







The Mystery of Oak Street. The Remarkable Occult Disturbances...

From the Columbus Sunday Morning News.

There is nothing more superstitious in my composition than the account of the occult disturbances...

Ever since the learned professors of Germany were excited over a child born with a golden tooth in its head, down to the Salem witchcraft...

On last Saturday evening, in company with three other gentlemen and officers, we repaired to the vicinity of the haunted house on Oak street...

We all retired from the house again, determined, if possible, to fathom the mystery. Every room in the house was entirely vacant.

Three of the party took to their heels, and disappeared across the vacant lot toward Seventh street, as though the devil himself was after them.

I have not the time nor space, Mr. Editor, to give in detail the wonderful experiences of that eventful night. Our investigations occupied two hours, from 12 M. until 2 A. M.

A German telegraph operator has discovered a mode of ascertaining with mathematical accuracy any number of steel or iron wires...

The colored cadet at West Point, J. W. Smith, who got into trouble recently with one of his fellow cadets, and was tried by a court-martial...

Religio-Philosophical Journal

S. S. JONES, EDITOR, PUBLISHER AND PROPRIETOR. Office, 187 & 189 South Clark Street.

CHICAGO, DECEMBER 3, 1870.

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LOOK TO YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Upon the margin of each paper, or upon the wrapper, will be found a statement of the time to which payment has been made.

SENDING MONEY TO THIS OFFICE FOR THE JOURNAL, should be careful to state whether it is a renewal, or a new subscription, and write all proper names plainly.

All letters and communications should be addressed S. S. JONES, 189 SOUTH CLARK STREET, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

A SEARCH AFTER GOD.

Does Design in Nature Indicate the Existence of a God.

NUMBER SEVENTEEN.

In our previous article we demonstrated conclusively that if design indicates a designer in nature, then God is simply a man on a large scale, possessing every characteristic of man.

The designer has evidence of design connected with him, just as much as that which he brings into existence, hence there would be no limit to the comparison. You may search for God through the instrumentality of a design forever, and you will not find him!

Supposing that man is made in God's image. Connected with our organization is evidence of a design, hence there must be connected with God the same peculiarity, and you have just as much right to declare that somebody created God, as that God created man, especially if the latter was made in the former's image.

The watch bears evidence of a design, and we can trace it to the watchmaker; he also has within his organic structure greater evidence of a design, and is traced by some to God, who, if a personal Being, has evidences of a design connected with him, hence we must still continue the comparison, the evidences of a design increasing as we ascend upward.

Ha! ha! laugh the wild winds, the heaving storm, the flashing lightning, the rolling thunder, the pattering raindrops—no designer!

No designer says the mist as it obeys the action of different currents of air, and forms the halitoe? No designer declares the wild winds as they rush onward, causing death and destruction, to restore equilibrium that had been destroyed!

A Designer—where is he,—the one who controls all things,—who exists throughout infinitude of space, and through whose instrumentality man is supposed to have been created?

The following in reference to design in nature indicating the existence of a God, is from the Liberal, and contains many points worthy of careful consideration. We give them as prefatory to more extended remarks by us on the same subject.

real increase of substance existing. Growth has since been resolved into the process of change in forms; materials being attracted from old forms and built up into new ones; therefore there is not the shadow of a plausibility remaining for the theory of a creation out of nothing.

It is not so generally admitted that the adaptations everywhere discovered are the results simply of law, without any extraordinary influence. Creative mind is scarcely admitted, but designing mind is affirmed by considerable numbers of professional teachers of the public schools.

The impossibility of an inflicting any portion of existence induces the conviction that nothing ever began to be, except as regards its form; if, then, the substance of all things is eternal in duration, theology receives a severe blow. It is, at the least most difficult to sustain any theory of two eternal existences, but such existences can be infinite.

If it is admitted that the properties of known existence are such as to shut out 'creation,' similar reasoning will determine us that the theory of a designer in Nature is also superfluous. If substance has certain real qualities, which cannot be annihilated (and upon this ground only can there be science) then, as a necessary result, we perceive that an omnipotent Deity must be impossible, since his power would be, at every step, limited by the positive qualities of the material world.

Does design in nature indicate the existence of a God? The idea of a contriver is that of a finite being struggling with difficulties. Still further, if we conceive of a designing Deity, such a being must be more or less unhappy, or dissatisfied with the condition of things, in order to have a wish to change them.

We see growth, adaptation and destruction in Nature. Force is never exhausted. The expenditure of one mode of force is the recuperation of another. Millions of forms arise by incessant change. Untold numbers fail to sustain or perpetuate themselves. Sufficient have succeeded to people the earth with a myriad of organisms. Do we ask why those forms exist which we see? Nature has been unceasingly busy during a past without beginning, and those things which exist are but the offspring of untold failures.

In the vegetable and animal worlds we see multitudes of forms attempting to live, but failing to find a foothold. On the hypothesis of exuberant life-creating forces in the universe, all this is perfectly comprehensible; but upon the hypothesis of a designing creator, no account ought to be ushered forth except those that are adapted to succeed in attaining maturity and perpetuating themselves.

Our thanks are due the friend who sent us a case of twelve boxes of the most delicious grapes we ever tasted. We have delayed making mention of this reception, in hopes of learning the name of the friend to whom we are indebted for so delicious a treat.

Dr. Sherman and Wife are yet at No. 306 South Clark street. The Doctor is an excellent healer, and Mrs. Sherman is one of the best psychometrists in the country.

Mrs. M. L. Hopper.—We are informed that the above named lady is a fine trance and test medium, worthy of patronage. See her advertisement in another column.

D. A. Mills and Geo. Myers have written to this office in regard to their papers, but fail to give their post office addresses. Will they please do so. And will all who contemplate writing, please guard against similar omissions.

Spiritualism is invading the churches, and ministers of the gospel are free to admit its beauty and worth, when paying the last tribute of respect to the memory of one who has passed away. At Alliance, Ohio, a remarkable incident occurred, which shows that the minister in question had a vein of liberality permeating his nature.

This noted analytical healer is now operating in Iowa. The friends and the afflicted in the state should bear it in mind that the Doctor's success is truly wonderful. December 2nd 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th. he will heal at the American House, Cedar Rapids. Thursday, December 8th, and until further notice, at the principal Hotel, Waterloo.

AN INQUIRY.

George P. Dillington inquires whether spirit friends ever appear to mortals during sleep. It is, undoubtedly, a well-verified fact, that spirits can and do impress the minds of mortals during sleep more readily than at any other time.

We have known a spirit to relate through his medium a dream in all its details, twelve hours in advance of the time he caused the medium to dream. He at a public seance told us that he would make the medium dream on the following night, and went on to tell what the dream would be.

We may educate ourselves to become so negative to our spirit friends during sleep, that sweet communion with them will be the result. Our loved ones in spirit-life—our guardian spirits try to warn us of approaching danger. Sometimes they succeed,—more frequently in dreams than at any other time.

The philosophy of dreams, the inconsistent and distorted outline of which we sometimes remember, is owing to our inability to reflect, so to speak, the true dream to our external senses. It may be compared to a mirror of uneven surface, which reflects a distorted likeness from well-moulded features.

We may sometime have more to say upon this subject. These few thoughts may call forth a well-matured article, from a clear thinker.

A SEPARATION.

Mrs. Colby, the venerated mother of the senior editor of the Banner of Light, was released from earth-life by the gentle process of death at her home at Amesbury, Mass., on the 15th ult., at the ripe age of eighty-seven years. Her falling physical force had been noted with affectionate solicitude for some time past, and the event of final dissolution was, therefore, not wholly unexpected.

Yes, Brother Colby, we do tender our heartfelt sympathy to you in the hour of your bereavement. The memory of our dear angel mother is cherished as most sacred. She, too, passed to the higher life at a ripe age. Her ministrations from the higher spheres, prompting us to duty, are continuous, and her presence is often palpable to our senses.

Those Delicious Grapes. Our thanks are due the friend who sent us a case of twelve boxes of the most delicious grapes we ever tasted.

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Personal and Local.

The Reverend Mr. Frothingham, of New York, lately preached a sermon in which he declared that he was a radical Unitarian, and that he did not honor the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Judge Edmonds having received several communications given at a circle in Pennsylvania, found the following among them, bearing date, April 10th, 1859: "The monster, War, is before its final death-throe, concentrating all its remaining vitality for a grand coup de etat, but, in the midst of its exertions, will suddenly cease to breathe, and will fall, and crush in its fall two principal actors in the present scene, namely, the Roman Pontiff and Louis Napoleon."

Hops Bain, of Goldsboro, North Carolina, writes as follows: "One of our most learned men read the Rev. D. W. Hull's lecture, and desired me to write to him to produce the evidence that the four Gospels were in existence prior to the birth of Christ, also to request him to have said lecture produced in pamphlet form."

Fannie Allyn has been engaged to lecture at Crosby's Music Hall during December. J. M. Holland, of Council Bluffs, Iowa, writes that the Lyceum there numbers seventy children.

Harriet Beecher Stowe writes to the Church Union as follows in reference to Spiritualism: "I do not seek these things—I do not search out mediums, nor attend spirit circles. I have attained all I wish to know, and am quite indifferent now whether I see another manifestation."

Mrs. Fannie T. Young is going West and South to lecture during the winter and spring. She will leave her residence in New Hampshire, December 15th. She will pass over the Grand Trunk Road, stopping a short time in Canada to fill engagements. Those desiring her services along the route of the Vermont Central, Fort Huron, Detroit and Michigan Central railroads, for lectures on week evenings or Sundays, will please address her at once, care of Dr. H. C. Coburn, Centre Stafford, N. H.

Thank you, brother, for that clipping from the Star of the West. A New Jersey Catholic has offered the Baptists a plot of ground for a church, and they are wondering if there be ground to suspect a plot in the matter.

Mrs. Norgrove, an excellent medium and clairvoyant, resides at 183 23rd street, instead of 22, as now appears in the Register. We were apprised of the fact too late to change the number in this issue.

We had the pleasure of calling on Dr. M. L. Sherman, recently from California. He is an excellent trance medium, and the sentiments given through his brain are startling in their nature, and open new fields for the exploration of scientific minds. The ideas advanced by him from time to time, are to be embodied in a book, and are now in process of publication at this office. Mr. Lyon, a gentleman of culture and means, has the work in hand, and soon the world will have the opportunity of seeing many old ideas in reference to the interior of the earth, some hat shaken. Let the light come.

Miss Pittsinger, the California poetess, has been giving readings from her own productions at Valparaiso, Ind. The Porter County Vidette speaks as follows of her efforts: "The entertainment given by Miss Eliza A. Pittsinger at the Court house last Friday evening, was a decided success. Her readings were graceful, full of fire, and that without there being anything 'manish' about her style of delivery. Her poem California was grand in its conception, and beautifully rendered. Miss Pittsinger is a born poet, not a made one. She will give other readings in this state, and we trust she will meet with the success that her genius and high character deserve."

Isaac Jackson Sloan, medium and physician, Covington, Ky. Mrs. Wilcoxson is still actively engaged in West Virginia, having spoken seven times within eight days. She has spoken at Martinsburg and Bridgeport, Ohio. She goes from the latter place to Virginia again.

From the following notice we judge that the Spiritualists of Champaign, Ill., are actively at work:

"Free lecture! Death and the after life! The philosophy of modern Spiritualism explained!!! Addie L. Ballou, inspirational speaker, will give a series of lectures on the above subject, at Barrett Hall, to commence on Saturday evening, November 10th, at half past seven o'clock. Mrs. Ballou often gives tests of spirit presence and delineation of character at the close of her lectures, answers questions, etc. She is too well known throughout the west to need personal recommendation. All are invited to attend. Clergymen in particular."

V. S., writing from Fort Scott, says: "We are beginning to see an interest manifested in Spiritualism in this city, resulting from the very fine lectures of Mrs. D. Fannie Allyn and Warren Chase, delivered on four consecutive nights in the month of October. There are now some mediums being developed that give promise of usefulness in the cause."

Thanks to the brother for sending us the Sunday Morning News, of Columbus, Ohio. Dr. H. B. Storer gives the following test as having occurred in the presence of N. Frank White. A telegraph operator was present, who asked mentally for a friend, also an operator, to return and answer his mental queries by the telegraph raps.

The medium was much disconcerted by the great number of irregular sounds, and apologized to his visitor, saying that all would be regular by and by, and was much astonished to be informed by the gentleman that everything was regular, and that his guest was receiving test after test through a series of raps which the medium did not understand.

Dr. E. B. Wheelock, whose communication may be found in another column, has been laboring efficiently in Lucas county, Iowa. He is a spiley writer.

A strange case of spirit advice and control is related by Dean Clark, who, previous to the organization of a club to promote the welfare of speakers at Harwich, was awakened the night before the time appointed for him to speak, by a spirit who informed him that he would lecture the coming day in behalf of mediums and mediumship. His efforts led to the formation of this club.





Price-List of Books.

LIST OF BOOKS FOR SALE AT THIS OFFICE.

All orders by mail, with the price of books desired, and the additional amount mentioned in the following list of prices for postage, will meet with prompt attention.

Table listing various books for sale, including titles like 'Age of Reason and Examination of the Prophecies', 'Artificial Somnambulism', 'A Relation of Deported Spirits from the Shakspearean', etc., with prices and authors.

Table listing various books for sale, including titles like 'New Testament Miracles, and Modern Miracles', 'Night Side of Nature', 'Ordeal of Life', etc., with prices and authors.

Table listing various books for sale, including titles like 'The Fountain', 'The Irreconcilable Records', 'OR GENESIS AND GEOLOGY', etc., with prices and authors.

Table listing various books for sale, including titles like 'THE DELUGE, IN THE LIGHT OF MODERN SCIENCE', 'WHAT IS RIGHT', 'BE THYSELF', etc., with prices and authors.

Table listing various books for sale, including titles like 'THE CAUSE OF EXHAUSTED VITALITY', 'VITAL FORCE, HOW WASTED AND HOW PRESERVED', 'HOW TO BATHE', etc., with prices and authors.

RAILROADS.

SUMMER ARRANGEMENT.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF TRAINS.

Table listing arrival and departure of trains for Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, including routes like Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, Omaha Falls, etc.

Table listing various books for sale, including titles like 'THE CAUSE OF EXHAUSTED VITALITY', 'VITAL FORCE, HOW WASTED AND HOW PRESERVED', 'HOW TO BATHE', etc., with prices and authors.

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THE WELL-KNOWN PSYCHOMETRIST.

Will give to those who visit him in person, or from auto graph, or lock of hair, recording of character, market changes, past and future, and business, children's castings of disease, with prescription; adaptation of those intending marriage; directions for the management of children; and a list of names of persons who have been cured.

HEALTH BY GOOD LIVING.

BY W. W. HALL, M. D., Editor of "Journal of Health." This book is to show how high health can be maintained on common diseases cured by "good living," which means eating with a relish the best food, prepared in the best manner.

THE WOMAN WHO DARED.

BY EPES SARGENT. AUTHOR OF 'Planchette, or the Despair of Science.' "Honest liberty is the greatest foe to dishonest license."

THE DEVIL AND HIS FIERY DOMINIONS.

BY E. GRAVES, author of "Christianity Before Christ." Price 10 cents. The Trade Supplied at Liberal Rates.

DENTISTRY.

DR. J. H. SMITH, No. 293 SOUTH CLARK ST., Chicago, claims to be master of his profession, and warrants his work to give satisfaction.

