



Original Essays.

For the Religio-Philosophical Journal.

LAUGHTER.

BY F. B. DOWD.

Laughter! That angel of heart's delight! Thou younger sister of tears! Still do thy but thoughtless slings to thee, for thou art my earliest consolation. Tears come first, spontaneously, as if gushing from a fountain in the depths of nature, pent and bound and suddenly loosed. But laughter comes afterwards; not of itself, but from many a cause and finger-poke at my face, dimpled chin and soft cheeks. From the dear mother who bore me, and father, grandmother, grandfather, aunt, uncle, and scores of unwashed urchins whose great delight was to "see baby laugh." Well do I remember the great joy of my mother's heart, which expressed itself in great tears and warm kisses upon my forehead, when I first opened up my mouth and uttered my first "Ma-ma."

small inwardly must the world of nonsuchers feel. They look gravely upon a world of trifles, as if they were of more consequence than their own souls. The braver never laughs at his depositions, stocks and bonds; the merchant never laughs at his store of goods, ledgers and books; the lawyer never laughs at his clients, or the politician at his constituents (but grins mischievously at them after the election); the clergyman never laughs at his congregation, or with them. I wonder why. When in life's journey did Time hand subvert the fables of that human face which, and left great furrows there, it seemed as if laughter had been drained away, like the moisture of life, and left the soil parched and baked, so that to laugh would be hideous. It is seldom that an old man laughs. If you see such, you may set him down not only as a pilloopher, but as one whose record is good, whose conscience is clear. It is an art which was when young, but not so easy when one sees only an open grave before him, and behind, naught but buried hopes, blighted joys, and a life whose fast-flaming hours mock at him with strange sounds, seeming to laugh like the water-fwing of a fountain, or the beating of a drum, or the rattling of a rattle. Flaming words, each gleam, glint, glug, making the number him. Who is there who sends out hearty hallo at wrinkles, gray hairs bald heads and the grave? Not many. Yet only those who laugh at decay, time and death are eternally childlike. It is no longer made me laugh, but I can laugh enough with it, as the poet says, "I can laugh at my own age, and at the age of others, and at the time, and at the things which men regard of such vast importance, that it abounds the best minds (so called) of every age and every clime, it is a monopoly."

Let Christ know that the servant would certainly be cured, and said so. Those who will study the philosophy of mind in connection with the subject, will soon learn that the mind is all-powerful, and when the patient is in a low nervous condition, they are impressive, or, as it is called, in a mesmeric condition, in the means employed will have the desired result. The same cure can be effected by the patient himself, if, when in a somnambulic state, he should resolve that the disease, habit or ailment shall cease to annoy him when he awakes. This, I know to be true, and all who are cured necessarily believe it. I have been convinced that what I have reported is true. There can, therefore, be no "Artificial Magnetism" in the case, and the whole seeming mystery is simply that the will power of the individual, independent of any external cause or influence, produces the result.

THE VISION OF THE PREACHER. The Practical Lesson Taught Thereby. BY MRS. M. L. SHERMAN. Amid the silent watches of the night, with none to disturb the quiet that pervaded me, my inner being seemed moved by a power over which I had no control, and I heard a voice saying, "Come hither, and I will show you scenes in Spirit-lands of daily occurrence; and repeating myself to the will of my guide, I passed into the higher condition, with powers of vision in excess the brightest that we seemed apprehending. At length, I saw a city beautifully laid out, with broad streets crossing each other at right angles. Passing along, I was struck with the luxuriant tree-trading either side of the streets, even to the center where stood a Crystal Palace of architectural beauty, grand in its colossal proportions, and elaborate in its style of design and workmanship. While wondering its use and appropriation, my guide said, "Enter." I did so, and saw a large number of men, some in white robes of state, made from diamonds in the form of jet-work, studded with diamonds. These occupying the seats were clad in robes of green, with ornaments of pearl, emblematical of their mind and exalted condition. In the center of the church, a man in white robes, and with a halo around his head, and as I approached, the diamond network flashed like electric meteors, villing the throne, and reaching to the polished floor, which also seemed to radiate with precious stones.

cept in cities, in their distance from each other, for meetings in social gatherings. Let them associate in communities, and have schools of their own, that their children may be educated in the common school, without the order of church-going, until they are old enough to enter a college, and their sectarian bonds would have but little effect upon them. Lowell, Mich.

Correspondence in Brief.

Morris, Ill.—John Astle, M. D., writes:—I now send you a photograph of Wagoner, as executed by Professor Wm. Anderson, of New York, in Oct. 1867. It is of one cast, representing the original picture but poorly, as the reduction in the size from five feet to four inches, must necessarily render the face and features indistinctly defined. The brackets of pearls and shells quite obscure. The fine texture and beautiful spirit dress of feathers, throats which the fine moulded limbs are seen; the constant decoration of the face, neck and shoulders, are but imperfectly represented. The picture is a perfect gem of the first water, and is valued by hundreds of people, who are led in its value by the photographer, who has taken it and discredited the stigma of a Spiritualist, should there be any call for the same, I will send you some. Be assured of its being a fine cast. Also enclosed you will find a copy of the "Voice," for two more books of the "Voice," by W. A. Barlow. Two of these books I have "cut up on the wing," disclaiming truth constantly in a retort, and the other two I have thrown away, as I am a devoted adherent of the "Voice," by W. A. Barlow. Two of these books I have "cut up on the wing," disclaiming truth constantly in a retort, and the other two I have thrown away, as I am a devoted adherent of the "Voice," by W. A. Barlow.

FOR KNOWLEDGE.

Positive knowledge may be defined a knowledge of something which has not yet happened or is yet to take place, of which no person has any previous thought, intuition, suspicion or knowledge, and to which there is no limit as to the time when it is to take place. This kind of foreknowledge is an attribute of Deity, and, therefore, impossible with man or angel, to say nothing of the angels, which he has created, or the human beings, who are adopted or created by him. There are two ways of obtaining such knowledge. The first is by the reaching out of the faculties of the brain. The second is by inspiration, or spirit impression. In the former case, the seeing or knowing what is possible at a distance is effected when the faculties are in a somnambulic condition, and can not be accomplished unless they are in that state—the person being conscious or not. The knowledge of past events is often obtained in this way long before it is possible to reach the individual who has taken place. But this is only mind-reading, or learning facts from impressions upon matter.

URALING.

Charles Beating The Stick at a Distance. BY W. D. FARRINGTON. The following question has been asked and an explanation desired: "If your views of Mesmerism or Animal Magnetism (called by you Artificial Somnambulism) be correct, how comes it that Christ could heal the sick at a distance?"

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS.

Monson, Ill.—Orville Tuttle writes:—I closed your issue of the 10th inst. I have been cured of an old man over seventy-one years of age and for a little more than twenty years have been trying to gain all the information I could respecting the truth of Spiritualism. I have heard many things, but I know that it is true.

LETTER FROM H. E. BEALDEN.

In reading the JOURNAL, I find many things to interest me, although I have been a subscriber to the Beacon for ten years; more especially in the consistency of the Orthodox churches and their members, and perhaps it would be well to record some of them; so here are some of their doings in Michigan.











Communications from The Inner Life.

FRANKS JOURNAL.

Interesting Features Connected with Spiritism.

FRANCIS H. SMITH OF BALTIMORE, MEDIUM.

Nothing has yet been desired by your readers from my journal...

"I am delighted at this opportunity of imparting thought...

"I lived in England, was a writer, and did what I could to promote religion and advance knowledge..."

"I believe a good old age, but when near my end became very anxious about a future life..."

"I looked around upon a vast plain, limitless in every direction..."

"I walked, perhaps, a mile or more before recognizing any one..."

"I was then joined by many friends, as though they had been waiting for me..."

"I had a great mistake in regard to the Deity. I supposed Him to be a person seated on a throne..."

"I made a great mistake, in supposing that all who could not see or would not join the Church, had but little hope of salvation..."

"I have now, my friend, given you some thoughts which may tend to correct the errors contained in my volumes..."

"I can give this message in compliance with your mother's request..."

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I made a great mistake in regard to the Deity. I supposed Him to be a person seated on a throne through dispensing justice...

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trials; but who sought teach the art of ever reading to give their philosophy, as fast as mankind can receive them...

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SPHIER PICTURES. New and Startling Developments. Very Strange Phenomena—Great Improvements Made—Very many Pictures Immediately Recognized by Amazed Mediums—The Invisible Come in Groups on the Silver Plates—What does it Mean?

I have been remarked that when a person has made a discovery of any kind, which promises to be of benefit to mankind...

I made a great mistake, in supposing that all who could not see or would not join the Church, had but little hope of salvation...

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A Communication from a Physician Lately Come to the Spirit World.

BY A. M. LEWIS, MEDIUM.

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For the Religio-Philosophical Journal.

God an Infinite God, a Personal God, or Being Reincarnating Man, Form This Earth, Sun, etc., etc.

BY W. H. SMITH.

In Philosophy, certain facts are explained and made plain, or to look reasonable. In Chemistry, certain laws are unfolded that are eternal...

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A REQUEST.

THE CONTAMINATING INFLUENCE OF THE REINCARNATION OF MEDIUMS.

BY D. F. KAYNE.

I can give this message in compliance with your mother's request...

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THE INVISIBLES AT WORK.

LETTER FROM J. H. CHAPMAN.

BENICA, CHAMPAIGN CO., WIS., JAN. 28, 1870.

MISSOURI JONES:—As your columns are open and free to correspondents, I take the liberty to place before your many and intelligent readers...

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PRICE-LIST OF BOOKS.

LIST OF BOOKS AND ENGRAVINGS

List of books and engravings including titles like 'The History of the American People', 'The Principles of Nature as Disclosed', and 'The Dawn of the Dawn'.

RAILROADS & TIME TABLE.

WINTER ARRANGEMENT.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF TRAINS. Chicago and Northwestern Railroad - Great West and Omaha Lines.

NEW BOOKS.

LOVE AND ITS HIDDEN HISTORY.

BY THE COUNT DE ST LEON. A BOOK FOR WOMEN, YOUNG OR OLD; FOR THE LOVING, THE MARRIED, SINGLE, UNLOVED, HEART-BROKEN, PISING ONES.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WATERS' NEW SCALE PIANOS

With Iron Frame, Overstrung Bass and Agraff Bridge. Madores and Cabinet Organs. Warranted for Six Years.

NEW CHEAP BOOK!! THE STARLING

THE STARLING. Bound in Allegorically Illuminated Covers, making a Pretty and Readable Book on a Variety of Subjects.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF TRAINS. Chicago and Northwestern Railroad - Great West and Omaha Lines.

MODERN AMERICAN SPIRITUALISM.

A TWENTY YEARS' RECORD OF THE COMMUNION BETWEEN EARTH AND THE WORLD OF SPIRITS.

THE COMPACT, IN BRIEF, ARE: Universalism - Selfhood, or the Story of the Prediged Son in a New Light - Sociality.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF TRAINS. Chicago and Northwestern Railroad - Great West and Omaha Lines.

UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION AND GUIDANCE OF THE SPIRITS.

Under the Direct Supervision and Guidance of the Spirits, which have inaugurated the movement.

DOCTOR IRA S. KING'S HEALTH INSTITUTION. Being the growing account of an Institute of this kind in the West.

STELLAR KEY

TO THE SUMMER LAND. containing Astronomical Diagrams and Starling American Illustrations with Diagrams and Engravings of Celestial Bodies.

ANDREW JACKSON DAVIS.

ANDREW JACKSON DAVIS. A Bachelors on the DIVINE QUEST. Containing a New Collection of Oracles.

THE HISTORY OF MOSES AND THE

THE HISTORY OF MOSES AND THE LITERATURE, OR A HISTORICAL EXPOSITION OF THE DEVI AND HIS FIERY DOMINIONS.

THE DELUGE IN THE LIGHT OF MODERN SCIENCE.

THE DELUGE IN THE LIGHT OF MODERN SCIENCE. BY WILLIAM AND BIRCHALL M. P. DUTTON.

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Special Department.

By E. V. WILSON.

Notice to Correspondents and Others.

Mr. E. V. Wilson in his usual weekly advertisement...

The American Spiritualist being excluded from this proposed union...

From those we expect a blow, we get the blow...

Who is the good Samaritan? The Southern, of Iowa, says:

There is undoubtedly a marked distinction in the course followed by Mr. E. V. Wilson...

From the Baltimore American.

THE CITY.

Remarkable Resolutions—Interview with Cropper, the Murderer...

A large audience assembled on Thursday night at the Albert street corner of St. Louis...

PAINTS FOR FARMERS and others.

THE GREAT SPIRITUALIST OF CHICAGO.

THE CITY.

THE CITY.

THE CITY.

THE CITY.

THE CITY.

THE CITY.

spirit of a demon bearing the semblance of a man...

THE CITY.

THE CITY.

THE CITY.

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APPETITE FOR TOBACCO DESTROYED.

LEAVE OFF CHewing AND SMOKE THE FOLIOUS WERT, TOBACCO.

ORTON'S PREPARATION.

ESTABLISHED 1866. PATENTED JUNE 15TH 1869.

One has of Orton's preparation is warranted to destroy the appetite for tobacco...

RECOMMENDATIONS.

From Annual Casaday, Editor Journal of Argus.

For about twenty years I had used tobacco in various forms...

How to send money by mail.

An Agent wanted in every town throughout the West.

GO TO THE BEST!

RYAN'S CHICAGO BUSINESS TRAINING SCHOOL.

ALL GO TO CHICAGO.

HOW AND WHY I BECAME A SPIRITUALIST.

Wash. A. Danskin.

SOLD IRON RING MANIFESTATION.

A BOOK FOR EVERY HOUSEHOLD.

THE CHESTER FAMILY.

THE CHESTER FAMILY.

Artificial Somnambulism.

The author of the above named book, is a philosopher of large experience and great merit.

CHAPTER I.—Historical Survey.

CHAPTER II.—Of the causes which have retarded the progress of the science.

CHAPTER III.—Of the conditions necessary for the production of the somnambulic state.

CHAPTER IV.—Theory of this state.

CHAPTER V.—Of the functions of the faculties.

CHAPTER VI.—Of the influence of Artificial Somnambulism on the human mind.

CHAPTER VII.—Of the influence of Artificial Somnambulism on the human mind.

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FATHER AND DAUGHTER.

STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.

On the 16th of July last, Mr. J. A. S. Hinkley and his daughter...

I have cured six cases of Asthma with Mrs. Spence's Positive Powders...

I called at the house of an acquaintance of mine on business...

I am so troubled for weeks that I can't write. I have been unable for several weeks...

I have taken Mrs. Spence's Positive Powders according to directions...

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THE GREAT BOOK OF THE AGE.

ENTITLED, "FRESH EGGS AND YELLOW BUTTER."

Now in Press, and Nearly Ready for Delivery.

It contains the practical results of Modern Chemistry by some of the most eminent French, American, German and English chemists.

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A PSYCHOMETRICAL VIEW.

THE distinguished Psychometrical reader, Mrs. A. B. Servance, of Milwaukee, Wis., writes the following:

"I have had a Psychometrical view of Mrs. Spence's Positive and Negative Powders, and it seems clear to my mind that they will produce a very beneficial effect on the human system, when properly administered."

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ALMOST A MIRACLE.

DOVER, N. H.

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