

SPIRITUAL TELEGRAPH

DEVOTED TO THE ILLUSTRATION OF SPIRITUAL INTERCOURSE.

"THE AGITATION OF THOUGHT IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM."

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WHOLE NO. 144.

The Principles of Nature.

PROTESTANTISM AND PAPACY.*

BY W. S. COURTNEY.

Previous to the Protestant Reformation the world lay bound in the chains of a superstitious theology and a despotic ecclesiasticism. A gloomy and imperious bifurcated hierarchy of civil and religious rule then spread over that portion of the globe which has since been so brightened by the sunshine of science and civilization. By virtue of a pretended authority emanating from the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, and issuing into the world through the Pope, as his vicegerent, one half of the world was consigned to a spiritual and temporal slavery thorough and absolute! No man presumed to think for himself; no man dared to pass beyond the pale of dogma established by the Church. All he had to do was to pay the stipend and believe. The Pope dictated faith and prescribed conscience, and at the same time exercised an iron jurisdiction over the civil behavior of the people. All individual right of free thought and inquiry, action and conscience, was utterly ignored or repudiated as heretical and diabolical. The free man was a traitor and the man of science a heretic, and both were dealt with accordingly; for those were the days of the rack, the thumb-screw, the iron boot, and the dungeon! Nations and individuals were, bodies and souls, delivered over to a hierarchical despotism unparalleled in the annals of the world, except, perhaps, by the Jewish law and ceremonial! Of course, under such a compound temporal and spiritual thralldom, there could be no National or Individual spirit—no outgrowth of the essential capabilities of man. He lay prone under the weight of the Atlantic of oppression that rested upon him. He was manacled, handcuffed, blindfolded, and reduced to an automaton, or almost to the level of the ox he drove. But the great heart of Humanity has, in all ages, beat with a deathless impulse against the imposition of arbitrary authority over the free thought and sovereign conscience of man. Immemorial despotism never has, nor never will crush out of him the living element of freedom. Civil and Spiritual tyranny, in all their varied and sometimes unsuspected forms, are transient and perishable—are but the creatures of an hour, while freedom, the normal state of mankind, is an everlasting law. Not long do kings and priests trample on the necks of men, until that living sentiment of liberty, that ever stirs in the heart of man, protests against the wrong, and works out, in various ways, his redemption. It disclosed itself preëminently in Luther's case. He affirmed for humanity "liberty of conscience and the right of private judgment" against this arbitrary papal supremacy and power. He protested against the high-handed and iniquitous assumption of authority over the individual conscience and judgment by the Pope and the Church, and manfully rebelled against the politico-ecclesiastic organization which undertook to regulate his civil behavior and coerce his action. He formalized and announced a grand principle of Human Nature and Progress, which, perhaps, more than all others, has carried the world forward in its sublime and beatific destiny. "Liberty of conscience and the right of private judgment"—the antithesis of spiritual tyranny, not a transient expedient to break up an usurped dominion over the Individual conscience and to set the votary free. It is not a phenomenal evolution cast up or thrown out by the turbid surges ofologic polemics or ecclesiastical insurrections; it does not depend for its validity and efficacy upon particular and fortuitous conjunctures of Human affairs; it is not a scholastic subtilty too learned to be understood; it is not an alternative expedient resorted to only in days of more threatening and oppressive aggression—but it is a fundamental principle of all Human development, excellence, and progress. The right of Private Judgment is a constitutional law of our organization—part of the mathematics of the universe; and as such intrinsically omnipotent, universal, and everlasting. Moreover, like all true principles affecting the nature and destiny of man, it has an inherent force and efficacy—an incessant *conatus* to announce itself and produce its beneficent results. It never wears nor sleeps, never tires nor falls. It requires no armies and navies to vindicate and enforce it, for though for a time it may be overrun by the myriads of despotism, yet the principle sooner or later asserts itself, and in time overcomes all obstructions. It has an essential and vital power—a living spirit, that perpetually and irresistibly operates to reduce to naught the most stupendous resistance and antagonisms. Such is the Protestant formula—the platform upon which Luther stood. What are its essential claims as a scientific verity? What its spirit, its scope, and its depth? What, in brief, have been its issues in times past, what its operation in the present, and what promises does it bring us for the future?

These are queries that it were impossible for me adequately to treat of within the compass of a single lecture. I would exhaust your patience were I to attempt to say but the half that could be wisely said on the subject. I will therefore compress my views into as narrow and brief a channel as I can.

* A Lecture delivered before the congregation assembled in Dodworth's Academy, Sunday evening, Sept. 8th, 1854.

No one will deny that man has a natural and divine right to the free use and exercise of each and all his faculties and powers, passions and capabilities, limited only by the law of their own natures, and the just and equal rights of others. Every faculty, passion, and power is given for use and exercise, and all their appropriate elements and objects are abundantly provided in the external world around us. The possession of these faculties carries with it, of course, the right to the use of those elements and objects, as the faculty of sight carries with it the right to the use of the light of day. We can neither dispossess ourselves of those nor can we alienate the corresponding rights growing out of their possession, any more than we can by title-deeds convey away our own lives. All our natural rights, therefore, growing out of our natural endowments, are *in se* inalienable, and every attempt to make them, or any of them, a property or the basis of a contract, is suicidal and monstrous, and redounds only to the shame and reproach of the party attempting it. Hence it is not only beyond our power to barter away our birthright, but it is our undoubted right and duty to use and exercise all our faculties upon their legitimate objects, up to the measure of their capacity, *provided that, in so doing, we take good care to do so at our own cost, and not in any way interfere with the exercise of a like right by our fellows.* This freedom is the indispensable condition of all development and progress, and, with the scientific limitation aforesaid, is the fundamental law of all social and ecclesiastical order—the normal *status* of the race, while all arbitrary, coercive, and restraining authority or influence, of whatsoever character, is atheistical and diabolical. The Protestant programme installs man in this prime right of his nature, awarding to his faculties the right of free inquiry, the formation of his own opinions, the exercise of his own judgment, and the undisturbed pursuit and repose of his own conscience. It resists and denounces all foreign interference, and protests against the impositions of creeds, opinions, Scriptural interpretations, theological tenets, or any prescribed form of conscience as an usurpation and tyranny; and it implicitly inculcates the duty of every individual's inquiring for himself, instituting his own investigations, drawing his own conclusions, and forming his own conscience. In doing so the Protestant Reformer but follows the dictate and law of Nature, which, giving the power or faculty, gives also the right to, and the means of, using it; and, what is more, imperatively requires the use of it at our hands. An endowment carries with it the right to exercise it, and the right to exercise it carries with it the duty of exercising it. Hence in the light of this revelation, no man can be excused from the normal exercise of all his powers and faculties. God requires it at his hands; and it is no less demanded by his own development and happiness. Accordingly, under the Protestant formula, no man is to be let off from thinking and inquiring for himself, to the extent of his abilities, on all questions affecting his well-being and destiny, exercising his own judgment thereon, and forming his own opinions. It is in the nature of things impossible to cast this duty upon another, inasmuch as that other can not take upon himself the consequences to you of his error and mistake. You must yourself pay the penalty. During the middle ages the Priests who huckstered opinions and supplied the people with theological commodities of every kind, ought in justice to have given them indemnity, that no harm should befall them from their belief in, and a life according to, their teachings. They ought to have insured their salvation, or have been made to take all the risk and pay the penalty themselves. If things did not turn out as they taught, they are the ones that ought to have been burned in their fabled hell's fire, and the deluded and stultified votary have gone scot free. It was not his duty to find these things out, and where there is no duty there is no responsibility. But Nature does not recognize such a compact. She does not alter her decrees to become a party to it, but declares that each individual shall himself be held inflexibly accountable for the use and exercise of all the faculties with which she has endowed him. The responsibility can not be shirked, nor can the duty be neglected and the talent laid away in a napkin or buried in the earth. The true Protestant, therefore, investigates for himself, thinks, and reasons for himself, forms his own opinions, and takes care of his own conscience, without submitting to the dictation of man, spirit, or angel. In all matters of conscience, and religious belief, and worship, he claims and pronounces his "Individual Sovereignty," so enjoyed as not to trench upon the like sovereignty of others. But on the other hand, he who seeks to arbitrarily impose his religious convictions upon another, either by civil or ecclesiastical authority, clerical dogmatism and anathema, the proscription of Public Opinion, or by any other undue means or influence whatever, has the spirit of Popery in him—is himself intrinsically a Pope, no matter how loud and vehemently he rails against the beast with seven heads and ten horns; and he who accepts the dogmatic religious teachings of others, without free inquiry and the exercise of his own best judgment thereon, is a genuine disciple of Popish rule! The principle is the same in all, whether practiced at the Vatican, in the Mosque, the Cathedral, the Protestant Churches, or any of the religious associations of the times. The love of, and disposition to, dictate

and rule in religious concerns, a contempt and disregard of the religious opinions of others honestly entertained, partakes of the spirit of despotism; and all bigotry, intolerance, illiberality, and persecution for opinions' sake, whether they exhibit themselves in inquisitions, racks, and dungeons, or by clerical rebuke, and anathema, and sectarian vilification, and abuse, is of the very essence of Popery and the irreconcilable enemy of all religious freedom and liberty of conscience. Whoever is intolerant of the religious views of others, overbearing and dogmatic in his treatment of their convictions, and denunciatory in his behavior toward them, has Popery in his heart, and incessantly betrays his Protestant profession of liberty of conscience and the right of private inquiry and judgment.

The Pope principle—that very animus of spiritual rule, or the arbitrary authority of one man, or set of men, or of a church establishment, over the faith and conscience of the people—is by no means peculiar to the Church of Rome. It is by no means extinct in the Protestant world, and the counter-principle of religious freedom universally installed. It is not true that the Romish hierarchy is the only religious despotism in the civilized world, and the Pope the only spiritual tyrant. It is not true that the Papist thralldom obtains only in Catholic countries and communities, and that the Popish Priests are the only arbitrary dictators of religious faith and conscience. It is not true that the Catholic is the only victim plundered of his rights of conscience, faith, and worship by a religious usurper, and consigned to the dungeon—the "bottomless pit" of spiritual slavery. The Pope practices the business on the sublimest scale, and possesses the most magnificent appliances and the most efficient and vigilant police to carry out his imperious encyclical behests, and openly avows it as a cardinal tenet in his infallible creed, "that there are manifold other spiritual autocrats, in Protestantism, who, professedly repudiating this authority, are nevertheless really in spirit Popes, and practically adopt and carry out the Pope infernalism!" They dictate creeds to their willing subjects; learnedly interpret for them their Sacred Books; decide for them doctrinal problems; settle disputed questions of faith; solve their conscientious scruples, doubts, and difficulties; take charge of their religious behavior; watch over their piety; direct their thoughts; furnish them ideas and arguments; decree their conduct on all occasions, and supervise their lives. They are passively led by his authority and influence, and as they habitually neglect the great duty required of them by the Protestant standard, they become more and more debased and slavish. On the other hand, the *allatus* of priestly rule, and the tame submission of the victims, daily more and more inspire the Spiritual Instructor with a haughty and supercilious love of dominion, an exalted idea of his function and mission, and to make him more and more a Pope! Should any of the subjects not yield their faith to his dogma, but rebel, and exercising the right of free inquiry as Luther did, deflect from the orthodox standard and strike out new paths for themselves, forthwith the Protestant Pope is down on them, first with cautions, threats, and reprimands, then with denunciation, anathema, and excommunication! They are cited before the session, overhauled, and cross-examined, and reclaimed if possible; and if not, they are cast forth, and denounced, and persecuted as heretics, skeptics, infidels, unbelievers, atheists, etc. This is matter of common occurrence with the churches and sects of Protestantism around us. Do we not daily see them issue their bulls and fulminate excommunication and anathema against those of their number who dare to think for themselves? Do we not daily witness their Popish vindictiveness and persecuting spirit? There is alive and current among us specifically the same spiritual tyranny and oppression which drove Luther to assert the rights of conscience and the right of private inquiry and judgment, and specifically the same divine rights are yet constantly asserted and vindicated against this tyranny! Yet, strange to say, neither party seems to observe that their relations to each other are substantially the same as those of Luther and the Church of Rome, and that the conflict involves precisely the same principle of spiritual freedom for which he contended—that it is the same contest, five hundred years old, of Tyranny and Slavery on the one hand, and Freedom and Individual Right on the other! All the religious disputes which cover the land from one end to the other, and embroil the sectarian world in vindictive and acrimonious strife, when analyzed, are at bottom nothing more nor less than the old quarrel about the rights of conscience, private inquiry, and judgment. In all the sectarian aggressions and crusades, forays and onslaughts, on the one side, and the protestation, resistance, and recriminations on the other, this is really the point at issue, and the gist of the squabbles! No one who thoroughly understands the Protestant platform, and apprehends its spirit and scope, can fail to see the Popish principle displayed and acted upon weekly in our pulpits, and appearing daily in our sectarian prints. He can not fail to see it exhibited and gone forth in clerical proscriptions and denunciations, orthodox pronouncements, intolerant and dogmatic creeds, and in tirades of sectarian abuse! Were our spiritual vision opened, we could see the great red dragons standing at the doors of many of our churches, gnashing their

teeth and stamping, and ready to devour the male child as soon as born. We could see the scarlet lady parading our avenues in state, and see the crimson day of St. Bartholomew and the fires of Smithfield around us!

It is matter of wonder, that the very clergy, the churches, and sects who boast of their fidelity to the principles of the Reformation, and who pretend to respect and guarantee the rights of conscience and the right of private faith, are yet notoriously delinquent in the practice of these same virtues. They are the most bigoted, intolerant, and abusive. They preach religious liberty and toleration; freedom of opinion and conscience; the right of the individual freely to investigate for himself all scriptural doctrines and matters of faith; and they professedly recognize his right freely to promulgate the results of his investigations and studies, by speech and by the press; or by whatsoever other means he chooses, provided he does not trench upon the equal rights of others; yet their practice is in perpetual violation of this doctrine, and daily betrays their professions. If those who do exercise the right of free inquiry arrive at conclusions different from theirs, they inveigh against them, and denouncing them as heretics and infidels, have no fellowship with them. They oppose and denounce all other sects, and in the name of liberty of conscience and the right of private judgment, persecute them to the extent of their power and influence! They do not break nor lacerate the bodies of their sectarian opposers by any physical appliances as of old; but they set on them a moral persecution, and vilify and stigmatize, and malign them as far as their influence goes, believing that God will do the rest for them hereafter, by consuming them in eternal flames—postponing the fagots and the fires to the other world! What is this but the same spirit which erected the Inquisition, and the *bona fide* Popery? Rogers at the stake? The orthodox sneer, the sectarian sarcasm, the clerical rebuke, and the bigot's censure, is the same imp of darkness that consigned Galileo to the dungeon, and assassinated the inoffensive Huguenots. The spirit of persecution runs through all the sects. It characterizes their pulpits, their press, their literature, and their philosophy. It is all a strife to rule the consciences of men. It is all a war for religious freedom. Each priest or preacher, so far as he can, plays the Pope over the conscience and faith of his parishioners; for whatever pretends to influence, direct, or control the conscience and religious faith of others is *ipso facto* a *bona fide* undeniable Popery!

No one need be told of the immense dominion the Protestant clergy have over the consciences and faith of the people, and of the vast moral power they are thence able to wield. It is second only to the reign of the Papal hierarchy. But, without, it is an undoubted and significant fact; not generally apprehended as important, that it is not so much their fault, as the fault of those who tamely surrender their conscience and faith to their guardianship and supervision; neglecting the great duty devolved upon them by the Protestant principle of thinking for themselves and forming their own opinions. Where there are willing slaves, there are always willing masters. Many a despotism is perpetuated immemorially by the criminal neglect of the injured and oppressed party to assert its rights. They are the ones who ought to see to it—whose business it is to protest against this unwarrantable assumption of authority over them. Their case, as regards their religious rights, is paralleled by the present condition of women as respects their civil rights. They are the ones to assert their freedom and equality, and install themselves in their natural and social rights and relations; and so long as they fail to do so, their "lords" will continue to lord it over them, and demand servitude, and obedience, and honor at their hands! Where right is concerned, grace in the one case and gallantry in the other are imperatives.

The Protestantism of Christendom is, therefore, only a half-way Protestantism. It dethrones the grand Pope and supplants his imperial reign by a multitude of little Popes. It temporizes, tampers with, and surrenders the principle of spiritual liberty avowed and claimed by Luther. It is an unnatural alliance—a cross between spiritual despotism and spiritual freedom. It is but a subdivided Popery. The true Protestant is he who continues to protest; who demands exemption from all church influence and church establishments; from all ecclesiastical restraints and constraints; from all spiritual dictation and clerical proscription; from all interference in his religious concerns; from all assumptions of authority over his conscience; from all orthodox sneers, libels, and maledictions; and from all sectarian abuse, contumely, and reproach.

There is no more subtle principle in the world than the despotic principle. It insinuates itself into the heart of man when he least suspects it; and influences his conduct when he sincerely believes that he is strictly fulfilling the behests of Justice and Equity. It has a strange delusive power, and seems to blindfold the man if wants to use for its purposes. The greatest advocates of freedom are sometimes the greatest tyrants without knowing it. Some have been so long accustomed to dogmatize on religious subjects—so long accustomed to the pride and authority of spiritual rule, that the dictation and imposition of opinions, have become a sort of proscriptive

right, or an inveterate habit. Most religionists and philosophers are not satisfied alone with their belief in their own views and theories. But they wish others also to adopt and carry them out. It inaugurates them in a little empire of their own, constituting them the Dictators or Popes over all those who yield a ready and unreasoning faith to their opinions. It flatters their vanity to have others agree with them, and repose confidence in their superior judgment, while it is a sort of rebuke to have them disagree with them. Freedom's law is Equity, *i. e.* Liberty so enjoyed as not to enslave others; or, in other words, Sovereignty at the Individual's own cost, which is but another way of formalizing the Protestant gospel of "liberty of conscience" and the "right of private judgment." No man can be allowed to live out his Individuality at the expense of others; neither by imposing his industrial burdens upon them, nor by imposing his spiritual obligations upon them. Neglect of this fundamental law of Liberty and Harmony is the cause of all the injustice and iniquity in the world! Few are faithful to its requirements in every latitude and longitude of life. In the realm of conscience and religious faith, I have heard men often boast of their liberality and toleration, of their respect and consideration for the views and opinions of others, while, at the same time, if you undertook to coolly and candidly criticize their opinions, they would lose instantly their temper, recriminate, vehemently dogmatize and denounce, and end by making it a personal concern! This, among sectarians, in nine cases out of ten, is the issue of every controversy. The spirit of sect (as we shall see by-and-by) is essentially aggressive and despotic, and is intrinsically repugnant to the Protestant axiom of liberty. This fact explains the enigma of the repeated

the gospel of spiritual freedom it professed. The history of Protestantism equally with the history of Catholicism is polluted with blood—shed, too, beneath the banners inscribed with "Liberty of conscience and the right of private judgment!" No sooner had the early Protestants who espoused the cause of spiritual freedom, rid themselves of papal inquisitors and chains, than they commenced inquisition and persecution on their own account. They organized church establishments formed creeds, constituted ceremonials, and imperiously demanded conformity and obedience thereto. Following in the footsteps of their illustrious predecessor, they allied themselves to the civil power, and applied it on all occasions to enforce their canons and decrees. Of course they got up an arbitrary standard of faith (all standards of faith are arbitrary), and tried all men's consciences and belief by it, and incarcerated or burned them if they fell short or went beyond it. Then, again, when this new tyranny became so stringent and cruel as to reach a climax in the putting to death of heretics, there was a new Protestation—a reassertion of the rights of conscience and private judgment, by the oppressed and persecuted, and a new and separate church organization, a new creed and ritual, which, by-and-by, repeats the same story of religious authority, aggression, and persecution! Henry VIII. had scarcely breathed from his polemic and diplomatic battles with Pope Leo X. for religious liberty, until he commenced the indiscriminate persecution of thousands for their religious faith, and burned Cranmer and Rogers at the stake! Calvin had scarcely laid down his pen from fiercely warring for the rights of conscience, when he turned around and burned poor Servetus to death over a slow fire for repudiating the Divinity of Christ. The Puritan flying from religious oppression in his native land to a cheerless wilderness beyond the ocean, to secure and enjoy the rights of conscience, faith, and worship, remorselessly persecutes the Quaker and the Episcopalian. This is the uniform history of the Protestant sects. I am not able to point to a single exception. If there is no overt act of oppression, and persecution, the spirit of persecution is everywhere disclosed in their bitter controversies, their exclusiveness and intolerance, and their mutual denunciations and recriminations. If there be any who have strictly adhered to the Protestant standard, and followed up the line of equity without growing into spiritual power and authority, it is because they are yet in the weakness of infancy, and feeling the oppression of their Despots, they still appreciate the liberty which Protestantism promised, but never impart it. Spiritual tyranny is always the same, in whatsoever form it appears. The same principle underlies and governs all its mutations and transmigrations. The history of the sects is everywhere the same—a struggle for proselytism and ascendancy; a grasping after spiritual power and dominion over the faith and conscience of men; mutual hatred, vilification, and calumny. "Protestant and tolerant when weak; and papistic and persecuting when strong!"

But let us turn our attention to the tendency, operation, and final issues of the Protestant formula. We have said that it is a living and eternal principle, and operates continually and at all times and places. It is a constitutional law of mind, and can never be abrogated or superseded. Had it been a mere conventional *ipse dixit*—a mere temporary expedient—it had ceased to operate long ago, with the causes that brought it into existence. It would then have been laid aside upon the over-

SPIRITUAL TELEGRAPH.

S. B. BRITTAN, EDITOR.

"Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind."

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1855.

SECTARIANISM OPPOSED TO HUMANITY.

On Saturday evening last we delivered a lecture in the Methodist Episcopal Church of Bridgeport (our present place of residence), for the benefit of the suffering poor of that city. We had offered our services in this capacity and for the object here indicated, when, suddenly, some of the good people in the churches began to be exercised with fears for the safety of religion. A public meeting was called, with a view (we have been so informed) of forestalling and rendering inoperative the arrangements for our lecture. But the general public sentiment did not seem to be profoundly affected by the apprehensions and stratagems of a few sectarian opposers, as was abundantly manifested by the action of the public meeting referred to, on which occasion a resolution was offered and unanimously adopted, inviting the writer to deliver one or more lectures for the aforesaid charitable object. This resolution was officially communicated to us by the Secretary of the meeting, and was promptly acknowledged in the subjoined note:

J. M. WILSON, Esq.: My Dear Sir—I have received your favor of the 20th inst., communicating that portion of the proceedings of a late meeting convened in the Town Hall, which relates to the adoption of a resolution inviting me to deliver one or more public lectures for and in behalf of the suffering poor. Be assured, my dear sir, that it will afford me the highest satisfaction to cooperate with our fellow-citizens in the manner proposed, or in any way which may best subserve the interests of humanity, by mitigating the evils resulting from the present depression in the financial and industrial interests of the country. The present crisis has unnerved the right arm of American industry, and arrested the free energies of a great people; and in any enterprise sanctioned by reason and justice, and which has for its object the alleviation of the consequent wants and woes of the destitute poor, I beg you to remember that I am ever most cordially yours.

Hoping that our citizens generally, and our rulers in particular, may learn from bitter experience that wisdom which shall enable us all to avoid a recurrence of similar evils hereafter.

I am, dear sir, yours for humanity, S. B. BRITTAN.

BRIDGEPORT, Jan. 22, 1855. There are some devout souls who are so intensely absorbed in the service of God and religion, that they have neither time nor inclination to meddle with those profane, every-day matters which concern the present actual life of the common people. Bridgeport has its share of this class, and they thought it quite improper to invite the Editor of the TELEGRAPH to lecture, because he is presumed to be mistaken and heretical in his theological opinions. Objections of this kind had the effect to elicit a communication from some citizen of Bridgeport, which appeared in the Daily Standard of the 27th ult., and from which we make a brief extract. Referring to himself, the writer says:

Who that has more common sense than prejudice, cares or will take the trouble to inquire what his speculative opinions may be! The man who stops to ask such a question before the hungry are fed, and the naked are clothed, is neither a Christian nor a citizen. He is not the spirit of the Christian religion. It was not what the good Samaritan believed, but what he did, that rendered his conduct more commendable than that of the priest and the Levite.

In conclusion, I trust that whenever suffering humanity knocks at our doors for relief, we shall promptly respond in the true spirit of Christian charity.

The committee appointed to arrange the preliminaries for our lecture obtained for that purpose the use of the Methodist church edifice, which is one of the finest buildings of the kind in the whole State. The lecture was rather numerously attended by a highly intelligent class of citizens, who listened with profound attention, and in whom, we are happy to say, the great principles of humanity and the sympathies of our common nature are deeper and broader than all sectarian feelings and distinctions.

TRYING TO BE DEVELOPED.

We extract the following communication from the Tribune of the 19th ult.:

WHAT IS THE USE OF "SPIRITUALISM?" New York, Jan. 14, 1855.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE N. Y. TRIBUNE: Sir—I am a Medium—a Spirit Medium—and have been such for over two years, and, for the life of me, I can not see what good this Spiritualism is going to do to the world—to the down-trodden masses—to the mechanic—to the laborer, or to the poor in any way or shape whatever. If it can, I should like to know it. Will some of our savans in Spiritual Philosophy be good enough to tell us? I have been deluded out of over two hundred dollars, in time and money, in trying to get developed as a medium, besides many a sleepless night; and what does it all amount to? Why, to just this: You are continually chasing an ignis fatuus—a will-o'-the-wisp—and while you are grasping after the shadow you lose the substance. I know many worse off than I am—men who have not only lost their time, money, and sleep in this thing, but their health and lives. I thought if I could become a medium, that the arena of mystery would be opened unto me, and the secrets of wisdom would be revealed; but alas! no comfort, consolation, or wisdom can I find in any of it. Now then, if Spirits can tell us any thing we do not know ourselves, I should like to see it done. I should like to see any new truth developed by Spirits, for I ask, in the name of common sense, how can they develop any new truth, if all truth comes from the Spirits by Spirit-impression, as we Spiritualists all say and believe it has, through impressive mediums, in all ages of the world? Yours, respectfully, A MEDIUM.

We know nothing of the author of the preceding communication, but presume he may have "a local habitation and a name" on this "side of Jordan." If the writer tells the truth respecting his experience, he is not a medium at all; he has only been "trying to get developed," but to no purpose. Hence the signature to his article distinctly implies what is not true. If a man possesses the physical and mental conditions necessary to mediumship, and the immortal world has need of his services in that capacity, he will be sure to be called for at his residence or place of business. He need not neglect his legitimate calling and squander his money in wandering about to procure some forcing process of development. We want no spiritual house appliances; they develop nothing better than a species of spiritual fungi, of which the fanatics and wonder-mongers—who are ready to do any thing but pursue their proper business, in order to "get developed"—are the appropriate illustrations.

We incline to the opinion that Spiritualism has infinite uses which the writer in the Tribune will not be likely to discover until he becomes more sensible. Admitting that Spiritualism is responsible for all the vagaries of its pseudo disciples, we

think it will be of some service even to "A Medium." It may teach him the folly of neglecting the duties and responsibilities of this life with a view of getting into the other world before he is sent for.

The query with which "A Medium" (?) closes his article involves a logical absurdity, and displays the writer's ignorance of what Spiritualists believe and teach.

Since writing the above we have received the subjoined note, which the Tribune, if it is disposed to be just, will of course copy, as an offset to the experience of "A Medium." "A Clerk" will not disclose his name, even to us, but we venture to vouch for the integrity of his statement, because we have seen the notes which accompany his weekly donations to the public charity referred to. If "A Medium" wants to know one of the many uses of Spiritualism, we refer him to those poor children, hitherto neglected, who are now being fed, clothed, and educated by "A Clerk."

New York, Jan. 19th, 1855.

If individual experience be wanted, whereby to prove the good effects of Spiritualism, I will give you mine. I have from the first been firmly impressed with the beauty and apparent truth of its doctrines, and have expended in its investigation, during the last three months, the sum of ten dollars. The effect has been to induce me to give up every thing but the common necessities of life, and to spend only one shilling per day for my dinner. By this economizing I am enabled to make, anonymously, a weekly donation to one of the noblest institutions in this city, which, in the annual aggregate, would be handsome for a millionaire, and to have an ever ready dollar for the pressing necessities of those cases so frequently chronicled in your paper. I am not intimately acquainted with a single Spiritualist, but have been weak enough to suppose that all who are investigators for the truth alone would be similarly influenced. Notwithstanding "A Medium's" unfortunate experience and great waste of time and money, as published in the Tribune of this morning, I do believe that all who investigate from proper motives will be so impressed. A CLERK.

MORTALITY AMONG THE OPPOSERS.

We copy the following article from the St. Louis Morning Herald, in which it appears as a leading editorial. The writer mentions the fact as something extraordinary, that "the most sensible, practical, matter-of-fact persons" in that city are those who have "a lively faith" in Spiritualism. That does not strike us as being at all extraordinary in these days, for we find a similar state of things in this city and elsewhere, as far as our observation extends. When will the editors of our secular journals come in aid and be numbered among "the most sensible persons" in the world? Come in, gentlemen; we'll not say any thing about your former intolerant and blundering opposition, wherein you denounced the whole thing as "a humbug," whereupon we deeply realize the completeness of your discomfiture and will try to be generous.

PROGRESS OF SPIRITUALISM.

There is at this time in our city but little public mention of Spiritualism and its teachings. But a person would be mistaken if from that fact he should infer there was but little interest felt in it among our population. The truth probably is, that at no time before has Spiritualism exerted so powerful an influence over so many minds here. And it is surprising, too, to find what sort of people succumb to them. Among those who consult the spiritual oracles, with a lively faith in their responses, are many who have hitherto accounted among the most sensible, practical, matter-of-fact persons in our community. When we speak of oracles in this connection, let us not be understood as speaking metaphorically. The oracles we refer to are as real as ever were those of Delphi or Dodona. There is in our midst, here, in St. Louis, a priestess, who offers herself as a medium of communication with the departed spirits of the dead, and who has served as the organ of Apollo. Through her, persons embarrassed or anxious for advice or direction seek it from some one of the dead in whom they trust. A person tried by domestic misfortunes repairs to the oracle for counsel from a departed friend. The Spirit of some celebrated physician is evoked to obtain prescriptions suitable for a threatening malady. We understand that among the departed medical celebrities Doctor Rush is in the highest favor. We are told, indeed, that he probably has at this time a larger circle of patients throughout the Union than any live doctor in it. His attendance is as regular and his directions as precise as those of any of his brethren yet in the flesh. It is reported that he is extremely obliging, answering all inquiries, explaining symptoms, describing the operation of his medicines, and foretelling results with a fullness of detail and graciousness of manner that are extremely satisfactory. What is more, it is said that his practice is very successful. Since his departure he has, it seems, given in his adhesion to the Botanical system, and prescribes only herb drinks.

Milton wrote: The oracles are dumb, No voice or hideous hum, Runs through the archèd roof in words decaying.

No nightly tance or breathèd spell Inspires the pale-eyed priest from the prophetic cell.

Had Milton lived to this day he might have doubted the truth of such declarations. The oracles of our day may want the splendors and official recognition of their predecessors of Delos and Delphi, but they arrogate the same powers, and, by a host of free citizens, are equally accredited.

WHY NOT INVESTIGATE?

The New York Pathfinder, in noticing favorably the recent Fair in aid of the Ragged School, got up by Spiritualists of this city, subjoins the following remarks, which we commend to the special attention of those who may find their duties therein indicated:

While upon this subject, so wonderfully increasing in interest throughout the country, we can not refrain from expressing a few thoughts. It is unaccountable to us that a subject full of the deepest and most lasting interest to society and to every living soul should be passed over and slighted as this has been by men of science and commanding influence in the community; that though day by day, and month by month, this new phenomenon has advanced with such rapid strides, and is fast spreading its influence through the land, and notwithstanding in three short years believers in this city alone have multiplied from a few hundred to between thirty and forty thousand, guardians of the public good, men of influence and standing, leading men in the community, ministers, all stand idle, instead of coming out boldly and examining the subject, and if false, setting the matter at rest forever by exposing it, and if true, letting suffering humanity have the blessings to be derived from it.

JUST PUBLISHED.—The second volume of Spiritualism, by Judge Edmonds and Dr. Dexter, which has been delayed by the illness of the Judge and by a variety of circumstances which need not be detailed in this connection, is now published, and a few copies of a large edition remain on our counter. The work is beautifully printed on fine paper, and bound to match the first volume. It makes a handsome octavo of between four and five hundred pages, and is embellished with life-like portraits of Judge Edmonds and Dr. Dexter. We shall hereafter give a summary of the contents of the volume.

On Sunday morning and evening next Bro. Harris will close his present course of lectures at Dodworth's Academy, and in a few days will leave for the sunny South, where he will remain until the season of flowers shall visit us again. His recent lectures, which have been very numerously attended, have been characterized by remarkable brilliancy of thought and diction, and by a religious and humanitarian spirit.

BUCHANAN'S JOURNAL.—We have received No. 1 of a new volume of the Journal of Man, and are now prepared to receive subscriptions and to supply the work in numbers. Every body who is devoted to progressive ideas and to the study of human nature, knows Dr. Buchanan a man of eminent, scientific, and literary attainments, and withal an elegant and forcible writer. His Journal was formerly held in high estimation by a very intelligent class of readers, who will be pleased to know that the causes which led to its suspension have been removed, and the work resuscitated under more favorable auspices. Send in your subscriptions for the Journal of Man.

The Panorama of the Life of Christ, now on Exhibition at Hope Chapel, is attracting public attention, not only on account of the artistic merits of the work, but also by the generosity of the Proprietor, who proposes to appropriate the proceeds of his Exhibition on Saturday next to the benefit of the Ragged School, under the superintendence of Miss Dow. We hope that such generosity will be rewarded by a constantly increasing patronage. Many of the scenes in this Panorama are copied from the paintings of the great masters, and the whole must have involved a great expenditure of time and labor, owing to the unusual number of full length human figures which the work contains.

LECTURES IN BROOKLYN.—Rev. T. L. Harris will lecture in the Brooklyn Institute, corner of Washington and Concord Streets, on Wednesday evening of this week, 31st inst. Subject: "The Claims of Spiritualism on the Educated Classes."

There will be a public conference of Spiritualists at the Brooklyn Institute on Sunday morning next, commencing at half-past 10 o'clock. At 3 o'clock p. m. of the same day, Rev. U. Clark will lecture in the Institute on some subject intimately connected with the spiritual movement.

The audience that assembled in the Melodeon, in Boston, on occasion of the recent lectures by Miss Jay, was unusually large, numbering in the afternoon not less than 1,400 persons.

DIGEST OF CORRESPONDENCE.

TRANSPARENT PHYSICAL OBJECTS.—Mr. L. C. Barnes, of Fairhaven (he has left us to guess what State), writes us concerning some convincing manifestations which he witnessed at the house of Chauncey Barnes, in that place, on the 7th of December last. One of the three mediums who were present, on becoming entranced, elevated his eyes and said there was something in the air. Others looked, but could see nothing; but presently a large gimlet fell at their feet, which was known to have been in an upper room, in a closet, a few minutes before. The same medium soon after became again entranced, and said he saw a Spirit descending the stairs with something in his hand. They again looked, but saw nothing; but presently a piece of soap fell on the floor, which was also known to belong to a room up stairs. This same article was subsequently conveyed to another room by the Spirits, and placed under the carpet. On afterward passing through the hall to another room, our correspondent heard a rattling on the floor around him as if made by falling bullets; but on getting a light he found that a large number of cigars had been scattered at his feet. The cigars had likewise been brought from the room above. Many other remarkable demonstrations occurred on the same evening; and our correspondent was forced by these means to give up his previous skepticism in respect to the interference of Spirits in the affairs of men.

PREDICTIONS FULFILLED.—Our old correspondent, J. B. Wolf (who we hope will not be deterred by the considerations he mentions, from using his pen more freely hereafter), writes us a business note in which he incidentally mentions the following facts: "I visited Dr. Barker, of Beaver, Pa., for the purpose of attempting to heal the eyes of his lady. During the manipulations she became entranced. While in this state she had a vision, which she commenced detailing in the finest style of description and prophecy. At the second sitting it was continued; and the third would have completed it, but I was prevented from throwing her into the trance state. I have always regretted that I did not write it all down; but this I remember, that she predicted the conflict, the alliance, and many of the details of the impending armies. "Nearly two years afterward a boy in my room, in the magnetic trance, predicted the date of the reception of the news of actual hostilities six weeks previous to the arrival of the dispatches. These are facts; you can see them as you please.

"Allow me to add, that for ten thousand lumps of gold as large as the rings of Saturn, I would not go back to the old theology."

LITERARY NOTICES.

Brother Jonathan's Cottage; or, a Friend to the Fallen. By Henry H. Tator, author of Essays, Mental, Social, and Moral; Modern Benefactors, &c. New York: Francis Hart, 63 Cortlandt Street.

We have perused this book with eminent satisfaction, and can recommend it with great confidence, knowing that it must exert an influence for good. It contains nothing that will offend the moral sense, or vitiate the taste of the cultivated and religious reader; on the contrary, the story is well told, and every page is illuminated with pure thoughts and noble sentiments, which must quicken the individual conscience, and inspire in every true heart the resolution to live and act nobly for the moral elevation and happiness of mankind. The individuality of the principal characters is strongly marked; the narrative exhibits equal force and freedom, while the morale is altogether unexceptionable. Many of the scenes are portrayed with a plastic ease and energy which plainly show that the author is capable of displaying remarkable vivacity and power, whenever his descriptive powers are aroused by his instinctive resistance of evil, or inspired by the deep and tender sympathies of his generous and loving heart. The genius of the author, as displayed in the present effort, more than realizes all our expectations on taking up the volume—though the author had previously acquired reputation in a select circle, and was favorably known to us—and it affords the sure prophecy of greater achievements hereafter, and an enviable distinction.

Mr. Tator was educated for the bar, but his interest in the progressive ideas and practical reforms of the age, as well as his fondness for literary pursuits, and the prospect of eminence in the field of his present endeavors, will probably induce him to totally abandon the practice of his profession. But this is merely our conjecture predicated of the essential attributes and obvious tendencies of his mind. Of one thing we feel assured, namely, that whatever department of thought and action our friend, the author, may ultimately select, as best suited to his powers and inclinations, he will shrink from no moral responsibility, but, true to his highest convictions, he will not fail to dignify the place and profession of his choice alike by his talents and his integrity.

The Singer's Companion. Containing a choice selection of popular Songs, Duets, Glee's, Catches, &c., with music arranged for the voice, flute, violin, and piano. New York: Stringer & Townsend, 229 Broadway.

"In this choice selection of two hundred standard songs, will be found the greatest possible variety of the most exquisite pieces of old and new words and music—serious, comical, sentimental, and heroic—interspersed with occasional fashionable airs, as recently sung by the most popular vocalists, together with several of the rarest Ethiopian Melodies. These compositions have been collected with a due regard to the sentiment of the poetry, as well as the beauty and melody of the airs of their respective masters; all adapted to appropriate music, correctly arranged for one or more voices, and for various instruments."

The Editor appears to have wisely excluded from his book many pieces which have appeared in other collections of popular songs; compositions which, on account of their vulgarity and the profane and indecent allusions with which they abound, have tended to vitiate the popular taste and morals. For this reason, as well as for the extent and variety of its contents, we think this is the best book of the kind which has yet attracted our attention.

The Singer's Companion makes a beautiful 12mo. of 237 pages, printed on fine paper and handsomely bound in imitation, with a spirited frontispiece.

FACTS AND REMARKS

SHIP'S POSITION TOLD BY A SPIRIT.—A few days ago a gentleman, whose residence is in Baltimore, called at this office, and in conversation with the writer mentioned the following interesting particulars: His attention being called to Spiritualism by witnessing some slight phenomena that were attributed to ultra-mundane agency, he mentioned the same to his daughter, a young lady of sixteen. The latter thought it not unlikely that the phenomena referred to were really the work of Spirits, inasmuch as she was almost conscious of spiritual presences herself, and thought that she might converse with them if she were to try. Upon this her father suggested that she should sit by the table, with pen and paper before her, and await any preternatural impulse to write, which she did—her father at the same time calling upon the Spirit of a young man of his acquaintance, who had been killed in the Mexican war. Her hand was soon moved; the young man gave his name, told the place and circumstances of his death, and answered a large number of test questions correctly, the answers to many of which were not previously known either to interrogator or medium. Among these was a series of questions in relation to a ship which the gentleman had sent out some months previously. The Spirit told the name of the ship and the name of her commander, and then told her exact latitude and longitude, in degrees and minutes, on the Pacific Ocean. This was on the 28th of April, the ship having sailed on the 12th of the previous October. The position described was much nearer the South American coast than the gentleman supposed she could then be. He, however, made a minute of the communication, in order to compare it with the facts thereafter to be ascertained from the ship's log-book. He afterward received a letter from the captain, written from a certain port in South America, and in writing to him in return, he inquired, "What was your exact position on the 20th of April?" The captain, consulting his log-book, wrote him an answer which corresponded precisely to a minute of a degree with the information given by the Spirit on that day. We regard this fact as a most powerful proof of Spirit-interposition.

DECISIVE SPIRIT IDENTIFICATIONS.—We have received the following particulars from Mr. Benjamin F. Johnson, of Madison Street, this city, in whose family are mediums of different kinds, and whose wife is a good spirit seer and clairvoyant physician. One evening, at their family circle, a Spirit announced her name as Cyrene C.—(we omit full names on account of relatives of the parties still living). No one present remembered to have ever known a person of the name given, and to obtain a clue to identification, Mr. J. asked, "Where did you live?" Ans. "In Windham." "How did you come by your death?" Ans. "By drowning." "Who was drowned with you?" Ans. "Irene I."—Mr. and Mrs. J. then remembered that more than twenty years ago two little girls, bearing the names given, were drowned in attempting to cross a foot-bridge of a creek swollen by a freshet. This occurred at a place now called Lexington, but which was then comprised in the town of Windham, Greene Co., N. Y. After identifying the Spirit in that way, and perceiving that the manifestation was independent of all thought-reading, Mr. J. said, "Well, Cyrene, will you make us a communication?" "Yes; my mother is with me, and wishes to communicate." The mother then commenced: "Ever since I have been in this sphere I have been sorry that I talked so ugly to your mother about Jesse's joining the Church." These words again recalled a circumstance of which Mr. and Mrs. J. had not thought for a long time; and the old lady was afterward, if possible, still more distinctly identified as to a certain characteristic petulance, by taking an offense at an expression which Mrs. J. casually dropped concerning her, and replying to it in the lingo to which she had been accustomed while in the flesh.

A CONVINCING FACT.—Mrs. Johnson, a clairvoyant physician, residing at No. 227 Madison Street, this city, relates to us the following as among many equally interesting facts in her spiritual experience. She was thrown into the clairvoyant state by her husband, and sent to look for some friends in the Spirit-world. She, however, immediately found herself in connection with a Spirit who seemed to be in a state of perplexity and uncertainty. This Spirit prevented her from coming into rapport with her Spirit-friends, and she tried to rid herself from the connection, but could not. Finally it occurred to her that she had seen the Spirit before, and on a closer examination distinctly recognized her as the wife of a soldier who had reneged in his immediate neighborhood some seven or eight years before, but of whom she had not heard in some three or four years, and whose death she had not suspected. She mentioned these facts, and was soon brought out of the state. Within an hour after she returned to her normal condition, a lady came in and said, "Mrs. J., is it not a shame! Mrs. B. (mentioning the name of the woman whose Spirit Mrs. J. had just seen) has just died, and they are now hurrying her off to the grave without paying her any more respect than if she were a dumb brute"—or something to that purpose. At that moment the funeral procession of the woman whose Spirit had just been seen was passing along the street!

AN ANCIENT VISIONIST.—Apollonius, of Tyana, in Cappadocia, was born not far from the beginning of the Christian era. From early life he practiced the austerities of the Pythagoreans, with which sect of philosophers he connected himself. He spent much time in the temple of Esculapius at Egæ, and was by its priests initiated into the mysteries of the healing art; and his peculiar course of discipline and instruction procured for him some wonderful psychical powers. Philosophically, his biographer, mentions instances of his miraculously (or magnetically) restoring (apparently) dead persons to life. While in the island of Crete, he exclaimed, on one occasion, that the sea was bringing forth land. It was afterward ascertained that an island was at that moment rising out of the neighboring sea, by the throes of an earthquake. While at the Isthmus of Corinth, he predicted the attempt of the Emperor Nero to cut through it. In the after part of his life, while at Ephesus, engaged in a public disputation, his voice suddenly changed and he exclaimed, "Well done, Stephen! take heed; kill the tyrant; kill him!" and then after a short pause he added, "The tyrant is dead; he is killed this very hour." It was afterward proved that Domitian the tyrannical emperor was actually slain at that very hour by a band of conspirators, in the city of Rome.

FORMS OF HUMAN AFFECTIONS.—A friend, in a recent letter to the present writer, incidentally mentioned that calling, on the previous evening, with his wife, at the house of a friend, they met there a stranger who had a very singular voice, and who, during the evening, sang several songs. In the mean time our friend's wife, who is an eminently lucid Spirit-seer, went into the interior state and observed the peculiar and changing states of the man's spirit as different affections or emotions were called into activity by his musical effort. She observed that whenever any particular affection was vividly called up, a vision of the face of the particular animal distinguished for that affection was projected before her, and at such times there was a peculiarity in the man's voice which could be distinctly identified with the sounds uttered by that particular kind of animal. Similar phenomena have frequently been observed by other Spirit-seers, and they hint at the existence of a law governing the relation between interior principles and their outer forms of expression, which, when fully known, will serve as an exponent of the whole natural and spiritual worlds and their mutual relations.

SPIRIT-SEEING AT GREENPOINT.—There is a circle of mediums at Greenpoint, L. I., several of whom perceive Spirits by a sense which appears to be almost identical with that of the outer vision. Recently one of them, in seating herself in a circle, was told, through a writing medium, that one Spirit would be there that evening whom she would not be permitted to see. She understood this to be the Spirit of her deceased husband. After sitting awhile she spoke of a cold sensation which she felt on the back of her neck, as though a cold hand had been laid upon it, though she saw nothing. At the same time that she spoke of this, another medium distinctly saw the lady's deceased husband come in, seat himself on her lap, and place his hand on the back of her neck exactly in the spot where she experienced the cold sensation.

A REQUEST GRANTED.—A friend of ours—a lady who is a medium—being recently seated in a circle, suddenly found herself, without provocation or "malice prepense," committing an assault and battery upon a young man who sat near her, and whom she dealt a most vigorous blow in the face. She was surprised and mortified at her own unpremeditated and altogether involuntary exhibition of pugnacity, but it was explained by the young man himself, who said he had mentally requested the Spirits to strike him in the face as a demonstration of their presence. The demonstration he received was certainly a striking one, and it "served him right." Here was certainly a clear instance of Spirit-thought reading.

NEW YORK CONFERENCE OF SPIRITUALISTS.

SESSION OF JAN. 23D, 1855.

Mr. TAYLOR showed a slate upon which the Spirits had formed some letters in a circle at his house on the previous Sunday evening.

Mr. HUNSON gave an interesting incident on the authority of a child about eight years of age. The family, who reside in Brooklyn, were in the country last summer at the house of a brother.

Mrs. PLATT spoke, from the trance state, of the influence and use of Spiritualism. She instanced the "old dispensation," many of the followers of which drew their faith from the fountain of history.

Mr. RYSDOLPH stated some facts to show the use and healthy growth of Spiritualism. He thinks it is gradually making its way through the intellect to the heart of man, there to work as a living principle.

MARRIED.

In Rochester, January 16th, by Rev. C. Hammond, Mr. ISAAC G. ATWOOD, of Lockport, and AMY M. TERMAN, of Somersét, all mediums.

BORN INTO THE SPIRIT-WORLD.

At Greenpoint, L. I., Dec. 13th, 1854, IRENE EREWIO, aged 3 years 1 month and 10 days; and Dec. 25th, MARY ARMEDA, aged 1 year 10 months and 11 days, daughters of Frances Henrietta and the late Charles C. Wright, of this city.

DIFFERENT MODES OF SPIRIT-SPEECH.—Our friend, James Stott, of Carlisle, Pa., in writing us on business, incidentally mentions the case of an excellent medium in that place who is influenced to speak in the most eloquent manner by an Indian Spirit.

SCENES FROM THE SPIRIT-HOME.

Home, joyous home! Wanderer! come here. Aching head, come rest on the pillow of heavenly repose. Breathe a sigh that Heaven's breath may fan thy brow; that the breezes of angelic attendants may wash thee homeward.

When in a faint celestial, Thy weary soul shall bathe; When borne from waves terrestrial, From error's darkened cave; When floating onward, upward, The weary soul shall rest; And soar 'midst Spirit's heavenward, To join pure Spirits blest.

Come homeward, weary soul! —Lily Wreath.

Original Communications.

A PICTURE OF TO-DAY.

BY THOMAS L. HARRIS. TO S. A. P.

I dedicate this poem to you because your heart and hand for these many years have been open to those who had no helper, and your labors of love untiring for the relief of the distressed.

In the cold street at break of day Frozen and stark a Maiden lay, A Maiden undefiled, Hunger and cold had chilled her breast; The Angels loosed her bosom-vest, And God took home his child.

The cold gray light that streamed forlorn Through snow-clouds by the north wind torn, Shone on her dead calm face. Her little hands, blue-veined and fair, Were clasped as if she breathed a prayer, E'en while in Death's embrace.

'Twas sweet to see her gentle eyes Upturned as if, from out the skies, Some Angel had shone down; Dawning upon her dying sight On the cold flag-stones in the night, An Angel, with his crown.

'Twas sweet to see her lips lie close As if they were a little rose, That, when the soul had gone, Had shut a lingering sweetness in, A joy that they had died to win From the pure Spirit frown.

O tattered gown, so scant and thin, That could but let the bleak Night in To chill that bosom young; Methought from every seam and rent, Where through the wild wind came and went, God spoke with awful tongue.

And God BOTH SPEAK from every cell, And huddled cot where poor men dwell, The Poor, withouten bread; While these, my lambs, lie piteous-sweet, Death-numbed and frozen in the street, No shelter hath My head."

Was it a Vision that I saw? My spirit thrilled with holy awe, A bleeding Heart lay trod, A bruised and bleeding Heart lay bare, Where the bright gas-light cast its glare, Thy Heart, O Christ of God!

A bleeding Heart that could not die, But beat forever silently, And made no sound or moan, A bleeding Heart! My blood ran chill; Soon music, with a solemn thrill, The stately organ's tone;

The harmony of vocal choirs Rose o'er the slender Broadway spires; The wealthy and the proud Drove o'er the Heart that throbbled and bled; Unthinking still that CHRIST lay dead In every Poor Man's shroud.

From prayer, and litany, and mass, I saw them throng, and cried, "Alas! Didst thou, O Saviour! die That human lips might go unfeared, And children starve for lack of bread, And vainly, vainly try

For help from God or from their race?" As this I said, the dead girl's face Shone once more on my sight, And, self-rebuked, I said, "Not so; In Angel forms of light;

"In Angel forms, and not alone Of Sainted Souls who glide unknown O'er human ill and grief. Thy sacred benedictions flow Through earth-bound Souls thy love who know, And bear thy Poor relief.

"The poor man's sorrow ends with death; With earth all trouble vanishes; A voice from heaven Divine Saith, 'Ope, ye heavenly gates! take in My children, slain by want, not sin, The Poor, the Poor are Mine!'"

New York, Jan. 20, 1855.

DISCLOSURES MADE BY SPIRITS.

CLAY, Jan. 8, 1855.

BROS. PARTRIDGE AND BRITTAN:

It is the request of Professor Miller's widow, that you republish the accompanying extract, taken from a series of lectures delivered by J. Tiffany, in Cleveland, Ohio, and published in the Tribune some time in 1853. I copy the following from a recent letter of hers. The last problem mentioned (referring to the one in the lecture), was one he had worked on three years. I never shall forget how elated he was when he returned from Auburn and found it was correct; and how I at that time ridiculed Spiritualism. My object in sending it is, I wish to have it republished in the TELEGRAPH and Era.

There is another class of phenomena sometimes connected with clairvoyance which demands our attention. I refer to that called retrovision, by which I mean the faculty of calling up the past and revealing its hidden history. I once witnessed a very remarkable instance of this kind, which I will briefly relate. In the year 1845, while I was residing in Lorain Co., a Mr. Hall, a merchant in Elyria, had his store broken and entered, and a large quantity of goods stolen and carried away. This was done about 12 o'clock on Saturday night. Early the next morning, Mr. H. discovered what had been done, and came to me for advice. The first inquiry I put to him was, "Have you informed any one of what has taken place?" He answered that he had not. I then enjoined it upon him not to mention the circumstance to any one, not even his family, and perhaps in a few days he would hear that his store had been broken; then, by tracing the report, he might get some clue to the rogues. This course of policy was agreed upon, and the subject was mentioned to no one. The next morning, while we were together conversing upon the subject, the thought occurred to me that a young lady in town was said to be clairvoyant, and I proposed to Mr. Hall that we should visit her and test her powers. It was agreed to between

us, and it was further agreed that nothing should be said to her respecting the nature of the subject to be investigated, for two reasons: first, we wished to know whether she could discover from our minds, the subject to be investigated; and second, if she could not clairvoyantly give us the information we desired, she would know nothing of the subject by which the information could be communicated to others. This young lady was an entire stranger to both of us. With this understanding we visited the house of Mr. Cook, who was the brother-in-law and mesnager of this young lady. On visiting the house we informed Mr. Cook that we had come to request him to mesmerize his sister-in-law for the purpose of making certain investigations. This he very kindly consented to do, and in a few moments she was put into the mesmeric condition. Mr. Cook then turned to us and requested to be informed of the nature of the subject to be investigated. We declined telling him, desiring that the subject might be requested to find that out. He requested us to mention some place where we desired the investigation to commence. Mr. Hall immediately mentioned his store. Mr. Cook inquired of the subject if she knew where Mr. Hall's store was. She replied she did not. He then requested her mentally to accompany him to it, which she did, and soon declared herself to be there. Mr. Cook then requested her to make the examination desired, and inform him of what she saw. She almost immediately remarked, "There has been had work here; this store has been broken open, and a large quantity of goods stolen." Mr. Hall then inquired, "How was it broken open?" She commenced and gave a very minute and detailed description of the manner in which it was done, which was perfectly accurate in every particular. She even described their effort at lighting a lamp after they had entered the store, and said they had lighted five matches before they had succeeded in lighting the lamp, and that the unburned portion of the matches were left upon the floor near where they left the lamp standing, which was also perfectly correct. She then proceeded to describe accurately the character, quantity, and quality of the goods stolen. The different kinds and colors of the broadcloths, etc., all of which was correct. After giving the above description, I remarked: "Well, if you can see to describe so accurately the transaction, can you not see to tell us who were the persons engaged in it?" She replied, "Certainly I can; there were three of them; they are strangers to me; I can not tell their names, but I can describe them so that you can find them. With this, she commenced describing one of them by his size, personal appearance, dress, even to the peculiar kind of cap he wore, business, place of residence, and even the business he was at, that moment engaged in; said he left town that morning on his way to Cleveland with a load of pork. From her description we had no difficulty in determining the individual she was referring to, and her description was in every respect correct. She even described the part he took in breaking the store, which subsequently proved to be correct. She then proceeded to describe the second person concerned in the burglary, with the same accuracy she described the first, and from her description we had no difficulty in determining who she referred to. She then proceeded to describe the third person with the same particularity as she described the others, but we could not learn who he was from her description. Her description, however, subsequently proved to be correct, and the reason we did not recognize him was, he was a stranger, residing some thirty miles distant. She also told us what had been done with the goods, but those we could not find. We were now very well satisfied that she had told us the truth, and had fixed our suspicions upon two individuals whom we had not previously suspected. But we could do nothing but watch, as clairvoyant evidence would not be deemed competent in a court of justice, and watch we did. Fortunately for our purpose, a difficulty arose between one of these burglars and his wife, and she disclosed the fact of his guilt in this case. By this means we were enabled to get legal evidence of the guilt of the other two parties, including the one we did not know, from the description of the clairvoyant; and the three were arrested; one of them turned State's evidence, and gave, under oath, a full description of the whole transaction, which, in every particular, corroborated the statement of the clairvoyant, made some four months before. The burglars were arrested and sent to the penitentiary. Here was a clear case of retrovision. Many other cases of a similar character might be mentioned, but one well-authenticated case is as good for our purpose as a thousand.

I will mention another example. Mr. Nathan Whitney, of Warren Co., Ia., is a medium for these communications. His wife lost a brother about nine years of age, in Wilmington, Clinton Co., Ohio. This brother's name was David Allen Everett. This lad, previous to his death, had lost a pocket-knife which he prized very highly, and in searching for which he and others had spent much time. After David had been deceased for a year or more, his spirit purported to be present to communicate through his brother-in-law, Mr. W. Mr. W., who was strongly inclined to doubt the genuineness of the manifestations, remarked, "David, if this is really you, you can tell us where you lost your knife, and where it can now be found." To which he replied, "Certainly, I can see it now; it is lying in the pigeon-box in such a barn, in Wilmington, Ohio, with the blade open." He then gave directions how they could get to the box, by climbing up on the scaffolding, etc., and he requested that the knife might be obtained and be kept to be presented to his little nephew (a son of Mr. and Mrs. W.), when he should be old enough to appreciate it, as a present from his Spirit-uncle. Mrs. W. wrote to her parents in Wilmington requesting them to look for the knife, and thus test the correctness of the communication. They had removed some five miles from the place where the knife was lost, and had not sufficient confidence in the communication to go five miles to test it. Two young men being present at the time the letter was received, and being curious to test the matter, mounted their horses and went and made the search, and found the knife in the exact place described in the letter, with the blade open as described. And the knife is now being kept to be presented according to the request of the little Spirit-giver. Thus I might continue giving an indefinite number of cases illustrating this point; but the above are sufficient. These manifestations also indicate a degree of intelligence superior to that of the mediums or any other persons present; and they also indicate an intelligence purely intellectual in its character. Illustrating this point, I will give the case of Prof. Miller, of Cortland Co., New York. He visited certain mediums in Auburn, N. Y., for the purpose of investigating this subject. While there, he endeavored to obtain indications of intelligence of such a character as to render it certain that the answers were in no way dictated by the mediums. He therefore selected a subject for investigation which would require a degree of intelligence not possessed by one in a hundred thousand. He called for the Spirit of La Place, the celebrated astronomer and mathematician, and directly the Spirit responded to his call. "Now," said Professor M., "if you are the Spirit of La Place, you can demonstrate to me such a problem in such a book of your 'Mechanique Celeste.'" The Spirit responded by giving the desired demonstration. He took it down as given by the Spirit, not being quite certain that it was the one called for; but on comparing it with the book, he found it to be correct. This demonstration was of such a character that Prof. M. knew no person present excepting himself could understand it after it was given. Prof. M. also applied another test. There was in his mind a mathematical problem which he had been endeavoring to solve for some time, without success. While here making these investigations, he submitted that problem to the Spirits of La Place and Newton, and they solved for him the problem. Here certainly was an indication of a very high degree of intelligence concerned in the production of these phenomena. I might add many other cases, but the above are sufficient for my present purpose.

WITHERED ARM CURED.

Woburn, Mass., Dec. 15, 1854.

MESSES. PARTRIDGE AND BRITTAN: I was afflicted for three years with rheumatism and cerebral. Most of the time I was unable to do any labor. During this time I was attended by three physicians, one of whom was the celebrated Dr. Astell, of Lowell, Mass., but without any apparent benefit. In May, 1852, while speaking with R. H. Howard in regard to Mr. Stephen Cutter (the Spirit-doctor so called), I asked him if he thought Mr. Cutter could help me. He replied, "I know he can." I accordingly sent for him. At this time I did not expect ever to have the use of my arm again, as it appeared to have withered away and had become entirely useless. He laid his hands upon me twice without any apparent effect, but the third time I felt some effect from his hands. He continued to call on me two or three times a day. In four weeks I was able to return to my labor, and have had the use of my arm ever since, which I attribute to Mr. Cutter's laying on of hands. I am not a believer in Spiritualism, but believe Mr. Cutter has the healing power in himself. If you think this is worth publishing in your paper, please insert it.

G. CHELSEA.

INKERMANN.

The following lines, by a correspondent heretofore unknown to us, are composed in a free and vigorous style, which is seldom surpassed by the contributions to the newspaper press. We shall venture to anticipate other tokens of remembrance from the same source.—Ed.

War, war, war! Who hath proclaimed it? Who hath sustained it? Bloody and bleak is the field of its strife; Mother, and sister, and daughter, and wife, Sadly have named it Grave of their glory, their pride, and their life. Down, down, down! Fathers and brothers, Husbands and lovers, Streaming with gore in the fierce battle fell; Ghastrly and gaunt in the ghost-haunted dell— Lost to all others. Silent forever, the brave-hearted dwell. Dark, dark, dark! O'er them waving, Gloomily moaning, War's crimson banner how cleaveth the air; Kneeling beneath it the young and the fair, Blank horror braving, Seek for the lost and the beautiful there. Wo, wo, wo, wo! Orphans are wailing; Banners are trailing; Shrieks rend the air with the trumpet's wild peal; Moanings resound with the clashing of steel; Brave hearts are flashing— Crushed 'neath the tread of the conqueror's heel. Hasten, hasten, hasten! Seraph or Spirit— All who inherit Freedom and peace in the land of the blest— Stay the wild passions that surge in man's breast, Till war's wild spirit, Gory and grim, is forever at rest.

RESULTS OF MRS. METTLER'S PRACTICE.

The subjoined article was written by the editor of the Hartford Times, one of the most intelligent, acute, and conscientious observers. For several years the Doctor and Mrs. Mettler have resided in Hartford; the editor of the Times has had every necessary or desirable opportunity to witness the results of their practice, and his testimony on this point may be received with unquestioning confidence.

MEDICAL CLAIRVOYANCE.

For the information of many persons in various quarters who are sending inquiries after the residence in this city of Mrs. METTLER, the somewhat celebrated medical Clairvoyante, and for the benefit of all who may feel interested in the matter, we will state that her new residence (into which she has just removed from her former house in College Street), is situated on the south side of Winthrop, near Pleasant Street, in the northern part of the city.

Her new residence, purchased the present winter by Dr. Mettler, is a beautiful new building in modern style, handsomely furnished throughout. It is upon a healthy location, overlooking the beautiful valley of the Connecticut, in a quiet neighborhood of the best residences in Hartford. In every respect it is a beautiful residence and a desirable location. Her numerous friends throughout the country will be gratified to learn that she is so happily situated. Her powers were never clearer nor her successes more complete, though out of about nine thousand cases examined by her, we have not yet known of a failure. The two cases claimed by some of her opponents as failures, we have found on inquiry were successful examinations, rather than failures.

Quite a number of remarkably successful examinations have lately been made by this lady while in the magnetic or trance state, the circumstances of which, were the parties concerned not unwilling to make them public, are of a character to interest and surprise those who are unacquainted with the nature and extent of this latterly-discovered and singular power. Individuals from other sections of the country, who were wholly unknown to Mrs. M., have had evidence of her power in correctly locating, describing, and curing diseases, as well as many who reside in this city and vicinity. Circumstances and particulars connected with the cause of the disorder, frequently dating back for years and entirely forgotten by the patient, are seen by her while in the clairvoyant state, and so accurately described as to bring them vividly back to his memory, though he may never have suspected any connection between them and the disease. Another noteworthy fact may be mentioned in connection with this matter—a majority of Mrs. M.'s patients are those who have been long and unsuccessfully treated by physicians, and whose systems are in a shattered condition. These cases are often of a desperate character, and they come to her hands as a last resort, after being given up by most other practitioners. If in the face of discouraging circumstances like these, Mrs. Mettler succeeds in relieving three out of every five of such cases, it is a feat that is rather significant, and one that speaks strongly in her favor. Yet we have reason to believe that she has actually accomplished this, and that the proportion mentioned of serious cases treated by her have indeed been greatly relieved, or entirely cured. Her diagnosis of a disease will commonly be found to be strikingly correct, and when her prescriptions are faithfully followed, the patient is very apt to improve. If the case is such as to allow of no help, she frankly says so at once, but often she finds that much can be done for those who consult her. We have deemed it proper thus publicly to allude to this lady, simply for the benefit of those who are suffering, and who may, perhaps, by this means, be materially helped in the first of all blessings—health.

By way of illustrating the real nature of some of the charges which are brought against Mrs. M.'s mode of practice, we will relate an incident which occurred some time since in this city.

Dr. — was present, and was speaking in opposition to her method of doctoring, when a Mr. A., of East Hartford, came in, with his son—a lad aged about fourteen years. "Here comes a man, now," said Dr. A., "here is a man who can tell you about Mrs. Mettler. He has been there!" "Well, what do you think of Mrs. Mettler?" "I have no confidence in her," was the prompt reply. Dr. — seemed pleased. "Did she examine you?" "No," she examined this boy." "What did she say?" "She said that his eyesight was nearly destroyed—that he could only see rays of light at the sides." "Is this true?" "Yes." "Well, did she tell you any thing else?" "Yes, she told me a great many things about the boy and his eyes." "Did she tell you correctly?" "Yes." "Did she make any mistake?" "No." "Did she tell every little particular correctly?" "Yes." "And what astonished me was, she told just how the boy's mother died, years and years ago! She died in convulsions."

As this case seemed to afford rather an interesting "evidence" of Mrs. M.'s guess-work, our friend continued to question the man a little further. "Did Mrs. Mettler ever know this boy's mother?" "No. She died several years ago."

"Well, did she know you were coming to consult her?" "No." "Did she ever see or hear of you or your boy?" "No—probably not." "Was she in the clairvoyant sleep when you went into the room?" "Yes." "Was there a handkerchief over her eyes?" "Yes." "Did she see you or the boy before the examination?" "No." "Did she tell her your name?" "No." "Did she know who it was she was examining?" "No." "But, my friend, according to your own story, the examination was a correct one. Why, then, have you no confidence in her?" "Well, I don't know, she said she couldn't cure the boy."

And so it seemed the clairvoyant must be blamed and pronounced a "humbler" by those who start reports against her which have no better foundation than this—that she "couldn't cure" a case of blindness, while the facts showed that she had made a correct examination of the case.

POWERFUL DEMONSTRATIONS AGAIN.

SPRINGFIELD, Jan. 10, 1855.

MESSES. PARTRIDGE AND BRITTAN: Dear Sirs—Believing it your wish that all extraordinary Spirit-manifestations should be reported to you for the benefit, not only of your subscribers, but of the rest of mankind, I am impressed to state what occurred at my house during the sittings of a circle last winter. By Spirit-direction, the names of ten or twelve persons were given, to form a circle at my house, through Mrs. Cadwell, with the promise that if we obeyed instructions they would give us music on the piano. The first evening was mostly occupied in getting directions, not only through Mrs. Cadwell, but through the sounds and tappings, Miss Hastings being a medium for powerful demonstrations. The second evening, my daughter was requested by the Spirits to take a seat at the piano and play, during which they rapped out the time upon the table around which the circle were sitting, with so much force as to produce a very perceptible vibration of the same. The third evening, the Spirits requested Miss H. to take a seat at the piano, at the same time requesting my daughter to play, the invisibles thumping out the time on the sounding-board so loud as to be heard in the adjoining room. After a few sittings they would play an accompaniment with my daughter, by snapping the strings, the same as in playing the harp, apparently making use of fifteen or twenty strings at once, rolling out the music with most beautiful effect. Previous to this, they gave orders that the room should be made dark. At length they requested Miss H. to change seats with my daughter, as they wished her to play, and here I would state, that she was never known to play a tune on the piano, not even knowing the letters on the same. She soon commenced, and to the astonishment of the circle played a number of pieces entirely new to us, as well as some that were familiar. They then told us they would try and make her play the "Burning of Moscow," which performance, for elegance of touch and beauty of expression, all present said they never heard excelled by the best performers. Language is inadequate to do it justice. The most intense ecstasy seemed to pervade the circle, manifesting itself in exclamations of wonder and delight. I would here observe that my piano has the Zolian attachment, which was played during the whole performance in concert with the piano. There was almost a perfect representation of the discharge of large and small guns, with the roll of drums and the tolling of bells, and throughout it was interspersed with most delicious music, all in perfect harmony.

At the conclusion of the performance, the curtain on one of the windows, which is balanced by a loaded tassel, was raised to the top as quick as a flash of lightning, which feat they performed at the conclusion of almost every piece. The last time they drew it up, it struck the top with so much force that it split off the piece of mahogany wood with which it was put up, and down came the curtain to the floor. Perhaps it will be said we were mesmerized? If so, the influence must have remained upon me for a long time, for the next day I had the satisfaction of repairing and putting up the curtain.

One thing I forgot to mention. The medium, Miss H., said the Spirits opened the bellows to the Zolian, as she did not put her foot near the pedal that works the same. Mrs. Cadwell, likewise, saw the Spirit-hand in the act of drawing up the curtain. Miss H. would play a beautiful accompaniment to any tune my daughter would play. They then set the piano up on the two back legs; there it would stand and keep time with the music, with so much motion as to throw the book-rack over, and without a hand touching it except my daughter playing it. Where is Prof. Faraday? They have done the same thing when there were only those two in the room. I have stood in the hall with others, and witnessed it. They threw the book-rack over so often, I told them I would prevent it, as it created quite a disturbance. I took my handkerchief and tied it around one of the slats, rolling up the other end, reached over, raised the cover and put it under, and before I could withdraw my hand, the front of the piano was raised up three times hard against my arm, equivalent to saying, "That will hold it. You will see that in this case the piano was tipped from the medium. Thus it appears that Faraday and Grimes are, unfortunately, far behind the times.

We had a promiscuous circle one evening, with William Hume as medium; my daughter was playing, when the piano was moved by the invisibles five feet endwise, leaving her out of the reach of the keys. They put it in its place again, called for the alphabet, spelled out sentences, responded to questions by raising the end of the piano six inches from the floor, thumping it on the same, during the whole house. This is but a partial account of what transpired during the sitting of this circle. The names of the witnesses will be given if wished for.

Respectfully yours, A. S. CURRIER.

LILY WREATH.

We make the following extract from the closing pages of this beautiful work:

And now that we have twined the eternal and unfading garland of enduring unity, let us throw the wreath around the hands united, and our united faith and hope shall keep it green. And I have dwelt with thee thus far, have lived within thee, and thou hast learned to gaze and look on me as a friend of truth, a living friend, not a vision of love. And now together we will go reaping the harvest of earth, and while we reap we will scatter seed. We'll know no end of duty, we'll call it ever spring-time of life, and still keep budding for beauty. We'll whisper not of death; we'll whisper in unceasing strains of life, love and truth forever.

The falling leaf it does not die, Again it cometh to the eye. For in the refining process of nature's laws that pervades all matter, in beauty it comes up anew and blooms again; it puts forth new freshness. We know not death; all, all is life.

"Thy only sorrow's sigh, That whispers ought can die, Thy only error's form That drives us to the tomb."

Why talk of death! when God has made these countless worlds, and all of life that teems within, and placed them in eternity! And yet speakest thou of death!

Oh, call it life in varied phase, And let dread "death" grow mold with age.

Go and tell, go and whisper to the children of earth, that what they term the fleeting vision is but the soul's reality, and what they treasure here so long, is far more fleeting, for it shall pass away, and all these hideous forms that in the imagination lingered round the brain, and filled the soul with dread of Him who is all love and beauty shall fade away, and in their place

Bright rays of hope come flowing in, To raise that soul from fettered sin; By sin I mean, the darkened night That comes before the morning bright.

I would speak to thee my thoughts of beauty till they would swell to mighty volumes. I have in reserve for thee such untold beauties; such light and truth to unfold, as will fit and garnish the soul and prepare it to enter those brighter bands of seraphs that feed on heaven's food, the bread of life. Then come to me, spirit that I have watched over, that I am bringing to my own bowyer.

Now fill the little volume, and let it go forth on its errand of love; the labor is sweet.

In love and purity have we twined our garlands of lilies. He that received them has given their fragrance to forms seeking beauty. Long may their perfume abide; till he gathers in heaven's gardens, sweeter buds, fairer blossoms that shall wreath the brow of Time's immortal children. I go to gather brighter buds, sweeter lilies, to strew along the pathway of life.

We shall all be gathered there in gardens celestial, to twine flowers of memory forever.

LIFE, life! how it beams with beauty! On the golden-winged hour of time insert diamonds of beauty. Place there the true heart and hand of duty. Live for humanity, live not alone. Wait to the barren hills, the darkened valleys, the shady groves, wait the unyielding truth, the light of Spirit-progression. Penetrate the thick hedge of error. O, let thy soul be a beacon light; let many, many walk by thee. Life will be beautiful; death, O, how glorious!

Wipe the tear from sorrow's eye, lull the sigh of misery. Wouldst thou then add to the convoy of angels that shall welcome thee to those heavenly shores when the spirit passes there, fill well the little sphere allotted thee with deeds of love and duty.

Thou needst not tarry aside for some mighty act; enough daily blossoms spring in thy pathway for thee to culture. Thou wilt have strength equal to the deeds. Freely give, and thou shalt receive the soul's equivalent. I now leave thee, but in spirit I am still, still hovering over thee.—Lily Wreath.

