

ACHSA W. SPRAGUE
AND
MARY CLARK'S
EXPERIENCES IN
THE FIRST TEN SPHERES
OF
SPIRIT LIFE.

MEDIUM:
ATHALDINE SMITH, Oswego, N. Y.

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DEDICATION.

To J. B. Fayette,* our kind friend, and to all who are seeking for light, knowledge and spirit truths, we wish to dedicate these brief outlines of our homes, occupations, studies, amusements and life in the spiritual world.

ACHSA W. SPRAGUE,
MARY CLARK.†

SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF ACHSA W. SPRAGUE.‡

Miss Sprague was chiefly known to the world as a trance lecturer under what she claimed to be spirit influence,—a pioneer advocate of the spiritual philosophy in New England. She was a devoted friend of every philanthropic and reformatory enterprise of her time.

She was born in Vermont. Her youth was one long struggle with poverty and suffering. Remarkable from her earliest years for an eager, insatiable thirst for knowledge, the circumstances of her father's family forbade any save the most limited gratification to her ruling desire.

*J. B. Fayette is a resident of Oswego, N. Y.

†Mary Clark passed to the other life from Baltimore, Maryland, in 1854.

‡This sketch is taken from the volume of poems referred to.

Achsa was the sixth child of a large family. She attended the public school till she was twelve years of age, when she began teaching.

At twenty she was prostrated by a sickness which lasted seven years and was restored by spirit aid after losing all hope of life. These spirit friends told her she had a work to do. By their advice she began public lecturing at South Reading, Vt., in 1854, and continued in the field of reform as a trance lecturer till she passed on at Plymouth, Vt., July 6, 1862.

She was a rapid writer of poetry, usually under spirit inspiration, sometimes writing five hundred lines at a single effort. Her poems were published by William White & Co. (now Colby & Rich), Boston, 1864. They contain many beautiful thoughts of the future life mingled with sweet communings with external nature. Her public addresses were characterized by intense earnestness and vivid word painting, and moved her hearers with wonderful power. Wherever she went she made hosts of friends. The following extract from her long poem on the Poet expresses well the thought that ever came uppermost in her life work.

"Man is the one grand poem, one,
The greatest, God has given.
Its first low strains are sung on earth,
'Tis finished but in Heaven."

THE MEDIUM.

I was developed as a medium five years ago. Mary Clark was one of the first to entrance me. This little book was written through my hand in 1880 and 1881.

ATHALDINE SMITH,

OSWEGO, N. Y., January, 1881.

ACHSA W. SPRAGUE'S EXPERIENCES.

My home, being in the fifth sphere, I can more plainly see the contrast below me. In the

FIRST SPHERE

we find a counterpart of earth. The lower classes, those whose sins place them there, are living over their earth lives until able to see the need of improving themselves. There we find the Indians never failing friends. They seek those who need and will accept assistance. They carry such to their own homes.

Many will not accept kindness from higher spirits, thinking themselves right, and all others wrong. When able to see their folly and willing to accept truthful guidance from those above them, they are carried to higher spheres, partaking of and imparting an influence of exalted love. Mediums are of great help to these disembodied spirits. Many are drawn to earth by their friends and when coming in contact with mediums or mediumistic persons, they gain much strength. They see in a new light the condition of mortals, and perceiving their own errors, place themselves in a situation to be benefitted, by associating with spirits, that are allowed to come to them. Then their employments or enjoyments lead to progression—that which is asked for will be granted in accordance with the merits of those asking.

Passing on to the

SECOND SPHERE,

we find a far more beautiful, enlightened and peaceful sphere. All are seeking for improvement and trying to bring all kinds of knowledge to their earthly friends. The Indians are also a great help in communicating with earthly friends from this sphere; they

can pass through the earth's atmosphere more readily, and can give more will power to mediums. Here we find all nations blending together at will, or each having a particular mission to perform, remain by themselves, as they desire. They converse, either in their earth languages or in that used by common consent in this sphere. None are criticised, but by mingling with others they see their own faults and seek to outgrow them.

None in this sphere are enslaved by habits formed on earth, having passed beyond their effect while in the first sphere.

When a spirit first comes to the Second Sphere if he wishes to communicate with earth friends, a strong Indian guide is given and a way prepared. Finding control impossible, the Indian is allowed to say for him that which gives consolation to the earth friends and rest to himself. Then the spirit is not so easily drawn to earth, and now progresses more rapidly.

Each one in the Second Sphere is trying to acquire knowledge, some by studying under their more intellectual teachers, others by beautifying the land around their homes. Here we follow the pursuits to which we are inclined. We labor only for perfection and are not prompted by selfish motives.

None are so far advanced but that something may be gained by noting the events of each day. All learn from those having most talents. The miser as eagerly stores his mind with the most successful ways of giving aid to those he has wronged, as ever he was grasping for worldly gain. Past errors are brought to light and outgrown by doing good to others.

The homes are according to the desire of the occupant.

We find spirits clothed in proper garments, varying in style as the wearer's tastes dictate.

Here our deformities are outgrown, and we have more perfect forms and finer intellects. As we grow in spirit life our homes vary in size and style. Our flowers are far more perfect than those produced on earth. No pencil can paint their beauty, no earthly poet sing their exquisite loveliness. It is a touching and noble sight to see the weak spirits of those who in earth life were

deformed in body and mind, giving forth songs of praise, with thankful hearts, doing for friends in the form that are similarly afflicted, all a gratified spirit is able to do, and often passing to other spheres to receive strength, that they may bring good influences to bear on the afflicted. Our existence is filled with active life, for all are willing to do some good to mortals or spirits. The printer is as anxious as to the interests of his paper as when in earth life. He gives to his readers the news from other spheres. Earth papers are in a measure indebted to an invisible power, pushing them on with redoubled effort, giving much to the masses under the direction of spirits.

So with the mechanics' art. All the advancements of the age are given you from our homes.

The chemist finds every thing before him. He has but to ask the guides and the desired assistance is given him. In his experiments there is a helping power. Great results have been brought to earth through experiments made by spirit chemists, for nothing seems impossible to them.

Though here we are guided by a higher power we are not ruled by any arbitrary law, or by any thing that disturbs the mind.

Seemingly we act of our own will, but still forever around us is a power that leads us in the right way. After leaving the first sphere there are no rebellious spirits, but all are earnestly following their own pursuits, seeking for advancement, learning much that mortals cannot comprehend. They see the florist, at will, bring forth many different plants and flowers, with colors far brighter than earth's.

One thing gives us cause for sorrow: that with all this knowledge we are able to impart but a small portion to you. This knowledge would be given were it not that the skeptical nature of earth's people prevents us from transmitting but a faint outline. You do not furnish proper conditions for finishing the work, hence you see many great schemes begun that are never completed. They are left, a false beacon to the passing stranger.

How many of these beacons are scattered through the world,

giving forth false lights, leading believers to build a name to be admired, when the heart has no more of spirituality than many that know not of a living soul within. To remove these false beacons should be the work of every honest seeker for truth.

Then again the good soft voice at our side says, "Beware lest, in pulling up the tares ye pull up the wheat also."

So, feeling that time is needed to bring forth the true light, we pass these cares by.

We let each tiny bark float on the tide, having faith that none will stray far enough to encounter the whirlpool.

We hope as it passes the first circles, the boatman will listen to the invisible voice, saying, "There is danger ahead," and will safely pull to the shore. As we view these scenes almost daily, we long to reach out and save those launching forth. We give aid by bringing our guides with power to shield. Often their counsels are unheeded, else could we do more for the world. Our lives are filled with a desire to do more for humanity. But we are so often repulsed! Many, turning away in despair, seek comfort in spiritual life. There are spirits that do not receive recognition from their earth friends, being as it were cast away from them by the will of these earth friends.

Hence you will see the need of recognizing the spirits when they come to you. It is not always that they can communicate or make known their presence.

IN THE THIRD SPHERE

we find nature greatly surpassing all below it. Here are schools taught by higher teachers. The scholars are given lessons on the leaf or blade of grass, showing how it shoots forth from the mother earth, giving life and energy to the animal kingdom. For here we find some of the animals of earth, the dog, horse, etc., except the insects that annoy the human race. These lessons from living nature are given to benefit man.

This belt or zone is above the other spheres. All the spheres are arranged in mathematical order around the earth. In the

third sphere the blades of grass are so intensified in their beauty that it is beyond the comprehension of mortals.

The waves of our seas are the same, only of more dazzling brightness. All these objects are the refined part of the earth.

Many parks are laid out in fine walks, and are radiant with choice flowers growing under the wide-spreading branches of shade trees. These parks are numberless, and in them are people of all nations learning from teachers that have homes in other spheres.

It is here that the child begins its growth in spiritual life; here the aged are living over the best days of their youth again.

The homes in this sphere are of more spiritual loveliness, yet with the appearance of an earthly dwelling, free from all rudeness and uncomely irregularities. The food is chiefly of fruit. The tables are decked with flowers. Gardens are scenes of order. The atmosphere is balmy, neither too hot nor too cold. We do not feel the storms that sweep over your earth, for we are above your air currents. From this sphere come many of the guardian angels who bear from earth the spirit as it leaves its mortal body, and clothing it in spiritual garments take it up to their homes, imparting strength till it awakens to consciousness. Then they take it to the sphere in which it is to dwell.

The passage from earth may be symbolized by a river. From the earth side the waters look dark and angry, running swiftly between high banks. But from our side the river looks like a small crystal stream, with inclined banks, lined with beautiful angels waiting to greet the comer. None are afraid to cross from the spirit side, but you are afraid to launch out from the earth shore. You will find after crossing this beautiful river that old age gives place to the buoyancy of youth. It is pleasant to watch the tottering steps growing in strength as they are led on by a strong guide.

Those that have been helpless are the first to receive this knowledge of passing to vigorous youth. How thankful are those that have been dependent, to find the use of their limbs restored, and

able to assist those of weaker mind and body. Here we find many giving aid to those that were enemies, and who had bitterly wronged them in earth life. Here we find good returned for evil, all seeking to retrieve the wrongs of their earth life.

None return to earth from this sphere without a willing guide to help them on their way. They have a great desire, after learning the lessons of this sphere to impart them to other spirits. Many in this sphere are willing to remain here till their friends come from earth; for a spirit may remain in this or in any other higher sphere if desirous to do so, after being prepared to pass on by applying to guides from these spheres. Thus many wait until their friends come to spirit life, giving them the desired assistance till able to pass on together. From each sphere is a passage to others, through which we are allowed to pass. We can at will visit the spheres below us, but we cannot visit higher spheres without the consent of spirits residing in the spheres we wish to visit.

Passing on to the

FOURTH SPHERE.

we find all in blissful harmony. No particular order is observed in studying; each follows his desire and is allowed the comforts and luxuries of his sphere; but indolence is not to be found here. After passing the first, all spheres have flowers and fruits. The fruit is very delicious. Upon the clear waters are multitudes of little boats, some for pleasure sailing, others for fishing. Many kinds of fish abound in our lakes. When caught they are returned to the water, for we have no power to deprive anything of life.

Horsemen drive their fiery steeds through vast fields of flowers till tired of the sport they return. The Indians follow hunting as in earth. Many join in the chase with the same spirit as when in the form. The dwellings in this sphere are more beautiful in architecture, having wide porticos and large airy rooms.

The carpets are extremely beautiful. Birds make sweet music in their homes. The student finds the books in which he is

most interested. All our musical instruments are finer, sweeter and of more delicate finish, and from them flow richer music than mortals ever heard. Most everything that one wishes can now be obtained by the action of the will.

The parks are on a more magnificent scale than those in the lower spheres. Here are places of amusement. Some have the same desire as in earth life to hear lectures, and such can go to halls for that purpose. Speakers from higher spheres address them on different subjects.

The inventor is here trying the old improvements with success, and without the failures of earth. Here the chemist finds the desired subject which has so long been beyond his reach. Now it is before him to study, with the powerful aid given from higher spheres.

To the discoveries of earth are added the higher powers. Still we look on in amazement at the striking contrast. Those of like disposition are brought together. You find nothing but a purely unselfish affection for each other. On earth many uncongenial persons are bound by matrimonial ties, which are galling to both parties. Here there are no such unions. All enjoy the happiness of life without jars, having the desires of the heart granted. Not all the happiness of our homes comes thus, but the power to give aid to those more needy affords us greater joy; for with all these luxuries comes a desire to impart them to others.

Here is a law which, if observed, would bring happiness to earth, were the mortal mind able to receive all the emanations brought from our spirit homes.

But instead of this you build up for yourselves an ideal hereafter, in which you fancy you shall be governed by some monarch on a throne. By this belief you bind yourselves to a life of misery, and form habits by which none but grosser natures are for the time gratified, vainly seeking for some great Deity to atone for all. What a picture for a cultivated mind! Strange so many will rush madly beyond all reason to grasp, in the end, some flimsy support on which to hang the thread of their destiny!

Use the reason given you ! Look on fair nature's work ! Think you there is more in the leafy forest or rippling brook than in the mind of man ? You cultivate the fruits of the field that you may receive the greater price, then why not cultivate your minds for the same purpose ? You have but to study the laws of nature the same as when you grow the finer grains. Study to know the causes which produce the different effects ; find out the laws of your being, then all is plain before you. Behold a beautiful garden radiant with the blossoms of myriad flowers. See the neatly laid walks. You love to wander amid these scenes, for all objects please your sense of order.

This is the power of man, used to cultivate that which is pleasing to the sight. But neglect this garden for a season, then return ; you behold the flowers choked with weeds of swifter growth. All is disorder, and you turn away in disgust.

So the mind that is neglected is soon filled with poisonous habits, which tend to ruin. We see your needs, though at first imperceptible to your eyes, and we try to bring conditions to man that may reach all the errors besetting him.

ACHSA SPRAGUE'S HOME IN THE FIFTH SPHERE.

My home is in the fifth sphere, and is situated on the banks of a small river whose rippling laughter is sweet music for me, and I love to watch the pretty fish as they dart among the rocks, beneath its bright waters. My house is a spacious structure with pleasant chambers facing the river. In the distance are mountains rising as grim sentinels. On each side are vast fields of flowers and grains, and meadows of rich green grass. Here are seen the animals grazing—the deer, horse, kine, and many others—all in one field, without discontent. To the rear in the distance is a forest, amid whose branches are to be found birds of every variety and clime, singing their sweet songs till one can but exclaim, there is happiness in all things.

My rooms are richly carpeted with carpets of brilliant colors and of the softest down.

On opening the porch is seen a wide hall with large rooms on either side.

On the right is a library whose shelves are filled with books on various subjects, many that have never yet been given to your world. By a broad window overlooking a garden is a large easy chair within whose embrace one has but once to rest, to ever remember the soothing influence stealing over his senses. Across the room is a couch, and in the center is a large round table, on which at all times are to be found most delicious fruits and choicest flowers.

The walls are hung with fine paintings, chairs stand around. Here you have the details of one of my favorite rooms. On the left of the hall is the room where visitors are received. Here are birds, but not in cages, for they are allowed their freedom to soar where fancy may take them.

Here are sofas, ottomans, lounges, chairs, pictures, games, instruments of music, a violin, guitar, and a large piano, that all may enjoy the objects desired. On a table in the center of this room are to be found the daily news of earth, for the printer here produces for us the same news you have, with additional news, that you receive some days later, and much that you never receive until you reach our homes.

In the dining room is a large table with fruits, honey, the unfermented juice of the grape, grains in their natural state or prepared by our own culinary art, for we have servants the same as in earth life, but they are either from lower spheres or those whose lives have been passed in that pursuit and care for no higher station.

The deep windows are covered with climbing roses that waft their fragrance through the room with every breeze. Our kitchen, with its many closets filled with china, glass, silver, earthen ware, is all that is desired to make a housekeeper happy.

In all spheres are higher spirits who direct us how to obtain that not in our immediate presence.

Our dress in this sphere is chiefly white, with a shiny appear-

ance of silver in the sun-light, and in style according to the wearer's taste. Our powers of locomotion are greater than in spheres below. We have but to use our will to be in a place and we are there with very little exertion. We can pass readily down through any sphere, but to go above the one we inhabit, we are obliged to obtain permission and assistance of higher spirits, which is readily granted, if for a good purpose.

Now kind friends I must bid you adieu, then back on wings of affection will I return once more to do all a spirit may do to repay your kindness. Let not one sigh of regret pass thine lips, for numbers are with you ministering to thy wants. But I must away. I once more say, *au revoir*.

ACHSA W. SPRAGUE.

CHAPTER II.

FIFTH SPHERE CONTINUED.

In this our home of homes, are all the brightest and most valuable stones and most costly gems. Oh! could the mortal mind comprehend the rare gifts of our sphere. Well might the miser sigh over his sordid treasure, for it is but a worthless bauble compared with the riches of this plane. The reader may query, why these objects have not been brought to the notice of the spirits before reaching this sphere. For the reason that every spirit holds enough of earth to call forth the love of gain till this plane is reached. Here all of earth is brought unto spiritual purity, so that these gems are considered as a part of the necessities of our homes, and they are used with all other gifts, books, pictures, music, etc., as belonging here, and are a part of the dress ornamentation, as colors are in the spheres below.

Each one is attired in rich array, as fits his station. The dress is brilliant beside those in lower spheres, and as the dress is improved so are all things, even the flowers, grass and forest trees.

Grandeur has before met the eye, now in all is blended a purity and richness never before known. To live in this beautiful home, one advances more rapidly, and with every breath we say, How wonderful! for it is so far above the previous changes, that we are not fully prepared for all that meets our eyes.

What before had not been plain to us, now comes to us with little effort. Our highest wishes are here granted; all things seem to have been but for the education of the inhabitants, and are as natural as the dew drops on the flowers, giving spiritual strength and life.

There is a vast improvement in the minds of those who dwell here.

From this plane all are allowed to pass to higher planes, with their guides or teachers.

The restraints of lower spheres are removed. Not only are we permitted to visit other spheres but we receive our friends in return.

Therefore spirits from higher spheres come to assist in the perfecting of many of our improvements. From this sphere the passage to the fourth is a broad avenue, with flowers on either side, leading to high arched gateways, which are not closed to any; but on the sides are many guides that go out to receive those just coming to our plane, and assist them in establishing their homes here; for each spirit has a home given him on arriving here, if he wishes. Many from choice are established in the homes of their friends or loved ones gone before. All are received not only by the guides, but their friends having been notified are prepared to meet them with a joyful reception at the archways, and can witness the happiness of hosts of friends long separated, now restored. Who would not be happy! Sorrow forever passed away, perfect enjoyment remains. Many of us go from this sphere to earth, striving to do good to mortals, and in a measure we succeed, for we bring over them an influence of goodness that is impenetrable by lower spirits. We thus make the way easier for others to control, and perfect the work begun,

by giving the hungry minds of mortals the only food that will satisfy the craving appetite to know more of the beyond.

From this sphere we have free access to all; we are not cut off like those in lower spheres.

From this sphere are many good angels of mercy sent to the lowest and most depraved. These angels penetrate through the darker influences of earth. This is one reason why so many from the lower classes of society are lifted up.

You have spirit friends that daily come to your firesides, giving facts that no man can doubt.

From this home or sphere we are allowed to do all this good for those on earth or for those in lower spheres.

We are not allowed to pass alone to earth, but are attended by one of the stronger guides that we may not lose our way amid the darker influences of the lower spheres.

In the fifth sphere no mysteries follow us. Those that have been looking forward to the "great rest for the weary" find instead an active, useful life, each little kindness bringing joy. We understand each other. No petty grievances disturb the mind; and as we journey down to other spheres seeing the different elements, we find some who, casting off the shackles of earth life, soar away to brighter worlds.

THE CHANGE IN EVERY SEVENTH SPHERE.

In passing upward we meet with a change in every seventh sphere, and come forth purified. As spirits meet these changes they are more spiritualized until there remains nothing of earth except identity. This is never lost, no matter how far progressed; we are one and the same, forever growing in purity and knowledge.

As nature clothes the forest trees with bright foliage, so are we clothed with the natural elements of our sphere. Man's mental organs are so constructed that there is nothing he may not understand, when freed from the earthly form, that acts like prison bars after having learned the material part for which the form is

fitted. Therefore the change is needed that the mind may receive greater intelligence.

We have spiritual bodies on first entering spirit life that are to us the same protection that the earth form is to mortals. These spiritual bodies are cast from us at each change, and more spiritualized bodies evolved that enable us to pass on with greater ease. In these changes we step out of one form into another with the ease with which you would put on a new garment. This process is attended with a very pleasant sensation as if lifted upon some floating object, very much as the balloonist feels when borne upwards. Passing on we find ourselves filled with joy. A halo of light is around all. Then as we near the sphere that we are to inhabit, a band of bright spirits come to meet us, and to their homes we are borne, to remain in a sweet trance-like condition for some hours or days as our spiritual condition may be. While in this state we are ministered to by those around us. Upon awakening we find ourselves in new spiritual bodies, to us tangible and real as the mortal form.

These changes are perceptible in all of nature's works.

Many will ask if love for kindred is as strong as in earth life. Yes; our love grows, as we grow more spiritual. We do not lose a feature of our identity, but we intensify every feature with each change, till each is more perceptible than mortals would deem possible.

In earth life one must study all branches of nature to understand them; but not so here. We carry with us an influence, or it may be called, a current of magnetism, which gives us the power to see what the spirit is and from what sphere he is. By this same current of magnetism good mediums will feel what is around them before they can see the objects.

IS THERE AN END?

Many will ask is there no end to spirit life: do we not at last die? We answer that there is a ceaseless round of changes. With spirit life there is no end. Having passed from one sphere

to another, think you we find nothing to do? You of earth have many who live in ignorance of themselves and come to spirit life in the same condition. This gives a work for ready hands and willing hearts. This is not confined to our relatives but if in earth life we had enemies these are the first to claim our attention. By assisting others our lessons and conditions are improved. In coming back for our loved ones none are permitted to leave the body alone but are attended by a powerful band of spirits who bring an influence around those about to pass out, making it easier for the spirit to free itself from the form. Spirits are not attracted to their forms after having passed out, only as they are brought back by the grief of their friends. Grave yards are not the places in which to look for your friends, as they only visit them as you do, when another is freed from earth. As you dwell on the loss of others, so they come to bring you a brighter hope, a new light. You should not look upon them as gone from you, but only passed on. Do not keep them in darkness by your own blinding fears, but help them on by a feeling that we shall soon be united. Then the easier are they borne onward and upward till necessary strength is gained, to enable them to care for themselves. Spirits are more or less affected by the demonstrations of grief for the parting of loved ones. Many cannot pass from earth on this account for a long time, and are kept in bondage as it were; but knowing their own condition they feel it to be their duty to pass on. Yet on account of the sorrow of friends they often cannot get away from them. You should feel that your friends are not dead but that they live in brighter worlds. Good spirits are very sensitive to a person's habits or thoughts; when coming near one who does not live truthfully and temperately, they find them surrounded by like spirits, making it almost impossible for higher spirits to approach. This is one great reason why so many get, what they term false communications. Therefore it is of great importance that the seance room be one of the most sacred places of earth. He who considers that it is a truth and is honest, will rarely find anything but truth.

Those visiting a medium are apt to carry doubts that are reflected upon the controlling spirit, making inharmony and repelling the information most desired. One should be passive, willing to accept what may be given, never dictate, nor give the medium a history of yourself. Be pleasant, courteous, treat a spirit as you would a dear friend, and you will seldom go away doubting.

WHY OUR SPIRIT FRIENDS ARE NOT ALWAYS WITH US.

They have a work to perform in their own homes, to learn their own lessons of spiritual life.

Mortals are not in a fit condition at times to receive communications from spirit friends, as they are sometimes in company with those whose influence is such as to prevent these spirits from coming near. Again we are with you in what many term dreams, but which are visions, when the body is at rest and the spirit soars away and mingles in scenes of pleasure with those it loves.

At times some spirits while in the body wander so far away they cannot come back to the form, or in other words the magnetic cord is broken and they cannot return to earth life.

SPIRITS THAT COME OVER BEFORE THEIR TIME

are usually in a very weak condition and do not receive full strength until the time arrives that they should have come. Infants that come over do not feel this so much, but grow with greater rapidity than such translated adults.

Many who are idiots on earth, as soon as they pass from the form, find all their faculties growing stronger, and have a clearer understanding.

Many strong spirits are confined in earthly forms they cannot use to the full extent, while others have a strong body and a small spirit. One with self uppermost in his mind finds, on passing over, a great obstacle to overcome, for in progressed spirit life we have no selfish motives. The desire to do good is above all others, the wrongs done others in earth life are here made right

before the spirit passes above. Many spirits from the first sphere come to earth and find one they can control, and expect through them to receive rest and progression by making them do as they did when here.

THE DRUNKARD IN SPIRIT LIFE.

For instance, one who loved strong drink strives in this way to satisfy the cravings of his own appetite. Young people should ever have pleasant influences around them, for in this way the evil is cast out. Those spirits who lead others away are only making a greater work to perform, not only for themselves but for those whom they lead astray. Again, you do not usually question sufficiently the truthfulness of a spirit. Many coming from the first sphere are not reliable, but seek to deceive. It is of great importance that this should be understood, not only for mortals, but for the benefit of the spirits as they learn of mortals.

Great care should be observed with them; a kind word of instruction often brings relief to the benighted spirit.

Some spirits bring a sad influence because they cannot approach their friends, and go mourning on through long years, trying to make themselves known, and are repulsed until they find their way onward. Then the friends that would not hear the voice of the spirit, find the same life when they are spirits, and the same obstacles that were raised by their own hands. Each spirit coming in contact with mediums or their own friends can assume the same looking garments as they wore when on earth.

SPIRITS CAN READILY PASS THROUGH ANY SUBSTANCE EXCEPT THE EARTH.

Few spirits possess the power to pass down through the earth, and these are of the higher grade. Understanding chemistry it is easy for them to pass through most substances, but to go down far into the earth and return, tries the strongest spirits.

To travel distances in a clear atmosphere is a pleasure, especially, feeling that we are aiding our friends. We pass swiftly, and on reaching our destination we find the object sought, and

return to our friends, able to give the information desired. It is difficult to pass upward through damp air, but we can come to earth and go short distances on a level in damp air.

HOW A SPIRIT BAND IS COLLECTED.

To seek for some one through whom we may make known to the world the facts of a life beyond, is a duty given to a class of spirits that are powerful, and can bring the required force to bear on those of mediumistic temperament. When one is found, we hasten back to our homes and seek those needed to make out the band; for there are many needed of all classes. There must be those that fully understand the natural laws of our being, others that have made the brain a study, and in each band must be a physician to tell how best to use powers brought by spirits, and a chemist that the material and spiritual be properly mingled to bring forth the best results, and one from higher spheres to teach progression and control those who make up each band, while many others assist in keeping harmony and furnishing the proper currents of magnetism. Could you see all these minds at work, to give one communication, you would be convinced that much effort is needed on the part of all investigators to bring a harmonious mental state when they visit a medium.

STANDING IN OUR HOMES WE

view the homes of earth friends through a veil of darkness that has gathered from earth's surroundings. Our efforts are to lift this veil, that mortals may gaze beyond. We wish to take away the fear of the hereafter and place in its stead a bright reality. To know in a world of ceaseless improvement that the mind has fields of labor suited to all its needs, is a great happiness. None are without employment, all are able to progress who will follow the instructions of their guides. After passing to the fourth sphere the mind is still more strongly bent on doing good for all. At times those who are strong spiritually, gather near the earth friends that are stricken with disease, and in coming in contact with them and their surroundings gather a magnetic current by the aid of many spirits.

Again, the Indian is called to do what others cannot.

Some stay with the suffering one, others are in their spirit homes until a battery is formed and the pain of the sufferer ceases. You ask why does the Indian possess more power than others. We answer, because before the white man invaded their forests they were free from the sin of drinking spirituous liquors, and from other habits that tend to destroy the body. The Indian had a purer material life, and now has more spiritual magnetic strength.

Again they had no belief but to meet the Great Spirit of good that calls to them through the forest trees and murmuring waters. They had no creeds to crush out, few false ideas to bind them down. Hence they are now able to do many things that are beyond others, and bring many a message to earth that others cannot bring.

Many a weary spirit is indebted to the red man for the blessing of rest, or of reaching a higher sphere. While in my own home, I find many a soul who is seeking to reach the homes of their earthly friends who will not receive them. Oh, how sad their lot! But it is higher than will be the lot of those who will not receive them, for the same will be their own lot when they come to spirit life. Often, I ask, would we close the door on our dear friends who have been away from us a long time, and have taken the trouble to come to us? We would be considered heartless and would not expect to be forgiven. But this is just what many earth friends do with their spirit friends who come, after many long weary months of labor, sometimes years, only to have the door closed in their faces, and hear the words, "I know it is not them, or if it is I don't wish to hear from them in this way." But the time will come when every home will accept the bright messengers of spirit life, and we will be a part of your households, making your burdens lighter, lifting the sorrow from your hearts, in fact, joining the spirit world with the earth.

Friends will no more be separated, and death will have no terrors, but be only considered a change of life. Could you see

how weak man is in earth life, then how strong in spirit life, how ignorant in earth, then the knowledge gained in spirit life, you with us would say, how grand ! None can comprehend until they have passed through all these changes.

Prepare yourselves to live, not to die. Many of you say, "This is the only life you will live, let the future take care of itself." This is not right, *there is another life* of greater joys than this, and on a grander scale. Prepare for that life.

We do not teach man how to die, but how to live. It is of great importance to you that you learn all possible of earth, and learning of earth life it leads you beyond, and you gain glimpses of our life, which, mingled with earth's, give a rich coloring that none having once gained, care to lose. Keep reaching out for more until life is made easier and better; for in mingling with good spirits one becomes elevated in mind, a seeker for truth, and is actuated by purer motives. There will be honest hearts and willing hands to help a brother in trouble, who, grasping all obstacles with a firm hand, soon overcomes temptation. Spirits would bind the entire human family in holy bonds, free from wrangling over creeds, high or low churches, making peace and harmony wherever they go. Where will the honest truth seeker find food enough to satisfy all his cravings for knowledge ? This must come from the invisible friends who are willing to give all strength and light if you will only seek.

We need no reward ; we only ask to be received ; accept what is reasonable, the rest set aside until you are educated to receive and understand. All will be plain in time.

You must learn by degrees. You cannot see at a glance the entire pages of a book, but must read. This is our desire that you will read all given by the spirit world. Each page will be of different lessons, learned by some one in a higher or lower sphere. But all are needed to give you the right idea of how we live beyond.

Our object in visiting earth is to labor for truth, that it may fill every heart, and bring happiness to every household, and unite

those estranged. The mind is like pure water, it reflects surrounding objects. Care should be taken that there is nothing but the bright green foliage for the minds of the young to reflect, for then impressions are made that, if wrong, require a long time of study to erase.

A child can understand, in a measure, the simplest rules of his spiritual nature as well as the fact that he must enter the primary class in school before taking higher branches.

Often parents say, let them alone until they are of the age to understand for themselves. But you do not say this of other things—you teach them other lessons, why not teach them the one of most importance if you are convinced of its truth? Teach the same to those most dear to you. If you saw your child on the edge of a precipice, how soon would your hand be outstretched to stay his progress, but if children walk on a precipice intellectually they are left to their own judgment. Liberal people are too apt to hide from their earth friends the fact that they have been in communion with their spirit friends. When they were with you in earth life how soon would the tidings be conveyed that you have been honored with a visit, but not so with invisible friends. Think you this is not noticed by them? Often they go back in sorrow to their homes, because they have not been noticed or their visit has been kept a secret. It not only brings a feeling of sadness, but hinders them from coming again. A spirit should be treated as a person in all respects.

Sensitives are those whom we can approach, and through them we seek to make our presence known. Then when you say, "It is not our friends but this person that is speaking in this way," a control is often broken, and the spirits retire to sorrow over the harshness they have received, while if they had been met with kindness, strength would have been gained, to come again, and they would not have to retire in a weak condition. A medium is not to blame for the state of your own mind, while communications depend much on yourself.

Each mind draws from the surroundings, until all are in har-

mony with each other; and a certain class of spirits are usually with all that partake of their nature. As a man is inclined to believe so will he draw around spirits of the same belief, until one is often indented with the other. In order to make a harmonious condition to receive communications, it needs purity of mind, good will to all, then it is easier for your spirit friends to return.

Finally, remember that our spirit homes, though so beautiful and ethereal, are yet tangible, though not of such coarse material as those of earth, but spiritually refined like ourselves. As we rise in spirit life our surroundings are more spiritual. In each sphere is a marked improvement. Everything is on a more elevated plane, from the first sphere on through all these bright beautiful worlds. To gain which, each one will find a willing guide as he steps out of the earth form. We can do much if the proper conditions are given. So if ye fail, 't is not of the invisibles but of mortals that the way is blocked.

Dear brother, this little work is finished. Though 't is but an outline 't is more than most minds will understand. Thanks to you and the instrument we have used. Soon will I try to give you another work, entirely different from this, and may be of more interest to you all.

ACHSA W. SPRAGUE.

OSWEGO, N. Y., January, 1881.

MARY CLARK'S HOME.

HER VISITS TO THE UPPER SPHERES.

My home is in the sixth sphere. The house, a small building, is situated on an elevation of ground by a vast sheet of water. In it is a drawing room, sitting room and library, dining room and kitchen, all on the first floor. Above are the apartments for rest.

In the drawing room is a carpet soft as eider down, also easy chairs and low divans. In the center of the room are many valuables which have been gathered in my passages from one sphere to another. There are specimens of plastic art, new machinery, rich and rare old paintings and engravings. These are things that prove my passage to some of the higher spheres. Many of these specimens have been brought to me by those that know and understand my taste for such things.

They are of both ancient and modern production, all given to me by higher spirits to interest me. Here you will find the different musical instruments of man, and pieces of music that have not yet been given for your use. In the front room I have a large aquarium, which it has been my desire to fill with diminutive specimens of the various finny tribes. I minister to their wants and watch their movements and ways of living.

Hanging on the wall of this room is a picture which was brought to my room by my power, while on a tour to a higher plane. It is a striking subject; a spirit mother watching over her darling left in the earth form. Depicted on her face is fear and woe, as she sees her darling led astray. Her presence is not

known by the loved one. The child is being led into the ways of sin by those who have not a spark of honor.

We have a large quantity of books from each sphere, showing the differences of literature.

In my sitting room, or reading room, are sea corals, moss gathered from the green dotted forest trees, and specimens of grasses, grains and fruits.

A part of my dining room is given for the use of birds, a fine collection, who keep up the concert of voices begun by the sweet canary. In the other part of the room are tables, laden with choicest food. We partake of each other's hospitality and repay the visits of our friends. In the rear is a garden filled with a large variety of flowers, some of earth, others of far more loveliness, of sweeter perfume and more delicate colors. I have added many that we love with the same zest as ever. In the sixth sphere we have mountains, on whose huge sides many build their habitations, for we do not experience the trouble of climbing.

Some think that but few animals pass to spirit life, but I have observed many. There are large fields of sheep and cattle, and the horse is eminently at home here. I have never seen an insect or unclean beast here, or on the other planes that I have visited. We have the tiger, but he is as tame as your house cat, and comes to our call. We hunt, fish, ride, drive, row, sail or take airy flights as fancy dictates. None have the power to take life. We are all immortal and cannot make sacrifice of life to benefit ourselves.

SERVANTS IN THE SIXTH SPHERE.

We have servants here who come from lower spheres. Until they learn the use of our laws they are willing to be our servants. It is their vocation, and their needs seek for nothing else but to be perfect in their calling, though some are of higher traits and aspire to attain to other places of usefulness. None are obliged to be servants or to be dependent, but they are allowed to work in a spirit of kindness.

HERE FAMILIES UNITE.

In this plane all families from the planes below, are united.

None pass onward till they are fitted by the progress they have made. But here in the sixth sphere many are spell-bound. For in that home they are made glad with the reunion of father, mother, brother, sister, husband, wife. Here many wait till their loved ones are found, and a joyful welcome is realized. The wife who has been waited for, during a long interval of years, and the dear ones come to each other in fond embrace. Fathers and mothers clasp their long lost children to their hearts in one grand rejoicing.

None are missing, those from earth are fondly united in our home. Then do we have power to pass on to other planes with those dear to us.

To realize our aspirations, to reach our attractions, lifts us to the sixth sphere.

In part this forms a resting-place for the loved ones gone before. As Robert Burns says, "Here I pause to find my Highland Mary." Harm can no more come to us. Earth friends will reach the heart through some loved ones. Here we find them in a plane where we are all united. To find this home is to find many lost ones of the family.

The expected ones, learning of the guides, are coming to our hearts and homes. But some do not know the rules of spirit control by which to reach this plane, and must study till they understand.

The homes here are all finer than those in the spheres below. When our natures are fully developed and there is no more work we pass on to the spheres beyond.

On reaching the

SEVENTH SPHERE

I found but little difference with the exception of dress. All were clad in white robes of spotless purity. The things of this plane are of dazzling brightness. All the improvements of the planes below are here in an advanced state.

As I stood by the side of a telegraph operator I observed the message not only delivered to him but printed. Asking how these things were done, he replied, this is only one of the many improvements of this plane.

THE BALLOON EXCURSION.

I was invited to take a pleasure trip with an inhabitant of this plane in a fine balloon.

We entered the car and passed swiftly up by the side of a high mountain. As I gazed on the beauties of the fields below us, my companion at will propelled our balloon safely above the peak of the mountain by a process unknown to you of earth.

We passed over fields radiant with fruits and flowers, others rich with the harvest grains, over lakes with their white winged ships like tiny sea birds afloat on the dancing waters, above a city with its active life.

Then we went over a grand old forest from whose cool retreats came a leafy fragrance.

We arrived at a plane far from our starting point. We found its inhabitants smaller in stature and less prepossessing than in the spheres I had visited. This caused a great curiosity in me, but my guide told me they were of another race who were of small intellect and were here given lessons needed to help them grow in spirituality, before they were brought to our planes, and given the same instruction that we receive from different planes. They were from a planet, the inhabitants of whom are intellectually far below the standard of mortals. They lived as beasts and had no ambition above sitting under the trees, fighting with different tribes of their own world, killing and eating their enemies. Their pursuits here were of the order of the lower planes. But there were many from other planes giving them instructions.

I was told that as soon as their condition permitted they were taken to the more advanced planes.

When we returned to our friend's home we partook of fruits, grains, etc., a delicious repast. As the evening shadows began to

fall we sat quietly in our friend's home. Many of his friends came to while away the soft twilight in discoursing upon the topics of the day, and the many improvements of this plane.

Some conversed of political affairs, others on agriculture, some on cultivation of flowers, others on literary and scientific subjects and on music.

Never have I heard sweeter strains than were given by one sprightly child. Even now comes to me the fond recollection that during that evening there were none with a harsh word or thought to mar another's happiness. Oh, where are the theories of some being forever damned? None are in darkness here. Each has his individuality and enjoys the greatest of blessings, knowledge. All one's talents are cultivated and appreciated. Here no envious persons are watching to interfere with that which they do not understand.

The houses here are superior to those below. They excel in size and richness. The fields abound in the same grains and fruits, but are of more perfect growth. The different occupations are of a more progressive nature. The many improvements, could they be given to man, would cause great wonder. Each individual follows his own inclination, the farther he passes on the greater his ambition to improve. Witnessing the theatrical talent of this plane and going on pleasure excursions afford much happiness, for having a greater capacity for enjoying them, they are on a far greater scale. The lecture room affords to many, pleasure not found elsewhere.

Now we will pass on to the

EIGHTH SPHERE

a brighter and far more beautiful plane.

Here we receive many gifts that before to us were unknown. Here are vast fields of intellectual labor for each one which in your material world would be of no use. But here where the spirit is free from its prison of clay it soars on, reaching out to grasp the highest gifts attainable. We see the machinist with his model perfected, striving to hand it down to man. We see

the great scientist with all his knowledge, anxious to be able to transmit it to your material world. In this sphere all the proper pursuits of earth are perfected with the aid of a force from invisible worlds. We wish to impress upon your minds that all written here is strictly spiritual, casting out the earthly. You will not be able to see all there is of a spiritual existence.

HOW THE PHYSICIANS PRACTICE.

Your former physicians of earth are here on a different plane of education. Instead of filling the system with the poison of minerals, they reach the cause of the disease, and having remedied that, a cure begins which is lasting. Could this knowledge be impressed upon the minds of your learned physicians of to-day, how different would be the result?

Give the feeble mind but food for growth, how soon you will see the dull scholar transformed to an intellectual youth. So with earthly things; they pass from rudeness to beauty, as they are transferred from earth to spirit life. This is so even in flowers, the sunflower despised by many is here as beautiful as the rose.

But we will pass on to different homes of our friends, and their occupations. How grand to know we have nothing to bind us down to one circle of education or enjoyment. Freed from the earthly form we are like the birds, we soar where our will takes a fancy. All climes, all parts of our world are free for us in which to travel, for we know not the use of your besetting sin—money. Every thing is free to those who wish to provide for their own interests. Many whose homes are here, give much time for the care of their earthly friends, and while thus absent the homes of these spirits are often left alone. Then as the tired pigeon seeks his cote after a long flight, so the weary spirit returns to his home where all is peace, and rests till he is ready to go again to scenes of earth and labor for those he approaches, giving all he can of the knowledge of the life beyond.

IN THE HOME OF LAVINA,

(our guide), are many beautiful paintings, as she is an artist.

There is a picture of an artist painting through the organism of another. The medium is sitting before the easel with a look of profound mystery as if trying to recall the scene and paint it, while the spirit is hovering near with the power to portray upon the canvas the picture of an innocent child trying to read from a large book with grandma's spectacles perched across her nose. The spirit is above and back of the medium, with the hand guiding the painter with ease, while on the medium's face is expressed mystery and surprise as the picture gradually grows under her hand, without the power to tell how it is done. At the right of this is a table, on which is a small sail craft, its tiny sails are set as if to catch the breeze, while miniature men are standing upon her deck, or in the rigging, showing to advantage the duty of those whose life is spent on the sea. The ship is perfection itself. Here are flowers from every clime. Lavina being a great lover of music, has many different instruments. Some of the first musicians gather here and discourse such music as no mortal ear ever heard.

There are many spirits who did not believe in a life after death. To these light is brought by such spirits as those in the eighth sphere.

On the right is a large library which will accommodate about thirty-five or forty persons. There Lavina's friends gather for the purpose of improvement. Many of these visitors are from still higher spheres. The artists, scientists, philosophers, musicians, all are seeking for knowledge. The florist lingers over the choice flowers in the conservatory, while the music of the happy birds bids one to live on in this paradise.

In front is a miniature lake on whose bosom float models of the crafts of nations showing in their construction the different customs of the various inhabitants of earth. Many water fowls are lazily sitting on the surface of the water, some of pure white, others dark as ravens, making a charming picture.

Back of the dwelling is a cave of limestone walls, over which flow tiny streams of water, polishing the tinted surface. On either

side are dark recesses that invite one to enter. Here are found torches always ready to light our pathway through the many rooms of rock. As we follow on to the end of the passage we come out into a large grove of oak, under whose sheltering branches we are glad to pause, and admire as we rest.

Lavina's meals are sometimes served under a large maple tree standing near the drawing room window, and giving one a view of the fairest portion of the grounds. Ah, who could not live in perfect bliss in a world like this, where sorrow never comes !

Not one amid these surroundings are unmindful of their friends, for all are free from selfish motives, caring but for the improvement of every one.

IN THE NINTH SPHERE

we meet with another change not found heretofore.

The Indian has been clad in garments similar to those of earth but now we find him in far different habiliments. He is clothed chiefly with pure white garments that glitter in the light like myriads of stars. His moccasins are of the most exquisite workmanship. One of the many kind Indian assistants wore a pair of white material ornamented with tiny bluebells. Richest silks were visible amid the sparkling light, that radiated with every movement. The stockings were finer than your finest silk, and white as snow. He wore a pair of knee pants of delicate blue, and over his shoulders was a white mantle of far finer material than the rest. Rich silvery light shines from around and about wherever he goes. On his head is a white cap, encircling which are the loveliest of white feathers. And still this man, when in the form, was one of the despised red men, who are called so treacherous. Here none are more trustworthy than the Indian.

But the difference is not alone perceptible in the dress. In all things there is a grand change. The fields are large parks filled with trees, flowers and grass, soft as down. All have liberty to go where their inclinations lead. Here there is no law, except the law of love that governs.

While inspecting the instruments used by the astronomers here, and seeing the improvements in them we could understand how your minds receive impressions that are productive of the so called modern improvements, when rarely do you know these impressions come from the loved ones gone to the other side.

Seeing your need of the same instruments they come back to give them to you. Here every good impulse widens and expands till lost in the love of truth, right and purity. Happy in the pursuits of our homes we find great comfort. Only those congenial come in contact with us. Often we see the friends of earth seeking out the higher impulses of their natures, and to aid them is a mission for those in this plane.

We feel for the safety of those under our special care, as each is given a charge to care for, aside from other labors.

Many spirits are shut out from their friends in the form, and are seeking to find some power by which to reach their minds.

And here the spirits of this sphere are brought into a work that no others can so well perform.

They throw around the earth friends the purer and higher impulses, until they become sensitive to right and wrong. They bring out the mediumistic powers of the earthly ones, and do through them a work for both mundane and spiritual spheres.

"May some bright winged angel come," has been the song of the poet. But now being in a home from whence those messengers are supposed to come, we find each without wings and the same in form as when on earth, yet holding their individuality forever. Let the mother be separated from her child and meet again when the full stature of manhood is reached.

HE IS HER CHILD THE SAME AS THOUGH REARED

in her home, and a mother's fond heart goes forth knowing this is her child, though years have intervened since their last meeting. So with friends that have passed on before. We are recognized by our friends and none are lost. Of this principle of spirit evolution you are ignorant though your whole life be passed with

books of all ages. Here are the great life giving and sustaining powers kept as a sealed book until we have reached the

TENTH SPHERE.

Then do we find that even the tiny blade of grass has a part to perform in this great work. There is not a leaf but has its part to perform in this evolution. The flowers are of more use than many suppose. Instead of blooming just to show their rich colors, they have been giving fragrance, and imparting to the elements a sweet and purifying effect.

You place in a sick room a bouquet of flowers. See how the invalid returns a grateful look for your kindness, though he may have spurned them in days of health.

Wild flowers though ugly to the sight are one of nature's disinfectants.

All our robes in the tenth sphere are of the most dazzling whiteness, and of the finest texture, far beyond the most delicate webs from India's looms.

In the air there floats a sweet perfume that gives the weary a sense of rest.

Dear friends minister to our wants. Each has a home according to his taste. Some are of rustic beauty, others arise in grandeur, commanding a view of wide landscapes. In some cosy nook, sheltered from the eyes of the curious are the little cottages of many, or beneath the sheltering rocks of some high mountain are nestled the homes of the once hardy pioneers who prefer to dwell amid scenes like their earthly surroundings. The pioneer also dresses in picturesque hunting suits of pure white, that glisten in the sunlight like brightest silver. While he has an inclination to follow the pursuits of earth, yet now he is the better part of his former self, and is disgusted with the brutal ways of his former earthly associates. He is a kind and faithful friend to all that are led astray. The pioneer and the Indian are now the warmest of friends, though in earth they were deadly enemies.

Wafted on the breeze floats music as from an *Æolian* harp,

while the heavens above are of bright azure. One is lost in the beauty and grandeur of the picture, and we seem to gaze afar into some world to which it is not now in our power to reach. But it is only our own homes blended with the distant homes of friends that makes the picture before us.

When we are freed from all earthly materiality, then we find how buoyant is the spiritual.

In all there is no difference except the degree in which we have thrown off old habits which were wrong; for instance—one of earth, longing for wealth, seeking for fame, now cares for none of these objects. To do the same work that was done for fame on earth, is now done in our homes for the benefit of others.

See the man that has worked all his life time to perfect a scheme, and passed out with the work undone. Think you he rests in the other life until the work is finished?

No! he now sees his mistakes, and having gained spiritual strength he rectifies them.

Passing on to higher planes, he makes improvements in each one, and he uses all these added powers, still striving to give to man the results of his labor. For this purpose many in spirit life are perfecting themselves, before returning to their friends to give them tidings of their existence.

See the man who once was a strong member of the church. After having passed out, he sees the wrong of such teaching, and wishing to make sure of the truth, studies and finds more and more as he rises and the new truth becomes a part of his being. Then he returns to earth and gives to his waiting friends words of assurance that man is immortal and goes not to heaven on dogmas or creeds, but by following the dictates of a clear and enlightened conscience.

Often you earth people speak of your first impressions being nearest right. In many such cases these first impressions come from your spirit friends trying to lead you in the best way.

When you have passed through all the spheres I have described, you will be exceedingly anxious for the welfare of your brother

man, and wish to go to him from the heights to which you have attained.

Controlling a sensitive you will transmit the words of truth and give the weary heart of man a hope founded on the real facts of an existence beyond death. This is the reason why so many from higher spheres come to earth instead of those recently passed over. These advanced spirits in coming to earth bring a halo of light and a soothing sense of rest, that lower spirits can not bring. Could your eyes with clairvoyant vision see them as they approach earth, you would behold a scene of more intellectual and moral beauty than earth with all its talent has ever witnessed.

As you see the clouds breaking in the distance after a storm, and fleeing before the rays of the sun, so the brightness of the coming of these glittering angels rolls back the darkness of the dwellers in the first sphere, and illumines the place of their presence with a dazzling aura of spiritual beauty, as much beyond the conception of mortals as these messengers are in advance of the dwellers of earth.

MARY CLARK.

EXTRACTS FROM FARADAY PAMPHLETS.

FROM NO. 1—HOW MATERIALIZATION IS ACCOMPLISHED.—"The atmosphere, containing many of the elements necessary to the formation of tissue, furnishes an inexhaustible reservoir of material for the spirit to use, and the medium furnishes largely the power wanting in the spirit to bring itself to a condition of quiescence so that the atoms can polarize on the spirit form. As soon as this is effected the materialization is accomplished."

EXTRACT FROM NO. 2—HOW SEX ORIGINATES.—"The distinction of sex does not occur in the early organic processes and does not belong to the atomic condition of the elements, but is a resultant of the duplex relation of them in the forms. Perhaps the idea may be made clearer by saying that sexual distinction arises from that tendency of the elements in the lower forms of organic life, toward the formation of gemmules, being diverted in the higher, to the construction of organs for reproduction. In this process the chemical forces are at work, in the male to perfect the protoplasmic formation, in the female to provide the necessary condition for the plasma to draw from the surrounding conditions the support necessary to its perfect development. Herein the male function would be to bring the elements in the plasma within the sphere of crystalline power so strongly that the type of structure must be of the same species, while the feminine environment being itself more ethereal and formative supplies the condition that holds the plasma subject to development and individualization. It is a mistake to infer from the perfection of the sexual organs that the elements themselves have sex, or rather, sexual distinction, for the elements in both sexes are the same, but not always vibrating at the same or even proximate rates, and sexuality is rather an outcome of their action than an innate condition of them. The growth of sexual organs in the higher types to correspond with the

environment, is as with the other organs a provision for the proper intromission of the plasma where it can become subject to the chemical forces of the environment.

EXTRACT FROM NO. 2.—The spiritual form, as we have said, is first originated in the protoplasmic condition of the elements, which are in a low vibrating rate of chemical equilibrium, although far higher than in the inorganic relations. It draws steadily from the elements vibrating nearest to this rate, and if not thrown out of the material environment by adverse influence, perfects the physical form upon a plane that should enable it to reside for a season upon the planet. But if forced from this position, it must draw its elements from the nearest reservoir of the same. Usually this may be done through the magnetic aura of any person with a temperament best adapted to it; and this is why *all children should perfect their spirit forms in the earth sphere*, for they must and will exist after conception either in earth or spirit relations. Nor will nature be defrauded, for the spirit form being immortal will go forward, seizing upon any element that will chemically affinitize with the elements in it, robbing and exhausting some persons still in the earth sphere by drawing from their vital forces, almost before these persons have time to perfect their own organisms. Thus the spirit form is strengthened with the elements and powers that it should have acquired by an earthly life. The people who think that death stops the process of spiritual evolution are mistaken, for the laws of chemical action in spirit life act without regard to ignorance concerning them. Not one embryotic human life goes from the planet that does not eventually secure from the planetary conditions the sustenance which it should have obtained by earthly development. The intrusion of myriads of imperfectly developed people into spirit life is met by their return to earth where like vampires they feed upon and exhaust more or less the vitality of all who, often ignorantly, are compelled to administer to their relief.

EXTRACT FROM NO. 3—WRONG RELIGIOUS BELIEFS ON EARTH RETARD THE PROGRESS OF SPIRITS.—The masses of spirits in the first sphere cannot be raised much above the earthly mental condition so long as these earthly conditions are unimproved. The various religious superstitions still existent in earthly life are great barriers to the progress of their believers, for, being fictions of the imagination, having no basis in fact, those subject to them cannot at once rise above their effect, while many spirits of a deceptive disposition, exercise their will power over the elements to create a corresponding external condition. The mental state of spirits of this class is that of ignorance or imbecility.

HOW SPIRITS MAY GET OUT OF THIS CONDITION.—The first step is to awaken the spirit to the fact that he is already beyond the physical realm, and where his superstitious belief can be realized if it were true. This is the reason why spirits are often obliged to return to earth through mediums to gain a knowledge of the truth concerning their own present state of existence. As long as the spirit is subject to the erroneous ideas which it received in earth life, it cannot realize that it is not in the earthly state. Making no effort to change, it waits for death to usher it into the world where its hopes may be realized; and it will continue to wait till some experience shocks it out of its mental torpor. Because of this ignorance concerning death and the power of return, myriads in spirit life make no progress for many years, and generally not before they are experimentally convinced of the difference between earth and spirit life, through mediumship. Then awakening to the fact of their own transition, they break the superstitious chain that binds them to their former errors, and rise through the natural processes of mental action.

EXTRACT FROM NO. 3—The priesthood claimed a higher position for themselves in morals than they demanded of the common people, but usually their lives were below the average moral standard, for they mistook the method for attaining to moral elevation. Living sumptuously upon the sacrificial offerings of animals and other gifts they developed abnormal animal passions, which caused much of the degradation which enveloped the temple and cloister. The vestal virgins in ancient religions, and nuns in modern religions, and other secluded classes of women in religious orders, afford the passions of the priesthood a safe and secret method of gratification. *In ancient days the birth of a child from one of the sacred priestesses was considered by the people to be evidence of the proximity of a God in the temple, and the woman so favored was regarded as honored beyond other women; but in modern days no woman, even in religious seclusion, can attribute the paternity of her child to the favor of the Almighty, and be believed.* Since the acceptance of Jesus as the only son of a virgin begotten by a God, the public occupation of such virgins has changed in religious orders, although you have no evidence that the real purposes for which the order was instituted have been modified.

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