

# RELIGIO PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL

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## Literary Department

### GREAT TRUTHS

BY ELIZA A. PITTSINGER.

The following beautiful poem from that gifted poetess, Miss Eliza A. Pittsinger, having gone the rounds of the California journals, has also found its way and become crystallized in Andrew Jackson Davis' "Key to the Summerland."

Great souls are filled with love,  
Great brows are calm,  
Serenely within their night, they soar above  
The whirlwind and the storm.

In words the godly man is made—  
In deeds he lives—  
Wouldst thou know the tree? examine well the fruit!  
The flower? the scent it gives!

Great thoughts are still as stars,  
Great truths are high!  
They grasp the soul where 'neath its prison-bars  
It languidly doth lie.

They bring it forth on wings  
Sublime and grand  
Where in the night of deeply-hidden things  
It joyfully doth expand.

Like sentinels they stand  
And softly keep  
Their silent watches, where a ruthless band  
Of lurking errors creep.

Like pearls of starry light  
They burn and glow;  
They pierce the shadowy veil, and o'er the night  
Their radiant splendors throw.

Great truths! ah yes, more grand,  
More bright and high!  
Than those that thrill the wires throughout the  
land!  
Than stars that gem the sky!

Great truths! ah yes, more fair,  
Sublime and deep,  
Than burning thoughts that tremble on the air!  
Than the mysticisms of sleep!

From Nature's soul they spring  
To joy and light,  
And on our quivering wings  
They take their onward flight.

In beauty's garb they rise,  
All fresh as morn;  
And on their pinions spread for sun-lit skies,  
Our souls are gladly borne.

With mystic wrongs they wage  
An endless war;  
And shed their lustre o'er each passing age,  
Like morning's golden star.

Great truths! they come from God,  
An heaven-bred light,  
They bring to life from each prophetic word  
That thrills the earth!

### PSYCHOLOGICAL PHENOMENA.

Experiences in Development.  
COMMUNICATED BY A. C. SWINTON.  
From Human Nature.

The following Notes of a D'arv kept by Mr. Swinton during the time he has conducted his Spirit Circle for Development, are, deeply interesting to all spiritualists and students of psychology, and very instructive to such as desire the best directions in forming a similar circle. The perseverance, care, and patience of this circle have been very noteworthy, and (as the respective developments seem to indicate) to these qualities mainly is its non-failure due. If the same steps were taken by family groups generally, the phenomena of Spiritualism might soon become universal. The reader should pay particular attention to the conditions observed in the following Notes.

Developing Circles for Dark Seances, formed of five persons (by Dr. Buchanan of the spirit-world, through the mediumship of J. J. Morse), consisting of Mrs. Shaw, her daughter, Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Elmer, and A. C. Swinton, at the latter's house, 5 Cambridge Road, The Junction, Kilburn, N. W., March 8th, 1870.

The sittings to be of half-an-hour's duration nightly, from 9.30 to 10 p. m., for one week (under spirit-direction). The following week, one hour every other night, from 9.30 to 10.30. For the next fortnight an hour and a half each night.

March 23th.—Up to this time the thoroughly-darkened room has appeared light in parts to each member of the circle, and numerous spirits have been distinctly seen by Mrs. Knight and Miss Shaw, and clear "ticks" on the table have been heard by us all. Our spirit friend, Dr. Buchanan, who seems at present to be the chief director of our circle, instructed us by impressions, the alphabet, and movement of the table, to make a light tube. During this evening the tube was moved about on the table by A. C. Swinton's mother and other spirits present. A. C. Swinton has hitherto held the tube, when desirable, by the request of the spirit friend, and also magnetized the chief medium (Miss Shaw) each evening as desired by them.

March 29th.—Tube more easily moved about on the table by our good visitors from the summer-land, who say that they hope soon to be able to speak to us vocally. Miss Shaw saw a spirit-hand moving the tube this evening. The table frequently seems almost like a living creature—with such graphic force and tenderness does it by movements express the wishes and affections of our visitors. When in my bed-chamber (at midnight), I heard birds singing, from the time I retired to rest till I fell asleep—raised myself in bed, and placed my head in several positions to test the accuracy of my senses, but the sweet singing continued just the same, though no bird is kept near us. Mrs. Knight, of 8 Cambridge Road, has heard

similar singing in her own house, caused by our spirit friends. Mrs. Shaw states, that a delightful perfume pervaded her bedroom during the preceding night.

Our circle seems to consist of a large number, and among those we have at present heard of, are Edward Denny (author of ALPHA), Michael Angelo, Confucius, Tien (a Chinese philosopher), Channing, Dr. Buchanan, C. Mackworth, S. Robert Shaw (who passed away in this house on the 31st of December last), M. A. Swinton (my mother), C. Swinton, and H. Swinton (a sister and brother of mine), Mesmer, F. Pearce, Percy Byshe Shelley, and George Gordon Byron.

30th.—Luminous halo—blue and white first, and afterwards golden—seen on the head of a visitor, who was permitted by our spirit-friends to join our circle. The halo was seen continuously by Mrs. Shaw for about five minutes. A. C. Swinton was touched several times on the right hand by his mother, and the tube was moved about and apparently lifted off the table.

31st.—Frequent movements of the tube, and a sheet of writing paper was moved from behind Miss Elmer to her lap (without noise, and apparently as the shortest mode of our spirit-friends expressing their wishes) for the medium to write upon. There was much light in the room, and a slight noise seemed to be made through the tube. A message was written through the medium, Miss Shaw, who is now magnetized by our spirit-friends, and remains unconscious during the seances. She occasionally holds the tube. The previous evening Mrs. Knight seemed to hear a spirit-friend speak in a low voice, and other members of the circle heard it.

April 1st.—Tube frequently moved about, and a pencil moved by our spirit friends from Miss Elmer's waist-band to her knee. An attempt at direct-writing apparently made, but unsuccessful. Light seen as before.

2nd.—Similar phenomena.

3rd.—Removed to another room by spirit direction, so as to have music, to induce harmony, &c. Piano played by W. Atkins (who happened to be staying here). Robert Shaw seen twice by Mrs. Knight and Mrs. Shaw. Spirits beat time to the music, and numerous lights were seen.

4th.—Piano played (in the dark) by W. Atkins, and table beating time and dancing about the room; numerous lights seen. Efforts made by our spirit-friends to present a luminous keyboard to the player when he faltered. Two spirit eyes were very distinctly seen twice by Mrs. Shaw and her daughter—said by Dr. Buchanan to be his. Mrs. Shaw also saw a form, and many indistinct ones were seen. All our spirit-friends, as usual, communicated.

5th.—Mrs. Shaw and Mrs. Knight distinctly saw the former's husband walking round the circle, and C. W. Pearce (who has just joined our circle) was touched by him. Light was seen, as usual, pervading the room, and some bright stars. The tube was raised from the table occasionally. Mrs. Knight also saw several of our spirit-friends, but not clearly enough to recognize them. A new tube has been made for this evening, the old one having been broken by Miss Shaw (whilst entranced), the evening before, in beating time to the music on the table. Mrs. Knight received three pats on the side of the head from our lively spirit Robert Shaw. Three spiritual visions occurred the same night to Mrs. Shaw, and scenes in spiritual life were also seen by Mrs. Knight.

6th.—Miss Elmer and Miss Shaw (by our spirit friends' request), attended a seance at R. Stephens' (conductor of the Co-operative Store, 337 Strand), 26 Waterloo Road, to get some instructions and other developments for our circle, through the mediumship of J. J. Morse, who had engaged to be present. Instructions were given by our spirit friend, Dr. Buchanan, that we are to sit an hour each evening, from 9.15 to 10.15, and to occupy the room, if possible, an hour before.—This is an important provision.—Ed

7th.—Much light seen, and Robert Shaw visible to Mrs. Shaw and Mrs. Knight.

8th.—Similar phenomena.

9th.—C. W. Pearce again joined us. Room thoroughly darkened as usual. After a few directions given through the table, and Miss Shaw had passed into the trance state, Mrs. Shaw was for the first time, and by us quite unexpectedly controlled by her son, who passed away an infant, and has now been some twelve years in spirit life. The communication was made with much emotion and expressed the gladness of the son in thus being able to communicate. C. W. Pearce's sister Clara next controlled.

A. C. Swinton's mother followed her, Miss Elmer's sister, Mrs. Knight's aunt, A. C. S.'s eldest sister, a friend named "Maggie," and Dr. Buchanan (who almost invariably controls last, and closes the seance), afterward communicated in the same manner.

One or two spirit lights were seen, and two or more of the circle were touched by our dear visitors. In addition to advice on family matters, several of these spirit friends briefly, but very touchingly, expressed their grief at the sad selfishness, hypocrisy, and great wrong of living everywhere, especially at the want and sufferings of the sons and daughters of toil; in a world where the all-loving Father had so amply provided for the spiritual and physical needs of each one of his children, if they but acted justly to their fellows. They grieved greatly at the sufferings these selfish wrong-doers would, as the necessary consequence of their sins, have to endure in the next world, as well as for those betrayed millions, their unchristian and God-denying practices so deeply injured.

Highly pathetic and impressive were these loving utterances.

The following messages were afterward conveyed impressively through C. W. Pearce, to the circle generally, by a spirit called "Joseph." "It is with grateful feeling that we have viewed the progress made—this which has been made this night."

To the medium.—"We offer our heart-felt thanks for your kind assistance."

To the circle.—"Join with us in praise to the Eternal Father, whose love and power have enabled us to communicate with you."

To the medium, Miss Shaw, from her father.—"Your father looks on with unutterable joy. His future dawns with a brightness far surpassing his highest hope. With your assistance he will increase your usefulness, and this usefulness must largely increase your happiness. Eat some fruit for breakfast, and wait longer before you eat heavier food."

We were informed that the entrancing of Miss Shaw enabled her spirit to temporarily leave its body and associate and travel with her father and others of the spirit world, and, by our request, her spirit moved the table and communicated with us apparently as easily as any other. We were also told that the motions of the table are caused by the action of the spirits' will-power on the magnetic sphere enveloping the table. Though our spirit friends failed to speak through Miss Shaw, they seemed to nearly succeed in doing so, and imitated whistling and laughter through her organism. Neither mother or daughter on returning to their normal state, seemed conscious of anything they had said and done during the time of "possession" and trance.

April 10th (Sunday), Saturday at 8 p. m.—Present with us C. W. Pearce. Much light seen in the room by all of us—saw Miss Elmer and spirits were indistinctly seen, and members of our circle touched by them.

Mr. Clark, formerly a London solicitor, controlled Mrs. Shaw, and made a communication to his late wife, the present Mrs. Stephens of 26 Waterloo Road. A. C. S.'s mother next communicated, and expressed her regret that "a spirit from a higher sphere than any present—whose brilliancy would have shown on all of us and ensured a glorious evening—could not approach through the thick damp atmosphere that enveloped us." (I state the language of the medium, which may not strictly represent the ideas impressed upon her—the clothing of them being of course hers. There seems little doubt, however, that the communication is generally correct; we had previously heard that a "glorious spirit," from the "Lord's sphere" would bless us by his presence.)

Mrs. Knight's sister-in-law, Mrs. Shaw's son, his father, Robert Shaw, and Dr. Buchanan followed in the order named. They each regretted that the weak state of the medium prevented their having the power to manifest themselves as they wished, and also that the state of the external atmosphere had defeated their anticipations of a highly important and delightful evening.

During the evening, our spirit friend, Robert Shaw, said he would now give us the test of identity he had promised us just before he passed away. He then gave it, namely, "Humanity's advocate all the world over."

April 11th.—C. W. Pearce not present. Similar phenomena, but apparently less remarkable in consequence of the weak condition of Mrs. Shaw and her daughter. Had a confirmation of a communication made to C. W. P. at Cambridge, by Ed. Denny, that he should be impressed by the latter to write a letter for each Member of the House of Commons, and the Editors of the leading newspapers on the education question.

Copy of letter communicated, which was sent as desired:

"RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.

"Sir.—If Parliament be sincere in its desire to afford the young true religious education, it must first define Religion, before it can direct its teachings.

"What is Religion? Theoretically, it is a knowledge of the relationship existing between man and God, and the duties arising therefrom.

"It is said by those interested that the only way to teach Religion is by making the Bible a class book, with full liberty to expound it. If Parliament sanctions this, the effect will be—and you know it—that Sectarian Creedalism will be taught, and every sect will be established.

"But what is the Bible, that it should be selected? 'The inspired word of God,' say they who profess to teach Religion. Then, if it be the expression of Infinite Intelligence, all its statements will be demonstrably true,—self-evident to all. If it need an interpreter—a fallible man—then the expression of Infinite Intelligence is the expression of the mind of the Interpreter, and the 'Infallible word of God' is nothing more than the opinion of fallible man.

"Further, every well-read man knows the Bible to be simply a selection from the writings of Jewish Reformers, made by various Ecclesiastical Councils, the decision of the first, the Council of Nice, being reversed many times by other Councils, before the final settlement of the Canon. Thus, again, what is, and what is not the 'Word of God,' being decided by man's opinion?

"Seeing this,—as a true man, expose the imposition: Refuse to allow the Bible to be used as a class-book; refuse authority to dwarf the expanding intelligence of the young mind, by indoctrinating it with lifeless and soul-degrading creeds. Strip Religious teachers (so called) of all power. Then, and not till then, will the Divinity within the soul appear, and the first step be taken towards staining that social Millennium whose law will be,—'As ye would that men should do to you, do ye also unto them.' the fulfillment of which is practical Religion.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,  
"6 Cambridge Road, C. W. PEARCE."  
Kilburn, May 1st."

After the sitting and the hands of our circle had been withdrawn from the table, but while we remained sitting and chatting around it, a beautiful and deeply interesting sight was observed by all of us. The center of the table (a small rosewood chess table, with veneered squares for that game on its top) seemed to expand as if it were a hollow vessel with a thin elastic covering subject to inflation. Its surface continued to rise and subside for several minutes with occasional slight oscillations and vibrations of the head. Our spirit friends inform us that they hoped soon to be able to raise and suspend the table for the benefit of such materialistic skeptics who were blind to the higher proofs of spirit power and communion.

12th.—In consequence of the weak state of health of two or three of our circle, our good spirit visitors did not, as usual, request the room to be darkened, and seemed to confine themselves to magnetizing our circle. After the sitting, and our hands had been removed from the table, it was again moved and apparently made to expand as on the preceding evening, though not so prominently.

13th.—Our spirit friends seemed to mainly occupy themselves in magnetizing two members of our circle that were in weak health, and we were again requested not to darken the room. Mrs. Shaw's and Miss Elmer's hands were removed from the table by the spirits so soon almost as placed there. After the lapse of an hour, and a request had been made by Ed. Denny that I should accompany Miss Shaw to C. W. Pearce's seance next Friday evening, the medium was as usual, demagnetized by Dr. Buchanan, and we resumed sitting round the table a minute or two, with our hands off, to see if our friends could move it. It again seemed to expand as before stated, though the phenomena lasted but a short time.

14th.—Mrs. Shaw and Miss Elmer in much better health, but not allowed to have their hands on the table, though sitting in the circle. Nothing especially noteworthy was observed. Table moved slightly after the hands of Mrs. Knight, Miss Shaw and A. C. S. were removed from it. Mr. and Mrs. Dell, of Haregeld present. Room again kept light.

15th.—(Good Friday).—Went, as invited and urged by our spirit friends, to a seance at C. W. Pearce's, 29 Hargreave Street, Stockwell, accompanied by Miss Shaw.—The evening chosen for the dedicating of his children to their angel guardians. Persons present:—Mrs. Everitt, the voice medium, and her husband; Miss Shaw, W. H. Harrison, Mrs. Bryant and her husband of Cambridge; N. H. F. Davy, C. W. Pearce and wife; J. M. Peables, R. S. Pearce Sen., and wife; Mrs. Maggs and A. C. Swinton. During the dedicating of the children, the continuous rappings of the spirits attested their approval of the proceedings.

The direct speaking of the spirit friend "John Watt," was delayed unusually long, in consequence of conflicting influences; continuous rappings, strong currents of air, and written explanations and directions by the controlling spirit occurred till the order was given by him to put out the lights. Shortly after this the delicious scents of various flowers (doubtless appropriate to the special occasion) were strongly diffused through the room and enjoyed by the whole circle. A. C. S. was informed that the scent became more apparent to us by dissolving the spirit-flowers in the atmosphere of the room. The voice of "John Watt" followed at about 9.30, and he continued speaking with ed about 11; many humorous and instructive remarks were made by him. Lights were seen in different parts of the room, and one very remarkable sphere of light was seen by A. C. S. beside C. W. Pearce.

Loud raps occurred in Mrs. Shaw's room, at 5 Cambridge Road, while her daughter was present, just after her return home at 1.15 a. m., and again next morning (the 16th). Our friends here, William Dell and wife, Mrs. Shaw, and Miss Elmer were informed during the sitting at Stockwell, by one of our spirit circle, Mesmer, of the number of each sex present at C. W. P.'s seance; his statement being confirmed by us on our return.

16th.—C. W. Pearce with us. He had been "impressed" during the afternoon, first to visit the "Progressive Library," 15 Southampton Row, to read an article on "The Power of the Human Will," by Oliver Stevens, in the *American Spiritualist*, and afterwards to visit our circle for a special purpose. We sat till about 8.30, and soon afterwards C. W. P. started from his chair with his arms stretched rigidly out to the right and left as if galvanized. We thought at first that one of our spirit friends had entranced him with the intention, if possible, of using his organism to speak to us through, but he soon made rapid passes over the table as if there was some influence on it that required to be removed. He next threw the table on the floor, and after letting it lie there a few seconds he raised it, and commenced making passes over the medium, Miss Shaw, whom he entranced, and afterward made continuous rapid passes around her for several minutes. We were told then by one of our spirit circle, that the object was to separate "John Watt's" circle from a member of it who had followed us home from C. W. P.'s seance the preceding evening, and wished, with the concurrence of our spirit circle, to join it. We were also told that our new friend had caused the rapping heard by Mrs. Shaw and her daughter, and by C. W. P. and myself, just before we sat down. He was the first to communicate. C. W. P. was requested by the spirit circle to join us again on the following evening.

17th.—(Sunday).—Sat from 7 p. m. to 9.15. The hands of Miss Shaw and C. W. Pearce were alone allowed to remain on the table,—the former's hands were soon after held by A. C. S. and

C. W. P., each one holding a hand during the remainder of the sitting. Room kept light at first and afterward darkened. The operations seemed chiefly confined to magnetizing C. W. P. again made many passes over the medium and over our circle. Lights and the forms of our spirit friends were seen in the darkened room. Directions given by Ed. Denny for the publication of four more of his sermons. C. W. P. was requested to join our circle on the following evening.

18th.—All hands but one of the medium's kept off the table. Lights and forms seen as usual,—the controlling spirit always seen by Mrs. Knight, standing opposite to her. She sees them come and go.

19th.—Similar proceedings and results.

20th.—Like phenomena.

21st.—Through the weak health of two of our circle, but little was seen in the room this evening other than a hazy light, with very indistinct forms.

22nd.—Magnetizing seemed the chief work of our spirit friends. Much light seen in the room, but no distinct forms.

23rd.—Much light seen, but no forms clear.

24th.—Room light, but little seen. Impressed by two of our spirit friends to write a letter of welcome to Chandler Sen, the Indian reformer, and send him a copy of "THE ALPHA." The following is the letter as dictated to us, and accordingly, with our views and wishes, it was sent to Chandler Sen with the book, on the 26th inst:

Hail, child of light, son of the East, land of the rising sun, all Hail!

Thy brethren in progress welcome thee; welcome with gladness thy noble utterances in the cause of spiritual freedom.

Welcome thy fearless spirit in its devotion to truth.

Welcome thy rejection of dogmas and creeds.

Welcome thy exposure of Christian idolatry; thy proclamation of one God.

Welcome thy faith in the divinity of man, and the Christ-like love that reveals it;—to England, all true brethren welcome thee.

A tribute to thy manhood is offered—'tis a book—"The Alpha." Within is the jewel of great price, wrought by a skillful master, now working in the upper world. Its pages burn with a living fire, and shine with light from the fount of truth, most needful to humanity.

Inspired by intelligence, it is devoted to intelligence; design to accept it and make it thine own.

Hear's and hands in this, and the world be yond, unite to strengthen thee in thy efforts to release from the chains which ignorance and priestly arrogance, and in the name of religion, have forged around the sons and daughters of thy native land.

No true progress can ever be made by humanity till the God-like nature of man be recognized, and mental freedom, his birthright, be his. This will never be effected by those who arrogate the position of emissaries from heaven. They shout, "Great is the mystery of godliness, and we alone explain it!" Freedom will endanger their craft.

But fear not, beloved brother; progress, thy soul's desire, is eternal. The Infinite Intelligence, from whence we are, is ever working. The divine light, which shines through thee, is in all, and waiting but the time, will pierce by its intensity the gross darkness in which priest-craft has enveloped the mind, and reveal to now degraded man his heavenly birth, and the universal Fatherhood of God.

Then the immortal mind, growing strong with knowledge, shall rise above earth-born superstitions, and mounting upwards on the expanded wings of its own intelligence, shall itself enter into the holiest of holies, and there walk with God.—Ever yours, for many brethren,  
A. C. SWINTON.

5 Cambridge Road, the Junction, Kilburn, N. W., April 26, 1870.  
To Keshub Chauder Sen.

### IMMORTALITY.

BY DR. J. K. BAILEY.

Oh, glorious—! eternal truth!  
That binds—! souls live—on and on  
Progressing—! 'er in unfolding youth,  
As pure as—! bees of love we den.

'Tis darkness—! clouds obscure the gas  
Of mortals—! He in earth's thick veil,  
The storms will yet dispell the haze.  
When shall we cry aloud: "All hail,  
"Thou great, Eternal Cause of life!  
Hosanna, loud, I sing to thee;  
I bless the woe—I greet the strife—"  
Which open truth so grand to me!"

Then let all hearts rejoice and sing  
A glorious anthem to our God,  
The "great First Cause" and bounteous King,  
Who rules both joy and "chastening-rod."

Let tears of sorrow cease to flow,  
Let every soul not well its part,  
Let love's bright flame forever glow,  
That joy may leap from every cart.

### Die Jaferunde.

The first number of the above named journal is before us. It is printed in the German language, and is devoted to the exposition of the Harmonical Philosophy. It supplies a want that has long been felt in this country. We bid it welcome to the ranks of spiritual journalism, and wish it success in the work it has undertaken among our German brothers.

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