st, 1864, I was walking down North Street from Genesee, in Auburn, N. Y., and as I approached the first grocery my eyes happened to light upon a large and fine-looking turkey which was suspended near the door of the grocery, and as I beheld it, I heard a voice saying: "Buy that turkey for Tom Y."

The turkey for a New Year's dinner was duly presented, and inquiries made as to the welfare and condition of Mr. Y. She said: "I do not know where he is, or whether he is dead or alive. I am sick, and cannot go to look for him. He may possibly be in his shop. I am so distressed that I am nearly crazy."

Promising to call again I went to the shop, the door of which was locked. Here, too, I rapped, and several times called the name of the man I was in pursuit of, when at last I heard the question: "Who is there?" An answer was given with the request that the door be opened. My request was granted and I entered, but all was dark. A lamp was soon lighted when the object of my pursuit stood before me, but in a sad and melancholy condition of mind.

Hope revived, his health improved and the rest of his journey in earth life was pleasant and joyous. He remained several years, when the transition came and his spirit ascended to the higher and better life. It was mine to watch by his bedside, to close his eyes in death and to preach his funeral sermon when his body was buried.

Auburn, N. Y. J. H. HARTER.

The Brain-Work of Signalmen and Pointsmen.

No one who has any practical acquaintance with the working of the human brain should fail to recognize the fatuity of a policy which entrusts to the integrity and precision of mental functions performed by one brain continuously during several successive hours.

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I wish to add my testimony as to the merits of St. Jacob's Oil as a cure for rheumatism. One bottle has cured me of this troublesome disease which gave me a great deal of bother for a long time; but thanks to the remedy I am cured. This statement is unsolicited by any one in its interest. JAMES A. CONLAN, Librarian.



DR. C. W. BENSON, OF BALTIMORE, MD. We give above a correct likeness of this well known and successful physician and surgeon, who has made a life long study of Nervous Diseases and the Diseases of the Skin, and he now stands in the highest rank, as authority on those special and distressing diseases.

DR. C. W. BENSON'S SKIN CURE Is Warranted to Cure ECZEMA, TETTERS, HUMORS, INFLAMMATION, MILK CRUST, ALL ROUGH SCALY ERUPTIONS, DISEASES OF HAIR AND SCALP, SCROFULA ULCERS, PIMPLES and TENDER ITCHINGS on all parts of the body.



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Anonymous letters and communications will not be noticed. The name and address of the writer are required as a guarantee of good faith.

When newspapers or magazines are sent to the JOURNAL containing matter for special attention, the sender will please draw a line around the article to which he desires to call notice.

CHICAGO, ILL., Saturday, March 25, 1882.

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What Shall We Do to be Saved From Disease?

In the treatment of diseases the question may be well asked, what effects the cure? Is it the medicine administered by a skillful physician, or the forces of the body acting in obedience to the mind, or nature seeking to establish an equilibrium and overcoming any derangement that may exist in the disordered system?

Besides these methods presented to relieve the ills that flesh is heir to, we might mention the many specialists with their baths—hot air, steam, electric, Russian, Turkish, etc.—all warranted to be very effective in eradicating disease.

In answer to the question, "What shall we do to be saved from disease?" there can only be one correct response: Let each one seek restoration for bodily infirmities in any direction he chooses, utterly regardless of the whims or wishes of the regular practitioners. Then the fittest among our physicians and healers, will only survive, and the ends of justice be fully subserved.

Mrs. M. Van Horn writes as follows from Milwaukee, Wis.: "The Spiritualists here will celebrate the thirty-fourth anniversary on the second day of April next."

insane asylum at Hartford, Conn., but in September, 1877, was discharged and sent to the house of his brother-in-law, Mr. J. J. McComb, on Fifth Avenue, New York.

While a "sudden shock" has often been instrumental in curing obstinate diseases, yet we think that no systematic application of this method can be adopted to the extent that it will come into general use as a curative agent, and as a natural consequence be opposed by the regular practitioner.

The "imagination," too, plays an important part in enabling a person to regain health,—when suffering from some severe malady. Dr. Dods relates a case where a lady called upon Dr. John C. Warren, of Boston, Mass., to ask his advice in relation to an experiment she thought of trying on a tumor with which she was afflicted.

"Take the case now in hand—the lustful, brutal, beastly system of polygamy practiced by the bogns "saints" of Salt Lake. Who does not know that it owes its real origin and continued existence not to the pretended revelation of the Mormon prophet, but to the teachings and examples of the Hebrew Scriptures?"

After faith as a means to restore health, prayer naturally follows, and its efficacy has been tested on too many occasions to be doubted. An example in this direction is given by the Philadelphia Times. S. F. Delevan had been for nearly eight years paralyzed and helpless, and he gave an account of his complete restoration to health at the Christian Hall in that city.

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Mrs. M. Van Horn writes as follows from Milwaukee, Wis.: "The Spiritualists here will celebrate the thirty-fourth anniversary on the second day of April next. The programme will be as follows: Mrs. Ophelia T. Sheperd, formerly Mrs. Samuels, will lecture in the morning. Mrs. Spencer and others will speak in the afternoon, and Mr. Frank T. Ripley will lecture and give tests in the evening."

Judge Bailey, of Kansas, don't Agree with the Rev. Dr. Thomas.

Dr. Thomas, the next speaker, said that of all the low and mean things—the most formally mean, if that wasn't swearing—that could be conceived of was for a preacher to take advantage of his position and his profession, or for a leader of religion to take advantage of his claims as a leader, and his communion with the Almighty, to deceive the people.

It is claimed by the son of Joseph Smith, the original founder of Mormonism, that polygamy is contrary to the teachings of the Mormon Bible; but is the Rev. Dr. Thomas correct in his statement when he alludes to polygamy as being "something contrary to the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures in their spirit?"

By means of a series of very interesting experiments regarding the muscular power of insects, M. F. Plateau has discovered that while a horse cannot exert a stress beyond the sixty-seventh of its weight, a cockchafer can easily draw a load equal to fourteen times its weight, and a bee can draw a little wagon twenty times heavier than itself.

The anti-polygamy bill which has passed Congress by a three-fourths majority, will disfranchise 12,000 "wives" and their 2,000 husbands, and prevent them from holding any office of profit, trust, or emolument.

The Conflict.

This is from the Christian Union, published without comment: "There is trouble in a Stonington, Conn., public school between Protestants and Catholics."

Here we perceive a direct result of forcing the Bible into the public schools where it has no more right to be than the Zendavesta or the Shaster. Take it out and the Catholics have no objections to the schools, but as now managed, with Protestant prayers and a Protestant Bible, they truly complain that the schools are secular, only in name, and are really sectarian.

The New Orleans Times-Democrat draws a lesson from the floods lately occurring in the South, even before they have begun to subside. Speaking for the farmers it says: "We find ourselves here at the very threshold of the year, without a week's supply of bread or meat—literally paupers; literally, nay, in certainty, of starving, if we be not fed by charity. Had the flood not come, we should have gone on in the old, old way borrowing money upon an unmade crop, mortgaging the labor of a year for mere food!"

The New York Hour says: Who can say that the story of Damon and Pythias is a myth, after reading what occurred in the woman's department of the Tombs last week? Upon the death of matron Foster, after thirty-six years of service, it became the duty of the Police Justices to consider which of her two assistants should fill the vacant position. They decided upon Miss French, but that lady declined, and insisted that her associate, Miss Adamson, should be the new Matron.

any observances which conflict with his belief. That "committeeman" was a blind bigot, and his act was infamous.

We hope this question will come up in a form so as to be decided on constitutional grounds. We want to know for good, if we have a State religion, which virtually excludes nine-tenths of the people—the free thinkers on one hand, the Catholics on the other.

Current Items.

Col. and Mrs. Bundy were in Boston when last heard from.

The Theosophist for February is at hand. It maintains its usual interest. Price 50 cents.

"Religion of Spiritualism," its phenomena and philosophy, by Samuel Watson, D. D. Price \$1.25, for sale at this office.

Thirty cents pays for this paper twelve weeks to new subscribers on trial. A specimen copy sent free to any person desiring to see it before subscribing.

A Baltimore girl who had put on a pair of earrings that she had loaned to a friend suffering from the fever of vaccination, was astonished to find that she was thoroughly vaccinated in the ears.

A little Texarkana, Tex., girl who had been crossed-eyed all her life, awoke a few mornings since with the defect entirely gone. Since that time there has not been the least symptom of its return. No remedies had ever been used to cure her.

A young man by the name of Price, near Alma, Col., who is almost blind, and who is wholly uneducated, and not at all sprightly in other respects, is said to be able to solve almost any problem in mathematics that is given him. He uses no figures, but makes his calculations on his fingers.

At Monroe, N. C., a man named Terrill was engaged in inclosing the grave in which his little child had just been buried. He was carrying two poles, one on each shoulder, and tripped on some brush and fell, his neck striking one of the poles. He lay motionless, when his assistant went up and found him dead, his neck having been broken by the fall. He fell across his child's grave.

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They decided upon Miss French, but that lady declined, and insisted that her associate, Miss Adamson, should be the new Matron. Thereupon an unprecedented scene occurred. The two women, with tears and supplications, appealed to the magistrates to give the better position to her friend, not to herself. The matter was finally compromised by Miss Adamson accepting the post of Matron with the understanding that Miss French should get half the salary. The hardened Police Magistrates were seen to wipe their eyes during the generous contest between the women, and probably nothing exactly like it has ever occurred in the history of American official patronage.

Our Exchanges.

The Medium and Daybreak goes back to Bible times and endeavors to prove that certain prominent actors connected therewith, were Spiritualists: Was Peter a Spiritualist? If he had intercourse with and communications from spirits make a Spiritualist, then Peter was pre-eminently a Spiritualist, for there was nothing in his experience more familiar to him than this.

Under the head of "The Outlook," the London Spiritualist presents a rather gloomy aspect of the spiritual movement in England: "As regards the past year the less said the better; it is the worst year Spiritualism has ever had in England; the whole subject has been heavily discredited in the popular estimation, because it had no public men left in London to speak out as representatives and in the name of the movement against the great Fletcher swindle, which came to light at the beginning of the past year."

A writer in Light, England, gives an interesting account of the carrying of a letter by the spirits: "One evening I asked Mr. Eglinton to join me at dinner. On my entering the restaurant, he was standing waiting for me. The place was lighted with four chandeliers, having six burners in each. Under one we sat down. After saying a few words I saw Mr. Eglinton's countenance change, and he gave three or four convulsive shudders. Sitting on his right side, I asked if he felt cold, for I was far from expecting any manifestations. He assured me he did not, and on looking at him I could perceive that he was going under spirit influence. I immediately took his right hand and put it flat over mine, with my left over his. I observed his whole frame shaking very much, and while thus sitting I felt something passing between my hands, and by this time Mr. Eglinton was in a deep trance. On looking on my hand I found a small roll of paper, which I put in my pocket. On his recovering, I asked what he had felt, but he merely answered he had felt some kind of influence coming over him. After dinner I went home and found that the roll contained three sheets of paper, written by a living person, in answer to a note of mine which I had sent away two days previously by spirit power."

Mr. Eglinton knew nothing about it, neither was it possible for him to have communication with my correspondent. A few days before leaving England I wrote a letter and enclosed in it two board cards painted by myself—4 by 2 1/2 inches. I sealed the envelope, and asked Mr. Eglinton's spirit friend, "Krest," if he could convey it to the person to whom it was addressed. The little parcel was taken away by the spirits two days before Mr. Eglinton set sail, but I did not receive any reply. He left on October 12th, and I gave up all hopes of getting any news about my letter. To my surprise on November 7th, I received a letter from Mr. Eglinton, written on board the "Vega," dated October 17th, and posted at Alexandria, bearing the post mark, October 29th, with an enclosed note under date of October 10th, four days





Nervo-Muscular Expression.

All expression of feeling is effected by muscular action, whether it be by words, by facial movement or gesture, movements effected by voluntary muscles; or expression may be produced by dilatation of the pupil, erection of the hair, or disturbed action of the heart, these being due to the conditions of inorganic muscular fibres. I have been accustomed to regard the nerve-muscular condition of "nervous cases," when seeking definite signs by which to describe them, in the light of the principle that movements depend upon nerve-muscular stimuli originating in nerve-centres. Examples may easily be given, showing how we commonly judge of the state of the nervous system by muscular conditions. Note the stooping attitude and the spiritless gait of a tired man as compared with that of the same individual when rested and refreshed. Incipient intoxication is indicated by a reeling gait, unsteady hand, and muscular tremor. Expression may be indicated by the position of the head, which is seen firmly upright in defiance, drooping in shame; is commonly held on one side in nervous women and girls convalescent from chorea, the first example cited of an asymmetrical gesture.

The artist's brush or pencil, the sculptor's modeling-tool and chisel, the pianist's and violinist's finger-touch, indicate the training and actual condition of the working of his brain. The educated and refined singer trains and refines his whole mind, i. e., his brain, and is well aware that his "whole soul," as he may express it, comes out in the action of the muscles concerned in producing his song and musical notes. In the infant the condition of the nervous system is best recorded in terms of nerve-muscular phenomena. It laughs, and is playful; reflex action is well marked when a finger is placed in the child's mouth. The eyes are moved and directed toward any object looked at; these are conditions of healthy action. It is well known that in the convulsive state the fists are often closed, with the thumbs turned in. All these examples of expression are nerve-muscular conditions; the movement, the attitude, the gait, result from states of the brain or spinal cord.—Dr. Francis Warner, in Popular Science Monthly.

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We must not think we have then attained to the right knowledge of Truth, when we have broke through the outward shell of words and phrases that house it up; or when by logical analysis we have found out the dependence or coherence of them, one with another.

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