

Religio-Philosophical Publishing Association

CIRCULAR TO SPIRITUALISTS AND REFORMERS.

We desire to call your attention to the fact that the Legislature of the State of Illinois, at its recent session, incorporated the RELIGIO-PHILOSOPHICAL PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION, and that the said corporation has been fully organized and prepared for receiving subscriptions to the capital stock. The corporate powers are of the broadest and most liberal character, and it is the intention of the Board of Directors to endow it with a basis that shall be a guarantee to its becoming the most extensive Publishing Institution in the United States. To that end the capital stock is divided into shares of fifty dollars each, ten per cent. of which is payable on subscribing, and subject to future calls, from time to time, for installments until the whole is paid of not exceeding ten per cent. at one time. The Board of Directors have resolved to publish, at the city of Chicago, a first class weekly newspaper, to be called the "*Religio-Philosophical Herald and Spiritual Messenger*," (that shall be every way equal to the "Banner of Light,") as soon as sufficient subscriptions to warrant it are received.

It is confidently believed that every Spiritualist and Reformer throughout the country will hail a Publishing institution of this character as a blessing greatly to be desired, and worthy of their cordial support. That the Spiritualists of the United States at the present time outnumber any other denomination of Religionists in the Union, is proved from the best data we have—and that we have in our ranks a larger proportion of the best talents among all classes of society, will not be denied by any careful and candid observer. While it is not claimed that we possess a larger proportion of wealth, yet it is a fact that but few in our ranks are so poor and barren in intelligence that they will not most cordially second a movement of this character, which is designed to promote the arts and sciences, and dispense light and knowledge throughout the world,—nor feel too poor to take at least one share of stock, and subscribe for the newspaper,—while many will feel anxious to take a large number of shares of stock, believing it will be a good paying investment.

The object in becoming incorporated was to make it the *people's* institution, and that they may have an interest in making it the largest and best paying publishing association in the Union. That such an institution will pay good dividends to the stockholders, we have every reason to believe. And as a data for our calculation, we will respectfully call your attention to the net earnings of the Chicago "Tribune," "Times," and "Evening Journal," Establishments, for one year, as reported by them for *Internal Revenue purposes*, in January last. The *net* profits of the seven principal proprietors of the "Tribune" establishment, for one year, amounted to over ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS. The "Times" over thirty-nine thousand, and the "Evening Journal" over thirty-one thousand dollars. They publish daily and weekly papers. We intend to begin with a weekly, and in a very short time not only publish a child's and youths' paper, but such a daily paper as the exigencies of the times require, in the reconstruction of our Government, and a general Book Concern to meet the wants of Spiritualists and Reformers everywhere.

We respectfully ask you to give this subject due consideration, and to subscribe for the paper and take a liberal amount of stock in the corporation.

Respectfully Yours,

CHICAGO, March 20th, 1865.

S. S. JONES, President.

CHARTER.

AN ACT to incorporate the Religio-Philosophical Publishing Association.

SECTION I. Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly, that Stevens S. Jones, Henry C. Childs, Sylvester H. Todd, Warren Chase, Leo Miller, Frank Wadsworth, Charles H. Waterman, Warwick Martin, Moses W. Leavitt, Lewis Elsworth, Seth Marvin, Moses Hull, Edward O. Smith, Alexander V. Sill, William White, C. M. Plumb, M. M. Daniel, M. F. Davis, J. M. Peebles, Henry T. Childs, Benjamin Todd, J. P. Bryant, J. R. Newton, W. F. Jamieson, F. M. Brown, S. J. Finney, Frank H. May, George Shufeldt, A. Burnham, William Reed, James F. Knowlton, Ira Porter, David Brunson, Thomas Richmond, S. Paine, A. H. Robinson, A. Wilhelme and Milo Porter, and their associates and successors and assigns are hereby created a body politic and corporate, under the name and style of the "*Religio-Philosophical Publishing Association*," and shall have perpetual succession, and by that name they are hereby made capable in law and equity, to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, defend and be defended, in any court of law and equity in this state or elsewhere. To make, have and use a common seal, and the same to renew and alter at pleasure, and shall be, and hereby are vested with all powers, privileges and immunities, which are or may be necessary to carry into effect the powers and objects of this act as hereinafter set forth; and the said association is hereby authorized and empowered, to purchase or manufacture all necessary materials for, and to carry on in all its varied branches and departments, the business of publishing, printing, binding, making and vending books, maps, periodicals, pamphlets, newspapers, and all other printed, painted, lithographed, photographed, mechanical and chemical matter, for the diffusion of knowledge and the promotion of the arts and sciences, and to establish all such agencies, depositories and bureaux as shall be deemed expedient by said association.

And the said association is empowered to hold real, personal and mixed estate, by purchase, gift, grant, bequest, or otherwise, and to convey the same in any manner they may deem expedient.

And the association may lease or rent real and personal estate, and erect and repair such buildings, privileges and appurtenances as shall be necessary to carry on and execute the business of said association, and make their property serviceable and valuable.

SEC. II. The capital stock of said association shall consist of One Hundred Thousand Dollars, and may be increased from time to time by the Board of Directors of said association, as deemed necessary, which capital stock shall be divided into shares of Fifty Dollars each.

SEC. III. The immediate government and direction of said association shall be vested in the fourteen first above named corporators, who shall constitute the first Board of Directors, and shall hold their office until others shall be duly elected as their successors, and enter upon the duties of their office, in accordance with the provisions of the By-Laws of said association; and a majority of the Board of Directors shall form a quorum for doing business.

SEC. IV. The Board of Directors shall elect one of their number president of the association, and such other officers and agents as the By-Laws shall require.

SEC. V. At all meetings of the stockholders, each stockholder shall be entitled to cast one vote for each share of stock holden, subject to such general regulations as the By-Laws shall provide; and no person shall be eligible to be elected to the office of Director, who does not own and hold, at least, ten shares of stock, on which has been paid at least ten per cent.; and there shall never be more than forty members in the directory, the number to be regulated by the By-Laws. And should it at any time happen that a Board of Directors shall not be elected at the time fixed by the By-Laws, said association shall not for that cause be dissolved, but the old Board of Directors shall hold their office until their successors are elected, and enter upon the duties of their office; and should the President or any of the Directors die, resign or be removed from office, refuse to act, or in any way become incompetent to act, the Board of Directors may fill any such vacancy, so occasioned, until the next regular meeting of the stockholders for the election of officers of the association, and may, in the absence of the President and Vice-President, appoint a President *pro tem*.

SEC. VI. The Board of Directors may, from time to time, open and close the books of the association for subscriptions to the capital stock, under such general restrictions and conditions as shall be provided in the By-Laws and subscription lists of the association. And it shall be lawful for the Board of Directors to require payments of the sums subscribed to the capital stock, at such times and in such proportion and on such conditions as they shall deem fit, under the penalty of the forfeiture of all previous payments thereon—notice for such calls for payments to be in accordance with the conditions of the subscription list and the By-Laws of the association.

SEC. VII. And for the better promoting the business of the association, the Board of Directors by the President or other agents duly empowered, may negotiate a loan or loans of money or credit to the amount of their capital stock, and may pledge the credit and property—real, personal and mixed estate—and all its rights, credits and franchises, for the payment thereof, and may execute promissory notes, bonds, mortgages, deeds of trust, and any and all forms of vouchers, at any time deemed necessary, and may prepare a sinking fund or other means for the payment of the same, and do all other necessary and proper acts to promote the general interest of the association. And said Board of Directors may, from time to time, adopt and amend all necessary By-Laws for the regulation of the business of the association, not in conflict with this act, and the laws of the land, and recind them at pleasure.

SEC. VIII. This act shall be deemed and taken as a public act, and shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and shall be construed liberally in all courts, for the purposes therein expressed or intended.

May 29, 1865.

TO THE PUBLIC:—

Since the circular and copy of the charter of the RELIGIO-PHILOSOPHICAL PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION, found on the other side of this sheet, was published, the corporation has purchased the well and favorably known, and largely patronized, Job Printing establishment of J. S. THOMPSON, Esq., situated at Nos. 84, 86 and 88 Dearborn street, between Randolph and Washington streets, Chicago, Ill.

This establishment has long been noted for the beauty and mechanical skill manifested in all its work. Its patronage is large, and its patrons are among the largest corporations and best business houses in the North West. In the original purchase there were four fine cylinder presses, propelled by a good steam engine, and all the appurtenances for first class printed matter.

The Corporation has found it necessary to add another large size power press to fill the requirements and meet the demands of the increasing patronage.

Our capital stock is now being taken with a zeal that indicates a disposition on the part of Spiritualists, and reformers generally, to build up, *at once*, a great, liberal publishing institution, that shall be a *potent power* in this eventful period of our country's history. We have already about forty thousand dollars *full paid* stock taken, and our Corporation owns one of the best printing establishments in the city of Chicago—entirely free from incumbrances, having paid cash down for everything.

We consummated our purchase on the 17th inst., and have been running the institution almost day and night since. We are engaged on book and miscellaneous printing generally, for which we have every facility.

The first number of our paper will be issued in about four weeks. The policy of the Corporation is to get a good ready for every branch of our enterprise—and do everything with an eye single to the *the very best quality of work and certainty of continued success.*

This additional circular we send forth to our friends that they may be fully posted in reference to the progress we are making.

Office, 84, 86 and 88 Dearborn Street.

Address R. P. PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION, P. O. drawer 6325, Chicago, Ill.

Very Respectfully and Fraternaly,

S. S. JONES,
President.