



DEVOTED TO RATIONAL SPIRITUALISM AND PRACTICAL REFORM.

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Spiritual and Reform Literature.

(WRITTEN EXPRESSLY FOR THE SPIRITUAL AGE.)

THE IMPROVISATORE:

TORN LEAVES FROM LIFE-HISTORIES.

BY EMMA HARDINGE.

PAGE SEVENTH.

'Twas cold, grey morning! The dawn of such a day as seems to wrap itself within the shroud of night, hiding the warm sun in its stony bosom, and to creep through time arrayed in the grey panoply of mourning for the departed stars. Lord Ravensworth was up by earliest streak of dawn. Till near mid-day he paced the long galleries of his splendid dwelling, uncertain what to do, or where to go. Fifty times he'd asked for Lady Ravensworth. They told him she was ill, not alarmingly so; no leech was sent for;—she was simply "indisposed"—could not be seen—he did not ask to see her; yet with a strange and morbid curiosity he kept on questioning how she was, and why she did not come abroad. At length he said "he'd go."

His valet asked him where. He could not tell. "Pack up some things." "For how long a time, my lord." He did not know. "The carriage? post horses? stage-coach? What would his lordship choose?"

"Anything! Something! A horse—the fleetest one in all the land."

He's gone—and Gabrielle— Peering into her face the attendants whisper, "Still she sleeps. She bade us not disturb her. Come away."

Again alone, with strong and sudden movement she waits the closing door to spring from her couch with all the seeming energy of life and health. First she went to the window, and drawing wide apart the damask hangings, let in a flood of light upon the chamber and herself. Planting herself full before the splendid pier glass, she stood in rigid contemplation of what she was. Behind her hung a full length portrait of what she was—a bride—the charming, fair and radiant Gabrielle. Life, youth and beauty beaming from the canvas. A chastened sadness sat upon the brow; 'twas but the fleecy summer cloud upon the sunlight. The image, full in beauty reflected, shone within the ample mirror; and by its side, stood Gabrielle— Gabrielle of Ravensworth.

Scarcely sixteen months had intervened since the two pictures thus presented, were each taken from life; but what a wondrous change between them! The long, white drapery of the countess's morning robe, fell like a shroud around her, yet white as it was, contrasted painfully with the livid ash-hue of her skin. The bride's round ivory arms, now thin and blue—the soft, pink hand, now waxen and transparent—the sunny curls, each twined with orange blossoms, smooth, silky, and distinct in their golden order, now hung in long dishevelled waving threads of auburn, the picture of neglect—the sunken cheek, wan brow, and livid lips—the heavy eyes, with deep, black halos round them,—all these made up a temple guesting the very genius of decay and ruin. But even this was more tolerable than the deep thrill of anguish and despair that sent its cords vibrating through those features as she herself gazed on the wreck.

"If he should come in time he will not know me," she murmured; then sighing deeply, turned and paced the room. What she thought of, none could say. She spoke not, never raised her eyes from off the ground, nor ceased her dreary walk for two long hours. She sometimes sobbed, but never shed a tear. Sometimes the memories that crowded round her seemed to wreath themselves in shapes which floated like a misty crown upon her brain. First came the village school-room with its open door, and sunny green beyond, and rosy happy faces peeping through; the kind old school-ma'am's gentle "well done, child;" the little heart leaping at the well won prize, the merry play, and boisterous, gleesome laugh; the romp, the swing, the dear companion's secrets; in elder days, the first triumphant throb when wondering masters praised the melting voice, and pictured scenes of world-admiring crowds. And oh! the glorious days of Rome and Florence; the sunny skies, the classic scenes of study,—companionship with Beethoven, Mozart, and Hayden; the flood of inspiration pouring in strains of self-made melody upon her soul, wafting her, saint-like, to the choiring skies; the proud triumphant empire of La Scala, crowning her, queen-like, with the earth's ovation. Her gentle mother's fond encircling arms; her tender voice of warning and her anxious care; the holy prayer to Virgin Mother whispered—"Ora pro nobis"—morn and eventide;—and now she floated on Venetian streams, or sailed in gay companionship in wide blue Naples' bay; once more she heard the gondolier's sweet chant, or plaintive vespers filled the twilight's gloom;—and now she lay in sweet luxurious stillness, beneath the white rose's fragrant shade, once more in her sweet Brompton home.—Home, home! That blessed home! That sweet and peaceful spot,

that lovely home, where never care or sin or suffering came; and where—she first saw Ernest.

Here we drop the veil. Let no human eye behold the writhings of that suffering face, the torture of that soul torn from its moorings, and cast upon the sea of wildest passion, without the pilot, Principle, or Captain of all Salvation, God, to trust in—passion, adoration for her human idol, generous but fervid impulses, her only guides.

They'd trained her in the gorgeous Roman church. Imagination, senses, taste, all these drank in their fill. But Gabrielle unhappily had a mind, a wide and deep capacity to think. When thought, directed by her clear and lucid reason, strove to find amidst the incense, thrilling tones, and sights of beauty, aught of reality or truth to rest on, she lost her way in falsehood, doubt and inconsistency. In deep bewilderment she questioned, "What is truth?"

Her Priest responded, "Daughter, what I tell you."

Her strong, clear mind suggested, "But God's works—"

The Priest replied, "Are all profane until I consecrate them."

"Alas! my wandering thoughts," the votary murmured, "still will reach forth in search of evidence."

"Give them to me," the churchman still insists. "Satan tempts men to think. Who dares to ask for evidence of what the sacred church teaches, or says or does? Of all the snares the evil one has laid, nothing is half so dangerous as reason."

Think, and you doubt. Doubt, and you are lost, unless you buy your soul back with your fortune. Nothing in Heaven is half so dear, or costs so much to save, as souls who dare to examine their reason."

God's work is at odds with what men call "his word." She had no knowledge, therefore no belief. She knew she'd seen a spirit, so she knew that she, a spirit, must survive the grave. But what or where that spirit was, where her spirit fast was tending, only the dreadful tales of fear and superstition shadowed forth. And now, when her despairing feet were pressing to it, horror and chill dread dodged every footprint.

Hour after hour elapsed alone! Oh, 'twas agony to be alone! She could not bear it. Why did no one come? She'd call her maid; but no, her cold, and unimpassioned face would bring no comfort to her aching heart—aching for love, for pity, for some cheering bosom, where she might sob her ebbing life away.

At last a footstep hastens to her door. It opens and—oh joy! her mother's arms enclose her.

The reader will not have forgotten Gabrielle's adopted mother, Mrs. Martin. This good and truthful friend, was cognizant of her daughter's petulant, and wayward fancies. She knew how she loved Ernest—how she disliked Lord Ravensworth.—With the unsophisticated idea (chiefly promulgated by very old fashioned persons or very pure and strait-laced spirits) that marriage should be the union of two congenial souls, separated in their birth, but twin in their natures, and destined to grow into one life, in all eternity, good Mrs. Martin had firmly opposed the marriage of expediency with the Earl.

Shocked by her daughter's violation of one of her strongest principles, they parted on the eve of the fatal wedding day.— This was their next meeting.

By early dawn that day two fiery riders had issued from the castle gates; the wretched lady knew her doom, and these expresses had gone forth to summon to her side her childhood's earliest friend, and one whom she already knew was on his way to see her—the captive whom her generous care had freed. His faithful friend Augustine had charge and ample funds to bring him back.

"Whatever he knew about her," she said, "was enough.— Tell him nothing—neither whom he'll see, nor where he'll come."

Augustine had written that the poor prisoner, tortured almost to madness by his savage captors,—starved, bruised and beaten—subject to such wrongs as wreck the senses, and curdle up the blood—had lost his memory, spirits, health and youth. He'd never heard of her marriage, and his tender friend had not found courage (so he wrote) to tell him.

"Be silent then," the countess wrote in turn. "Perhaps," (in thought, she added) "when he returns, I may be free again."

Evening at last. The sinking sun is setting far away over the tranquil sea.

"Mother!" murmured the dying lady, raising her head from off her now damp pillow, "every golden cloud is printed with the fleecy words of glory, 'I will return.' Oh, will our spirits come, like setting suns, on each to-morrow of eternity?"

"Gabrielle, my only darling, pity me—I know there's something dreadful in this sickness. You say 'I will return'; yet your limbs have been these many hours quivering with racking pain; and your face—oh, what signs of agony it tells!—and hark, that sound again! Virgin Mother shield us!"

Yes; there it was, distinct and clear; three loud, yet muffled knocks beat on the panel directly above the couch whereon the Countess lay.

"'Tis nothing, mother, I'm used to it now," replied Gabrielle with perfect indifference.

True, she was used to it. Ever since the night when the misty form had stood beside the Bible, and with no human finger inscribed its page with written words, the sounds that now so startled Mrs. Martin, had rung in gallery, and hall, and salon. Wherever the countess appeared, the knocks were heard. At first they only excited curiosity; at length they provoked investigation; but when no scrutiny could detect the cause, and still the invisible hammers seemed to dodge the steps of the changed and miserable lady, who sternly reproved the servants for their idle fears, and yet herself tendered no explanation, the domestics one by one dropped off. On some excuse or other, all the old castle servants shrank away, whilst others who took their places, fearfully whispered tales of a shadowy form, a woman pale and wan, with one bare shoulder striped with livid marks, who floated through the corridors and halls, in misty twilight hour. The fearful grooms declared at dead of night a woman's wailing shriek would wake them up, while all could hear and testify to sounds like muffled feet or gloved metallic hand, knocking around the mournful Countess's way.

Poor Mrs. Martin heard these tales with wonder, long ere her anxious eyes beheld her daughter, but when at last what she had deemed but idle superstition, met with its confirmation in the unexplained and warning sounds, her very soul within her shrank aghast.

In many an old weird mansion in different parts of Europe, such sounds as these, and many others which the severest scrutiny have been unable to identify with any human agency, are often heard.

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thousand soft, melodious flutes, like trickling streams upheld the bird-like treble; whilst ever and anon, the muffled drum with awful beat precise, the rolling kettle, and the crashing cymbals, kept time to sounds like tramping of a vast but viewless army. Nearer now they come. The dull deep beat of falling feet—'tis in the hall—it marches up the stairs. It comes—it comes! Louder and yet more loud, the music swells to thunder. The unseen mass must be the disembodied souls of every age since time began his course, so vast the rush, and strong the footfalls sound. And now the chant of thousand, thousand voices swelling in rich majestic choral tones, joins in the thundering crash.

Upspringing from her couch, as through the air the mighty Hallelujah sounds, Gabrielle, with frantic gestures and wild distended eyes, cried, "I see them now! the glorious shining band! Led by the giant Handel, on they come. Welcome great masters of the world of song! All hail, most noble Hayden, sweet Mozart, Gluck, Cherubini, Purcell, Arne, Porpora! Oh, what long array of souls divine, lit with immortal fire from Heaven itself! Beethoven, too! Oh let me kneel to thee, thou first and last of all the sons of song. Angels have spun thy soul from strings of music, and wove thy brain from out the threads of melody. Divine one, art thou come to take me home? me, thy poor worshipper on earth? Oh, let me be thy child in paradise!"

The pageant passed, or seemed to pass from her whose eyes alone of all the awe-struck listeners whose ears that night drank in those sounds unearthly, with mortal gaze beheld them. To Mrs. Martin, indeed, it seemed as if the air of the music-haunted corridor was specked with glancing lights; high some wild fantastic instruments, she attributed to the bewildering bric-a-brac of her strange ravings, she attributed to the mysterious music wrapped all in, who heard its solemn cadence. When at length, even to her ear, the last vibrating echoes of the music seemed to die away in utter vacant silence, she attempted to rouse her apparently entranced charge. Still she listened. Either her fine ear still drank in the music, or another sound had magnetized her powers.

"Hark, mother, hark! 'Tis carriage wheels. Do you not hear them? now they cross the ford. Haste, haste, oh haste! A long mile intervenes. Oh haste! They call me home." For full ten minutes, rigid, as cold as marble, the listening lady sat. To Mrs. Martin the stillness was intense. Yet she, the seeress and clairaudient, heard; for with bent ear she sat, until her heart-throbs marked the fleeting seconds.

To Mrs. Martin's joy she recognized at last, indeed, the very distant rumbling of some wheels. Nearer it came—it sounded in the court—some one alights, a stir, the sound of voices—now footsteps—yes, it is the ascent of footsteps, human feet, upon the marble stair. Nearer, nearer yet—hastily they come, like messengers of speed. They're in the gallery, upon the threshold—enter. Then, and not till then the rigid lady moves. With one wild scream of joy she rushes forward, and Ernest Rossi clasps her in his arms.

For a few, a very few brief minutes in her mortal life the wretched lady lived an age in heaven. She forgot her husband, name, and title—all. The presence of that one beloved, redeemed by her—free and alive, and in her hour of anguish,—this was the one pearl in her cup of life, that sweetened all the dark and bitter draught, and made it an eternity of compensation. With fond, wild tenderness she gazed upon him, parted the damp curls from his livid brow, passed her cold fingers sadly over his wan and faded cheek, gazed in his anxious eyes, until her own looked in his very soul and stamped there all the story of her love, her frailty, pride, ambition, guilt and remorse. Then winding her cold arms around his neck, she laid her weary head upon his shoulder tenderly; and silently as night, passed through the portals of the land of souls.

'Tis midnight. Still as death the landscape seems. Hills, rocks and rivers—even the babbling brooks seem locked in sleep. The moonbeams dream upon the lone hill side; the stars are sleeping in the glittering sky; the silent dell is full of dreaming flowers, whose colored cups are closed in balmy sleep. In all that wide and solemn scene of stillness, one only watcher breaks the charmed spell. Now he moves swiftly across the mountain top; now he climbs down rugged, wild ravines, seemingly for no other purpose than to pace the gorge's depth and climb the hill again; anon his restless step is turned across the moor, as if some sudden purpose drove him on with all the most lightning speed; but now he turns, and back his way he wends, in the very self-same track, and with the same impulsive speed. What is he doing in the lonely night? The night! Why he's been walking this same way, and in the self-same spots, from early morning. Hour after hour, and mile and mile on mile, the scorching mid-day sun blazed on his head, and still he sped from nothing to no place. The sultry noon still saw him driving past the glen and thicket, with hot desperate speed. The tranquil sunset purpled round his way, and still his turning round he hastened on. The gentle stars looked wondering on his track, and then he hid away. Their silver

light shone like the eyes of angels, reading through his very soul, and this he could not bear.

Near you thicket stands his horse—he tied it there at morning; still it browses quietly, awaiting hour by hour its restless master's will. How many leagues he's walked, and yet the whole within one narrow circuit. Never once has he lost sight of yonder frowning castle, where ever these gray towers up-rear their gloomy height. He walked and walked, like a spell-bound magician. His clothes are dusty. In his haggard eyes one question seems to go searching forth—"I wonder if she lives!"

How many many dreary times he's said this sentence over! He might resolve his doubt, would he but knock at yonder castle gate; but this he dare not; he has a secret, and it is so mighty an one, that he fears every human eye that looks on him must see it. Besides, although he wanders around that castle, as an enchanted circuit from which he cannot break, he knows there is something dreadful there, something which he's sure must be there, and which he would not look on for a thousand worlds.

For the twentieth time that weary endless night, he turns to wander through the silent forest; when just as he was near its first oak-opening, a deep yet distant bell struck on his ear.

"It is the convent chiming the midnight hour," was his first thought. And yet it had a tone of strangeness—deeper and slower than its wont, he thought it. Will it never cease chiming? Why now he counts, and lo! some twenty strokes he numbers. 'Tis not the tell-tale hour. Old Time has all run out his sand for some one; some soul has fled! and yonder mournful peal, rings out its passage to its long, last home.—What crowd and haughty form can that be that now laid low, last. I wonder how she looks! Hark! surely—

That voice again! It sounds like her's—my wife's—no—she that was my wife—dead, poisoned—that is—some may say that she was poisoned. How should they know? She would never tell them."

"Edward! Edward Ravensworth."

"By Heaven, it is her voice!" and as if to assure him still more of who addressed him, close before his very eyes, moved the figure of his wife. She passed from out a clump of sheltering trees, and slowly crossed his path. The moon shone full upon her, revealing her every feature, limb, and gesture—the same white robe in which he'd last beheld her, the long streaming sunny auburn curls—her slipped feet and silken sash were there. She turned her head; and on his wondering eyes her own appealing glance was fixed a moment, then she passed away, he knew not where or how.

"'Twas she," and in full life, too. "God of Heaven, she lives." Down on his knees the wretched husband fell, and in a flood of wild and broken tones, thanked God he was no murderer.

He never paused to think that he might be deceived. Spirit, illusion, nothing of this he'd seen; 'twas Gabrielle, his wife, and living still. Perchance she'd run away, or come to seek him. Perchance the draught was harmless after all. Enough for him, she lived; and hastening home, more like a hawk than mortal man, he flew, until he reached the castle. Just as he reached it some one was passing in. Again he thought he saw the fluttering dress of Gabrielle. 'Twas something white and human. The gate was open, too. A carriage preceded him, and servants gathered round it.

Taking advantage of the seeming confusion occasioned by the arrival of strangers (although at any other time this very fact would have elicited enquiry from him) he passed through the wrong unnoticed, entered the castle, traversed gallery and hall, until once more he paused before the door of his wife's apartments. At first he thought of knocking, as was and is the custom of "the great," but something told him, form was ended now. He opened wide the door, and stood within the chamber of the dead.

There lay the peaceful form—peaceful and rigid, as the clay-cold marble. They'd spread a drapery of soft, white gauze around her, and only the sad and livid, poisoned face, was visible above it. Long rows of burning tapers shed their light upon the silent clay; and kneeling by its side—the side of her, his first love and his last—the pale Improvisatore was seen, the only life within that silent place.

Rising upon the entrance of the Earl, the soldier, true of heart and firm of speech, accosted him with "Welcome, murderer!"

TO BE CONTINUED.

Goodness owes nothing to the circumstance of its being recorded in a sacred book, nor loses its claim to grateful, reverent commemoration because not blazoned there. Moral greatness did not die out with the apostles. Their lives were reported for this, among other ends, that their virtues might be propagated to future times, and that men might spring up as worthy a place among the canonized themselves.—Channing.

The Spiritual Age.

Progress is the Common Law of the Universe.

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SPIRITUALISM IN RELIGION.—NO. IX.

THE CHRIST. (CONCLUDED.)

Intimately connected with the subject under discussion are one or two topics which deserve a brief notice here. The first relates to

THE LIVING JESUS.

If such a person as Jesus ever lived on earth, every Spiritualist must concede that HE LIVES TO-DAY, and that he is certainly *no less* a manifestation of the Divine in human form than when in the flesh. He, like all the good and great of the past, is a spiritual presence in the heavens and a power on the earth. His power in the realm of spirit—that is, ability to act upon and influence receptive minds, embodied and disembodied—must be in proportion to his purity and goodness, which constitute true greatness.

By virtue of spiritual laws, now to some extent understood by all Spiritualists, he may be actually present with those who desire his presence. All who admire his character and yearn to possess it, by renouncing and crucifying the lower selfhood, that the Divine may live in them, thereby interiorly come into *rapport* with his living, loving spirit; they join themselves, in fact, to him—become actual members of a *living body*, of which he is the head and heart—and thus derive influences of inspiration and life from and through him as medium or mediator.

All this, mystical and fanciful as it may have seemed when presented in the lifeless, dogmatic style of the pulpit, becomes rational and vital truth in the light of modern Spiritualism. Every one who has become at all acquainted with the laws of magnetic and spiritual affinity, receptivity, impartation, etc., as illustrated in the modern experience of circles and sensitive persons, at once sees that it must be so. On the same principle that a clairvoyant can enter into sympathy with a distant person in the body, or a medium or circle become receptive to the influence of a disembodied spirit whose presence is strongly desired—that is, by the law of "seek and ye shall find," or of want and supply—can the living Jesus be present in the heart that yearns toward him, and specially manifest himself, as he promised, where two or three are gathered in his name. These manifestations may be immediate—that is, in his proper personality; or mediate, through angels pervaded and moved by the Christ-spirit, as were those made to John in Patmos.* In either case the essential fact is the same.

the subject desired; the latter of necessity close it up.

The same must be equally true, and by the same laws, with reference to Plato, Pythagoras, Moses, Zoroaster, Boudha Sakia, and all others who have ever lived. The devout disciples of each of these powerful mediatorial minds, by a sort of mental magnetic affinity or attraction, like that which causes particles of iron to rush toward and adhere to a magnetized bar, attach themselves to and receive inspiration through, these, their respective centres or heads. These mighty minds of the past, with their multiplied adherents, both in this and the spirit-world, forming mental bodies more or less compactly united, thus become Powers in the spiritual realm, acting either in harmony with, or antagonistic to, the Christ. These Powers unquestionably wield in some degree the opinions and destinies of men and nations on the earth; and contests will continue, until all shall be brought into subjection to and harmony with the most powerful, that is, the true Christ, in whom the Divine Love and Wisdom are most fully embodied. It is for us to choose under what Power we will be ranked, and through whom mediatorially we will receive thought and spiritual life.

It was, as we apprehend, with reference to this magnetic power of goodness, that Jesus said, "If I be lifted up [on the cross], will draw all men unto me." Love is the mightiest attractive power in the universe of mind. He felt that the great love which welled up in him for all the race, and which was about to make its crowning manifestation in willingly submitting to the terrible torture of the cross for their sakes, would in time attract all men to himself. This it must surely do, on the obvious principles of dynamics, unless some mightier love shall intervene and counteract its potency. But where shall we look for such? What hero, chieftain, prophet, sage, philosopher, avatar, demigod, or teacher of mankind—especially what one in any degree antagonistic to Jesus—has ever exhibited in an equal degree the attribute of unselfish, universal Love? We know of none; hence we conclude he must eventually "subdue all things unto himself."

Let none imagine that Jesus, or any other exalted being, must needs come down through space, and localize himself, in order to be present with and to influence individuals on earth. The spirit knows no locality except state. To be in the same state is to be spiritually present with another; to be in a different mental or moral state is to be absent from another.—Change of state in the spirit-life corresponds to change of place in the external life. It needs, then, only that we pass up by aspiration into a corresponding spiritual state with Jesus, in order to come really into his presence—commune with, and be influenced by him. And the same of any other. This is the law of all spirit-presence and communion, as abundantly illustrated in modern experience.

But may he be seen and conversed with, as a personal being, and as other spirits are? Doubtless, if our consciousness were sufficiently interior, and our spirit-vision clear enough, this might be the case; but if we be obliged to send an intermediate messenger to communicate with the "beloved disciple" who had leaned on his bosom in the earth-life (see Revelations, as before), few now can expect to enjoy a higher privilege. There are not wanting, however, those among modern Spiritualists who claim to be in immediate personal communication with the Nazarene; but so far as we have tested them, these

claims have usually seemed ridiculously groundless, and that in proportion to the confidence with which they are put forth. Nevertheless, all who really desire it, and thus open themselves thereto, may unquestionably feel the power of his quickening spirit, prompting them to lives of purity, humility, beneficence, faith, justice, and every grace and virtue of the Christ-man. One other thought, relating to the

REASON OF DIFFERENT ESTIMATES,

and we have done. No person is deemed qualified to judge of a musical composition, or to appreciate rightly the genius of the composer, unless he has musical talent and culture himself. To some people, what Milton calls the

"Heavenly touch of instrumental sounds,"

is but a source of weariness, and they impatiently exclaim with the unmusical Dean Swift,

"What mighty difference can there be,
'Twixt twiddle-dum and twiddle-dee."

No one can perceive the nicer touches, the diviner beauties of the great master-pieces of human art in painting and sculpture, unless he has in himself the elements of an artist—unless his own soul has been baptized by the spirit of Beauty and his eye trained to decipher the occult meaning of shades and tints, of lines and curves. As a late critic has finely said,—

"To paint a great man, one must not merely comprehend that he is great but must in some sense rise up by the side of, and sympathize with, his greatness,—must enter into and identify himself with some essential quality of his character, which quality will be the theme of his portrait. So it inevitably follows that the greatness of the artist is the limitation of his art,—that he expresses in his work himself as much as his subject, but no more of the latter than he can comprehend and appreciate."—*Atlantic Monthly* for May 1859.

Is it strange, then, that men should differ widely in their estimates of the character and teachings of so divine a man as Jesus?—that some should see no "mighty difference" between his life, or the spirit that actuated it, and that of common men? If he were, indeed, the incarnation of Deity in the exclusive sense which some have maintained, yet men could comprehend and appreciate him only within their own circumscribed limits.

The savage sees his divinest man in the chieftain who displays most cunning and prowess in war—the politician deems him "God-like" whose superior mental capacities enable him to circumvent the schemes of smaller statesmen; the intellectual philosopher venerates as an oracle of Deity that mind which can delve beyond his own depth in the subtleties of the schools.

The proud, the selfish, the sensual, the uncharitable, the superficially intellectual, the worshippers of creeds and devotees of sect, cannot be expected to see the real beauty of the true Christ. But he who is humbly and earnestly seeking to eradicate all errors and evils from himself, and to incarnate the Christ in his own heart and life,—though he know not the meaning of "Philosophy," and though he endorse either or neither of the multifarious creeds of Christendom,—such an one is the best interpreter of the words and worth of Jesus. There is profoundest wisdom in the saying, "If any man will do His will [wills to live the true life], he shall know of the doctrine."

Such, briefly, and imperfectly, are the writer's views of the Christ—views to which modern Spiritualism has aided him to arrive. To him they seem rational, elevating, inspiring and true: to other minds they may appear otherwise. He claims to see and to speak only for himself. It is often alleged that

who by it have been led to understand, admire, revere and love that character, and all who bear it, as never before.

THE CRISIS IN EUROPE.

Advices from Europe, received just as we go to press, announce that the long threatened bloody contest of the great powers of that continent has actually commenced—the Austrian army having entered the territory of Sardinia and won the first battle. When and where the end will be, no man can tell. Those, however, who have faith in Progress, in Humanity, and in God, can have no fears but that the result will be for the furtherance of mental, civil and spiritual Liberty, and Human Good in general.

The immediate and ostensible cause of this great struggle, which seems likely to involve more or less all the existing governments of Europe, is so mystified in the complications of diplomacy, as to be little understood. The real cause, however, is undoubtedly the irreconcilable hostility between the Power of Conservatism, as represented by Austria, and the Spirit of Progress, which has of late been mightily at work in Sardinia and the neighboring states of Italy—Sardinia having, within a few years, adopted a constitutional government, and devoted her energies, under the guidance of a sagacious statesman, to the elevation of the people and the development of internal resources.

Strangely enough, Louis Napoleon, the self-elected Emperor of France, and himself deemed the very prince of despots, is found, with all the power of that powerful nation, on the side of Progress; and still more strangely, allied with him, by secret treaty, stands his late mortal enemy, the Czar of all the Russias!—while England seems to occupy at best a doubtful position, and it is uncertain whether any government on the continent will or can remain neutral. The further developments of the terrible drama will be looked for with an interest never before exceeded.

It is easy to believe that there are Powers behind these thrones, which are but using them as instruments to dash each other in pieces, that the way may be opened for the incoming reign of Justice, Equality, Fraternity and Peace. It seems to be the destiny of Humanity, at least so far in its growth, to attain to the Canaan of Peace only by crossing the Red Sea of Contest and Slaughter.

MRS. HATCH.

A New York Correspondent of the Springfield Republican ventured lately to hear an "Inspirational Discourse" from the lips of Mrs. Hatch, and thus describes the occasion:

"She entered quietly and after taking her seat and looking around upon the audience for a moment, cast her eyes upward, (and by the way, large, soft spiritual eyes they are,) keeping them fixed until a deep shudder passing over her frame they suddenly closed. In my profound ignorance I asked a lady who sat next me, 'What was the matter?' 'Why, she is passing into her trance,' she said, placing in my hand a pamphlet containing some of the printed discourses of Mrs. Hatch. After looking at it, I returned it saying that the language was remarkably beautiful. 'Oh, it is not her language,' was the reply; 'it is the spirit's—she has nothing to do with what she says.' A committee was selected to choose the subject of the lecture, who, after retiring for a brief space, returned, and a gentleman who seemed to be charged d'offices announced the subject decided upon as: 'What do we know of the Spirit World?' In an instant Mrs. Hatch arose, and with hands folded across her breast, offered up one of the most eloquent and comprehensive prayers to which I ever listened. At its conclusion, she opened her eyes, which had been so long a time closed, and commenced her lecture, holding the attention of her audience un-

waveringly to its close. Her language was clear, pure and melodious, her ideas rarefied and metaphysical."

The subject, from the representation, was treated in a very eloquent and rational manner—the positions being taken that as we derive all our knowledge through our senses, those who witness sensible demonstrations from the spirit world, and see, hear and feel spirit-beings, now as in ancient times, know that such a world and such beings exist. This, however, was not quite satisfactory to the addressed correspondent, who, having never seen, heard, nor felt a spirit, left the hall "feeling that we know precious little about the spirit-world"—doubtless very true, so far as this writer is concerned.

The same writer "don't believe" Mrs. Hatch was in a trance, or under spirit-control, for the reason that she appeared to be "alive to everything around her, acute and entirely self-possessed." This is a good illustration of the readiness of some people to opinionize on matters they know nothing about—for this writer had just confessed "profound ignorance" of the subject.

If the claim of Mrs. Hatch is true—namely, that she is not herself the speaker, but some other intelligence controls and uses her organism for the time,—why should not this intelligence be quite as wide-awake, acute and self-possessed as Mrs. H. herself?

THE INDIAN AID MOVEMENT.

Several years ago a man of humble origin, but then in the prime of life, left the home of his fathers in one of the interior counties in Old England, and sought a new home in this western world. He journeyed toward the sunset, and at length located on the Indian frontier, if we rightly recollect, in the then territory of Iowa. After spending some years there, he disposed of his accumulations and proceeded still westward, finally settling on the further side of the Rocky Mountains, in the territory of Oregon. Here, as in Iowa, he lived for a number of years in close proximity with the aboriginal tribes, and by the uprightness and benevolence of his conduct toward them, won their confidence, esteem and affection—a confidence which was never violated on either side. But he was also compelled to be often cognizant of wrongs and outrages of the most flagrant character, committed by unprincipled and reckless white adventurers against the sons of the forest—which led to acts of revenge and bloodshed, and entailed upon the country vexatious and expensive wars. At length, on the breaking out of the Indian war in Oregon, with the causes of which he was familiar—the blame lying mainly if not wholly on the side of lawless whites—his soul became so fired with a sense of the injustice and cruelties he saw inflicted upon these weak and defenceless tribes, that he resolved to devote his life and all his possessions to the work of arousing the American people to a sense of these wrongs, and saving the remnants of a noble race from utter extinction.

He proceeded to California, and thence to the Atlantic States, where, for the last two years or thereabouts, he has been laboring most indefatigably for this end. His efforts everywhere have encountered a formidable indifference, and a spirit of hopelessness as to the fate of the poor Indian, which would long since have disheartened a less indomitable man. But though now advanced in years, with the frosts of age whitening his venerable head, the dauntless JOHN BERTSON has worked on untiringly with pen and tongue, wherever he could obtain a hearing.

His labors are beginning to have some effect. An organization, entitled "The American Indian Aid Association," has been formed.

HON. M. M. M. President; HON. DANIEL F. TIEMANN, RICHARD REED, Vice-presidents; HON. GEORGE HALL, Treasurer; JASON R. ORT, Secretary.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: JOHN BERTSON, Chairman; HON. MYRON H. CLARK, GEORGE HALL, J. R. ORT, TAPPEN TOWNSEND.

This Association aims to accomplish the following objects:

1. To inform and arouse the public mind with regard to the Indians, and induce such action on the part of Government as will tend to insure their preservation.
2. The full recognition of their rights as men, so that to rob or murder an Indian, shall be punishable in the same manner as though the crime was committed on an American citizen.
3. The setting apart of ample domains, in suitable locations, for all the Indian tribes, and the protection of those domains from aggressions from without.
4. The withdrawal of all troops from their territories, leaving them at liberty to manage their own affairs.
5. The introduction among them, with their consent, of well-ordered and peaceable families of whites, to co-operate with them in self-government, in keeping out the whiskey dealers, and in developing the resources of their country, so that they may become self-sustaining, and aid in the higher blessings of civilization.

MR. BERTSON proposes to publish a weekly paper, to be called "THE CALUMET," to advocate this cause. Already one or two pamphlets and other publications have been issued and widely circulated. The office of the society and of *The Calumet* is at No. 55 Broadway, N. Y.

A similar Association has recently been organized at Philadelphia, in which city public meetings have lately been held. One of these was presided over and addressed by Hon. ELI K. PRICE, of that city. An Ottawa chief also spoke, and told the whole story in a few words, as follows:

"You have read of the Indian's wrongs. Some of you have been told how savage and cruel the Indians are. The newspapers tell you this, but don't tell you how we are exasperated to do wrong by the bad white people that settle near us, and take our hunting grounds. When the white man first came here, the English, French and Spanish white people, they set tribe against tribe. The white people wanted our lands and they did so. Oh! how many of the Indians have fallen by mean, low, white people, who you would not have amongst you. They came to exterminate us. The bad white man swore he would kill red skin. Indians asking for peace have been cowardly murdered; weak women slain; our children's brains dashed out against trees, and their fathers shot down when rushing to the protection of their children. You say we are doomed to destruction before civilization, but if you white people let us alone we will live. The Indians are as able to think as you. Capable of hatred; capable of gratitude; a spirit of revenge we have like other people; you know bad people well enough; the natural fruit of bad men amongst the Indians is to bring vice to us. Send us good people, and we will do right."

At another meeting in Philadelphia, an eloquent and powerful address was given by Miss EMMA HARDINGE, who portrayed the character and sufferings of the Indian in glowing terms.

This movement appears to be a wholly benevolent one,—it promises no earthly emoluments or renown,—but the blessings of the weak and those who are ready to perish will fall upon all who enlist in it. It is one in which all Spiritualists and all lovers of justice and of human progress, must feel an interest. Its venerable originator, we are happy to say, is a Spiritualist, having become convinced of the reality of spirit-intercourse by demonstrations witnessed in the wilds of Oregon; and he doubtless has felt inspired and sustained in the herculean task he has undertaken, by the realized presence and aid of the great and good departed.

Educational.

DR. WELLINGTON'S METHOD.

[The following explanatory statement will be read with interest by all who are looking for educational improvements. None can fail to see that a school conducted on such principles will have immense advantages over one managed on the arbitrary and authoritative system.]

MESSES. EDITORS:—I have so many applications from the readers of the AGE for more information respecting my method of teaching, that I propose to offer a short explanation for insertion in your columns.

Because we say we "do not compel the pupils to commit the record of others' thoughts to memory," we are continually asked if we "forbid the use of books." Certainly not, if the pupil wants them. We should as soon think of forbidding the use of bread and meat. And we should as soon load a boy's shoulders with the product of some one's flour-mill, as to load his memory with sentences which his mind does not demand, and which he learns only because we direct him to commit them.

But "how do you teach science?" it is asked; "and how do it without lessons?" Let me illustrate by explaining my method as pursued in one of the most difficult branches—say Book-keeping by Double Entry.

I requested a teacher who had not studied book-keeping to give, as near as she could, a history of the transactions she supposed might take place in a wholesale store,—buy, sell, get insured, borrow money, give notes, deposit money, &c., &c. This was easy, and resulted in a Day Book.

After these entries are made for twenty or thirty days the pupil will easily see how difficult it is to make up the account of John Smith, or make out the cash account from this daily record; and will conceive or invent a Ledger, and suggest that each man's account have a separate page, without being told what a Ledger is. (Our plan is to have the pupil invent as if the whole was an original discovery.)

In looking over the entries, suppose we find one which says, "Paid John Smith's account in cash \$250. I ask if it is necessary to keep account of cash. All say, "yes." "Shall that \$250 be entered in Cash account, or in John Smith's account?" Some say, "John Smith's;" others say, "in Cash." All begin to consider, and generally to argue and explain to each other. Each will see the propriety of the other's position. Soon some one will say, "I think it ought to be entered in both." The Cash account would not be perfect without it, and certainly John Smith's will not be. All will soon see the force of this last opinion. They will also see that it is debited to one and credited to the other.

I then ask if there is any other entry like this which needs to be put in two accounts. They look over and find that in every instance something is given and something received. In other words, every transaction has its Dr. and Cr. relation, and needs to go into two accounts.

Thus, if the exercise is properly conducted, each pupil is as much an inventor or discoverer of a system of Double Entry as he who first discovered it, and all have some of the energy and enthusiasm of inventors and discoverers.

Their books will seldom balance the first time. But the faith and energy and hope of the inventor never fails with the first trial; and I have never found a class who would give up or tire until the books balanced.

As yet I have not found a pupil whose books would not balance by \$12,000 on the first trial, copy, add up and compare sixteen times before he would give up, and finally secure an exact balance.

Thus in all branches we seek to carry each pupil through such steps of original thought. We converse on every art and science, and by all possible means quicken and aid the desire for knowledge. And during the whole period of their stay with us we bring their knowledge to all possible practical use. We make agriculture and mechanics attractive, and have patience while they make the mistakes incident to all experimenting and trial. At present we have to suffer this loss, as few parents can realize the value of experiments and trials to beginners, enough to supply the means to make them practical.

By similar continued care we develop the social qualities and also the power to manage, oversee and conduct. To-day we have given two young ladies, and a young man of sixteen, charge of a garden of more than an acre, and two or three laborers. We shall only give general instructions, the leading features of a plan; and we shall rather suffer some loss than to so interfere and manage for them, as to deprive them of this lesson in management and care.

Books, papers, and periodicals, we furnish in the most attractive forms our ingenuity can devise and our means supply; and present them as food for their minds. But we should as soon think of compelling our children to eat a whole loaf of bread, or empty a sugar-bowl or salt-cellar into their stomachs, as to compel them to commit to memory a volume of geography, grammar, or arithmetic. And however difficult it may be for any one to believe the theory, we are prepared to show its value by the effects, and are more ready to submit to the most careful examination in our school and family than to trust to our ability to give any idea of it through the press.

O. H. WELLINGTON, M. D.
JAMESTOWN, Chautauque Co., N. Y.

Gymnasium at Harvard College.

Through the efforts of Rev. Prof. Huntington, a donation of \$20,000 has recently been made to Harvard University, for the purpose of erecting a gymnasium, and providing for the proper physical training of the students. A building has already been erected, which is to be supplied with all the necessary apparatus, and other accommodations on a liberal scale. This is one of the cheering indications of the times, leading us to hope for the inauguration of a more rounded and integral system of education in all our public institutions. Even Old Harvard progresses!

NEW PAPER IN SOUTH CAROLINA.—Under the title of "The Cross Anchor Progressionist," Dr. Dixon L. Davis and Joel H. Clayton propose to issue a weekly paper at Cross Anchor, S. C., to commence about the 1st of June. It is to be devoted to General News, Philosophy, and the Facts of Spirit-Inter-course. Terms, \$1.50 a year in advance. Address Davis & Clayton, Cross Anchor, Spartanburg District, S. C.

DISCUSSION IN CHICAGO.—A debate on the nature and cause of the spiritual manifestations is expected to take place in Chicago about the first of next week. Joel Tiffany, Esq., will represent the Spiritualists, and Prof. Young the opposition. Mr. Young is said to be one of the most acute analysts and debaters in the country; and an interesting discussion may be therefore anticipated.

Boston and Vicinity.

Sunday Meetings.

The cessation of the Melodeon lectures seems not likely to occasion a dearth of "spiritual" food to those who desire it on Sundays. The meetings at 14 Bromfield street are now continued through the day, and are well attended. They partake something of the nature of conferences,—those present being invited to speak "as the spirit gives utterance." Of course, under this administration, some things are said to edification, and some not.

At Harmony Hall, which has been fitted up in a very neat and comfortable manner, good audiences were also in attendance. In the afternoon we listened to a very comprehensive and philosophical discourse through the lips of Mr. FARDER, on

THE METHODS OF THE DIVINE GOVERNMENT.

The course of thought was briefly as follows:

All feel that they are in some way governed and controlled by forces they do not originate and cannot alter. These forces are of two kinds, external and internal. All are obliged to recognize and bow to the external, while some refuse to acknowledge and submit to the internal. Some even deny that there is a divine government. Yet they witness the regular operation of nature, the orderly procession of the seasons, etc. In all these is seen order; order implies system; system implies government. If this is not Divine it must be Devilish. Even if you cannot conceive of a personal Divine Being, yet you must admit the government of Divine Principles.

The external Divine government is administered in four grand departments—those of mathematical, astronomic, geologic and chemical law. To these man finds himself externally amenable. But he does not apprehend nor conceive of the application of the internal government to himself individually, except as he is spiritually and religiously unfolded. Becoming thus unfolded, he seeks to understand and conform himself to it.

It was argued that there was both a general and special internal government exercised over every person—the latter being maintained through the agency of disembodied minds. It was also held that there is in some sense a personal God. While the intellect recognizes universal and all-potent Principles, yet the heart craves and demands a personal embodiment of those principles. Centralities everywhere prevail. Every government has its centre or head; every system its central sun; every world, every sphere of spirit-life has its central mind, through which comes the highest revelation of the Divine will to it. There must be a Central Mind of all. The man Christ Jesus might be regarded as the Central Mind of Humanity, standing at the apex and head of the race; and yet in the hierarchy of heaven there may be minds as far beyond him as he is beyond the common development of humanity. Nevertheless, each soul may feel its interior union with the Divine, melting into the Infinite as the drop melts into the ocean.

When man prays, "Thy will, O God, be done," he may dissent from the thought of being ruled by finite intelligences; but no high or exalted spirits can ever act in contravention to the Divine will; and one part of the Divine will is that no man's individuality shall be violated.

In conclusion, all were recommended to a serious consideration of the internal Divine government, and a deep bowing of the soul to the Father's will. Then in all trials, misfortunes and storms, which come to all, the soul will be buoyed up, filled with a divine peace, and realize an intimate union with the Father-Spirit.

The Convention Next Week.

We have been furnished with the following programme of the Spiritual convention to be held in Harmony Hall, 419 Washington street, Boston, the last week in May.

S. B. BRITTON of the AGE is expected to open with a lecture Monday evening, 23d. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday following, sessions of two hours each will be held, forenoon and afternoon, in which a number of speakers will participate. Tuesday evening, ALVIN PAXSON will deliver a "Candle Lecture to Spiritualists," to illustrate the effect of finding fault. Wednesday evening, MRS. H. F. M. BROWN, of the *Harmony*, Cleveland, O., is expected to speak. If met, MISS ROSA T. AMERY will occupy the desk. Miss AMERY will also lecture on Thursday evening. This convention is called by the *Harmony* "The Convention of the Spiritualists," and is to be held at the "Harmony" free each day. Speakers are especially invited.

LECTURES BY PROF. FOWLER.—Prof. L. N. Fowler, of New York, the distinguished phrenologist, is expected to deliver a course of popular lectures on Phrenology in Boston, early in June. The invitation addressed to him is signed by such men as Dr. J. V. C. Smith, J. A. Brodhead, Hon. Henry Wilson, Wm. Schouler, Esq., Rev. T. S. King, etc. The lectures cannot fail to be instructive and profitable.

THE DUTTON CHILDREN.—These little fairies will remain at Mercantile Hall another week. They have the past week been visited by crowds, who have been interested and delighted—the young folks with doll-like proportions and charming ways; and older heads with the physiological problem they present.

Various Items.

..... It is rumored that Hume, the medium, is preparing a work on second sight for a Paris publisher.

..... Joe Barker, the street preacher, once Mayor of Pittsburgh, has been convicted of being a common nuisance in that city.

..... The New York *Waiver* advertises that it will publish weekly photographic reports of Spurgeon's sermons delivered in London.

..... The Rev. Dr. Cox is writing a series of letters in *The American Presbyterian*, designed to show that the Apocalyptic battle of "Armageddon" is, in all probability, at hand, in the grand rupture of the peace of Europe now taking effect.

..... The Presbyterian church at Cortlandville, N. Y., has suspended Stephen Brewer, one of its influential members, for having heard Emerson, Phillips and George W. Curtis lecture on Sunday. Mr. Brewer thought the elders had no authority to restrain him in this matter, but they insisted they had, and because he refused to submit, they indicted, tried, and suspended him for "breach of covenant."

..... Rev. Henry Prince of Somersetshire, England, the founder of a new sect, claims to be so united with the divinity as to have gained the supremacy over the external world. In his journal recently published, he boasts the following miraculous achievement:—

"By the help of God I have overcome the east wind. For three or four weeks a strong east wind has been blowing, and as the wind exerts quite a pestilential influence upon my body, and has so often been the means of bringing me very low, when it began this time my flesh trembled. God, however, gave me faith to believe it should not injure me; nor did it, though I have been exposed to it daily. Yesterday, however, my faith failed, and the wind being strong, and the sun very hot, I expected to be laid up; when, lo! the wind shifted to the north! I have no doubt that God gave me special faith for the occasion; and, when the faith was no longer needed, He took it from me. Neither do I doubt that I, through faith, subdued the east wind to the glory of God."

..... Some time in the spring of '57, the steamer *St. Nicholas* "opened" at New Orleans with a callopie, the first one ever heard of those parts, causing the greatest consternation among the merchants, most of whom supposed they must now give an account of their sine sure enough. But one of them, a girl, stood and listened for some time, and at last walked into the house and expressed her opinion thus: "Mamma, I don't b'lieve dat ar's Gabriel, 'cause I s'nt feared a bit; but if it's him, he's playin' 'Wait for the vagin', sure's you're born!'"

..... "I am fully persuaded," says Baxter, "that I shall love my friends in Heaven, and therefore know them; and this principally binds me to them on earth. If I thought I should never know them more, or love them after death, I should love them comparatively little now, as I do all other transitory things."

..... Mr. George Filer, of Belchertown, says that a vegetable diet should be the sole food of man. He says that for twenty-two years he and his family have not eaten any flesh, and for fifteen years, have abstained from fish, fowl, tea and coffee. Their health has been good, and his weight is as has been about 200 lbs.

..... We are informed that there is some intention on the part of the prime movers in the Rutland Convention, to call another mass meeting in Vermont, on a somewhat different plan, the present season.

Interesting Miscellany.

THE SHIPWRECK.

BY E. V. WILSON.

It was night on the deep. Not a star, to gladden the soul of the sailor, could be seen. All space was clouded with a dense, dark fog. Not a sound could be heard save the roar of the wild wind through the rigging of our noble ship. Now and then came the voice of our captain from the quarter-deck, ominous, through its earnest tones, of approaching danger.

"How does she head?"

"North west by west," clear and loud, like the clarion, rang forth from the sturdy old sailor at the helm.

"Keep her away a little! Steady!"

"Ay, ay, sir!" answered Jack.

For some moments silence reigned supreme. Then came over the sea a distant roar, as of many waters rushing to battle with the wind. Nearer and still nearer it came. Quick and clear rang the order to "clew up" and "clew down." "Quick lads! let go all! In with everything! Keep her away! Steady as you are!"

Silence again prevailed, and not a whisper was heard from the hundreds that crowded the deck of our ship. Still nearer the fearful sound. It was the storm-voice of God on the wild night-winds at sea.

"Double man the helm! Stand by with the axes! Hold on all!" sounded from the quarter.

Then was heard from the larboard a wild roar like the voice of many thunders. Quick followed a bright flash, revealing to the frightened freight of human beings the wild scenes of a storm-battle at sea. The wind, the water, and the rain, with the heavy thunder and the lightning-flash combined, hurled their strength against our frail bark, intent on her destruction.

A sound—a crash; a fearful scream went forth to the storm God, and our noble ship lay a helpless wreck at the mercy of the sea. Half our numbers were swept away at one fell stroke. The balance clung to the wreck, crying to God for mercy. Then followed a scene that pencil cannot paint or language describe. There was the strong man, and the lad of sixteen, struggling with the elements for life. There were the maiden and the matron, looked in the embrace of death. There was the mother, with her babe in her arms, gazing into the storm-clouded sky for the gleam of a star, or light from her God.

"Mercy! Dear Father! mercy!" she cried; "spare my dear husband and child! Save them, O, save them, my God!" And then her head drooped beneath the pitiless storm, while closer, still closer she clasped her dear babe to her soul.

There stood the husband, all proud and stern in this time of danger—the true man stepping forth in the hour of death, trying to comfort his partner.

"Weep not, my dear Mary! weep not for your Charles or our babe. But joined let us be in death as in life. In heaven as on earth let us enjoy the new birth."

And then these twin knelt in the dark storm of the night, and drew closely around them fond recollections of their home far over the sea—of fond friends gathered together in the social home circle.

"Charles, dear Charles, I am so cold and chilled that I cannot longer stay. My sight has failed, my hearing gone. God bless thee, my babe—my husband! Nearer, come nearer, soul of my soul. Let me feel the pure touch of your lips, once more. Charles! Charles! my babe! I die!"

Look yonder—behold that beardless boy, alone by himself, talking with his God. In the agony of his soul he has forgotten his home. Mother and father are far away; brother and sister will mourn him, as lost forever. Hark! what is that! It is the storm God. See! see him riding on the wave; his head in the clouds, his feet in the sea! He moves in fearful majesty. On, on comes the wave, clothed in foam. One wild rush of many waters—one fearful crash—one more wild wail went forth on the night wind, and all was still. Three hundred souls were hushed in death; and the once noble ship was no more. Thus perished many years since, with all her crew and passengers, the noble East Indian ship, Windham.

ANECDOTE OF CICERO.

While Pompey and Caesar were living, Cicero, it seems, had a dream, in which he thought he called some boys, the sons of senators, up to the capital, because Jupiter designed to pitch upon one of them for sovereign of Rome. The citizens ran with all the eagerness of expectation, and placed themselves about the temple; and the boys in their *prætexta* sat silent. The door suddenly opening, the boys rose up one by one, and in their order, passed round the god, who reviewed them all, and sent them away disappointed; but when Octavius approached, he stretched out his hand to him, "Romans, this is the person, who, when he comes to be your prince, will put an end to your civil wars."

This vision, they tell us, made such an impression upon Cicero, that he perfectly retained the figure and countenance of the boy, though he did not yet know him. Next day he went down to the *Campus Martius*, when the boys were just returning from their exercises; and the first who struck his eye was the lad in the very form he had seen in his dream. Astonished at the discovery, Cicero asked him who were his parents; and he proved to be the son of Octavius, a person not much distinguished in life, and of Attia, sister to Caesar. As he was so near a relation, and Caesar had no children of his own, he adopted him, and by will, left him his estate. Cicero, after his dream, whenever he met young Octavius, is said to have treated him with particular regard; and he received those marks of his friendship with great satisfaction.

As is known, Octavius was elevated to supreme authority in Rome in connection with Mark Antony and Lepidus at the early age of eighteen years. He afterwards arrived at sovereign power; and his reign, under the surname of Augustus, is among the most illustrious in history.

ALMSGIVING NOT CHARITY.—It is difficult to be wisely charitable—to do good without multiplying the sources of the evil. We know that to give alms is nothing unless we give thought also; and that, therefore, it is written, "Blessed is he that feedeth the poor;" but "Blessed is he that considereth the poor;" and we know that a little thought and a little kindness are worth more than a great deal of money.

Wherever there is authority, there is a natural inclination to disobedience. It was so with our first parents, and it has ever been so with all their descendants. It is a part of the legacy we inherit from Adam.

Keeping Fast.

An Irish priest was traveling on a Friday from Enniskillen to Ballyshannon, at the latter of which the coach-passengers, only four in number, were to dine. At one end of the table was a joint of coarse, fat pork, and at the other a large, fine, fried sole. His reverence helped himself to the latter, instantly observing, "It is fast day with me, gentlemen," when instantly a great fellow, with red whiskers, reached across the table, and cutting the fish in two, took half of it, with the remark,

"Bad luck to ye, do ye think nobody has a soul to be saved but yourself?"

A minister traveling through the West in a missionary capacity, several years ago, was holding an animated theological conversation with a good old lady on whom he had called, in the course of which he asked her what she thought of the doctrine of total depravity?

"Oh," she replied, "I think it a good doctrine, if people would only live up to it!"

I do not inquire how much you have read and studied on the human powers; but I ask how much you have exerted those powers.—*Chapin.*

Nothing is further than earth from heaven; nothing is nearer than heaven to earth.

For the Young People.

PAID IN YOUR OWN COIN.

"Grandmother, I hate to go away; you like me, and nobody else does. Last night George Redin and I had a quarrel; I struck him and he struck me. Nobody likes me." Peter Jones said this as he sat on his trunk ready to start for home.

"He only paid you in your own coin," said grandmother; "people generally do—a blow for a blow, cross words for cross words, hate for hate."

"I don't know but it is so," said Peter, looking sorry; "but it is a poor sort of coin."

"How different it would be if your pockets were full of the right sort of coin," said grandmother.

"What kind?" said Peter.

"The coin of kindness," said grandmother. "If the great pockets of your heart were full of that sort of coin, the more you paid away, the more you'd get back, for you are generally paid in your own coin, you know; then how happy you would be."

"The coin of kindness," repeated Peter slowly; "that is a good coin, isn't it? I wish my pockets were full of it, grandmother. If I'd be kind to the boys, they'd be kind to me."

"Just so," said grandmother.

After Peter's own mother died, he was sent to grandmother's, for he had a very quarrelsome, fretful temper, and his aunt could not manage him with the other children. His grandmother dealt patiently and kindly with him, and helped him to improve himself. Peter now had a new mother, and his father had sent for him to come home. Peter did not want to go. He felt sure he should not like his new mother, and that she would not like him.

"That depends upon yourself," said grandmother; "carry love and kindness in your pocket, and you will find no difficulty."

The idea struck the boy favorably. He wished he could, he said.

"And the best of it is," said grandmother, "if you once begin paying it out, your pockets will never be empty, for you'll be paid in your own coin. Be kind, and you will be treated kindly; love, and you will be loved."

"I wish I could," said Peter.

All the way home he more or less thought of it. I do not know about his welcome home, or what his father or new mother said to him. The next morning he arose early, as he was used to at grandmother's, and came down stairs, where everything being new, he felt very strange and lonely.

"I know I shan't be contented here," he said to himself, I know I shan't. I'm afraid there's not a bit of love in my pocket." However, in a little while his new mother came down, when Peter went up to her and said, "Mother, what can I do to help you?"

"My dear boy," she said, kissing him on the forehead, "how thoughtful you are. I thank you for your kind offer; and what can I do to help you? For I am afraid you will be lonely here at first, coming from your dear good grandmother."

What a sweet kiss was that. It made him so happy. "That's paying me in more than my own coin," thought Peter. Then he knew he should love his new mother; and from that hour Peter's pockets began to fill with the beautiful bright coin of kindness, which is the best "small change" in the world. Keep your pockets full of it, and you will never be in want.

The Faith that Saves us.

In the highlands of Scotland there is a mountain gorge, twenty feet in width, and two hundred feet in depth. Its perpendicular walls are bare of vegetation, save in their crevices, in which grow numerous wild flowers of rare beauty. Desirous of obtaining specimens of these mountain beauties, some scientific tourists once offered a highland boy a handsome gift, if he would consent to be lowered down the cliff by a rope, and would gather a little basketful for them. The boy looked wistfully at the money, for his parents were poor; but when he gazed at the yawning chasm, he shuddered, shrank back, and declined. But filial love was strong within him, and after another glance at the gift, and at the terrible fissure, his heart grew strong, his eyes flashed, and he said,

"I'll go, if my father will hold the rope."

And then, with unshrinking nerves, cheek unblanched, and heart firmly strong, he suffered his father to put the rope about him, lower him into that abyss, and to suspend him there while he filled his little basket with the coveted flowers. It was a daring deed, but his faith in the love of a father's heart gave him courage and power to perform it.

A CHILD'S QUESTION.—A bright little girl one day put to her mother the following question:

"If a raging tiger was to catch me and eat me all up, should I then be an angel?"

Her mother replied, "yes."

"But," said the child, "how could I get out of the tiger?"

In answer to this question the mother went into an explanation, referring to the spiritual nature of angels, which silenced, if it did not convince, the young inquirer.

Poetry and Sentiment.

From the New York Independent.

THE CHILD ANGEL.

The poem which follows was sent anonymously to a bereaved mother. Whether it has ever appeared in print before, we cannot tell. Whether it has or not, we presume we are committing no impropriety in giving it to our readers; and if any of them know to whom it belongs, we will be glad to credit so sweet and heavenly a strain to its author.

The Mother's Dream.

"And I will give him the morning star."—Rev. H. 28.

Methought once more to my wishful eye,
My beautiful boy had come;
My sorrow was gone, my cheek was dry,
And gladness around my home.

I saw the form of my dear lost child;
All kindled with life he came;
And he spoke in his own sweet voice, and smiled,
As soon as I called his name.

The garb he wore looked heavenly white
As the feathery snow comes down;
And warm as it shone in the softened light
That fell from his dazzling crown.

His eye was bright with a joy serene,
His cheek with a deathless bloom,
That only the eye of my soul hath seen,
When looking beyond the tomb.

The odor of flowers from the thornless land,
Where we deem that our blest ones are
Seemed borne in his skirts; and his soft right hand
Was holding a radiant star.

His feet, unshod, looked tender and fair,
As the lily's opening bell,
Half veiled in a cloud of glory, as there
Around him in folds it fell.

I asked him how he was clothed anew,—
Who circled his head with light,—
And whence he returned to meet my view,
So calm and heavenly bright.

I asked him where he had been so long,
Away from his mother's care,—
Again to sing me his infant song,
And to kneel by my side in prayer.

He said, "Sweet mother, the song I sing,
Is not for an earthly ear;
I touch the harp with a golden string
For the hosts of heaven to hear."

"It was but a gently heaving breath,
That severed thy child from thee!
The fearful shadow, in time, called Death,
Hath ministered life to me."

"My voice in an angel choir I lift,
And high are the notes we raise;
I hold the sign of a priceless gift,
And the Giver, who hath our praise."

"The bright and the morning star" is he,
Who brings thee eternal day;
And, mother, he giveth himself to thee,
To lighten thee earthly way.

"The race is short to a peaceful goal,
And he is never afar,
Who saith of the wise, untiring soul,
'I will give him the morning star.'"

"Thy measure of care for me was filled,
And pure to its crystal top;
For Faith, with a steady eye distilled,
And numbered every drop."

"While thou wast teaching my lips to move,
And my heart to rise in prayer,
I learned the way to the world above:
The home of thy child is there!"

"The secret prayers thou didst make for me,
Which only thy God hath known,
Arose, like sweet incense, holy and free,
And gathered around his throne."

"My robe was filled with the perfume sweet,
To shed upon this world's air,
As I joyful knelt at my Saviour's feet,
For the glorious crown I wear."

"In that bright, blissful world of ours,
The waters of life I drink,
Behold my feet, as they've pressed the flowers
That grow by the fountain's brink!"

"No thorn is hidden to wound me there:
There's nothing of chill or blight,
Or sighing to blend with the balmy air,—
No sorrow,—no pain,—no night!"

"No parting?" I asked in a burst of joy:
And the lovely illusion broke;
My rapture had banished my beautiful boy,—
To a shadowy void I spoke!

But, oh! that star of the morn still gleams,
With light to direct my feet,
Where when I have done with my earthly dreams,
The mother and child may meet.

Truth will be uppermost, one time or other, like cork, though kept down in the water.

Nought shall prevail against us, or disturb
Our cheerful faith, that all which we behold
Is full of blessings.

WORDSWORTH.

To check passion by passion, and anger by anger, is to lay one demon and raise another.

A wise man likes that best, that is itself;
Not that which seems, though it look fairer.

MIDDLETON.

Nature is a pattern maid-of-all-work, and does best when least meddled with. She knows her work, and does it, if let alone.

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18-17

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