







Religio-Philosophical Journal.

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BY JOHN C. BUNDY.

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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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CHICAGO, ILL., Saturday, March 15, 1890.

Persons receiving copies of the RELIGIO-PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL, who have not subscribed, may know that their address has been supplied by a friend and that the paper is either paid for by some one or is sent with the hope of closer acquaintance.

Twenty-Five Years.—Then and Now.

In May 1865 the RELIGIO-PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL was founded, consequently it will be twenty five years old in May next. What marvellous changes, discoveries and advances the world has witnessed in the quarter of a century!

In 1865 the population of Chicago was 178,539, to-day it is over 1,000,000. Then, there was not a first-class publishing establishment in the city, not one in which a good job of edition book work could be certainly predicated in advance of completion; now Chicago leads the world in some branches of book-making and has dozens of perfectly equipped printing houses.

of stockholders. By tampering with the ballot box they succeeded in ousting the management and installing themselves. In nine months they had ruined the corporation and their conspiracy went to pieces leaving a mortgaged and gutted printing establishment and an unsecured indebtedness of about \$10,000.

The history of the JOURNAL for the past thirteen years need hardly be dwelt upon here. Most of its present readers are more or less familiar with it. The JOURNAL has maintained itself in a course of intrepid, independent journalism unequalled by anything in the history of the American press.

"Is Spiritualism on Trial?"

On the sixth page a correspondent, who is also a medium, inquires: "Is Spiritualism on trial in the person of Dr. W. E. Reid?" To which we very emphatically and unhesitatingly reply, No! Here is the case in brief: Mr. Reid, while prosecuting a large retail business in alleged spirit products, used the United States mail service to deliver his goods and receive orders therefor—cash in advance.

As to the merits of the case against Mr. Reid we are not prepared to decide, not having examined the evidence. We sincerely hope he will be able to establish his innocence. We have in the past two years repeatedly declined to publish accusations made against him by correspondents, and in some cases have taken the trouble to write complaints in extenuation of his seeming crookedness, which we thought might be explained by his inability to keep up with the demand for his goods, or, to want of ability to handle so large a patronage.

ever, his "defense committee" exploited him as a martyr, declaring that Spiritualism was on trial, and appealed to the Spiritualist public to generously contribute to a fund for the defense of Spiritualism, we washed our hands of the whole affair. It was at once apparent that revenue was the object, and that the "dear Spiritualists" were to be bled as freely as possible to put money in the purses of lawyers.

A Doctor's Dream.

"Well, that would be the result of a strange dream I had last night; I'll have to tell you about it." This was the reply of Dr. J. R. Boynton to our question. We had dropped in upon our good friend who, we will parenthetically say, we believe has no superior as a surgeon and whose ability in diagnosis and treatment of disease makes him one of the busiest and most useful men in Chicago, although he is not yet five years a resident.

"Neither! my dear fellow," smilingly responded Dr. B., "I never toy with any of those nightmare breeders; my nerves are steady and my health is perfect; I've nothing to worry me. One peculiarity of the dream was that the sensation of suffocation from smoke, and indeed the whole scene, was not the sequence of a dream having several distinct stages; I've told you all there was of it. In a sweet sleep the agonizing scene was suddenly thrust upon me, and with no ground in any waking experience in which it could have germinated. What do you make of it Colonel?"

We confessed our inability to offer any provable explanation, but congratulated the surgeon that it was not his "operating hand." After further chat, his reception room having in the meantime filled up with impatient patients, we abruptly terminated the visit out of consideration for Doctor B. and left. Our own duties were so pressing that no further thought was given to the dream. The next morning what was our astonishment upon opening one of the many dailies that professional duty obliges us regularly to scan before breakfast, to read in big head lines: "Saved by an Invalid. Miss Flora Sauer's Heroic Work. Her home at 285 La Salle Avenue catches fire and she arises from a sick bed to arouse the family who narrowly escape death." The account continued as follows:

The families of Dr. J. R. Boynton and Dittman Sauer had a thrilling experience with fire shortly after 11 o'clock last night. Dr. Boynton occupied the two lower floors of the brown-stone residence at 285 La Salle Avenue and Mr. Sauer the two upper stories. Mr. Sauer's furnace set fire to the wood-work around it and the fire and smoke ascended through an open shaft to the top floor, where the family was sleeping. It alarmed Miss Flora Sauer, who is just recovering from a severe attack of typhoid fever. She awakened her father and mother, and the former hastened down to the basement, and in vain tried to extinguish the flames which were caught in a trap from which he escaped only by the exercise of all his powers.

whom he snatched from her crib, and was followed by his wife, also half dressed. A neighbor took her to the street, Mrs. Sauer and her servant escaped from the burning building with three little children by making their way down a winding flight of stairs to the street through clouds of dense, blinding smoke. They were promptly taken to the home of T. A. Busch, Miss Sauer, who discovered the fire, had a narrow escape. She followed her plucky mother, who was carrying her little boy in her arms, but before she had descended the first flight of stairs the dense smoke had so far overcome her that she was scarcely able to hold on to the railing.

After reading the account of the fire our convictions concerning the cause and significance of Dr. Boynton's dream were greatly clarified. What those convictions were will be readily apparent to all our readers.

Unsectarian Schools and Secular Government.

Rev. Dr. Keane, rector of the Catholic University at Washington, recently gave a lecture in Baltimore before the "Catholic Association" on "The American Child and the Christian School," in which he urged the introduction of Christianity into our public schools. Two policies he said suggest themselves. The first is the compromise policy which would so minimize Christianity in schools as to make it acceptable even to those who have the least Christian faith.

Doubtless the advocacy of this policy is to prepare the way for an agitation in favor of denominational schools and a division of the school fund between the Christian sects. The Roman Catholic hierarchy wants "Christianity" taught in the schools attended by Catholic children. It does not want Protestantism taught, it does not want King James' version of the Bible read, it does not want the general principles of religion taught with the Catholic doctrines in regard to Jesus, the Virgin Mary, etc., omitted. In short it does not want anything less than Catholic schools for Catholic children, and in order to secure such schools, to have them recognized as public schools, and to obtain for them a share pro rata of the school fund, it is willing that the remainder of the school fund shall go to the Protestant sects.

There is quite a large Protestant element unwittingly aiding the Roman Catholic Church in its purpose, by producing a sentiment in favor of Christianizing our public institutions, and making the constitution of the United States an evangelical document. If the Catholic leaders can secure in their interests a strong sentiment against entirely secular schools and in favor of having Christianity taught, by the authority of the State, there will be no difficulty, and not much delay, with ten millions of Catholics in the United States, in accomplishing their purpose of having Catholic schools, and money from the public school fund to support them. The founders of this Republic disregarding all precedents, with full knowledge of all the evils of the union of Church and State which had cursed the world for centuries, aimed to put the government on an entirely secular basis, so that the State should have nothing to do with religion except to protect the adherents of all faiths in the undisturbed enjoyment of their belief and devotions.

Secret Societies—The Free Masons and Others.

From the National Christian Association of this city, the JOURNAL has received a printed call, signed by several hundred clergymen, for a conference of Christians on the secret lodge system, to be held April 22 and 23, 1890, in the first M. E. church, corner Washington and Clark streets, Chicago. The circular says: "During the past year events of national importance have fixed the attention of our people as never before upon the extent and power of the secret lodge system. The Cronin murder in Chicago, the investigation of Mormon oaths in Salt Lake City and the uprising against intrigue in Boston and the British Provinces have been a new revelation to multitudes of the danger lurking in the system. This influence affects the administration of justice and all other departments of the government, but especially it is inimical to the Christian Church."

issued this call is to enlist against secret societies in general the strong indignation aroused by the Cronin horror, and with the anti-Mormon sentiment and the feeling of opposition to Catholic aggressions. For many years conventions have been held from time to time in the West to denounce and oppose secret societies. The more strict observance of "the Lord's day," Prohibition and the Christianization of the government have been among the other declared objects of the leaders, of whom the late Dr. Blanchard of Wheaton College was the most zealous and active. The denunciation of Free Masonry could always be relied upon as a prominent part of the programme. Indeed by secret societies was meant Masonry, which was declared to be an anti-Christian organization, made up largely of infidels and blasphemers, bound together by horrible oaths to do things at the thought of which Christians should shudder. The order of Free Masonry has continued to exist, increasing in membership, while of this movement against it not much has been heard of late. It is evidently thought now is a good time to revive it.

More opposition to secret societies as such, will amount to nothing. Men have the right to form themselves into organizations and, if they wish, to keep the proceedings to themselves. It is only when the organization encroaches on the rights of those outside, that there is ground for complaint. A society, whether it be secret or open, should be judged by its principles, its purposes and its work. The fact that it holds meetings with closed doors, and has signs of recognition known only to its members, is nothing against it. There may be no need of such societies now. Once there was, and they served the cause of learning, philosophy and political freedom.

Free masonry is a benevolent order, which amid warring sects has maintained its unsectarian character and afforded men of different religious and political beliefs a common basis of fellowship and fraternity in the feelings of the heart, in the needs of men, and in those universal principles which are common to all religious and moral systems; while it has helped the orphan and the widow and the brother in distress, it has promoted a tolerant and liberal spirit. Nowhere has it been on the side of oppression and persecution. The Masonic lodges of France and Italy have been repeatedly denounced by the pope, but never by the friends of freedom and reform.

The Odd Fellows and other secret benevolent orders have grown out of the needs of men, and have been helpful in their influence, socially and morally. Because one of the camps of the Clan-na-Gael, or members of it, conspired against the life of a brother who had exposed fraud and theft, or because ignorant and fanatical Mormons take strange oaths, or because the Jesuits scheme now, as they have for centuries schemed, to advance their religion, one need not denounce all secret societies, including such as the Free Masons and the Odd Fellows, nor question the right of men to unite in organizations for business or pleasure, and, if they see fit, to confine knowledge of the proceedings to themselves. If the clergymen whose names are signed to this call hope to form a public sentiment against all secret societies, regardless of their principles and objects, by repeating the Endowment House oaths, or describing the methods of the Jesuits, or by recounting the Chicago tragedy of last year, they are likely to be disappointed.

"Your Watch Has Started."

Last Sunday morning the editor did not rise early; he didn't care about rising at all, but the exigencies of his profession obliged him to bestir himself. After breakfast he seated himself in his library to look over the morning papers. While engrossed in an article and wholly oblivious to surroundings he distinctly heard the words, "your watch has started," drawing forth the time-piece he found to his astonishment that the voice had told the truth. He did not hear the words with his physical ear, it is quite impossible to describe the sensation, yet in some way the words came spontaneously into his consciousness as from some external source. Saturday afternoon he had broken away from office callers in order to catch a train to Englewood for the purpose of calling on a very dear friend just recovering from a long and painful illness. In his anxiety not to miss the train he was further perplexed by the certainty that his watch did not show the exact time. He caught on to the rear end of the train just as it pulled out of the station. On his return he found he had some minutes to wait at the station in Englewood, and took advantage of the delay to adjust his watch with the clock. The watch is a stem-winder, adjustable by drawing out a spring and turning the winding stem. To his chagrin he found after adjusting it to 15 minutes and 35 seconds past 5 o'clock that it wouldn't tick, in fact that it obstinately refused to be coaxed or forced into its usual work. Between that hour and midnight he probably looked at the watch a dozen times, but it had not budged a second; and there it stood in the morning. He had of course given up all thought of its resuming motion without the help of a watch repairer. Hence when he heard the words, "your watch has started," and verified the statement both by eye and ear he was astonished. When he opened the case to look at the face it had been going only ten seconds. At this writing—Monday morning—it is doing its work as though nothing had happened. Query: How did the impression that the watch had started reach the editor's brain, was it through the sensitiveness of the nervous



Voices from the People.

AND INFORMATION ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS.

SONG OF THE SEA.

The song of the sea was an ancient song... In the days when the world was young...

The song of the sea was a hungry sound... As the human years unrolled...

The song of the sea is a wondrous lay... For it mirrors human life...

THE UNFINISHED STOCKING.

Lay it aside—her work—no more she sits... Lay it aside—the needles in their places...

Boston Notes.

To the Editor of the Religio-Philosophical Journal. Boston has some fine or ten active spiritual societies...

Reminiscences of Witchcraft.

To the Editor of the Religio-Philosophical Journal. The events I am about to relate occurred some seventy-five or eighty years ago...

mysterious doings. On retiring for the night, my mother related to him the state of affairs...

In the year 1836 my father was keeping a hotel in Cayuga Co., N. Y. My mother was away from home when great disturbances began in the house...

On Organization.

To the Editor of the Religio-Philosophical Journal. I have read all that has been published in the JOURNAL on this subject...

The Cause in Titusville, Pa.

To the Editor of the Religio-Philosophical Journal. It is a long time since your readers have received a sketch of my whereabouts and doings...

residents are very conservative and regard Spiritualism as the "bete noir," and its adherents...

New Psychical Organization.

To the Editor of the Religio-Philosophical Journal. In the JOURNAL of Feb. 28, I see a report of the success of these children...

Can't Understand It.

To the Editor of the Religio-Philosophical Journal. I cannot understand how an atheistic materialist can logically and consistently be a Spiritualist...

An Appreciative Medium.

To the Editor of the Religio-Philosophical Journal. I am not going to writing letters of praise, and do not wish to give the credit myself...

Is "Spiritualism on Trial?"

To the Editor of the Religio-Philosophical Journal. "Is Spiritualism on trial in the person of Dr. W. E. Reid?" is the question that has agitated the mind of some in this locality...

of the case that he defeats his own ends; yet he has followers. I had listened to his assertion so often that when it was again brought before the public...

Spirit Prophecy.

To the Editor of the Religio-Philosophical Journal. In all ages of the world unseen influences have been at work upon the people...

From Cleveland, Ohio.

To the Editor of the Religio-Philosophical Journal. The brilliant and scholarly lectures of J. Clegg which created a sensation here...

B. A. Cleveland of Ottumwa, Iowa, says:

The JOURNAL should have a large circulation as it must meet the wants of many honest investigators after truth...

E. L. Cleveland of Denver, Col., writes:

I am one of those who rejoice at your victory over materialization tricksters and all other fraud workers who have made the cause of Spiritualism appear what it is not...

science, psychic science and esotericism—who have learned like parrots to run through a lot of unmeaning trash which they cannot explain...

Mr. Wm. H. Banks, Boston, in remitting a new year subscription for the RELIGIO-PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL...

Mr. L. P. Wheelock, Moline, Ill., in remitting his subscription, says: I am a subscriber to several of the leading Spiritualist papers...

Notes and Extracts on Miscellaneous Subjects.

Ohio has 31,269 more boys than girls. Two-thirds of the university students of Austria are Jews...

The Bank of France has at present \$250,000,000 in gold in its cellar. More than ten per cent. of the American Indians are church members...

A carat of gold received its name from the carat seed of the Abyssinian coral flower. Italy has a debt of \$4,362,800,000...

A farm near Madouff, Scotland, has been handed down from father to son for 300 years. A cave discovered near Chicago, Cal., is said to rival the Mammoth Cave of Kentucky...

Two hearts and two livers were taken from a chicken killed at Lock Haven, Pa., recently. Reading has a silent barber who has a large number of customers. He is deaf and dumb...

Fresno county, Cal., has a hermit who has lived there thirty years without seeing the county seat. The surest test of a frozen orange is its weight. If it is heavy in the hand it has not been frozen...

According to the United States coast survey reports, the polar axis is twenty-six miles shorter than the equatorial axis. I. P. Hatch, of Santa Cruz, Cal., is said to have succeeded in solidifying crude petroleum oil...

A dance given for the purpose of raising money with which to buy a hearse was one of the events of last week in Oxford county, Me. Peter Sinclair, of Wauson, Ohio, on a wager, at once, at a single game, a dozen doughnuts, and drank three millions of cider...

Some remarkable caves have been discovered in West Australia. Two of them would afford accommodation for 200,000 men each. It is said that the highest priced book ever sold was the vellum missal presented to King Henry VIII by Pope Leo X, which brought \$50,000...

General Grant's old farm, just out of St. Louis, has been sold, but the log house built by him in 1822 will be removed and preserved as a relic. A perfect penknife, which measures three-sixteenths of an inch in length, has been made by Dr. John Temple, of Marshallton, Chester county, Pa. There are fifty manufactories of imitation butter in Germany. A factory in Mannheim produces daily 6,000 pounds from a preparation of cocoon...

The mineral called tar, or brazillin, lately discovered in Bahia, furnishes an alkali petroleum, a paraffine suitable for the manufacture of candles, and a good lubricating oil. To set delicate colors in embroidered handkerchiefs, soak them ten minutes previous to washing in a pail of tepid water, in which a dessertspoonful of turpentine has been well stirred. The statistics of the Salvation Army, furnished by Gen. Booth at the last grand conference, which took place at Alexandria, Va., show an increase of 283 corps and 1,655 officers. The march of Gen. Booth was performed by a body of over 20,000 soldiers and was marked with intense fervor...

A remarkable spot in Vermont is the farming town of Waltham, which contains 9,760 acres of land and has 215 inhabitants. It has no postoffice, church, town house, poor house, store, lawyer, doctor, blacksmith's shop, nor even a bridge, and yet it is one of the thriving towns of Addison county. Its taxes are merely nominal. The natural cunning of the fox was shown at New Ipswich, N. H., the other day. A fox that was started by a hunter ran directly to a pond and passed across it on the ice and repeated the same word as possible. The dogs followed closely, and coming upon weak ice, broke through, and but for help given them would have drowned. Meantime Reynard escaped to a place of safety. Edison's phonograph has found a new application at the Milwaukee College, where it will be used as an assistant in teaching the French and other foreign languages. The phonograph of course never gets tired, and can be used to repeat the same word hundreds of times. In giving a lesson the teacher reads it before the phonograph, at the same time addressing the pupils and the lesson is reproduced whenever wanted. A notorious Buenos Ayres bandit named Ippolito Andre has been captured in Genoa, to which place he had escaped. His recent robberies are said to have netted him 1,000,000 francs. He was taken aboard the steamer on which he arrived. In his possession were found 30,000 francs in gold, two receipts for large sums of money lodged in a French bank and a box containing articles of jewelry of great value. He was accompanied by his wife and children. In Wales there are, according to a computation made a few years ago, 120,653 Congregationalists, 119,355 Calvinistic Methodists, 81,932 Baptists, 32,146 Presbyterians, 1,610 Primitive Methodists, 1,240 Bible Christians. The Unitarian body has about 5,000 adherents, chiefly in South Wales. There are a few congregations belonging to the Methodist Free church, and also to the Presbyterian church of England. Wong and Fong, two eminent Chinese commercial men interested in the syndicate which is to have the light by electricity during ninety years of all the principal Chinese cities, have just arrived in New York to purchase an enormous electrical plant. It must have made them say Hi-ya when they first saw the poles and wires coming down in all directions. That the phosphorescence of putrid fish or meat is due to the presence of bacteria does not seem strange, but a French naturalist, M. Giard, has been making observations of living marine crustacea which go to prove that their phosphorescence is due to the presence of bacteria in the muscles. On inoculating healthy individuals, the diseased condition was transmitted, and M. Giard's laboratory was well lighted at night by these luminous but diseased crustaceans. The old Burnside mansion of New Orleans, erected at vast expense by the famous millionaire banker, James Robb, at the time of the marriage of his daughter with a Spanish grandee, and subsequently sold by him to that Croesus of sugar planters, John Burnside, has just been sold at auction, all the persons interested in the property being dead. Things must have gone cheap, as two paintings by Durand, the father of American landscape painting, were sold for \$130 each. Hamilton, Ohio, has a number of haunted houses and has just discovered another. According to reports a white form flits in and out, passes its hands over the faces of the sleeping occupants, and when it gets tired goes to sleep in a nice white coffin that occupies a position in whatever room the ghost sees fit to put it. It follows the people in the house from room to room, and when it has had enough sport frightening them almost to death quietly walks through a wall and goes home to get ready for the next night's scaring expedition. When the ghost next appears it has a new programme.



