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SPECIAL NOTICES.

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

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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 9, 1886.

The Unitarian Conference.

The National Unitarian Conference held its biennial session in Saratoga from the 20th to the 26th of September. Only a cursory glance was needed to convince an observer that it was a notable gathering.

Among the 1500 to 2000 persons who gathered at the regular sessions were the foremost men of the denomination, with few exceptions.

An air of cheerfulness pervaded the sessions, which is refreshing as it is inspiring. The members of the conference meet on a high plane, but they meet cordially, almost affectionately.

What is the purpose of the Unitarian conference, which, established twenty-one years ago, has just held its twelfth session?

On that point let the Christian Register, the Eastern representative of Unitarianism, speak:

"It is our largest representative body. It fits and fairly represents the purpose, the plans, the tendencies, and the great hopes of those who make up this constituency.

"Its opportunities are national, its purposes are inclusive, its policy magnanimous... Its one great purpose from the beginning, that which has inspired its leaders and shaped its action, has been to proclaim to the people of America a cheerful doctrine of the providence of God.

"It gathers into its wide intention every form of benevolence, every method of reform, every incentive to righteousness. Its main purpose is to work. It has no use for beliefs which do not help its work, and it lays no stress upon beliefs of any kind which do not help its main purpose, to raise the standard of human condition and aspiration.

We would like to see incorporated in this declaration, a clear affirmation of the continuity of life beyond the grave and of the world of progress and development which awaits mortals.

no broader or sublimer platform for a religious association can well be conceived or adopted.

But, if Unitarianism be hampered with an organization, it is also helped. It introduces a liberal religion into regions darkened with the smoke of an eternally burning hell, through missionary enterprises planned and carried out in these conferences.

As a body, the Unitarian is a rich denomination, and the members give freely and in proportion to their riches.

It may be questionable if the Unitarians have always been a "little in advance of the best thought and policy" of the time, even if they have been of the "contemporaneous churches."

Mr. Savage's address was fair and courageous; it could not be, on such an occasion, minute or exhaustive.

The discourses at the conference, outside of those devoted to the work of the denomination, were marked by variety of subject and breadth of treatment.

There were also two papers on the "Use and Abuse of Alcohol and Tobacco," one explaining the "Attitude of the church toward the Dram-shop," by Judge Robert C. Pitman, of Massachusetts, the other, "A Medical view of the Subject," by Francis Minot, M. D., of Boston.

What Unitarians most need is precisely what the facts of Spiritualism could give them, a knowledge of continuous individual life after death.

Judge E. S. Holbrook has returned from his Eastern trip, looking hale and hearty. He visited the various camp meetings and had a good time generally among Spiritualists and his New England friends.

Burnham Wardwell, a well known prison reformer, died at his home in Boston, Oct. 30. Mr. Wardwell was 68 years old.

Wanderings in the Northwest Wheat Country.

PRELUDE.

Nature is prompt in changing the fashion of her dress to suit the season. On this hazy, mellow September day away up here in the forests of northern Michigan my eyes tell me a change is already at hand.

"I love to wander through the woodlands hoary in the soft light of an autumnal day, When Summer gathers up her robes of glory, And like a dream of beauty glides away."

Then, coming wholly back to earth again, I am reminded that if the touch of Jack Frost has left crimson blotches on the maple trees, it has also given hope to seven hundred sneezing sojourners down there on the Bay.

It is a month since the JOURNAL'S readers were led to expect they might hear further from its editorial party the following week.

On the afternoon of August 20th huge banks of black, angry clouds rolled up from the West, the waters of Minnetonka sympathized with the spirits of the air, and the scene had too cyclonic an aspect to warrant our party's risking passage in the little yacht which was to transport us to Wayzata in the evening.

I call a truce, and we seat ourselves on the shore of Wayzata Bay to while away the hours. The sun goes behind the fringe of forest, shadows gather on the water, fishermen come around the point light or laden, as luck has frowned or smiled on them, heading for the shore and supper.

I am told however that steps are being taken to this end. I do not mean to convey the idea that swamps prevail for they do not to any extent, but the quality of the soil over considerable areas would be improved by ditching.

The topography of the country is a surprise to me. Before daylight we passed the "divide," and now there is an imperceptible fall toward the north.

their voices with the winds singing through the scented forest; a hymn of thanksgiving and praise echoes along the shore.

As we walk leisurely to the station, little do we dream of the terrible transformation scene to be enacted here before another sun goes down. The next afternoon, as if repenting the mildness of the day previous, the wind seizes huge trees and uses them for whips, piles wave on wave in the little inlet, drives the huge Belle of Minnetonka on to the beach and sends to the bottom of the lake four of the men whom we had seen rowing from the station to their summer homes the night before.

The great railroad system known as the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railway, offers the traveler a choice of lines from St. Paul to and through the entire length of the famous Red River Valley and north to the line of Queen Victoria's dominions, one on either side of the Red River of the North.

A brief stop at Wahpeton and the train pulls across the river again; its general direction during the night has been northwest, now it heads northeast.

The topography of the country is a surprise to me. Before daylight we passed the "divide," and now there is an imperceptible fall toward the north.

Since the above was written the Northwest Indian Commission, composed of Hon. John V. Wright of Tennessee, Bishop Whipple of Minnesota, and Major Larrabee of the U. S. Indian Bureau, has negotiated a treaty with the various Indian tribes of Minnesota whereby over 3,000,000 acres of land will be opened for settlement.

somewhat this year but the quality is perfect. Those who are posted assert there is not a bushel of wheat in all the millions waiting the thrasher that will fall below the grade of "No. 1 hard."

As we approach Rolette, 277 miles from St. Paul, the "Loekhart farm" comes into view. While there are many bigger farms, this is not so very small, comprising as it does 5,000 acres all under cultivation or improvement.

At 10 o'clock we reach Crookston and are again astonished; indeed astonishment has now come to be our normal condition.

At Crookston we leave the sleeper, as it continues north to Winnipeg, and take a train on another branch of the same railway for Devils Lake, Dakota.

Since the above was written the Northwest Indian Commission, composed of Hon. John V. Wright of Tennessee, Bishop Whipple of Minnesota, and Major Larrabee of the U. S. Indian Bureau, has negotiated a treaty with the various Indian tribes of Minnesota whereby over 3,000,000 acres of land will be opened for settlement.

excellent medium and healer, I certainly do, and esteem them highly; why? "My wife is their daughter," replies the conductor, "and my name is Copeland."

Of the truth of this I cannot judge, but am glad to hear such testimony from those who have got to work out the problem.

The next point of importance is Larimore, where we cross another arm of the giant St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railway.

At five o'clock, Saturday afternoon, the train reaches Devils Lake City, 409 miles from St. Paul, about 60 miles from the Manitoba line and in latitude 45° north, longitude 99° west from Greenwich.

It is Sunday morning and the day promises to be a scorcher. Curtis suggests that we take the steamer and cross the lake to Fort Totten.

The steamer which takes us to the fort was built by Capt. Ed. Heerman who navigates her, and was ready for business on the day the first passenger train entered Devils Lake City.

days were consumed and thirteen teams thoroughly exhausted in accomplishing the journey, but the Captain avers most emphatically that he did not suffer with the cold.

Fort Totten occupies a commanding position on the bluffs overlooking the lake and surrounding country. The buildings are of brick, manufactured on the other side of the lake.

Here is an Indian school where the children from the Indian Reservation are educated under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Church. The school is in charge of four Sisters of the order of Gray Nuns.

But let us get away, the steamer is coming round the promontory, her whistle warns us to go to the wharf; a corporal's guard files out from the fort and marches to the landing.

Good-by, Gray Nuns! I reject your theology, but respect your devotion, and admire your self-sacrificing spirits and pure lives.

As we steam along, Captain Heerman points out a deserted eagle's nest in the forks of a huge tree which stands out alone as if ashamed of its pigmy companions.

We have heard much about the fishing in Devils Lake, but inquiry upon the spot develops the information that pickerel are the only game that comes to one's hook here, and they are neither gamey nor fine of flavor.

It is not in the nature of things that Devils Lake should be without its weird stories; and several of them we had at first hand.

The Rev. J. M. Buckley, D. D., editor of the Christian Advocate, and author of the article recently published in The Century on "Faith-Healing and Kindred Phenomena," will contribute to the same magazine a series of articles on the subject of Dreams, Presentiments, Astrology, Clairvoyance, and Spiritualism, of which he has made a life-long study.

Every day adds to the great amount of evidence as to the curative powers of Hood's Sarraparilla. It is unequalled for general debility, and as a blood purifier, expelling every trace of scrofula or other impurity.

Not by any secret remedy, but by proper, healthful exercise and the judicious use of Scott's Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil and Hypophosphites, containing the healing and strength-giving virtues of these two valuable specifics in their fullest form.

We take pleasure in calling the attention of our readers to the advertisement of the Knickerbocker Brace Co., in this issue of our paper.

Piso's Cure for Consumption is the best Cough medicine. 25 cts. per bottle.

Business Notices.

Chloroform Healer. D. P. KAYNER, M. D., who has been before the public as a reliable chloroform physician since 1850, can be consulted at Room 11, No. 175 Jackson St., Chicago; or by addressing him in care of the Religio-Philosophical Journal, with postage stamp, full particulars of terms will be given for each case.

Chloroform Examinations Free. Enclose lock of hair, with leading symptoms. We will give you a correct diagnosis of your case.

Passed to Spirit-Life.

Rev. Asa Warren of Waterloo, Iowa, after almost seventy-seven years of earth-life, with a full share of its labors, disappointments and trials, not unmitigated with much sunshine and joy, ascended to his long-expected home in the higher and better life, on Sunday morning, Sept. 10th.

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on the line of the BURINGTON, CEDAR RAPIDS & NORTHERN RAILWAY, you will find that you can purchase a Home as cheap and on as good terms as can be had in either of the above localities, and in a beautiful country where droughts and cyclones are unknown.

Mrs. Olliphant is writing a series of articles to appear in The Century during the coming year, describing some of the celebrated men and women of Queen Anne's reign, including the Queen, the Duchess Sarah, Dean Swift, and Daniel Defoe.

Consumption can be Cured. Not by any secret remedy, but by proper, healthful exercise and the judicious use of Scott's Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil and Hypophosphites.

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Voices From the People.

AND INFORMATION ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS.

The Message.

I sat one night alone, On rock-ribbed barriers of the sea, And watched the ripples break and flee...

In the Arms of Her Old Slave.

The following story illustrates the fact that there are noble souls among the colored people; those that are willing to care for a suffering soul in the hour of adversity...

Notings.

It is a long time since I have written a word for the JOURNAL. At present our little band of true and energetic Spiritualists are quiet but firm.

The Delphos, Kansas, Camp Meeting.

The first day, Sept. 3rd, found our camp grounds in a fair way of preparation for the approaching season. The many visitors expected, and in the evening we held an interesting meeting...

The Healing Power.

Sure, we say is the age of intellect, and mind holds the reins of the fast flying steeds of material progress. Even in the realm of bodily disease there is now a more general belief than ever before that "As a man thinketh in his heart so is he."

Wm. E. Coleman and his Critics.

To the Editor of the Religio-Philosophical Journal: I have always read with much interest and profit the articles by your scholarly correspondent, Mr. Wm. E. Coleman, and I am sorry for the cause of advanced thought that he felt obliged, in your issue of Sept. 11th, to make a defence of his methods for the benefit of those neophytes in learning who...

Inspiration. The Bible is not a set of divinely inspired documents. It is absolutely impossible that it should be such. Verbal inspiration is not possible. If we consider that the man spoke face to face with God, then we must say that the memory of that man was imperfect; that the memory of those who heard him repeat it, and in their turn repeated it to their children, were also imperfect. We must say that the writer who long afterwards put it down in writing, was inspired. And again, when, in the course of time, printing was invented, the printers were inspired. Yes, the printer's devil was inspired, and every one in the whole printing establishment was inspired from his friends. The Bible has suffered from its friends. And the doctrine originated to give authority to an infallible Pope. Verbal inspiration has done more harm than all the other doctrines pretending to have their authority from the Bible. The Bible is not infallible. It is simply the progressive history of the way in which man received his ideas of what God may be. If you take the Bible in this broad, historical, common-sense ground, you can keep what is valuable in it and answer all questions of the scoffers. In Genesis we find the natural idea of God held by primitive people. You say I do not believe that God walked in the Garden of Eden in the afternoon because the moonday sun was too hot to be comfortable. These people conceived of him only as a man of greater power than themselves. We do not believe that when a sacrifice was made God came down because he smelt roast beef. These ideas are a part of the ideas of the age. Man is imperfect; he must be dealt with through imperfect mediums. And the historical pre-eminence of the Bible towers in the ages. With the New Testament it is the earthen vessel, cracked and mellowed, in which the treasure is kept. Christ's sayings lived in the memory of those he loved. They were scattered abroad by his disciples. Later the sayings were collected and written down. These anecdotes of Christ were, of course, many of them spurious. - Rev. H. R. Havens, in Harvard College Chapel.

A Train Dispatcher's Story.

Several years ago I was employed as train dispatcher on a Southwestern American railroad...

During the trying days of Charlie's illness I spent all the time I could spare by his side...

As usually happens in such cases, the excursion-train did not get ready to leave on time...

"Poor fellow," I thought, "it will be a long time before he enters that door again, if he ever does..."

Instead of his usual hearty greeting he took no notice of me at all, but he turned to the left and set down...

"What is it to be a Christian?" will be sent to any address on receipt of 10 cents in stamps.

Quick as a flash came back the response from each station, and in less time than it takes me to write it the order had been repeated and signed by the conductor...

An hour after I was awakened by a familiar voice and looked up to find Frank Dwyer, one of our conductors, who had volunteered to watch that night with Charlie...

The story comes from White Sulphur Springs, Va., that at a champagne party there a young married lady of fashionable dress...

When Col. Sellers gives you a "pointer" in stocks my friends, leave them severely alone, but when your own feelings tell you that you have palpitation of the heart, asthma, bronchitis or catarrh which unless checked are apt to run into consumption...

All the graveyards in Paris are filled. It is said that death-furnaces are a necessity there, and that cremation is daily practiced.

Sufferers are not generally aware that these diseases are contagious, or that they are due to the presence of living parasites in the lining membrane of the nose and eustachian tubes...

Archduke Joseph of Austria has written a grammar of the language of the gypsies. It bears the title of "Romancicologia gipsiesca."

An African of the genuine original type is said to be living in the County of Virginia. He was brought over to this country from Africa in 1791.

Chronic

Catarrh destroys the sense of smell and taste, consumes the cartilages of the nose, and, unless properly treated, hastens its victim into Consumption.

Can be cured by the use of Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

For thoroughly eradicating the poisons of Catarrh from the blood, take

Ayer's Sarsaparilla. It will restore health and vigor to decaying and diseased tissues, when everything else fails.

Catarrh

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J. WINCHESTER, Columbia, Cal.

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