

The Delusion of Astrology.

BY WM. EMMETTE COLEMAN.

Astrology, as a supposed science, is of very ancient date. Egyptian hieroglyph and Akkadian cuneiform inscriptions attest the influence, for good or ill, of the heavenly bodies upon man's state and fortune.

Spiritualism being a system of occult philosophy, par excellence, dealing with the weird and mysterious, the marvelous and the occult, it is not surprising that attempts should be made to encumber it, among other fanciful things, with the delusions of astrology.

Astrology claims that each of the planets exercises a certain peculiar influence on the destinies of men and women, and that the respective positions of the planets, the sun and the moon, at the period of birth of each human being determines the character and disposition of the child, and influences in a marked degree its future destiny.

If the position of the planets at birth determine the character, the bodily make up, and the destiny through life, then, necessarily, every person born under the same planetary arrangement of position must be precisely alike in form and feature, mind and character, and in all the acts of his life.

Each planet has a certain influence, we are told. If this be true, how was it discovered? and how was the special influence of each planet ascertained? How did the ancients discover that Saturn was an evil, malefic planet, and Jupiter the opposite?

Why is Saturn supposed to exert an evil influence? We must go back to the ancient Akkadians to ascertain. Saturn is the most distant of the seven planets known to the ancients (the sun and moon were included in the seven), and it shines with a very dim light.

Astrology claims that each of the planets exercises a certain peculiar influence on the destinies of men and women, and that the respective positions of the planets, the sun and the moon, at the period of birth of each human being determines the character and disposition of the child, and influences in a marked degree its future destiny.

Moreover, the relative influence of each planet according to its seeming position in the heavens is most preposterous. The heavens are divided into twelve equal spaces called "houses," and each "house" pertains to a different portion of man's destiny.

account for them, like the epicycles of Ptolemaic astronomy. Astrology being based on the apparent, rather than the real, movements of the stars, is perforce a delusion.

Again, even if it was a true science, astrology must be very defective, owing to the ignorance of its expounders of the influences exerted upon earth by undiscovered planets. Saturn was the outermost planet known to the ancients. Since then Uranus (or Herschell) and Neptune have been discovered, and we have astronomical facts pointing to a planet beyond Neptune; and there may be several more beyond it for all that is known.

Mr. W. H. Chaney, in the JOURNAL, says he will not debate with any one relative to the truth of astrology, but will prove it true by "tests." As for myself I have already been favored with some of Mr. Chaney's "tests," and the result was as might have been expected.

A Rock Brought 40 Miles, and Hurlled on to the Third Floor, in Troy, N. Y., without Showing any Trace of its Course.

About ten days ago I was called by a party in Troy, to go about fifty miles to the mountains to examine and tell them if mineral of any kind existed there on certain lands. Consequently I went to Troy from Saratoga Springs, and on my arrival, I met the party and made arrangements to take the early train the next morning to the place in question.

In the morning we took the train for the place desired, and after spending the day on the grounds, I found no rock like the stone thrown into the room. After returning to Troy, one of the party sent a sealed letter to Mr. Flint, of New York, asking the spirits who threw the rock, and where it came from.

my possession, and I never in all my examinations of mineral rocks, saw a sample like it.

The parties are making calculations to sink a shaft, and if they do it, they will then prove whether it comes from this point or not; and should they not discover rock like the sample, it does not explain how this piece of hard mineral was hurled into my room at midnight, without physical contact, and not leaving its mark visible.

Saratoga Springs, N. Y., Oct. 5, 1883.

Whiskey—The Disease and the Remedy when Prohibition Falls—A Solution of the Problem.

No argument is needed to prove that the use of ardent spirits is the curse of the country; the all-powerful breeder of crime, vice and corruption; and the one source of evil in all social communities. These are conceded facts. That its use should, for the good of society, be abridged or restrained, is also an admitted proposition.

Whiskey shall not be regarded as property, and shall be entitled to no protection as property. There will be no license to sell, high or low. We will not license crime; but every man shall be at liberty to make, manufacture, sell and drink, to the full extent of his will, whenever, wherever, and however he pleases.

There will be no license to sell, high or low. We will not license crime; but every man shall be at liberty to make, manufacture, sell and drink, to the full extent of his will, whenever, wherever, and however he pleases.

The laborer will be both to work, if he knows his wages may be repudiated. No owner will rent his building if he knows his lease is void and his insurance will be forfeited. No railroads will care to transport an article, for the carrying of which they can legally get no pay.

benefit. If the person paying the money refused to prosecute.

The destruction of the article by any person at any time or place would be no crime, and he would not be punished for it.

In the State of Iowa, Vermont or Maine let an act be drawn containing less than ten lines to the effect: 1. "That no policy of insurance shall be valid or enforceable upon any building where whiskey is made, manufactured, sold or given away, and this whether the sale be open or secret."

Chicago, Oct. 17th, 1883.

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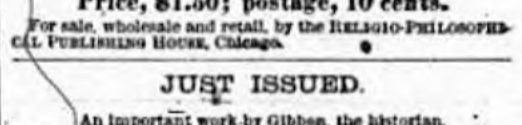
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For sale, wholesale and retail, by the RELIGIO-PHILOSOPHICAL PUBLISHING HOUSE, CHICAGO.

Woman and the Household.

BY HESTER M. POOLE. (Metuchen, New Jersey.)

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, Whose forms are bending low, Who toil along the climbing way...

For lo, the days are hastening on, By prophet-bards foretold, When with the ever-circling years...

Grace Greenwood is now in London, writing a biography of Queen Victoria for young readers.

Miss Kate Field is in the San Juan silver mining district in Colorado, the guest of a party of New York people.

The Tribune contains the following account of a meeting in New York last week: Mrs. Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins, granddaughter of Captain Truckee...

The Queen Bee of Denver, Colorado, edited and owned by the indomitable Mrs. C. M. Churchill, is full of life and sparkle.

Our prisons will be schools where the pupils will be taught to be good, wise and happy by legitimate means.

It is but justice to say to you, brethren tender to Mrs. Breed by Mrs. Washburn is no new or strange act of kindness.

San Francisco, Cal. T. B. CLARKE. Benefits of Trade Unions. Some remarkable statistics of the strength and work of the trade unions of England...

THE SOCIAL IDEAL, a Lecture before the Society for Ethical Culture, Chicago, May 27, 1883, by W. M. Salter.

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confidence, over work, or undue exhaustion from any cause, produce a craving which stimulates alone satisfies. The tippler "feels better," and is spurred to undue effort; reaction supervenes and each time the craving grows more imperative.

Reception to Mrs. Breed.

To the Editor of the Religio-Philosophical Journal: About thirty-five years ago, two little girls heard queer noises. One of them said, "Now count ten after me, and the invisible power obeyed."

"Yes," said I. "Have you been to see her?" "Yes," said he, and added, "She knows a d—n many things she has no business to know."

It is but justice to say to you, brethren tender to Mrs. Breed by Mrs. Washburn is no new or strange act of kindness. For a number of years a weekly sance has been held at her house, to which all friends were welcome.

San Francisco, Cal. T. B. CLARKE. Benefits of Trade Unions. Some remarkable statistics of the strength and work of the trade unions of England were given by Mr. Frederic Harrison recently in an address before a trade-union congress in London.

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as the foremost champion of the trade unions outside the ranks of the workmen. He began his defence of them years ago, when public sentiment as it was manifested in the press was bitterly opposed to them.

One of the most important things shown by Mr. Harrison's figures is that strikes are growing less frequent every year. As the unions increase in power and wealth the number of disputes between employers and laborers diminishes.

The trade unions of the United States have little in common with those of England. Here they are chiefly combinations for the purpose of affecting wages and assisting in strikes.

BOOK REVIEWS.

[All books noticed under this head, are for sale at, or can be ordered through, the office of the RELIGIO-PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL.]

FREE TRADE AND PROTECTION. There has been and is a great diversity of opinion on the subject of free trade and a tariff for the purpose of supporting the expenses of the government.

THE SOCIAL IDEAL, a Lecture before the Society for Ethical Culture, Chicago, May 27, 1883, by W. M. Salter. Chicago: Press of Max Stern, Printer and Stationer, 84 and 86 Fifth Avenue, 1883.

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Magazines for October not Before Mentioned.

THE POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY. (D. Appleton & Co., New York.) Contents: "The Greek Question," by Professor Josiah P. Cooke; Influence of the Environment on Religion, by Professor J. T. Bixby; Ichia and its Earthquakes, by Ch. Velain; A Plea for Pure Science, by Professor H. A. Rowland; The Remedies of Nature—The Alcohol-Habit, by Felix L. Oswald, M. D.; The Age of Trees, by J. A. Farrer; Some Unsolved Problems in Geology, by Dr. J. W. Dawson; Inlets for Infection, by R. S. Thorne, F. R. C. P.; Remarks on the Importance of Science, by Leslie Stephen; A Home-Utility Telescope, by Dr. George Pyburn; The Utility of School-Recesses, by Joseph Carter; The Chemistry of Cookery, by W. Mattieu Williams; Sketch of Lamarck; Correspondence; Editorial's Table; Literary Notices; Popular Miscellany; Notes.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY. (Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston, Mass.) Contents: A Roman Singer; Ezra Ripley, D. D.; The Trustworthiness of the Hebrew Traditions; Charon's Fee; Newport; A Noble Lady; Kn Province; Omens; The Bird of the Morning; Random Spanish Notes; Recollections of Rome During the Italian Revolution; An Only Son; Venice; The New Departure in Negro Life; What Instruction Should be Given in our Colleges? A Good-by to Rip Van Winkle; The East and the West in Recent Fiction; James Buchanan; The Contributor's Club; Books of the Month.

THE MODERN AGE. (No. 16 East Seneca St., Buffalo, N. Y.) Contents: The Devil's Flirtation; A Famous Novelist's mode of work; Christian Bach and the Prima Donna; The French Newspaper Press; Thirteen at Dinner; Modern Dress; Merum Negus; Two "Pards"; Cycling; Richard Wagner's Grave, 1883; Sayings and Idioms; Books and the Book Men; Stage and Studio.

THE SPIRITUAL RECORD. (Hay Nisbet & Co., Glasgow.) Contents: Testimony of the Earls of Dunraven; Direct Spirit Writings and Drawings; Louis Agassiz on Evolution and Re-incarnation; Something regarding "The Last Judgment"—Thirty years ago; Editorial Notes and Comments.

THE VACCINATION INQUIRER. (No. 114 Victoria St., Westminster, England.) This Health Review is the organ of the London Society for the Abolition of Compulsory Vaccination.

THE SEASON. (The International News Co., New York.) An illustrated monthly magazine containing all the newest Paris fashions and the most elegant designs in Fancy-Work, Needle-work, Embroidery, and Crochet.

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SHERIFF'S REPORT.

Under date of May 16, 1883, Mr. ISAIAH COOK, Sheriff of Stoddard County, writes as follows: "I have been afflicted for over twenty (20) years with a weakness of the kidneys and liver, and have had severe pains in the back and sides which were brought upon me in the first place by exposure during my stay in California during the early settlement of the land of gold. At times my urine troubled me very much, and after trying many different means without receiving any benefit, I was induced by try Hunt's Remedy, although I was much prejudiced against it and all other medicines. I purchased a bottle at Coulter's Drug Store, here in Stoddard, and I found that the first bottle returned all pains in the back and sides; and I here, in my family, used five bottles in all, and have found it a most efficacious and of great value, and have gladly recommended it to many of my friends and neighbors, who witness a great relief in high letters. You are at liberty to use my name for the benefit of suffering humanity."

TIMELY ADVICE.

I have been troubled with kidney disease and back-ache for a long time, with severe pains in my limbs and back, with inflammation of bladder. My sufferings were terrible. I tried several physicians all to no purpose. I found that I was getting very feeble. I was discouraged, and lost faith in physicians and medicine, when a friend from Stoddard, who had been cured by Hunt's Remedy of gravel and liver complaint, recommended it to me, and from the first bottle I commenced to improve, and three bottles have entirely cured me, and I heartily thank my friend for his timely advice in using Hunt's Remedy, for all the pains have gone from my back, and I am in excellent condition, and I feel that a word from me may be the means of saving some friend that may be suffering as I did, before taking Hunt's Remedy, the best kidney and liver cure. HANUEL LITTLEFIELD, No. 1442 Washington Street, Boston, Mass. Mar 12, 1883.

HORSE RAILROAD MEN.

Having occasion to use a medicine for general debility in my family, I was recommended by a friend to use Hunt's Remedy, as that was being used with great success all over the country. We have used one bottle with marked benefit and find it just as represented, and a medicine of great value and I cheerfully add my testimony in praise of Hunt's Remedy. WALTERMAN SOUTH BOSTON CAR STABLES, SOUTH BOSTON, MASS., MAY 12, 1883.

THE INDEX!

A RADICAL WEEKLY JOURNAL. PUBLISHED AT 3 TREMONT PLACE, BOSTON, MASS.

CONTRIBUTORS: Messrs D. Conway and George James Hopkins, of London, will write for The Index every month during 1883. Among the other contributors are: Fred. Felix Adler, J. W. Chadwick, M. J. Savage, F. M. Holland, W. H. Spencer, Mrs. E. A. Cheney, Mrs. Anna Gertrude Spencer, Caroline H. Dale, Mrs. E. A. Underwood, Miss M. A. Harland.

REMARKABLE SPIRITUAL VISITATION. An astounding revelation, entitled MR. HEAPHY'S GHOST. The London Artist's own Terrors of an Extraordinary Affair, together with the Correspondence between Charles Dickens and Mr. Heaphy.

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SPECIAL NOTICES.

The RELIGIO-PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL desires it to be distinctly understood that it can accept no responsibility for the opinions expressed by Contributors and Correspondents.

Exchanges and individuals in quoting from the RELIGIO-PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL, are requested to distinguish between editorial articles and the communications of correspondents.

Anonymous letters and communications will not be noticed. The name and address of the writer are required as a guaranty 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, October 27, 1883.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscriptions not paid in advance are charged at the old price of \$3.15 per year. To accommodate those old subscribers who through force of habit or inability, do not keep paid in advance, the credit system is for the present continued; but it must be distinctly understood that it is wholly as a favor on the part of the Publisher, as the terms are PAYMENT IN ADVANCE.

Did Jesus Preach Vicarious Atonement?

The key-note of the theology of to-day is the doctrine of Vicarious Atonement. Even the question of plenary inspiration of the Scriptures, basic as it is, really the most important of all, for all other questions hang upon it, fails to appeal to men as a matter of personal interest, as does this question of the Atonement.

Many years after his death Paul, the self-appointed Apostle, became converted and began to preach where before he had persecuted. He took with him in his new work all the proclivities years of culture had produced, and began to philosophize on Christ's teachings, to argue and infer.

Statements like these have been made before, and passed unchallenged. But lately the Rev. Dr. Lawrence, of this city, took up the question and attempted to settle it. The Inter-Ocean of October 1st, reports him as saying: It has been recently observed that Christ

offered no atonement. At least, such is my understanding of the recent criticisms upon the teachings of the evangelist from abroad and of the spirit and law of the recent Christian convention.

Now, I call your attention to this in no spirit of acerbity; with no thought of unkindness to any one who, in the free exercise of his right, shall speak his opinion.

Certainly it is not ambiguous what a Jew would understand by the term ransom, nor is it difficult for us to understand what is meant by that same term.

What John thought on that matter is not under examination now; it is a misunderstanding passage. What did Jesus teach? The text quoted above proves nothing, except that he was to give his life, which he did to physical exhaustion, over and over again—not his death.

4. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

5. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

6. When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils; and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick;

17. That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

Is it not plain how the evangelist bore our griefs? The help he brought was relief from physical pain. Not by his dying but by his living came the salvation he spoke of.

Spiritualists do not accept the doctrine of Vicarious Atonement in any form. It seems to them to make God cruel and unjust; its tendency, to make man careless of sin; to lead to persistent wrong-doing because that, in the last breath, when all the "pleasures of sin" possible have been enjoyed, one may say, "I believe" and be at once fit tenant of one of the "many mansions" of the blest.

The Fort Wayne News says that the "tremendous ghost mystery the Gazette has been feeding its readers on has been at last explained. Mr. Johnny Hanna, son of Sam. Hanna, Esq., is the wizard who conjures up the spirit and makes it walk at pleasure.

On last Sunday, the Spiritualists assembled in Convention at Chattanooga, Tennessee, took the initiatory steps toward establishing a splendid camp meeting enterprise with a capital of \$50,000. Eight thousand dollars is said to have been subscribed on the spot.

Southern Spiritualists must be on their guard against the horde of adventurers who are likely to swarm down upon them from the North. The increased interest in Spiritualism in the South, is already attracting the attention of those who are using the cloak of Spiritualism to ply their nefarious games.

Mrs. Ophelia T. Shepard at Lester's Academy.

Mr. Geo. P. Colby had been engaged for last Sunday, but Mr. Trefry the manager of the meetings considerably released him in order that he might fill a telegraphic request from Mr. Hagaman of Chattanooga, sent to the JOURNAL to be filled.

The speaker paid a glowing tribute to Giles B. Stebbins, to whose name Iowa papers had prefixed the title of "General." When she gazed at his fragile physical organization, and surveyed his benign countenance and saw thereon such a benevolent expression, such kindness of heart and sympathy, the title of "General" seemed to her exceedingly inappropriate and ludicrous;

The speaker then alluded to the various psychological influences that are constantly being exerted, but she could not readily understand that sitters for tests, communications or evidences of a future life, could so influence the medium that the thoughts expressed or sentiments given should be perverted or distorted.

The speaker alluded to a very singular circumstance, illustrating in a highly graphic manner, the power of mind over mind, and showing the subtle influence that under certain circumstances, one individual has over another.

The Fort Wayne News says that the "tremendous ghost mystery the Gazette has been feeding its readers on has been at last explained. Mr. Johnny Hanna, son of Sam. Hanna, Esq., is the wizard who conjures up the spirit and makes it walk at pleasure.

On last Sunday, the Spiritualists assembled in Convention at Chattanooga, Tennessee, took the initiatory steps toward establishing a splendid camp meeting enterprise with a capital of \$50,000.

Southern Spiritualists must be on their guard against the horde of adventurers who are likely to swarm down upon them from the North. The increased interest in Spiritualism in the South, is already attracting the attention of those who are using the cloak of Spiritualism to ply their nefarious games.

ter that would be above reproach, and that could not fall in being an excellent example to others. The lecture throughout was eminently a good one, and was listened to with close attention.

Women's Congress.

The Association for the Advancement of Women has held its eleventh Congress in Chicago during the past week. The weather was generally favorable, the attendance full, the essays averaged very well; some of them may be classed as excellent.

Rev. A. B. Blackwell's paper upon "Hereditry," was read by Dr. Julia Holmes Smith, of Chicago, the efficient chairman of the local committee of the Congress, and was filled with results of Mrs. Blackwell's individual investigations upon this subject, which must prove very useful to students of this department of the study of man.

Work for the prevention of Cruelty to Children, was read by its author, Mrs. H. L. T. Wolcott, of Boston, referred to in our last issue, and was closely listened to by the sea of sympathizing faces that were upturned toward the eloquent narrator.

Mrs. Jennie Marsh Parker's paper upon the "Duty of the white women of the North to the black women of the South," was read by Mrs. Sayles, and brought forward in discussion, Mrs. Frances E. W. Harper of Philadelphia, a colored woman, who has for years been working for the elevation of her people, and who by her simple earnestness and natural eloquence won the hearts of those who listened, till they forgot her black skin and only remembered her white soul.

The President, Mrs. Howe, made an address at the opening, which reviewed the past work of the Congress as well as to that which lay directly before it at these sessions.

One of the very useful papers presented was by Dr. Julia Holmes Smith, upon "Morning Garb," which deserves wide circulation, the subject being now much discussed throughout the country.

Mrs. Augusta Cooper Bristol presented in her characteristic manner her conclusions upon Labor and Capital, and was listened to in rapt attention the last evening by the crowded audience, very many of whom were gentlemen attracted by expectation of hearing the subject clearly treated by this well known orator and thinker; and that they were not disappointed was very evident.

We have only room in this issue to announce the unanimous re-election of Mrs. Howe to the President's chair of A. A. W., a position which she was only induced to retain by the universal suffrage she received.

Irving Bishop, the London mind reader who was bitterly attacked by Labouchee not long ago, failed four times in succession one Saturday night to give the number of a bank-note, and afterward fainted. He has since been dangerously ill of congestion of the brain.

PROF. WM. DENTON.

Incidents in Connection with his Early Life—His Literary Work—A Monument Proposed.

When it became generally known last week that Prof. Denton had passed to spirit-life in a remote country, while carefully and critically pursuing his scientific investigations, a feeling of intense sadness took possession of the minds of those who had heard his eloquent lectures, or who had read his excellent thoughts embodied in book form, or who through social converse had formed feelings of friendship for him.

Prof. Denton was born, like many another whom the world shall love to honor, in comparatively humble circumstances. He came into being on Jan. 8th, 1823, at Darlington, England, with neither a silver spoon in his mouth, nor a geologist's hammer in his hand; yet he had the germ-principle, which enabled him to secure both; the one to sup milk with the other to strike the rocky mountains and loosen the teeth of the orthodox devil.

Finally, as time passed on, William commenced his studies in Geology, reading closely on the subject and preparing, hammer in hand, for future researches. He was hired by a currier of Darlington for a year, and paid a half-crown, about 60 cents, a week. During his stay in the currier's shop, the boy had an opportunity of exhibiting for the first time, his powers in debate.

At ten years, William became a member of the Temperance society. At fourteen he was apprenticed to Timothy Hackworth, to learn the trade of machinist. He soon learned to use the file, and discovered his employer to be an old file with small regard for conscience.

Finally a more excellent way was shown than the rigid views of the Methodists. Important questions were discussed, relating to Church government and personal adornment. Use, rather than beauty was the outward sign of Christianity. It was a sin to indulge in useless gew-gaws or extravagance in dress.

Voices from the People,

AND INFORMATION ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS.

For the Religio-Philosophical Journal.

The Web of Life.

BY HAYTIE J. RAY.

Finely spun with golden lustre
Are life's threads through looms
Running through the warp of action
Ever brightly do they shine.

Be not Faithless but Believing.

To the Editor of the Religio-Philosophical Journal:

After reading Dr. Bowker's "rather skeptical" letter in the JOURNAL of Sept. 29th, I thought of Christ's reply to Thomas, "Be not faithless but believing," as applicable to all yet in doubt as to spirit agency.

The Impress of a Noble Life.

To the Editor of the Religio-Philosophical Journal:

In addition to what has been published of the life and labors of Hon. O. H. P. Kinney, of Waverly, N. Y., I feel it due to the cause of Spiritualism to offer this tribute to his memory.

Reflections upon "A Few Thoughts."

To the Editor of the Religio-Philosophical Journal:

"A constant reader" queries attract me to him very much as "like attracts like." I, too, am much puzzled with queer and crooked communications.

Letter from Oregon.

To the Editor of the Religio-Philosophical Journal:

As the State of Oregon is now within six days of Chicago, something about it may be of interest to your readers.

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OFFER TO EXPOSERS AND CONJURERS OF \$1,000. CONTENTS: Home Circles, Suggestions and Rules by Giles B. Stebbins.

Progressive Work in India. The London Spectator says: "The plan for employing female doctors in India, one of the few thoroughly sensible plans recently started by philanthropists, seems likely to be a success."

SPRITUALISM AT ALLIANCE, OHIO.

I was warmly greeted here and like the feeling of the people. The platform had been artistically decorated with a wheat sheaf and vase of rich ripe fruits.

A Ghost on States Island.

(New York World.)

On Monday Under-Sheriff Brown, of Richmond County, who is also proprietor of a variety theatre and hotel at Stapleton, S. E. went on a fishing excursion with a party of friends, among whom were Andrew McGuinness, John Casack, James Donaldson, William Sanberg, John Lowery, Thomas Foley, James A. Healy, James Mortimer and Detective O'Malley.

Test of Spirit Presence.

To the Editor of the Religio-Philosophical Journal:

If it will not be intruding too much, I will relate an incident which occurred some years ago through the mediumship of W. R. Mills, of Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

Progressive Work in India.

The London Spectator says: "The plan for employing female doctors in India, one of the few thoroughly sensible plans recently started by philanthropists, seems likely to be a success."

Test of Spirit Presence.

To the Editor of the Religio-Philosophical Journal:

Is that curious and interesting book, "Beyond the Sunrise, Observations by Two Travellers," (just published by John W. Lowell & Co.) I find an incident related which I copy for your excellent sheet.

Maud E. Lord at Providence, R. I.

To the Editor of the Religio-Philosophical Journal:

This afternoon the Spiritualists of Providence had the pleasure of listening to the experiences of MAUD E. LORD, who gave in State Hall a history of a small portion of her early mediumship.

Negro Reflections.

Come er long an' put on de crown.
An' put on de fowin' robe;
Ye ken praise de Lord in sich a gown
An' laugh at de blues ob Jo.

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Table with columns for Leave, Arrive, and various train routes like Havenport and Peoria Express.

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Organization.

Hon. J. G. Jackson's Reply to "M. A. (Oxon)."

[A late number of our esteemed London contempor...

DEAR SIR.—Attention has been called to the remarks of "M. A. (Oxon)" in your issue of September 22nd...

In the abstract, it would seem to us, if there is good in Spiritualism, that the very statement of the proposition, to organize or not organize...

Your correspondent surely does not suppose—intelligent Spiritualists surely do not believe, that this age of mankind is the first to have received influxes of thought and knowledge from the Spirit-world...

By what logic of thought or experience, then, is it proper to argue that the influxes by which we are now affected in so marked a manner, shall not eventuate in practical good through the same methods whereby man has always realized his growth and advancement in the welfare of body, mind and spirit?

So much for the first abstract view, thus very briefly stated, and that could be indefinitely enlarged upon.

We might as well, in our foolish dread of creed or individual restraint, throw away all the organized powers of civilized society and enter at once into the anarchy that would surely result from unrestrained license...

It has been claimed that good resulted to the world from organizations based upon former influxes from the realm of spirits, even though they, in almost every instance, became formulated into fixed creeds and dogmas.

If then these revelations of the past could yield their modicum of benefit, how hopeful may we be, who are ready to unite our efforts upon the broad basis, that "eternal progress is the birthright of the human spirit," and to incorporate into our platform the right to revise and amend our declared principles.

Is M. A. (Oxon) historically and literally correct in stating that "it was not till centuries had passed away that the teachings of Christ were crystallized and his followers organized into a church?"

Should any kind friend in or about Brazos Point River, Texas, have known a person living there at any time by the name of Ebenezer Canning, they would confer a great favor by furnishing me with their address.

resolved to go to Memphis and see Mr. Mott and see what could be got from him.

A few friends and myself had a séance, and as is customary at all of Mr. Mott's séances, those who had never been there before, were introduced to the first materialized form, that of "General Bledsoe," who conducts the séances. The séances are not totally dark; the lights are merely turned down, so that one can easily distinguish persons in the room; the cabinet is of the usual type for such purposes.

I was called to the cabinet to see my sons; Eb. and Orson; though I could hear them, I could not see them, and could not say that I recognized them.

At the conclusion of every materializing séance a control by the name of Evans, repeats that which has not been understood in the materializing séance, the speaking by materialized forms, being more of a whisper, than otherwise, and not at all times very distinct.

At the next séance, General Bledsoe addressing me, said, that my father, mother and sons were gladly awaiting to show themselves; that he had to help the eldest of my sons, as he was very weak, admonishing me to speak to him kindly; that he had suffered enough for a thousand deaths.

I was soon called up to the aperture of the cabinet. My son Eb. spoke and said it made him feel sad that I could not recognize him the night before, but that I would now, if I stood a little further back; that he would put his face out so that I could see him plainly and be in a position to determine whether it was him or not.

The succeeding evenings were even more satisfactory than the preceding ones, as the forms became more and more distinct and acquiring strength. The forms appear as distinct as those of earth.

A little incident occurred at the last séance is worth mentioning; the form of Mrs. Templeton, the wife of a gentleman present, was the last to appear, and lingered in full view while the lights were being turned up for their full capacity, remained there for a short time and gradually dissolved in sight of everybody present.

I am now convinced of the fact of materialization, and feel grateful for the kind treatment received at the hands of Mr. and Mrs. Mott at Memphis, Mo.

Should any kind friend in or about Brazos Point River, Texas, have known a person living there at any time by the name of Ebenezer Canning, they would confer a great favor by furnishing me with their address.

MRS. GEO. CANNING, P. O. Box 715, Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Meeting in Haverhill, Mass.

To the Editor of the Religio-Philosophical Journal:

The platform at Brittan Hall has been occupied during the Sundays of October, 7th and 14th, by Anthony Higgins. Mr. H. took for his subject Sunday afternoon, the 14th instant, "The Proof of Immortality." After a short apology for the physical and mental condition in which he had been compelled to appear before the people of Haverhill, which he attributed to a severe attack of diphtheria, he proceeded to discuss mediumship, dividing it into three parts: "Genuine Mediumship," "Mixed Mediumship," and "Fraudulent Mediumship," all of which, he said, were good. He spoke quite severely about the good mediumship of the mountebanks, who placed themselves from one side of the country to the other, and also of the arrogance of mediums who refuse the skeptic a chance for scientific investigation.

I listened as carefully as I could during the lecture, but failed to hear a single argument or fact that would in any wise demonstrate the truth of the immortality of the soul.

In the course of his evening remarks, he seemed to remind me of the attitude taken by all or nearly all young converts to a religious faith. They can usually tell all about heaven and hell, God and the devil, vicarious atonement, immaculate conception, and give all the needed information to aged men and maidens, to insure them a happy earth life and a sure passport into the pleasant retreat of Abraham's capacious bosom, as the reward of the faithful.

So Mr. Higgins, after a two months' experience, since he espoused the cause of Spiritualism at Lake Pleasant Camp Meeting, so much to the discomfort of the Severance clique, he seemed to know just what the whole Spiritualist fraternity believe, and what they do not believe. He said they did not believe the Bible, consequently they had no head-center as authority.

They had no decalogue, consequently each man acted for himself. They had knocked the bottom out of hell and all fear was gone, consequently there were no contribution boxes. The result of all was the handful of an audience here-to-night and the ill support of the society here, which was a fair sample of the whole country. He did not believe that Spiritualism would ever formulate as a religious church, therefore he would counsel the society to press on as best they could, and bring out the different phenomena so that all might learn of the facts of immortality before they united themselves with some church.

While Spiritualists have been slow to formulate, having once freed themselves from the bonds of creed and dogma, so far as my experience has gone, they have a keen sense of right and wrong, truth and justice, good and evil, and they find beautiful thoughts expressed within the covers of the book called the Bible, and realize the real spirit of the decalogue, and believe implicitly in the happiness of the good, and also in the misery of evil doers.

W. W. CURRIER.

The Woman Suffrage question has made its appearance even in Holland, where women occupy an exceedingly low position. Miss Alletha Jacobs, M. D., has petitioned the municipality of Amsterdam to recognize her right to vote. She expressed her surprise at the omission of her name from the voting lists, as she lived in Amsterdam, paid the requisite taxes, and possessed civil rights. She has requested immediate redress.

GENERAL NOTES.

Notices of Meetings, movements of Lecturers and Mediums, and other items of interest, for this column are solicited, but as the paper goes to press Tuesday A. M., such notices must reach this office on Monday.

Mrs. O. T. Shepard will lecture next Sunday evening at Lester's Hall, 619 West Lake St.

Two of Longfellow's daughters, a London paper says, intend to enter themselves as students of Newhaven College, England.

The blue laws of Connecticut were yesterday enforced at East Haven, when fourteen persons were fined four dollars and costs for riding in a public highway on Sunday.

The Professors of the Roman Catholic Laval University of Quebec are all accused by Mgr. Fabre, the Bishop within whose jurisdiction it is, with being Freemasons.

An English female suffragist has framed a new indictment against Christianity. She accuses it of "gliding the throes of tyrants and glorifying the priests and the male sex."

William Chapman, a wealthy farmer at White Feather, Mich., having become temporarily insane, as it is said, through religious excitement, hanged himself.

We would call attention to the notice in an other column for a meeting of the Minnesota State Association of Spiritualists. Under the management of Miss Susie Johnson, it surely ought to be a success.

Slavs fight against Magyars in Hungary. In Ireland Celt fights Celt. The latter fight is all the bitter because the combatants are of the same race and imagine they are fighting each other for the love of God.

Vast crowds of people gathered at St. Petersburg to witness the laying of the cornerstone by the Czar and Czarina of the church to be erected over the spot where Alexander II fell a victim to the Nihilistic mode of warfare.

Two ministers stirred up a breeze by leaving a recent meeting of the New Haven West Congregational Conference because the Rev. Mr. Parks of New Haven, whom a council recently refused to install because he does not believe in infant baptism, appeared as a delegate. The two ministers held that Mr. Parks has no ecclesiastical standing in the community.

The first volume of the Vatican Library has been issued at Rome. It bears the cheerful and inviting title of "Hell: The Dogma of Hell. Illustrated by Facts Taken from Profane and Sacred History." A Roman Catholic reviewer says it is "a perfect gem" and "a terribly fascinating little book." No doubt, it seems to be built on the dime novel plan.

J. S. Holm of Albina, Oregon, sends us the circular of a pseudo-clairvoyant, and alludes to it deplorably, saying: "Spiritualism will not prosper until all such are weeded out. Is it any wonder that Spiritualism is often derided by skeptics when their opinions are formed by reading such advertising circulars?"

Any one who would be misled by such a circular certainly must have a weak mind; it bears its fraudulent nature on its face.

Those who look to the advertising columns of the JOURNAL, must be their own judges of the bona fide character of the offers made. If any one expects to get a hundred dollar watch for a twentieth part of that sum, for instance, they will be disappointed. We exercise as much care as possible, but do not claim to be the conservator of the finances of our readers, nor to be able to give the standing of every advertiser, or the quality of his goods.

It is rather in the nature of a farce for Taylor, Cannon and the other Mormon apostles to counsel their hearers at the Salt Lake conference to carry out all their covenants to the church, while at the same time the law enacted by Congress would put every one who faithfully followed their advice into the penitentiary. It is these little discrepancies between doctrine and law which give zest to the monotony of Mormon life, formerly relieved only by the inculcation of discipline in polygamist households.

The latest issue of the Blue Book, which gives the salaries of all government officials, shows that there were in the year prior to its issue, forty-seven postmasters in the country whose salaries for the entire year were less than a dollar each. Eleven who received less than twenty-five cents for the year's work; and that Postmaster Sloan of Perilla post-office, White county, Tenn., actually received the munificent salary of five cents for his entire year's labor in behalf of the community and the Postoffice Department.

The Farm and Stock Journal of Kansas City cautions the public against a naughty man who parts his name in the middle and has been causing would-be patrons of that paper to lose their money and confidence. M. Fairchild's Dond is his name, and the business manager of our contemporary calls him a robber, says he has no authority to represent the paper, and asks the press to pass the fellow around. Dond may have gone to Boston to be "developed" as a first-class "medium" under the instructions of Prof. Jimbliss.

The Christian Advocate says that "students of social science are more and more coming to the conclusion that regulation and licensing of social evils and vices are not to be recommended. Prohibition and not license is the coming watchword. The congress of the British and continental federation for the abolition of state regulation of vice, recently held at the Hague, took unequivocal ground against license. It condemns any official regulation of the social evil, condemns the public supervision implied and included in legal regulation of the vice, and declares that new and remarkable proofs of the absolute failure of state regulation have accumulated during the last few years."

Our energetic London agent, Mr. J. J. Morse, is branching out in a most encouraging and satisfactory manner, we judge from his last monthly advertising circular. He has secured a most eligible foothold at 33 Great Portland Street, which if we recollect right is in or very near the fashionable quarter and certainly where he will attract the notice of those seeking Spiritualist literature. In addition to the work of his book-store and publishing business, he will still continue to lecture and also act as agent and correspondent of foreign papers and publishers. May great success attend him.

Bismarck and Leo are at Peace. The Pope in taking up the fight of Pius IX, has not deemed it necessary to make the Kaiser Wilhelm go to Canossa. A convention is now in preparation at the Vatican which will, it is believed, restore to the Prussian Catholics all that is essential in their demands without disturbing the laws now on Prince Bismarck's statute books. Thus a great imbroglio, which aroused and maintained for years the interest of the whole world, is drawing to an obscure settlement, the fires of contention having burned to a cinder, and some of the principal actors having long passed to their last accounts.

F. W. Davis who, as agent for Barnum, purchases all the animals for the show in Europe, while passing through the city lately, related an incident connected with Jumbo which the agent thought showed the intelligence of the elephant. One Saturday, while the show was at Burlington, Iowa, there was heavy rain during the procession. On the route it was necessary to cross a bridge over a stream running through the city. When Jumbo came to the structure he placed one foot on it, then backed off, and refused to go with the procession. It was necessary to take the elephant to another bridge before he would cross the stream. In less than an hour after the incident Mr. Davis says the structure which Jumbo refused to cross fell in and was swept away by the water.

A Correspondent writes: "The Spirits Farewell Meeting at the West End Opera House last Sunday, was well attended. Mrs. Bromwell's controls spoke and gave tests. George White appealed to Spiritualists and mediums to be firm and more united in their work. He said the work at the meetings had been very satisfactory to the invisible world, and hoped the efforts had been appreciated by mortals as well. The psychometric readings were excellent. Short addresses were made by Dr. Kimble and others; piano solos by Mrs. Satell and Miss Williams. The guides announced that they will hold communion sociables for the public, Sunday evenings, at Mrs. Bromwell's parlors, 435 West Madison St."

An almost marvellous cure, and showing the power of prayer under certain conditions, took place in Lafayette, Ind., Oct. 20th. Miss Agnes Balter, a young lady of highly respectable connections, was stricken with paralysis eight years ago, the disease affecting her from the hip down. She is a devout member of St. Boniface Roman Catholic Church, and has made her affliction the subject of prayer through all her long years of suffering, but with no good results. On the date mentioned she requested to be taken to the church, where the forty-hours' service was in progress. She prayed devoutly during the reading of the mass, and before it was concluded she arose and walked out of the church, sound and well, the first time in eight years she has been able to take a step unaided. The worshipping assembly, who knew of her affliction, were astonished beyond description, and all unite in ascribing it to the power of prayer.

For the past two or three weeks the Tribune has been exercised over an alleged "haunted" house on the South side. It seems to have solved the mystery—not much of a mystery it confesses, but just mystery enough to make a readable notice—in a manner apparently satisfactory to itself, and in a way it evidently desired to solve it from the first. According to the Tribune, the house was "haunted" by rats. Whether or not the "haunting" of the Malstrup house was done by rats those who have been investigating the matter can probably tell, if they have done their work thoroughly, intelligently and well; but the JOURNAL can point the Tribune to scores of "haunted houses" in Chicago, and cite hundreds of them over the length and breadth of the country where the "haunting" is not done by rats, where no policemen need be called in to solve the mystery, and where the residents are neither frightened nor annoyed at the "haunting." On the contrary, they are devoutly thankful that it is their good fortune; to live in a "haunted house," is one of their greatest earthly blessings. Their houses are "haunted" by those who come back to tell of their continued life, interest, love and happiness, bringing enlarged and perfected views of the creation and its workings, broader conceptions of its creator, healing to the sick, comfort to the sorrowing, and a more sweet and glad some life to all who will but receive the light. These haunted houses are blessed houses and peopled by blessed inmates. Is the Tribune strong and brave and honest enough to investigate these "haunted houses" and truthfully publish the result of its investigations?

The JOURNAL is paid for inserting the following notice:

"Any one can obtain a copy of Mediumistic Instruction to sit in the Light—any Light—and communicate with spirits by sending 25 cents to Medium We (Mrs. Anna Whitehead Bodeker), 2801 corner 28th and Grace, Richmond, Virginia. The time has come for every individual to commune with God direct. Amen and amen."

A Bird at a Marriage.

It appears from the current news of the day that an incident worthy of note transpired at Geneva Lake, October tenth, during the nuptial ceremonies at the Catholic church, of Mr. James Knowles, a policeman of Chicago, and Miss Maggie Brennan. When the bride and groom had taken their places and the groomsmen and bridesmaids were taking their position, a bird flew into the church and alighted upon the head of the bridesmaid, Miss Mary Brennan, a sister of the bride. The bird then flew to another part of the church, and fluttering a moment above the head of Mrs. Brennan, mother of the bride, rested upon her head, then flying, it settled upon the shoulder of the bride and remained there during the ceremony, then took its flight through the open window to its native field and wood, perhaps to chatter to its mates the news of two hearts made one, and another home nest begun. Whatever the mission of the uninvited feathery guest, or whether it had a mission, or what it omens, good or ill, the incident is said to be true and vouched for by scores who saw it.

Advertisement for SAMARITAN NERVE with various ailments listed and a testimonial for THE GREAT NERVE CONQUEROR.

Advertisement for CATARRH ELY'S CREAM BALM, describing its uses for various ailments.

Advertisement for DR. C. W. BENSON'S SKIN CURE, listing conditions treated and a testimonial.

Advertisement for CATARRH, describing its effectiveness for various ailments.

Advertisement for RUPTURES CURED, offering medical assistance and testimonials.

Advertisement for ALFRED DENION BRIDGE, Psychometer, Examiner, etc.

Advertisement for PATENTS BOUGHT SOLD OR PROCURED, Books free.

Advertisement for Mrs. C. M. Morrison's MEDICAL HAND as FORMERLY, offering medical services.

Advertisement for McSHANE BELL FOUNDRY, offering various foundry services.

Advertisement for PENSIONS, offering services for pensioners.

Advertisement for KNABE PIANOFORTES, highlighting their quality and durability.

Advertisement for Dr. KEAN, offering medical treatments.

Advertisement for NORA RAY, THE CHILD MEDIUM, A CAPTIVATING BOOK.