

A CODE OF
DIVINE ORDINANCE,
OR WORSHIP,

TO BE OBSERVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY
FORMING

The Great Organization,

AS REVEALED FOR ISSUE TO THE CIRCLE
THROUGH THEIR MEDIUM

BY J. G. H. BROWN.

Sold to the enrolled members at 1d., and to non-members or
non-subscribers at 2d. each.

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ORDINANCES FOR THE OBSERVANCE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY FORMING THE GREAT ORGANIZATION, PREPARATORY TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, AS ADDRESSED TO THE HEADS OF FAMILIES IN THESE WORDS: "MAKE THINE HOUSE THY CHURCH, AND BE A PEOPLE PREPARED FOR THE LORD."

AN ADDRESS TO THE COMMUNITY.

WE, the servants of the Most High, assembled in counsel, in compliance with instructions received from heaven in divine revelations, compiled a code of rules, as revealed by the angel of the Lord, for the purpose of forming the community into that organization which is declared shall not be broken by any earthly power, as specified in the "Warning Message." And at the conclusion of the said rules, we again received instructions to compile this pamphlet bearing the above heading; and as our signatures are affixed to the rules in question, and which are now gone forth and have received the signatures of many persons who have pledged themselves to adhere to the principles therein taught, and who are now enrolled in the Community's Book; and members being fast increasing, the Lord hath again seen fit to permit His holy angel to appear unto me, one of his chosen instruments, that His divine commands should be revealed and diffused, and having received instruction to call a meeting of the circle on the 17th day of May, 1857, for the purpose of receiving the ordinances for the guide of worship, to be observed by all persons who are desirous of becoming sincere Christians

and true followers of Christ and His apostles, on the above-named day, re-assembled to receive the holy and sacred commands, in accordance with the instructions before revealed; and I being the medium, through the blessings of the divine Creator, through whom all the sacred revelations contained in nine specific works have been revealed, the Lord hath seen fit to choose me also as His humble instrument for diffusing the great and glorious truths contained in this pamphlet, the necessity for the issue of which I and my friends now see and acknowledge as a great blessing to all our fellow creatures. For having before learned by divine revelation, the gross hypocrisy and fallacy upon which the various sects and denominations of religion are founded, through the corruptions of the scriptures; and having been taught to declare that they all being based upon oppression, their rulers and teachers labouring solely for gain, aggrandisement, and a worldly name, have become an abomination to God; and therefore the people are warned to resist their delusions, and turn to the path of righteousness, which leadeth to comfort, happiness, and rest, for they may be assured that the true and faithful ministers of Christ shall be known by their works as in the days when He and His apostles dwelt upon the earth, diffusing the divine truths of the gospel amongst the poor without salary or fee, not requiring large mansions to live in, carriages to ride in, or retinues of servants; but laboured hard in their endeavours to do good, heal the sick, restore sight to the blind, make the lame to walk, and cure the lunatic from a deranged state of mind to an understanding of clear and sound intellect, diffusing their charities indis-

Bequest of

Harry Houdini

April 1927

criminate, subsisting on the fare of the poorest inhabitants. Can it be possible that the people have been so long blind to this great contrast? And do the pretended followers of Christ in these days perform any of these great, glorious, or benevolent acts? Do they preach without fee? Do they heal the sick? Do they walk from place to place diffusing charities, and subsisting on the fare of their humble fellow creatures? The answer is No—decidedly No. Not one of these acts has ever been performed by a clergyman of any one sect or denomination of the present form of religion in these days. No! they must have splendid mansions or villas to live in, carriages to ride in, retinues of servants, and enormous salaries gleaned and filched from the hard earnings of their helpless and deluded fellow creatures, who are taught to believe that it is the will of God that they should toil in misery and want to support in luxury and idleness their pastoral teachers. But our instructions are to look upon all with charity and compassion, and to pity the ignorance and weakness of those who thus sin against God, but to shew the people their errors, knowing that they would willingly support their teachers in moderate comfort. But how a man who calls himself a minister of God and a follower of Christ, can know that numbers of his followers are compelled to labour six days out of the seven, for a pittance of from seven to twelve shillings per week, while he, the said minister, will take his hundreds, or even his thousands per year, collected from the earnings of the toiling masses, and live in splendour and luxury, merely rehearsing formal prayers, written or extemporary sermons, a few hours in the week, and yet preach

contentment to the people, I am, as every thinking person must be at a loss to conjecture ; though it requires but little comprehension to see that their real object is to create wealth and obtain a worldly name, and not the comfort, happiness, or well-being of their fellow-creatures in this world, or their salvation in the world to come. Here then is the necessity for the great organization, that a people may be prepared for the Lord ; for as all the religious sects are condemned as hypocritical, it is necessary that the people who are warned to resist their delusions should have something upon which their faith and hopes should rest, as they are the victims of avarice, hypocrisy, idolatry, and delusion ; hence the origin of the instructions for these ordinances being diffused. With this brief prelude I now proceed to lay before the community the revelations which show to the world the necessity for the head of every family to make his house his church, or to collect his or her neighbours at every opportunity to offer up their devotions to Him who has declared in these words :—“ That where two or three are gathered together in my name, there will I be in the midst of them.” Therefore, at each of such assemblages, let the members of the household, with the guests assembled for the occasion, rise upon their feet, bare their heads, lift up their eyes and hearts to heaven, and the head of such house, or such person as he or she may appoint, read as follows :—

[It is necessary that all the persons who are assembled should have heard or read the revelations gone forth, which foretell the coming calamities, the overthrow of evils, and Christ's second coming to reign upon the earth ; and when this

knowledge has been explained by the head of the house, then let the assemblage arise and read thus :—]

begin - REVELATION 1st. —“O let us gather together in the name of the Lord, and with justice, honour, and integrity for our guide, unite in prayer and thanksgiving unto him who ruleth and governeth all things; for the Lord is a great and gracious God, and a great King above all kings, and in His hands resteth the universe, with all its marvellous workings; the sea is also His, and He created all which dwelleth upon the earth and in the waters which circumscribe the earth, and all animation oweth its existence unto Him. Therefore gracious and wise are thy works and ways, O Lord God Almighty, to whom let us lift up our hearts and voices, for He hath promised that wherever two or three are gathered together in His name, there will He be in the midst of them; and that we may here be enabled to realize and experience the truths of this divine promise, by the inspiration and influence of His holy spirit; let us bare our heads, stand upon our feet, lift up our eyes and hearts to heaven, and in one voice say as follows :—

“Our Father who is the living God, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom will come, and Thy will shall be done on earth, as it is in heaven; Thou hast given us our daily bread, and our hearts offer unto Thee unfeigned thanksgiving, and Thou hast forgiven us our trespasses, and we will forgive them that trespass against us, and thus participate in Thy love and blessings; and we humbly beseech Thee that Thou wilt deliver us from the evil snares of the world, and wicked temptations of the vile; for thine are the kingdoms, Thou hast power and glory, world without end.”

[At the conclusion of this prayer, while the assemblage is yet standing, let them unite their voices, and read, rehearse, or sing, the following spiritual hymn, as revealed for this purpose :—]

SPIRITUAL HYMN.

“Great God, with wonder and with praise,
We read Thy sacred words;
While unto Thee our voices raise,
And hail Thee Lord of Lords,

In language which no earthly mind,
 Or human skill could frame ;
 To breathe such comfort to mankind,
 Yet praise Thy holy name.

It tells us through thy sacred word,
 Christ came upon the earth
 To ransom with His precious blood
 From everlasting wrath,

The souls of all the human race,
 Which Thou, O Lord, didst make
 To dwell in glory face to face,
 With saints, who for thy sake

Didst die to serve thy sacred word,
 As Christ, their Saviour King ;
 Who fulfill'd all Thy words, oh God,
 Thus we Thy praises sing.

Then help, oh Lord, with gracious hand,
 Inspire us with Thy will,
 That we before our foes may stand,
 And sing thy praises still.

All glory be to God alone,
 Our tongues shall never cease
 To hail Christ's glorious, holy throne,
 With everlasting peace."

[When the hymn is concluded, let the following prayer be offered, whilst the assemblage is yet standing, by one or all the parties, as it may be arranged at the time.]

Oh almighty and merciful God, who is the giver of all goodness, and to whom all creation owes its being, we Thy servants having been gathered together in prayer and supplication unto Thee, we humbly beseech Thee that thou wouldst stretch forth Thine arm and shelter us from the scoffs and jeers of those who are opposed to Thy divine will and ordinance, and that Thou mayest inspire us with a true feeling of compassion and charity towards those who know not the greatness of their transgressions, but are led to believe, by those to whom they have been taught to look up to for instruction, that Thy ways are mysterious and dark, and that it is displeasing to Thee, oh Lord, that they should endeavour to seek, in person, for

Thy wisdom and truth. Therefore, we humbly beseech Thee that Thou wilt, in Thy bountiful goodness, be pleased to enlighten their understanding, that they may be enabled to learn Thy sacred truths, and flee from the coming wrath, and be sheltered beneath the banners of Thy chosen people, and that we, Thy servants, may be enabled to diffuse Thy loving kindness amongst all mankind, and that our endeavours may be so inspired that our numbers may so increase, and our prayers so diligent and incessant that they may seem good in thy sight, so that those who shall henceforth unite with us may rejoice in these Thy blessings. And now O Lord, even as Thou hast hitherto heard our prayers and enlightened our understanding, may this our feeble supplication be acceptable to Thee, and that we may henceforth, with one accord, glorify Thy holy name. This we beg in thy name, and in the name of him who died for our salvation. Amen.

[Here let the assemblage seat themselves, while the head of the family, or whomsoever he or she may appoint, shall read the following exhortation, or any select passage or passages from any of the spiritual books issued, in combination with the ordinance or devotions of the meeting.]

EXHORTATION.

“Men, brethren, and sisters, as we are here assembled for the purpose of offering our prayers and supplications to a just, wise, and a merciful God in behalf of our brethren and sisters of the great human family, irrespective of their conditions or positions in life, or their mode of living; we wish particularly to call your attention to the great object for which our prayers are offered. For, although we have been taught, and are ourselves instructed to teach our fellow-creatures to despise and shrink from the tyrannical and oppressive habits of man, and to shun all the follies and vices of worldly life, to the extent of our capabilities, which, through divine grace, are given unto us; yet we are not taught to despise the people who are perpetrators, or who encourage and support these vices: but to remember that no matter whatever grade, station, position, or condition; or whatever the intellect, capacity, or conduct such persons may possess, we are taught to bear in mind, although they may differ widely from us in their inferiority in this respect, that the same God who created them created us, and

that they are equally members of his universal family; and that, though they appear rebellious to his will, yet he feels the same care, tenderness, and loving kindness for them, even as for those who strive to obey his commands and counsels; for the Lord permits the evils to exist, to shew forth the good; and woe be to those who shall treat his instruments with scorn or derision, whether such instruments be used by him to shew forth the evil or the good. For, though worldly laws are made to punish crime, yet, whether the evil ones escape this punishment or not, they cannot evade the sufferings which follow upon the track of all evil doers. This alone sheweth that God himself is all-powerful and just, and can punish or reward accordingly. Hence we are taught that it is the duty of every Christian and true follower of Christ and his apostles to look upon all persons, of whatever sins they may be guilty, with true feelings of compassion, treating them with brotherly love and kindness, and pitying them for their melancholy condition, grieving at their misfortunes, as though they were our real brothers and sisters, knowing that a loving parent watches over them and is grieved at their disobedience; and that that parent is the Lord of all, and Governor of the universe. So that, although we ourselves have turned aside from the worldly delusions, and are instructed to endeavour to turn others with us, and travel on the straight path which leadeth to happiness and rest, we must not despise those who refuse or neglect to journey with us, and embrace our faith, but pray earnestly to him who ruleth all things, that he may enlighten their understandings, that they may see their errors, turn from their delusions, listen to his counsels and be saved, so that in the days when the calamities shall have visited the earth, they may be enabled to look upon the fulfilment of his holy decrees with fortitude and resignation, and be prepared to go forth with his chosen people and witness the overthrow of all evils, trampling tyranny and oppression under their feet, and sowing the seeds of religious harmony and brotherly love upon their track, until all the armies of the world are gathered together on the plains near to which is the ancient city where the great Redeemer shed his blood to ransom the human race from eternal suffering. The chosen armies of the Lord upon the right on the hills of Zion, and the opposers of his will, and oppressors of his chosen people upon the left, where they shall witness Christ's glorious descent to the earth, amidst his angelic hosts; when the earth shall shake, mountains will be thrown down,

the clouds will open as the voice of many thunders rend the air; so that all nations, kindreds, and tongues, the fowl of the air, the beasts of the fields, and the fishes of the sea shall feel his presence; and the wicked shall mourn as they witness these marvellous things, while the righteous will rejoice that the last great day of God Almighty has come, when all evils will be swept from the earth, and true happiness, peace, and contentment will be experienced by the chosen people of God under the merciful reign of Christ their Saviour, and henceforth their everlasting King.

[When this exhortation, or the selected passages from any of the works are completed, let the assemblage again rise upon their feet, and with eyes and hearts uplifted read or rehearse the following prayer:—

“Almighty and everlasting God, we, thy feeble servants of humanity, do humbly and devoutly thank thee for all thy blessings and loving kindness which thou hast bestowed upon us, and that, even as in the days of old, when our forefathers sinned against heaven and in thy sight, thou didst send thy messengers to the earth to declare to thy chosen men the things which thou, O Lord, in thy justice hadst decreed should fall upon the earth, and thus, O Lord, we thank thee that, even in this age of science and enterprize, mingled with tyranny and oppression. Thou hast seen fit once more to permit thy holy angels to communicate to thy chosen instruments the wrath which thou wilt see fit to pour upon the earth, to cleanse it from its iniquities, and thus, by thy divine goodness, thou hast made known to the people all the events which must come to pass, so that they, by listening to thy counsels and turning from their vices and follies, may be numbered amongst those whom thou hast declared shall witness the overthrow of all abominations, and experience the happy reign of that Christ who died that man's sufferings for their disobedience might not be eternal. And now, O Lord, grant that for thy sake, we may be enabled to spread thy glorious truths; so that, when the Redeemer cometh to establish his kingdom, we may be prepared to join in that universal worship which will make all thy creatures happy. And that we, by divine grace, may continue to serve thee in sincerity and truth, and to treat with compassion all the children of men, believing them all as part

of the great human family, acknowledging thou, O Lord, as Father and Creator of all ; so that, with this harmonious feeling, our members may increase, and though contention and strife may be stirred up around us, we may remain steadfast, and look forward to the future with joyful anticipations. This we beg in thy name, believing thee to be the everlasting and only true God, who liveth and reigneth, world without end."

[Here again let the assemblage seat themselves while the following is read aloud by the head of the house, or such person as may be appointed at the time :]—

To the Members of the Community.

Men, brethren, and members, we have been commanded from on high to write these things to shew unto you, and to mankind in general, the manifold reasons why it is that Almighty God has been pleased to send his holy angel to reveal these things for your guide, which, by attending thereto, you will be enabled to obtain peace and happiness in this world, with rest and glory in the world to come, and shorten the period of your progress and purification in passing through the spheres of immortality.

The first cause, I am instructed to inform you, is, that the doctrines and ordinances to be observed by the members of the universal church of Christ do not authorize its members to set apart one specific day to be kept solely for the worship of God, but it ordains that every true christian should endeavour to follow out the examples set by Christ and his apostles, who kept every day sacred, fearing God with reverence on every day, healing the sick, and performing other miracles, and doing good on each and all days alike ; declaring, however, that one day of the week should be set apart

for rest for the cattle, and enjoyment and recreation for men, and that it was hypocrisy to revel in vice and wickedness, on six days of the week, in all its variety of forms, one portion of the human race exercising tyranny, and oppression, over the other portion, and then cloaking their evil habits by going to church or chapel on the seventh day, while numbers of their menials are slaving at home, and think, or endeavour to make the people believe, that their sanctified appearance, or their formal prayers, or their respectable assemblage two or three times on that day, is sufficient atonement to God for all their vices committed during the week; but this is a hypocritical delusion, and an abomination to God; and woe be to those in the last days who shall continue in such hypocrisy.

The second cause is, that, since christianity has existed upon the earth, the people have been taught to believe in the existence of a monster who is called the devil, and who is said to go about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour, by stirring up strife and discord amongst the human race; and whose power is represented to be so great that he can, at his will, overthrow and thwart the decrees of that God who is acknowledged to be the creator and governor of all things; and so the said monster is feared, and in many instances caused to be more revered than God himself. But this is proved to be an artful invention of our wily rulers, in by-gone ages, who have made the said monster to take upon himself the enormous guilt of their crimes; this, however, has been already explained, proving that the so-called devil is the evil which exists in the minds

of wicked men, and that every person is a participator of this to a greater or less degree, as may be seen by reading the works before issued.

The third cause is, that, from early tuition, the professors of christianity have been taught to believe that the wicked, or those who die without acknowledging the embraced doctrines of christianity in their present form, will suffer eternal torment in hell fire and brimstone, although they may obtain forgiveness and go direct to heaven by sincere repentance during the last moments of their lives. And yet they confess that Christ died for all, while they also declare that hell or heaven immediately after death is the certain reward of all; but this, too, the angel of the Lord has been commanded to declare is a delusion and a wicked invention, for the purpose of keeping mankind in subjection to their rulers, under pain of imprisonment in this world, and everlasting torment in the world to come. Were such the case, what encouragement is there held out to virtue and piety? Such threats are absurd and displeasing to God, as is shewn in other works, which confirm Christ's words, which declare:—"That all should suffer according to their deeds done in the flesh, but that in the end, after purification, through the Saviour's blood, all mankind should enter into everlasting rest and happiness." Therefore, brethren and members, we must not expect to escape the scoffs and jeers of the unenlightened masses, while we are united for the purpose of advocating these great and glorious truths; but we must remember that Christ and his apostles, when on earth, suffered every species of wretchedness and degradation possible to endure

inflicted upon them, not by the poor and ignorant, or what the world called wicked, but by the scribes and the pharisees and chief priests, who were their religious or moral teachers and rulers; and so it will be in these days. It is the heads and followers of the different religious denominations who fear the diffusion of these truths, and who will use their endeavours to destroy or strangle it in its progress. But heed them not, for the Lord has declared, through his holy angels, that notwithstanding the scoffs, jeers, wrath, or contempt of men, his great and glorious truths shall go forth in triumph, and those who endeavour to propagate them, instead of incarceration or ignominious death, shall be rewarded with triumphant success, and participate in the great and glorious change, and witness the merciful rule and reign of Christ their Redeemer and King.

[Again let the assemblage arise, lift up their hands as before, while the person appointed read or rehearse in a loud voice the following prayer:—

“O Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, we thine unworthy servants do arrange ourselves before thee in humble supplication, beseeching thee that thou wilt stretch forth thy powerful arm, and inspire us with thy holy will, and strengthen us so that we may be enabled, by thy divine grace, to surmount the difficulties by which we are surrounded. And O, Almighty God, grant that for thy sake we may be enabled to set forth thy praise, and to shew unto the world that we, notwithstanding the oppressive calamities by which we are surrounded, by thy divine permission, can walk boldly through the mazes of men, heedless of their scoffs and jeers, and that we, by thy divine grace, shall be enabled to assist our fellow men, by making manifest thy eternal will. This we beg in the name of our Mediator, that he mayest make intercession in our behalf, by directing the celestial spirits, under whose guardian-

ship we are protected, to relieve us from our enemies, and vanquish all their fiendish designs, so that in the furtherance of thy glory, we may embrace and ever hold fast the things which, by thy divine permission, are given unto us. This we beg, for thy sake, through him who liveth and reigneth, ever one God, world without end.

[Here let the assemblage again seat themselves while the following is read by appointment, as before directed:]—

Men, brethren, members, and fellow christians, I have been directed to insert this prayer, as a part of the ordinance which it has pleased God to call upon you to observe; and to inform you that the same prayer was revealed unto our circle in 1854, December 29th, in consequence of the calamities by which we were surrounded, and will be published in the latter portion of the "Warning Message," in which a full history of the circle is given. And, at our assembling for receiving the instructions and prayers for the formation of this ordinance and worship, we were commanded to insert this particular prayer before the hymn which should conclude the devotions; and how beautifully are all the wants of feeble humanity expressed in those solemn but sacred words; and, as time progresses and the great events become nearer, we are well convinced that all persons who stand forth to advocate these great and marvellous truths, will need protection and assistance from him who alone can protect his chosen people. For, be assured that tyranny in all grades of society is become so prevalent, that the great calamities which are foretold are now near at hand, and great will be the sufferings experienced by all who scoff, jeer, or treat with contempt these sacred truths; for it is through the oppression which exists upon the earth amongst the teachers and rulers of the human race, who endeavour to keep the people in ignorant submission to their impious laws, which compel them to toil in wretchedness, misery, ignorance and starvation, wanting even the common necessities of life; while their rulers and teachers are revelling in wealth, luxury, and idleness, and teach the people to believe that it is God's will, and that they should be contented, and that for disobedience to the said laws, every specie of degradation and misery is heaped upon them in this world, with threats of everlasting torments in the world to come. It is these suffer-

This part may be omitted.

ings which has caused the people to cry aloud for help and succour, until their cries have been heard, and the great angel Gabriel has been permitted to descend to the earth and declare:—

“That the Lord hears the cries which ascend from each nation,

His anger is kindled, the tyrants shall find;

For the wrongs they have heaped on his helpless creation,

Their power shall be scattered like chaff in the wind.”

MESSAGE.

After the overthrow of all earthly power and evil abominations, and Christ's kingdom of universal love and happiness is established, the great angel has declared, in the same poem, that there shall be—

“Then no more threats of eternal damnation,

His people all happy, henceforward shall sing

Their praises to Christ, who has wrought their salvation,

And fall down and worship their Saviour and King.”

What a great and glorious time to anticipate, and we, the servants of God and followers of his divine ordination, exhort you all, as brethren and sisters of the great human family, that ye may remain steadfast in the faith, and use your exertions to promote the great and glorious cause to which, through God's blessing, ye are called; and to bear in mind that for your labours of love, a heavenly and glorious reward awaits you. Therefore be steadfast, watch and pray, as the day of the Lord is at hand. With these words let us rise, and unite our voices, and sing to the glory of God the following spiritual hymn:—

SPIRITUAL HYMN.

“O hail the coming happy time

When all the universe shall know

Eternal rest—oh! how sublime—

A gracious Saviour to bestow.

He did his life a ransom give—

That bless'd Redeemer from above—

That all eternally might live

In realms of blissful joy and love.

Where want, nor woe, nor crime, nor pain,

Alike shall be no longer known;

Then Christ will come on earth to reign,

And claim his kingdom as his own.

A new Jerusalem too he'll build—
 That great Messiah, gracious Lord—
 Wherein his sovereign will to wield,
 All nations to obey his word.

Unto his holy, sacred throne,
 All nations shall a tribute pay;
 When he will sit and reign alone,
 Supreme to all eternity.

But first the tyrants' yoke must fall,
 Ere he will set his people free;
 His herald-minstrels then shall call
 All nations to the Jubilee!"

[At the conclusion of the hymn, let the head of the house, or the person he or she may have appointed, dismiss the assemblage with these words:—]

Beloved brethren and sisters, and members of the great community, as our devotions are for this time completed, I, in the name of Almighty God, and in the name of Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of the world, dismiss you with the love of God upon you, and may the grace of Jesus Christ be amongst you, with peace and good will towards all men. Depart in peace, and remember the work we are called upon to perform, and that the day of the Lord and of our deliverance is at hand. Peace be with you! Farewell!

J. G. H. BROWN,

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N. B. The head of each family or house can call meetings on any day or evening to suit the convenience of the members or their friends; and the works from which passages should be selected to be read with the ordinance, are, the "Warning Message;" "Charity, Rest, and Freedom;" "Revelations from Swedenborg and Smith;" "People's Guide," and "Scriptural Magazine," any or all of which may be had on application to the Author, at the repository, Walker Street, New Sneinton, Nottingham.