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THOMAS CARLYLE

Inspiréd verses—an acrostic,
By Dana Smith Temple,
Hillsboro, New Hampshire.

T-time cannot change the destiny of man,
H-ope, pride, ambition, ever are the same;
O-ften we tread along the earthly span,
M-making loud music to the Maker's name.
A-and this great spirit stands a kingly soul,
S-serenely working out the perfect whole.

C-can all earth's changes mar that other sphere?
A-rdent and hopeful, loud in praise and song;
R-reaching to man, in his listening ear;
L-lulling the tempest and the wildest storm;
I-isten, ye children of the earthly world—
E-ach picture lives, and will not be forgot.

We get no good
By being ungenerous, even to a book,
And calculating profits—so much help
By so much reading. It is rather when
We gloriously forget ourselves, and plunge:
Soul forward, headlong, into a book's profound,
Impassioned for its beauty and salt of truth—
'Tis then we get the right good from a book.

—MRS. BROWNING

N-now I am climbing the Hills of Knowledge,
And I speak unfeeling and say "I know."
T-thought it be not to church, or to book, or college,
B-but to God Himself that my debt I owe.
F-for the ceaseless prayer of a soul is heeded,
W-hen the prayer asks only for light and faith;
A-and the faith and the light and the knowledge
N-needed,
S-shall gild with glory the path to death.
O-oh, heart of the world by sorrow shaken,
H-hear ye the message I have to give;
T-the seal from the lips of the dead is taken,
E-and they can say to you, "Lo! we live!"

—ELLA WHEELER WILCOX

L-let us bear in mind that, altho' our feet
A-re planted on the earth, largely engrossed
I-with material matters, our minds can reach
E-the ethereal world wherein dwell the
T-rious spirit entities of profound wisdom
I-and valuable experience in life, ready to help
U-us!—Dr. Bryan.
(PERSONAL)

(Spirit) Thomas Carlyle says:

"The introduction to you, my friend Dr. Bryan, is not quite necessary, because I have watched over your literary progress, and am glad to say that I will assist you in directing your course to send out broadcast the news of a better world — the world of spirit force and achievement.

Aggressive action is needed to get the people aroused, so as to protest against all legislative bans which have been placed against the free and lawful use of mediumship, both in public and private.

You know that I waged ceaseless war against the shams which I encountered when in mortal life, and I am glad to say that my field of activities is still open to me.

So I say, let us show to all, that our teachings, our healings, and our prophecies, are for the betterment of human conditions; and we are urgent that mortals should insist on having their rights to test mediumship as often as they desire, with freedom, and with all legislative restraint removed.

You may command my literary services, from the spirit side of life, at your pleasure, and I will respond freely."

—Thomas Carlyle.

NOTE.—Thomas Carlyle (career 1795-1881) was a Scottish man of literary renown who revolved in his mind great questions in philosophy, literature, social life, and politics, and to which he dedicated his mortal life.)

(FIVE MONTHS LATER)

“Our little book of advanced thought regarding spirit-life can be kept in manuscript to dry and season (like green wood); and in proper time, let it be published so as to radiate its truth to all mankind, carrying its message of love, unity, spirituality and immortality.

I thank you my friend, Dr. Bryan, for your patience and receptivity; and I will not withdraw from you, but will continue to send you some literary gems, to flash before the eyes of those who are willing to see the light of Spiritualism.

—And may God's blessing rest upon you, for your noble efforts to redeem mankind from error.”

(Spirit) Thomas Carlyle.
Can spirits write books from the spirit side of life and then have them published?

The answer is “Yes,” for this book was composed by a spirit, its contents were dictated to Dr. Bryan, word for word, covering a period of one year. The name of this spirit is Thomas Carlyle the eminent Scottish literary man, who, while on earth, had an international reputation as the author of books in the English language, besides other books in another language.

So Thomas Carlyle is the real author of this book; and as he is still an active entity, dwelling in the New World, it would be illogical to say that Thomas Carlyle was born and died. He is not dead, and never will die, as life in the heavenly Kingdom means eternal life, in the spirit sphere of existence!

The difficulty of conceiving (from our present standpoint) of a sphere of existence so different from this earth-sphere has been the obstacle and is the greatest obstacle today in the way of the acceptance of the idea of a future life, a future world, on the part of a careful thinker. And hence the question which the doubter ever hurls at us is “If there is a spirit world, where is it located?” Where is heaven and if there be a hell, where is it? Before the birth of science, this question was not looked upon as a difficult one, for a pseudo science and theology went hand-in-hand, walked side-by-side. They simply fitted the facts of science to the dogmas of religion.

Moses and the prophets were the only scientific authorities, and their glaring ignorance regarding the facts and phenomena of nature was still further distorted in order to make them fit the dogmas of religion.

According to the science of that day (science so-called) the universe was constructed in the form of a huge box. (The Jewish tabernacle was constructed after the supposed pattern of the universe.) The sky was solid; it was the ceiling of the earth and the floor of heaven, above it dwelt God and the angels, while men occupied this floor and hell and the devil occupied the cellar. Just beneath the surface of the earth were hell and the infernal regions. It is very easy to understand just how such a belief obtained. When astronomy was born and the heavens were viewed with the telescope it swept away the solid arch and yet failed to find the home of the arisen ones out there. When geo-
logy touched the earth and began to intelli-
gently dig into its depths it failed to discover
the regions of the damned; then scepticism
took a new lease of life and flourished with
increasing strength, and so the question re-
curred with greater persistency: "Where is
the world of the spirits if they really exist at
all?"

Thomas Carlyle, during his earth career,
was a writer who was true to high ideals of
spirituality — which is heavenly mindedness
— but he did not attempt to answer the fore-
going question: "Where is the world of
spirits — if they really exist at all?" In fact,
as a matter of past history, Thomas Carlyle
didn't profess to know anything about spir-
its, the world of spirits, nor of their exist-
ence.

But Thomas Carlyle (who sent the
thoughts embodied in this book, as the child
of his marvelous brain) passed over from
earth to spirit-world in the year 1881, and
now he has obtained an adequate knowledge
of spirits, the spirit-world and spirit philo-
sophy; and it is with joyous emotion that he
returns to earth, at intervals, and uses Dr.
Bryan as his instrument to receive, write
down and publish this spirit book entitled:
"What Spiritualism Really Is."

"The idea of grandeur," exaggerated, would
not adequately convey to one's sense of com-
prehension and appreciation the value of the
wonderful revelation to present-day thinkers
and scientists which is demonstrated by the
production and publication of this interesting
book by Thomas Carlyle — a so-called dead
man, but who is not "dead," but is continuing
his literary work from the Other Side.

Thomas Carlyle, the subject of this brief
sketch of biographical reminiscence, was
born in Scotland, December 4, 1795. Edu-
cated at the village schools and high school,
he went, in 1809, to Edinburgh University,
with a view to entering the Scottish Church.
Here he studied with amazing avidity. Many
stories are related of his immense reading
and preparation for his theological curricu-
um. Carlyle soon decided not to become a
clergyman.

It is well known that Thomas Carlyle ac-
quired classical knowledge, but the most val-
uable influence was that of his contempo-
raries. Friends in positions similar to his own
began to look up to him as an intellectual
leader, and their correspondence with him
shows his remarkable interest in literary
matters. In 1814 Carlyle, still looked for-
ward to the career of a minister.

Advanced thinkers of the present day
would agree with Thomas Carlyle in speak-
ing about the divine principle in nature by stating that "All are parts of one stupendous whole," and "I and my father" (universal force-substance) "are one."

In the economy of the universe, everything is "from everlasting unto everlasting." The universe is infinite. There can be no matter, force, world or soul, wandering outside the attractive sphere of unitary being. All things are governed by eternal and immutable laws, the same in all times and in all places.

He delivered the discourses usually required from students of divinity. He does not seem, however, to have taken to his profession very earnestly. He was too shy and proud to see many of the home people. He found solace in reading such philosophical books as he could get. In 1816 he was appointed to a school in a town where Edward Irving now welcomed Carlyle with a generosity which entirely won his heart, and the parents, who set up Carlyle to be his rival. A previous meeting with Irving, also a native, had caused some disagreement, but Irving now welcomed Carlyle with a generosity which entirely won his heart, and the rivals soon became the closest of friends. The intimacy, pleasingly mentioned in the Reminiscences, was of great importance to Carlyle's whole career. "But for Irving," he says, "I had never known what the communion of man with man means." Irving had a library, in which Carlyle devoured Gibbon and much French literature and they made great progress. Carlyle was a good schoolmaster, but found the life thoroughly uncongenial. No man was less fitted by temperament for such work, drudgery and worry.

He went to Edinburgh and embraced literature as a profession. His first efforts were contributions to Brewster's Encyclopaedia and in 1823-24, there appeared in the London Magazine his Life of Schiller; and in 1824 his translation of Goethe's Wilhelm Meister, which was very highly praised; indeed, one can discern in the criticisms of the book a dawning recognition of the innate genius of Carlyle.

The local presence of a Miss Gordon is supposed to have suggested the "Blumine" of Sartor Resartus; but he made no new friendships, and at the end of 1818 Carlyle resigned his post.

He soon resolved to give up the ministry. He gave no details of the intellectual change which alienated him from the church. He had, however, been led, by sound reasoning, to abandon the dogmatic system of his forefathers, though he was and always remained
in profound sympathy with the spirit of their teaching. A period of severe struggle followed. He studied law for a time, but liked it no better than school-teaching. He took a pupil or two, and wrote articles for books. He occasionally visited his family, and their unfailing confidence helped to keep up his courage. Meanwhile he was going through a profound yet clarifying spiritual crisis. Atheism seemed for a time to be the only alternative to his old creed. It was, however, profoundly repugnant to him. At last, one day in June 1821, after three weeks' struggle and sleeplessness, he went through the crisis afterwards described quite "literally" in Sartor Resartus. He then cast out the spirit of negation. That, he says, was his spiritual new-birth. The conversion was coincident with Carlyle's submission to a new and very potent influence. In 1819 he had begun to study languages with which he soon acquired a very remarkable familiarity. Many of his contemporaries were awakening to the importance of teutonic thought, and Carlyle's knowledge enabled him before long to take a conspicuous part in diffusing the new intellectual light. The chief object of his reverence was Goethe. Carlyle seems to have seen in Goethe a proof that it was possible to reject outworn dogmas without sinking into materialism. Goethe, also, had emerged from an uncertain position into a lofty and coherent conception of the universe.

Contemporary critics in the Edinburgh Review, admitting Carlyle to be "a person of talents," slashed in cavalier fashion at the book. It is one of the most excellent translations of a foreign work in the English language. In 1826 Carlyle married Jane Baillie Welsh, and during the same year appeared his "Specimens of Romance." From 1828 to 1834, he resided on a small estate in Dumfriesshire, belonging to his wife—the "loneliest spot in Britain," as he says. Carlyle revolved in his mind the great questions in philosophy, literature, social life and politics, to the elucidation of which he earnestly dedicated his whole life. Here also, he wrote for various magazines.

For research literary work he was admirably equipped. Besides possessing an exact knowledge of the German language, he was also inspired by the conviction that the literature of other countries, in depth, truthfulness, sincerity, and earnestness of purpose, was greatly to be admired and relished at home. He had, moreover, a genius for writing interesting literary portraits. Through him England discovered many literary gems.
One of his most beautiful, eloquent, and solid essays, was that on Burns (Edinburgh Review (1828). It has given the liberal tone to all subsequent criticism of the Scottish poet. But his chef-d'oeuvre, written on the moorland farm, was Sartor Resartus ("The Tailor Done Over," the title of an old Scottish song). This work, (1833-34), is, like most of Carlyle's later productions, an indescribable mixture of the sublime and the grotesque. It professes to be a history or biography of a certain Herr Teufelsdrockh ("Devil's Dirt"), professor, and contains the numerous opinions, speculations, inward agonies, and trials of that strange personage—maybe of Carlyle himself. The whole book confronts us with tragic pathos, solemn aspiration or riotous humor.

Thomas Carlyle called himself in some sense a radical; and J. S. Mill, though not an intellectual disciple, was a very warm admirer of his friend's genius. Carlyle longed for the editorship of the London Review, an organ of philosophical radicalism. The combination would clearly have been unique. Meanwhile Mill, who was equipped with many books upon the French Revolution was eager to help Carlyle in the history which he was now beginning. He set to work at once and finished the first volume in five months.

The manuscript, while entrusted to this friend, was burnt by an accident. Mill induced Carlyle to accept a fair amount of money which was urgently needed. Carlyle took up the task again and finished the whole on the 12th day of January 1837. "I can tell the public," he said to his wife, "you have not had for a hundred years any book that comes more direct and ardently from the heart of a loving man. Do what you like with it."

So Carlyle's religious position was pronounced and critical. Rejecting the accepted creeds, he was still more hostile to atheism or sceptical and materialist tendencies. He was, as he called himself, a mystic; and his creed was put into a formula of condemnation of atheism. We find that the famous doctrine of "hero worship" was first expounded in his lectures. Any philosophy of history which emphasized the importance of general causes of mortal conduct seemed to him to imply non-essential doctrine and to deny the efficacy of the great spiritual forces. He met it by making biography the essence of history, or attributing all great events to the "heroes," who are the successive embodiments of divine revelations.

His next great work, the 'Life and Letters of Oliver Cromwell,' published in 1845. He
was a man after his own heart, and the portrait drawn by so sympathetic a writer is intensely vivid, and very effective. The biographical view of history, however, implies an unqualified approval of all of Cromwell's actions, but omitting any attempt to estimate the Protector's relation to the social and political development of the time. The question, what was Cromwell's real and permanent achievement, was hardly considered.

The book considered by many as his masterpiece, is Oliver Cromwell's Letters and Narrative. The research displayed in this book is wonderful and the author was nobly rewarded by the abundant admiration given to his work.

He desired to unearth the facts but the effort of extracting from the dullest records the materials for the readers, made the process of composition excessively painful. For some years after Cromwell, Carlyle wrote less and less. His growing acceptance by publishers, and the inheritance of her property by Mrs. Carlyle on her mother's death in 1842, finally removed the stimulus of money pressure. As a visitor to Ireland in 1846 and again in 1849, he made an extended tour in Germany with Sir C. Gavan Duffy, then a young member of the Nationalist party. Carlyle formed strong convictions.

The misery and mis-government of Ireland recommended him to men who had taken part in the rising of 1848. As Carlyle had been a eulogist of Cromwell they could not readily accept him, but they admired his moral teaching; and he received their attentions, as Sir C. G. Duffy testifies, with conspicuous courtesy. His aversion from the ordinary radicalism led to an article upon slavery in 1849. It was followed in 1850 by the Latterday Pamphlets, containing strong denunciations of the do-nothing principle. The Life of Sterling (d. 1844) which appeared in 1851, was intended to correct the life by Julius Hare, which had given too much prominence to theological questions. The subject roused Carlyle's most considerate mood, and the Life is one of the most perfect in the language.

Carlyle's appearance as a great literary man, has been made familiar by many portraits. The statue by Boehm on the Chelsea Embankment, is characteristic; and there is a fine painting by Watts in the National Portrait Gallery. J. McNeill Whistler made an excellent portrait of him.

The harsh opinions of individuals in the Reminiscences had no parallel in his own writings. He scarcely ever mentions others in criticism, and was never involved in a per-
sonal controversy. Carlyle was throughout a spiritualized prophet denouncing a backsliding world. Popular contemporaries seemed to him to be false guides, and charlatans had ousted the heroes. The general condemnation of shams and hypocrisy had, of course, particular applications, though he left them to be inferred by his readers. Carlyle was the exponent of many of the deepest spiritual convictions of his time. Nobody could be more in sympathy with aspirations for a spiritual religion and for a lofty idealism in all walks of life, than those who cherish such aspirations of the gentler optimism of men like Emerson. They believed in the progress of the race and the triumph of the nobler elements.

After Mrs. Carlyle, in 1866, passed over to the Other Shore, his life became more and more secluded. His great work was now done. In 1867 Carlyle visited Mentone: then returning to London, he contributed a magazine article entitled “Shooting Niagara,” in which he gave his views of democracy. In 1875 appeared the ‘Early Kings of Norway,’ and in the year 1847 he was offered by Disraeli, the Grand Cross of the Bath and a liberal pension, but he declined them both. On February 4th, 1881, the mortal career of Thomas Carlyle ended, but his activity is still
in evidence, from *the spirit side of life*, as the real composer or author of this wonderful book.

In 1882 a statue was erected to his memory on the Chelsea embankment, in England, and in 1895 his house in Cheyne Row was purchased and opened to the public. A new complete edition of his works, *thirty volumes*, was published, (London and New York, 1896-99).

Carlyle, especially in his earlier years, could deliver an invigorating and encouraging discourse and his utterances were generally couched in the key of denunciation of backward conditions among mankind. Materialism and low moral principles or the want of any morality worth while, seemed to him to be gaining the upper hand; and the hope that the old religion might survive the "old clothes" in which it had been draped seemed to grow fainter. The ordinary mind complained that there seemed to be no specific remedy to propose for the growing evils of the time; and the more cultivated aspiration of men was alienated by the gloom and the tendency to despair. To a later generation it will probably appear that his vehement opinions regarding righteousness at least called attention to rather grave limitations and defects in the current beliefs and social tendencies of the time. While it is said that the mannerisms of his writings annoyed some critical persons, yet the shrewd common-sense, the biting humor, the display of graphic description and the imaginative mysticism give them a unique and interesting quality for many, even some objectors.

His own autobiographical writings, are a series of documents of profound interest for anyone who cares to study his spiritual character, as they display on his part an almost unique interest in humanity.
WHAT SPIRITUALISM
REALLY IS

CHAPTER I.

In the beginning, it was said that light
soon overshadowed darkness, and the illu-
mination of the earth's surface revealed all
that could be seen by vision, and nowhere
was it seen that mortal had any foothold or
habitation.

But soon there spread over the world a
multitude of creeping things, swarms of in-
ssects, birds and also animals.

There came a reason for all this, which
was a forerunner of mankind.

And it remained for the God of hosts to
replenish the earth with a dominant race of
humanity that might be called perfection of
the animal kingdom, and there came a rest
from accumulated processes of the Creative
Mind.

But this was not all, for it appeared good
in the sight and wisdom of the Lord, to see
that there was a harmonious blending of
animal, vegetable and mineral kingdoms so that a harmonious ending was produced.

And, thereupon, it came to pass, that mighty floods, famine, and pestilence prevailed to discomfort man, and to cause conditions of disturbance and inharmony. This was certainly displeasing to man’s intelligence, and he murmured over his sad lot in life, and bewailed the loss of dear ones whose presence was missed when death overtook them in the midst of their labors.

“What profiteth it,” he said, “to come upon the scene of life, to be soon cut down like grass which withereth?” And it displeased mortal man exceedingly, to know that pleasures and gladness were soon obliterated by sorrow, sadness, and grief over the death of loved ones so near and dear one moment only to be cast aside, utterly helpless, the following moment. 

So mankind ceased to be filled with the overflowing cup of happiness and sadness prevailed.

But why dwell on the fact of death, which is so apparent, even to this day and hour? And we are powerless to prevent death. We have gained nothing, neither can we take anything away with us, when death overtakes us.

But wait! Listen to the still small voice of hope that springs up within us to be a sort of consolation to us in our condition of bereavement. There is hope of some kind of relief in sight, in the future—or we would wish to pass out into the Great Unknown, now, instantly.

Now, dear friends, let me give you a note of warning. Do not be disconsolate, because there is a secret of the future to be unlocked and exposed to your inquiring gaze.

It means much to know, to believe, and to have faith in the wisdom that can teach us how to open the storehouse of facts, and then to be convinced of the merit of a positive knowledge of life in the future.

This can be done! This will be done! And let the praise of its achievement be given to those benign spirits who have returned from their heavenly dwelling-place to acquaint us with the knowledge of life everlasting and eternal in the heavens beyond.

And while we ponder over the necessity of leaving Mother Earth, let us not forget that it is good to love each other, even if the time must come when there will be sad partings and hearts made disconsolate with grief.

O, my friends, this is a great world, and all therein is good and useful; and it remains for us to appropriate the untold blessings of life here, which, in a measure, is a foretaste
of the multiplied blessings and exalted condition which awaits us in the future life amid the spirit hosts of heaven.

Now it soon cometh to pass, that all will be well with us, no matter what grievous mistakes may have been made by us, as mortals, for the Designer and great Creative Mind of the universe has not forgotten one detail necessary to make a perfect mansion for us to dwell in, in the great hereafter.

We are willing, we are resigned; we feel ready to accept the wise teachings of those exalted spirits who now come to us to give us the long-wished-for information about the Great Beyond — and to them be all the praise and glory of appreciative mortals who read this inspired word from the angel hosts of heaven. Amen.

The glorifying condition which results from conforming to the dictates of reason and of conscience, came to mankind in the early period of creation. And it is recorded that all who have a desire to progress may do so freely and successfully.

Now it is within the pale of sound judgment to signify one's desire and willingness to go on toward the pinnacle of success, so as to continue along the course of progression and high aspiration.

It is impossible to even make a sound conjecture over the possibilities of the future, but there is no harm in attempting to gain progress, day-by-day, so as to feel that life is good, and that it is worth living for the good results that come to those who place character above mere reputation.

In no uncertain tones we would say to all, "Arise, and go thy way rejoicing, for the great things are possible here and now" — and it is the mentally incompetent who give no attention to the notes of warning. So it is with no misgivings that I feel able to say that it is a feat which will soon be accomplished, namely, the actual and convincing proof to be furnished, of conditions of progress, here and hereafter.

So we come to a realization of the necessity of forming an opinion, and taking a stand on the question of futurity and what it holds in store for us. So we will think it over, and while pondering, there comes to our thought, a feeling that in the midst of life, death may ensue; and then there comes another thought, of what the next move on the checkerboard of life can possibly hold for us.

Just as one thought logically leads up to another, so does one period of life lead to another, till death comes, (as it is sure to come to every one), and then, what happens
afterward to one, must logically, and does inevitably happen to all, namely, transmission from mortal life to immortal.

It is improable to think that there are two final destinations for mankind, because all humans are born alike, die alike, and are carried over alike.

There cannot be such distinctions made as 'good' and 'bad,' because these are purely relative terms. One is not found to be wholly perfect, neither can one be found who is all bad; and the shades and variations of quality between the two extremes would be incalculable.

At death, all go to the same place, and it is quite natural to find this to be a literal truth. If it seems strange, one can repeat that "Truth is stranger than fiction."

Love is the quality that binds us all together, for love alone can bring peace and harmony in our social relations, and otherwise; and we mean to recommend love to all who are disposed to command force to settle all differences of opinion. We are apt to ascribe wonderful virtues to those who are impelled to live a life of altruism, of brotherly love toward all humanity; and it certainly behooves us all to acquire the divine principle of brotherly reverence, regard, and love for humanity, even if its faults are prominent at times, and its virtues hidden from view. To re-state in plain terms that we feel impelled to "do unto others as we would wish to be done by," is to re-state what in our hearts of inner conviction we fully believe.

Just how it came to pass that we are foreordained to pass into the new life of immortality, we cannot doubt nor question, neither do we really know. But the natural fact remains, that the future life, or more properly stated — the continuation of life into the immortal state, is one which becomes very interesting, the more one digs-and-delves into the consideration of immortality.

Kind spirits, educated, cultured and enlightened ones, have taught me, and I am willing and anxious to carry the message of hope to others who are weighted down by grief over the death of some relative, friend, or dear one. So the message starts me, and the mission is given to me, to spread the news of life,— of our future state of existence in the spiritual habitation — the realm of spirits.

( "All is good because all is God." ) Now, my friends, this deep thought of the Infinite draws us nearer to divine power; and although no one has yet seen a personal God, there remains with us a feeling that we are in close
contact with the power of divinity, made manifest by a growing spirituality within us.

Now we see clearly the design of the Infinite Mind, in teaching us the meaning of divine power, by giving us an intuition of its presence—by seeing it mentally—and by imbibing its refreshing waters-of-life.

And psychic sense or spiritual insight, is waging a ceaseless struggle for its supremacy over those material conditions of life whereby the physical is made prominent to the detriment or want of consideration of that which is spiritual, and hence, eternal.

Let us bear in mind, that, altho' our feet are planted on the earth, largely engrossed with material matters, our mind can reach the ethereal world wherein dwelleth the spirit entities of profound wisdom and valuable experience in life, ready to help us.

To gain in spirituality, which means soul-strength and soul-growth, one seeks the best spirits and entertains the best thoughts on spiritual as well as on material matters. One cannot separate these two conditions entirely but must be practically alive to the importance of both.

How easy it is to be kind, forgiving and tolerant, toward others! They may have shortcomings (as everybody has), so it is better not to dwell on the darkened side of the career of a neighbor, but rather to send our liberal, generous thoughts out to radiate kindness in all directions. Such practice really broadens us, progression is made toward a righteous qualification, and thus a spiritual-mindedness results.

How wonderful is the brain of man, acting like a delicately adjusted instrument to record thought, and to receive and register directions from the Supreme Mind that reach us through beneficent spirits! And those impressions come to all of us at times, with a suddenness that convinces us that such impressions are from outside source. Hence we realize the psychic qualities of thought transmission, of soul acting on soul, and of God's influence on our soul.

It is not study but intuition, which gives us strong convictions about spiritual manifestations, gifts, and personal power, from the psychic standpoint. There need be no confusion of thought over these psychic findings, because I have abundant spirit force around me to tell me facts about the inner workings of brain and psychic mentality.

Doubt, fear and despair, are known to enter the mind of many. But these are agencies of destructive force, and it is assured that only constructive tendencies are productive of benefit to us.
The "voice of God," as mentioned by writers of the Bible, is none other than the voice of guardian angels or spirits that once walked on earth. This is not only a sensible interpretation of such passages of scripture, but it is a fact of knowledge that, voices of spirits are heard by many of us.

The change which comes to all who pass the portal of death, is simply a change or transition, or a walking across the threshold of two rooms. One gets over there quickly, without much trouble; and then there comes a glad awakening to the traveler to the new country.

So life is real, life is earnest, and the grave does not hold one single person, because the individual makes his entrance into spirit-life, as a spirit person, and that which is left behind in the grave, is simply the physical form, of gross material, which in time falls to pieces and is more-or-less absorbed by the nearby vegetation.

How strange it is that so many fail to comprehend this fact of nature, with the result that they become overburdened by grief and despair. The departed one has simply crossed the threshold in a changed form, or more strictly speaking, without the physical body.

Now my friends, just think a moment over the phenomenon called death, and you will readily see that what is alive, cannot be dead, and vice versa.

God is the Supreme Spirit, while man being possessed of divine attributes of a soul which lives on and on indefinitely, is therefore made in the image of God and has the quality of divine life called 'spirit' infused into his soul, while it, in turn, has the covering of flesh while manifesting in mortal life.

I hope that I have made this fact very plain to my readers, because it explains one of the fundamentals of human life, here, and hereafter.

And again, that soul-body continues to live eternally, as the same personality, and positively, is not known to ever change to some other personality, neither progressively nor retro-actively. John Doe always remains John Doe, and he is more familiarly known, in spirit life, by his first name. So then, life is evolutionary, inasmuch as mortals grow from babyhood to adult conditions, and have opportunity to advance intellectually, both here and in immortal life.

It is a high honor and a proud distinction, to be able to say that we have a knowledge of the important factors of life in the spirit form; because many are prone to give this subject no consideration, and who speak of death as something to be dreaded, through a
fear that they may be doomed to a place of eternal torment called “hell.”

If there be any undiscovered country, it would certainly be called hell, for no man and no spirit has ever been able to locate a place of torment, popularly called hell. If there were such territory, spirits would make mention of it, because spirits are able to go anywhere.

So let us not worry over some imaginary place of punishment. Not punishment, but love, is the ruling power throughout the heavens and on earth; and it is the selfishness of mortals which prevents the earth from being a paradise.

The mighty power which causes the earth to revolve on its axis every twenty-four hours, with regularity, is expressive of the loving guidance of our Heavenly Father who is impersonal, yet manifests through the various forms in nature, from the earth-mass down to the atoms which comprise the globe, and all that is encompassed within its atmosphere, also outward, in the Great Beyond.

—And we humbly pray the Almighty God to instil into our minds, the knowledge of the universe as a whole, and to impress on our minds the facts of life here, and its continuance in the immortal realm which awaits all.

It becomes a duty of ours, to receive all the good thoughts which are transmitted to us by “wireless” from those enlightened spirits, who are able and willing to instruct us in the principles and grand truths of Spiritualism as revealed to us by those spirits.

And it is our sincere desire, which amounts to a prayer, that we may always be in a position of willingness to obtain the true meaning of spirit instructions, and with a condition of passive receptivity to absorb them. And we feel that it is praiseworthy to bountifully receive, and then to graciously disseminate this knowledge of spirit revelation to others who are looking in vain to established ecclesiastical institutions for light on occult matters.

Listen, and one can hear the lamentations of countless numbers who are trying to learn if their dear ones, called dead, can be reached in some way by their prayers and by direct communication, or even by indirect communication (through a spiritual medium).

We can state positively that spirit friends can come in touch with mortals by both methods.

Let us then be up and doing, to facilitate an easy contact with spirit ones. First of all, one may try to reach spirits by sitting in the home (as I have done), and by spending an
hour on one or more days, in silent concentra-
tion over the desire to attract certain spir-
its to our peaceful home room.

In the field of business, study or any
special undertaking, planning is necessary,
and then comes mental concentration, in
order to achieve success. These same efforts
must be made by those who wish to develop
their power to attract good spirits, and then
to communicate with them. Concentration is
the chief factor of psychic success. And while
it is true that mediumship must be inborn,
it is also true that every one can develop
some degree of mediumship, providing there
is present, a condition of normal health and
clearness of brain, with morality in daily life
to give stamina to the yearnings for spiritual
unfoldment.

So, you cannot fail to notice that spiritual
development can be reduced to the practice
of easy means of accomplishment. High-
priced teachers may be of some aid in de-
velopment, but they are not absolutely neces-
sary, as the work, application, and concen-
trative efforts must be made by each indivi-
dual who earnestly seeks to grow in power of
mediumship.

Now, dear friends, it is up to you to make
the start. Try to accomplish, and time and
patient endeavor will come to be recognized
as essentials for success.

It is an excellent rule to begin and to end
each hour of application, with prayer to the
Infinite Intelligence (impersonal deity, yet
ever present divinity), for the blessing of
spiritual power, and the good it can do us —
praying to receive the blessed gift of me-
diumship. And let me impress on you to do
this supplication in all sincerity, for good
only and with a desire to attract the best.

So sincerity, with earnest desire, and con-
centration, are known to be the chief factors
of successful communication with spirits.

Sometimes spirituality is hindered, and
spirit communion is interfered with, when
we allow the prejudice of relatives and
others to influence us against the nobility of
spirit mediumship. Such hindrances should
be completely ignored. Otherwise, prejudice
will hamper honest efforts, and will some-
times introduce a wrong material condition
that will disturb the peace and harmony of
earnest efforts.

With nations at peace with other nations,
and with a growing industrial and economic
feeling of co-operation, there is also found
an increasing spirituality (which is right-
eousness) among the people of all lands. So
there is a marching toward the high ideals
of daily life; and spirit mediumship devel-
oped in humble homes throughout the whole
country will work wonders; and a higher standard of knowledge, of heavenly-mindedness, and of beneficial communion with progressive spirits, will come as fruits of holy endeavor to reach the Infinite Mind, with direct aid from those good spirits whom we wish to attract and to emulate.

So let us all try to learn what we can accomplish by seeking communication with those benign spirits of the heavenly Summerland. —And may all praise and glory be thine, our Heavenly Father, for the divine power that comes to us with spiritual growth.

The coming revelation for mankind will appear like the onrushing of a mighty flood to overwhelm us with the truth, and the wisdom, from the angel hosts, to give us the waters-of-life so needed for thirsty souls who need spiritual refreshment.

And let it be remembered, that the most acceptable prize for concentrating our minds on spiritual matters, will be the receiving of blessings from the heavenly spheres, of advanced spirits who feel it a pleasurable duty to help us understand the facts about Spiritualism.

It is self-evident that “man cannot live by bread alone,” as he craves spiritual and mental food, also.
CHAPTER II.

Dr. Bryan states as follows:

There is a reason why we cannot fail to reach heaven, because it becomes the fitting dwelling-place for all of us. And we are glad to be looked after by those kind spirits who elevate us and can send us along the pathway which carries us to a most beautiful destination.

This is all literally true, as my information is direct from spirit to me. And impressional writing is the way it comes to me.

A great inward joy awaits us when we mentally agree to receive some enlightened spirit friend, not necessarily a relative, but even though it be the spirit of some one who was eminent when a mortal, for instance some literary person like Washington Irving, Thomas Carlyle, Alice and Phoebe Cary, biblical David, or some others equally prominent in past history. For they are now alive, as spirits, and they can be attracted to us.

I am not prompted by egotism, when I say that the afore-mentioned persons have recently dictated messages or short articles to me, personally. And what I have done, others can do, for I lay no claim to favoritism at the feet of these estimable historical personages and friends of mine.

When it is declared that others can do the same — to attract learned literary spirits — it is understood that you must go through a preliminary course of training, by the way of concentration, receptivity, and general preparedness, in order to attract and hold such spirit forces. For instance, if one can play well on a musical instrument, it follows that others may do the same, providing the necessary training is first undertaken. All accomplishment entails some preparatory exercise, work or personal application.

While spirituality is met with in many people of all ages and beliefs, it remains for a smaller but more select number of people to embrace the teachings of advanced psychological truth called Spiritualism. And great is their reward, because they experience the blessing of being mentally and psychically “caught up” into the presence and great power of spirits in spirit life. This must be experienced, to fully realize the sublime condition of one who is mediumistic enough and sensible enough to know and to acknowledge the existence of spirits, their
power for good, and the soul exhilaration which accompanies our spirit ones who have some degree of culture and enlightenment.

Great surprises come with spiritual knowledge and achievement due to the guidance of our spirit friends. One delight follows another, to those who seek light from advanced spirits whose names bring the mental, moral, and spiritual illumination which is part and parcel of their earthly career regarding their work, attainment, and noble personal characteristics.

All praise, then, is due to our good spirit friends, who stand ready and willing to guide us, to help us, and to manifest through us in many practical ways.

And may the divine blessing of mediumship, from God, through the angel hosts of heaven, rest encouragingly on all who seek psychical growth and unfoldment. Let us pray to God for spiritual power, while eliminating material thoughts, in part, if not wholly so.

A circle of spirit forces in the shape of a horse-shoe, is seen to surround me while writing this, emblematic of "good luck" to those who form a determination to advance in the knowledge and truth of the Divine Science called 'Spiritualism.'"

Dwell on this statement, my friends, "Learn the truth, then practice and preach it!"

There is time for everything. Amid the turmoil, strife and confusion of every-day life, there are moments when we can give a kind thought of welcome to our spirit ones. It does not cost any sacrifice, and the mental satisfaction greatly compensates us for the time so spent. And besides, such brief communion with them helps our spirit friends to progress. They admit the truth of this statement.

Do not forget that this mortal life is one of progression, never reaching perfection; and the same can be said of the life of immortality. This is why we find so much pleasure in life; each step in advancement gratifies us, and gives encouragement to us to gain in ascendency, always filled with hope of the future.

It is a sad mistake, to believe that death ends our career, that our work is finished, that we go to rest. There is no condition of rest in Nature, and we are a part of nature. You will admit the truth of this statement, for it is both logical, and a scientific fact, that mortal life continues, in its immortal expression, Over There.

The fruits of a ripe experience are knowl-
edge, spirituality and character. We can take these along in the spirit-life, while material possessions are always left behind.

Fulfillment of the psychic laws involves the inception, growth, and completion, of the evolution of the soul of man. Let us understand that the soul is the personality, — the individual's ego, — which manifests inside of the body of flesh, and is the same size as the mortal form; and it is that part of man which continues to live on, and on, in the heavenly realm.

So with all of this expression of soul, one can readily understand that laws govern soul-life, and that none other than the Infinite Mind would be capable of creating and directing the course of the soul, from the soul-point in ethereal state, to the embryonic (babe) generation, and thence as just mentioned (life in heaven).

Laws of life which govern all forms of life, being of infinite source and power, are not fully known to us. But the results of that creative force of Infinite Intelligence, are plainly visible to all of us throughout the multitudinous forms in Nature.

With resistless force, Nature shows us how material is shaped and moulded into wonderful forms of animate and inanimate materiality, vibrating with power from the Infinite, called spirit, and in no logical way can one deny that this recognized force pervades all and permeates through all material forms, with a power which displays design and intelligence — which the popular mind calls God.

Do not feel that I am writing a theological treatise, nor preaching a doctrinal sermon when thus brief mention is made of the Deity. I am merely stating clearly those facts of Nature which are readily discerned by a layman, or by a philosopher of ripe experience.

One does not require a searchlight to discover the fact that this so-called mysterious force in nature is none other than the demonstration of a master mind that is so far above the mental power of man, that one instantly exclaims: "O, thou source of vast power and intellectual superiority, we pray that we may fully realize that our vocabulary may help us to say that thou art mentality and creative force known as Supreme Intelligence, filling all space, causing all forms in material or in ethereal life to vibrate with precision, according to infinite law and order!"

Some one asks, "What is the sum-and-substance of Spiritualism, and what does the cause seek to accomplish?" This can be
readily answered by stating that it seeks to be of educational value, by instructing us in the science and philosophy of spirit-life and spirit-return; and its religion of immortality is actually proven by its phenomena, which all can understand.

You cannot claim that orthodoxy gives you any real proof of immortality. It wants you to have faith, and to believe its erroneous doctrines, without furnishing any proof. The result shows that, with nearly two thousand years of missionary effort, most of the people reject orthodox teachings, especially the assertion of the existence of a place called "hell." Proof is lacking.

A belief in orthodoxy, logically expressed, will surely carry you into an extremity of confusion like neo-platonism with its rusty backward enthralling condition of asceticism. The impractical life of a religious hermit or recluse, is its ultimate and unproductive effect.

The awakening of the soul brings us to a condition of inner consciousness. The soul is understood to be that which lives after death of the mortal body. Therefore, it lives forever and is animated by the divine force called spirit. The soul is our psychic self; and, as the soul is developed in spirituality, we say that it becomes awakened. Hence, inversely, one who lives the sensuous, sensual, animal life, he is manifesting chiefly on the animal plane. But as he maintains health, mentality, morals and a measure of righteousness, we say that he has gained in spirituality, in character, and his soul is awakened to a fuller comprehension of life.

With a belief and knowledge of spirits, spirit-life and spirit-return, through spiritual phenomena, and with a comprehension of the Infinite, it can be said that one's soul is fully awakened to the possibilities of life, and that one's earthly career is well rounded and well-based.

Seasons come and go with regularity that is never ending, and in like manner human beings come and go in a continuous stream of animate life. And every one of these human beings has a soul that awakens, more-or-less, to the realities of mortal existence, and we then say that they become soul-conscious.

Conscience, which enables us to distinguish right from wrong, is a mental characteristic, which is ever present and goes with the soul when passing over the spirit-life.

But I want my readers to discriminate between mental (brain) and psychic (soul) qualities.

It is true that one can develop his mus-
cular or physical ability and become an athlete. Intellect may be cultivated, by study, till a ripe scholar results. Likewise, our psychic qualities, when latent, may be developed by concentrative effort till one becomes mediumistic or possibly a true medium. Each quality is different, yet is capable of unfoldment.

Therefore, we notice the existence of body, brain, and soul, each distinct, separate, yet working in co-operation to help us advance.

And it is true that advancement, progress, attainment, and character, are prominent traits or characteristics of each human being while in this mortal life, as well as in the one into which every one eventually graduates.

Now this is made quite clear, so that argument based on mere theory, cannot prevail against our knowledge; so let us go on. At each step of life, we are conscious of the fact that there is still something ahead of us, to aspire, to idealize, to cherish.

Divine influence comes to us direct, and it can also reach us by way of those exalted spirits who are fully able to impress the brain of mortals for good.

I wish to emphasize this word 'good,' because many of us have erroneous ideas of

the moral tendencies of our friends in spirit-life.

Mortals who truly have righteousness for their standard, do take with them a large measure of goodness and character to the world of spirits. These attributes have room for growth and expansion there, because the law of the spirit world favors progression. It naturally follows that these good spirits can radiate their precious qualities to others, both in heaven and to mortals here on earth.

Means of communication between the two worlds are not lacking. The impressional brain and the inspirational messages which this writer receives, daily, from spirits, is evidence of a direct communication from heaven to earth.

Spirit power is great, its influence is healthful, ennobling, and of divine origin. So let us all welcome the beneficial influence of spirit power, and may we be appreciative of God's radiant love, now, as it comes to us in spirit power.

There is no valid reason for opposing or rejecting this divine influence, which gives the psychic power to mediums, and to those who may not be aware of their latent ability to commune with spirits of goodly, saintly, holy qualities.

In doing so, however, let us all lay aside
every mercenary motive. God is not in any money-making business! Our enlightened spirit friends never dwell on money matters, altho' many mortals seem to think that money and such possessions should be the ideal of both spirit and mortal life. But the sooner we cease to be "money-mad," the sooner will we all be happy, peaceful, and harmonious. Why wait till the hour of transition? Mediumship is too sacred to be governed by a money standard; it is not less holy than a mother's love that never dies.

A spirit medium (in private or public), possesses that inner sight which is known to us as intuition. Yet it is true that all can claim to have some intuitive ability. And my advice is for you all to set aside a few moments each day, and in the silence, endeavor to be receptive to those impressions from spirit relatives and enlightened spirit ones who approach us. They stand ready to reach us all. Our sincere welcome will enable them to co-operate with us, for good. And as we gain in psychic power, day-by-day, our inner sight, intuition, will astonish both us and others who are in sympathy with the aims and beneficent work of advanced spirits.

The communion with saints in the realm of spirit hosts appeals to the highest mental, moral, and spiritual aspiration of us mortals, and the result is invariably edifying, elevating and ennobling.

So, my friends, those who try with sincerity and assiduity, may look into the astral world, or Summerland of angels, and be filled with that divine influence which we humbly pray for.

The chief factor of psychic development is harmony. To obtain this happy condition, those material influences which others carry to disturb, to irritate, and to demoralize us, must be avoided. Otherwise we "take on" those destructive conditions, and inharmony prevails. One cannot be too careful, nor too alert, to discover such unfavorable conditions, largely due to backward states of development in others.

We want to press onward, in soul-growth. We seek to attain those graces which accompany a position of advanced spirituality; and, above all, we want to learn the truth about spirit-life from the righteous spirits themselves. Not idle explanations or theories which do not explain, but facts of spirit-life, is the kind of knowledge that gives us proof of immortality.

There being many phases of spirit mediumship, whereby spirits demonstrate their presence to mortals, each phase furnishes the
proof of spirit-return; yet that which con-
vinces one person, may not satisfy another,
of the truth of spirit power. Each person
must select the most convincing phenomenon
of Spiritualism.

Modern Spiritualism commenced by simple
rappings in the cottage at Hydesville, N. Y.
Those raps, (whereby intelligent answers
were given to questions), are being repro-
duced or duplicated in many humble homes
throughout the length and breadth of our
glorious republic. These spirit raps are oc-
casionally heard in my own home, indicating
the presence of spirits, whom I always wel-
come.

To take a psychic view of spirit-life, one
must be gifted with the mental vision called
clairvoyant's can actually see the soul-form
leave the old body of flesh; and they usually
describe it as a vapor or smoke, in appear-
ance, which assumes the shape of a human
form, and that it slowly glides upward and
away.

From the standpoint of divinity all things
are possible; and the occult and mysterious
happenings in nature, can be made plainer to
our comprehension, when the blessing of
clairvoyance becomes our valued possession.

The gift is purely spiritual, and is evidence
of spirit power within.

This divine power called spirit force, comes
to strengthen and to soothe, like the harmo-
nious quality of love from the Infinite, and
like the soothing influence of soft music from
stringed musical instruments; and Spiritual-
ism accomplishes the same, by stilling unrest,
by quickening hope of a blessed immortality,
and by assuring us of a joyous reunion with
our loved ones, in spirit, when the angel of
death points our way to them.

Spiritual growth implies that the fruits
of spiritual knowledge have been appropri-
ated by us, whereby the vision of a heavenly
life becomes a valued possession; and all who
seek, with steadfast effort, to gather spir-
ital fruit, will surely be helped, with suc-
cess, by spirit friends.

Knowledge, being the so-called tree-of-
life, brings the harvest of good thoughts and
wishes, and comes to us when we aim to de-
velop that spirituality which leads to an un-
derstanding of spirit-life.

Many want to learn about spiritual growth
and advancement. Some desire to become
more heavenly-minded, while others would
wish to become mediumistic, to receive spirit
messages for themselves and for others.

In a general way it may be stated that to
gain in righteousness is to gain in spirituality. Spiritual growth would thus be obtained, associated with personal advancement.

Then it finds one in proper condition to gain a knowledge which becomes a conviction, that spirits surround us and impress us with their thoughts of all virtues, as they hold spiritual love for distribution. In this sense, so-called cupids-of-love are none other than kindly-disposed spirits. Love prompts them to help us mortals in many ways; and for us to gratefully acknowledge their power and beneficence, proves to be of value to them, by helping them to progress in spirit-life.

The secular press, in some instances, is quite willing to print short and plainly stated truths of Spiritualism, knowing that the intelligent public is interested in occult matters. Such articles, (when published over the signature of some local missionary of spiritual knowledge), are quite acceptable to secular as well as spiritualist newspapers.

God's power is manifested everywhere, in every natural phenomenon.

God's glory cometh with his power,
To show us how the force so great,
Is potent now to raise the flower,
Or to fashion foliage green and bright.

And we find that Nature's bowers rare,
Unfoldeth vegetation's glories,
So to show His wond'rous gift
Of creative beauty rich and rare.
So we come to see His glory,
And to feel His power divine,
That makes all motion and action
Prove that love is yours and mine.
Then we come to judge our actions,
By golden rule so good and pure,
And thus we feel the rule to be
Both right, just, and true for all.

All nature gives evidence of God's handiwork, and we have but to open our eyes, for the flood-light of illuminating knowledge of spirit-life to come to each one of us. Brush doubts aside, and yet do not accept statements which reason rejects as impossible or untrue. Thus it is that the impressible mind comes in proximity with divinity, and absorbs those spiritual messages that are knocking on our brain for entrance. Let the good thoughts have freedom to express themselves. Creative influence is at work constantly to bring new thought-forms into existence.

All nature is qualified to show us the divine love that so largely abounds, and it becomes our duty to acknowledge the fact. So many are disposed to scoff at spirit-return, that it is no wonder that there is need of more to show us the way, the truth,
and the light of knowledge of Spiritualism.

Noticing the willingness of the general public to listen and to accept the teachings of Spiritualism, by means of its spirit messages and other phenomena, we are glad to furnish such knowledge, the details of which come to us from spirit friends.

It can be positively stated, that Spiritualism possesses many interesting features of the life which is in store for all of us, and those spirit mediums who can see and hear the spirits distinctly and clearly, are the ones to give forth the spirit messages of the life eternal so that all can readily understand the truth.

CHAPTER III.

TO OVERCOME OBSESSION

We notice a person struggling with inward forces, knowing the proper moral course to take, but yet stubborn enough to choose the wrong one. Conscience must gain the mastery over wrong conditions, otherwise, destructive tendencies come into prominence, and a downfall is sure to be the result, sooner or later.

Obsession is a psychological condition, which indicates a violent struggle of man's forces contending with some form of immoral conduct; and there are also present, the unseen yet potent spirit forces for good, which are impressing the unfortunate one to do what is right.

To overcome obsession, therefore, one raises the moral standard of right, justice, and mercy, and with his whole manhood, he determines to not yield to error in any form.

Any partial surrender to reactionary psychological forces, brings obsession; yielding entirely, culminates in utter failure.

Peace, in man or in nation, comes only by
a complete cessation of combatting forces, and this implies the triumph of righteous principles. Summed up, this means, "Be good, and you'll be happy." And in stating these opinions on obsession and how to overcome it, I am backed by the high authority of a noble band of enlightened and righteous spirits who once walked this earth as mortals.

The important service, my friends, is one which seeks to establish in the minds of humanity, that there is a life after death for all; and it becomes our willing duty to try to reach the multitudes who are yearning, yea clamoring, for facts concerning the fundamental truth of spirit-life.

We not only speak it, but we deeply feel the vital influence of spirit friends, of the divine power of God; and we feel the necessity of daily walking in the spiritual path, and living the life most commendable to the spirit hosts in heaven.

The philosophy of spiritualism is all-embracing, far-reaching, and overshadows all man-made systems of philosophy of life which have a living "master" or a departed "savior" to be worshipped. All we need is to embrace the surpassing truths of Spiritualism, as enunciated by advanced spirits through appointed mediums; and there will be no need to look for a savior of Spiritualism, because he is undiscoverable. Each one must be a savior unto himself.

The main factor is to know that spirits do return.

PHASES OF MEDIUMSHIP

1.—MENTAL

Message bearing.
Inspirational Speaking.
Trance Speaking.
Automatic Writing.
Impressional Writing.
Clairvoyance.
Clairaudience.
Clairscience.
Visions (dreams).
Psychometry.

2.—PHYSICAL

Table tipping.
Rapping.
Levitation.
Independent Writing.
Trumpet voices.
Dowsing.
Fire Testing.
Etherealization.
Materialization.
Healing.

While these are the principal phases of mediumship, some authors make claim for still other phases, such as predictions, lucidity, multiple personality, abnormal faculties, seership, illumination, spirit photography, projection of the double, crystal gazing, genius, precocity, etc. One medium, called the "Georgia Wonder," was a slight woman whom athletes could not lift.

And we admit that mediumship does not end with the phases which have been enu-
merated. We know very well that all things are possible with spirit power, to influence or direct. And it is proper to publicly acknowledge the great power of spirits, which is really power from divinity.

A moral life, bringing to it a measure of sanctification, proves encouraging to others who look on and see that good seed, when sown, is productive of fruit of the tree-of-knowledge and goodness.

Our spirit friends of holiness, do help all of us who seek to obtain the fruit of a life of moral conduct. 'Tis a divinity that shapes our ends, through the personal assistance of those equitable spirits who are bound together by self-imposed rules and principles of faultlessness.

Enlightenment received from spiritual knowledge, is wonderful, inasmuch as it takes the place of darkness or ignorance, and a mental illumination is experienced. One by one the thoughts come to us, and facts or knowledge of nature are received; day-by-day we gain insight into spiritual matters, and we come to know that spirits and spirit forces do envelope us in a flood-light of etherealized power, for good.

And it is true that our advanced spirit friends stand ever ready to impress us with knowledge of spirit-life, the object of which is to teach us to lead a good life, and to carry us along safely toward the end of our mortal career, well prepared to pass over into spirit-life without stress.

Preparedness has often been dwelt on, regarding the attitude of individuals toward the highest standard of present-day government, with a vision of the co-operative industrial commonwealth of future years. But the kind of preparedness which we now consider, is one which enables us to gain in the knowledge of all graces (within which love is centered), so that we can reach a spirituality that fits us to grasp the truths of Spiritualism.

Many times we are hedged around by material conditions that prevent concentration on spiritual matters. But with such obstacles removed, our path is cleared for progress; and with opportunity, desire, and favorable conditions present, spiritual attainment is both possible and probable. It is both true and applicable to the foregoing text to say: Seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you.

Spiritual enlightenment is available for all. It is knowledge that transcends all mortal teaching, because it brings us near unto the Infinite Mind — the source of all mental illumination.
Peace and good-will to all mankind!

The in-dwelling condition of peace toward all mankind, is one which survives all hatred, because it has love for its firm foundation. Truthfulness springs forth with bounding frankness and joyousness, when love prompts us to action.

"Lead us not into temptation." is no idle formality, for it has a most important effect on us and on others, when the feeling of frankness and good-will are conveyed by impression, if not by words.

So it is availing to carry sincerity and truthfulness along with us wherever we may go, for the good it will do is incalculable.

Others are impressionable; they are often guided by spirit power for good, altho' they may not realize that guardian angels are entertained when least expected. Let us give credit to their laudable efforts to direct the course for us, when obstacles are found in our pathway, in the form of trials, temptation, and distrust. But to surmount them, brings us to a realization of higher hopes of spirituality, which, in turn, leads us to the sublime truths of Spiritualism, so that our lives will be peaceful and happy.

The highest morality springs up from that deeply imbedded love in our nature that refuses to allow us to entertain any bad thought. This condition is transcendental. It becomes the greatest virtue-of-virtues and graces, or attributes, or nobility of character. Love for humanity becomes an in-dwelling trait of the soul to elevate us above sectional hate, prejudice, and narrow-mindedness.

So, that morality which we claim to be attainable by all normal beings, is a great blessing; and when it brings a sense of appreciation, then righteousness prevails.

A friendly spirit now enters and says as follows:

"When the opportunity comes, we are not diffident in approaching an impressional writer, because we have a desire to tell the public about interesting features of spirit-life. We can see many things that occur on the earth plane; but we do not worry over the shortcomings and the mistakes of mortals, because all will be made plain to them when they join us in heaven.

But they are gaining in knowledge and in wisdom; so, progress is being made by them."

The thought that is uppermost in our mind at the present day, is one which is placed almost wholly on material possessions. While it is true that one must give attention to physical necessities and material require-
ments, one need not forget that there is a
spiritual part of our nature that constantly
urges us to maintain righteousness, leading
us to heights of spirituality.

No one need go to extremes in either di­
rection; but I do contend for a fair division
of our time and thought, for matters which
do not relate to earthly possessions, nor to
attainment of fame, rank, caste, position, or
wealth.

A sufficient reason for advancing ourselves
in a direction toward heavenly-mindedness,
is that it is bound to help us along in the
most substantial way for true success in life.

While the amenities of social life are
praiseworthy, one's moral qualities need con­
sideration, every day, so that we are
prompted to consecrate ourselves to the ser­
vice of unselfish conduct, with the approba­
tion of the angels who watch over us, and
sustained by the power of the Infinite.

Dr. Bryan states as follows:

"Just as I was writing this, an emblem was
seen clairvoyantly. It was a fish with bloody
mouth, looking at my writings on the desk.
Asking my spirit father, James, to explain
the meaning of this symbol, he communi­
cated the following interpretation to me, di­
rect; at the same time I will add, that an ac­
quaintance was in the habit of inquiring
about my writing, and then secretly report­
ing the news to one unfriendly to Spiritual­
ism:

—"My son, the emblem of the fish is one repre­
senting people who have an inclination to nibble at
knowledge that is spiritual, yet the blood of earthly
conditions covers them with unsightliness. With
more brain power than fishes, such people should
use better judgment and reason,—instead of being
guided by tradition and the reactionary forces of
ecclesiasticism."

Shortly after, another clairvoyant vision
brought forward the emblem of an eagle
with a palm in its bill. The interpretation of
this is: Peace is represented by a dove (gent­
tleness) or an eagle (strength) with a palm
or olive branch in its beak.

Still another vision came of a bird with
green head and black collar, holding a pen in
its bill. This means to represent that "the
pen is mightier than the sword; green is a
color which harmonizes all in nature; the
pen indicates peace, rising above the bed
(black) conditions of war. The great World
War of Nations was in its most destructive
stage, while this paragraph was being writ­
ten. Spiritual peace hath its victories no less
than war of material conditions."

*  *  *

Every mortal will learn now, (or by per-
sonal experience later), that life does not become extinct, but that life is perpetuated with a permanence that is limitless. Angels are there, in the Summer-land of spirits, and when they return to us, this should be ample proof of their existence. It matters not by which phenomenon they return to demonstrate, because one form of their presence is as verifiable as another form.

The principle of value, is that spirits do actually return to us after so-called death; and love, more than curiosity, prompts them to do so. And our consolation therefrom is great enough to overcome all grief and loneliness, when we are convinced that those who are thought dead, are truly alive, and anxious to communicate with us, giving tests of their identity, without having made any pre-arranged agreement to do so.

Convincing demonstrations of spirit-return have been so numerous lately, that it seems quite unnecessary to spend valuable time trying to convince one more skeptic that we are surrounded by multitudes of discarnates who continue to retain their personality as human beings.

It is a gratifying thought to know, that we will have the natural right, (without asking the privilege of any one, mortal or immortal) to enter into the kingdom of heav-

enly spirit hosts, and be entitled to all forms of progression that are found there.

* * *

Dr. Bryan says:

"It becomes an easy matter to show the errors that ecclesiastical doctrine has foisted on millions of credulous believers. It is self-evident that news of spirit-life, coming direct from good spirits, bears the merit of wisdom and truth. And as an appointed medium, by a band of highly educated, moral, and beneficent spirits, I feel the honor that rests on me, like a mantle of righteousness placed on me by my spirit relatives and friends with the power of divinity. And the mission to spread the knowledge of spiritual-life before an intelligent multitude, is a sacred and pleasing duty which I earnestly and willingly have accepted, while surrounded with consecration. I do this without any mercenary motive; and my duty is simply to tell the truth about Spiritualism, as it has been given to me by those estimable spirit friends."

* * *

Our spirit friends of enlightenment and progression, are not alarmists, and are not unnecessarily moved by emotion over local happenings. They deal with broad underly-
ing principles of life in a truly democratic
fashion. Morality, right conduct, and the
up-building of character, are matters that
advanced spirit ones give consideration. The
petty concerns of daily routine are of no
more value to them, than are the chatterings
of children to ourselves.

But our journey through mortal life needs
guidance. Sometimes the pathway is irreg­
gular, and we meet with obstacles that seem
insurmountable. Spirit help then proves
availing, and assistance is gladly sought
from spirit source, with the overspreading
protection of divine power.

Spiritualism and its great truths, embraces
a union of two worlds. One is the terrestrial,
and the other is the celestial world. When
one's spiritual mind visualizes the heavenly
world, it discovers wonderful truths from its
inhabitants. Spirits can travel to various
countries, spheres, and realms, to learn the
truths to be communicated to mortals, and
which are then called truths of Spiritualism.

Mediums who aspire to gain the best and
the greatest truths from exalted spirits, and
who are gifted with a degree of impressi­
bility to receive the knowledge from such
spirits, become teachers of the Word,
through infinite power.

The body, being the temple of the living
soul infused with spirit-power called 'life,'
it remains for all of us to guard the mortal
body from injurious habits, propensities, and
accidents. The principal reason for this word
of caution is because one must gain progress
through the physical body, as well as through
mental acquisition, moral growth, and right­
eous endeavor, before a high spiritualized
condition can be obtained. After that, one
can be led toward a knowledge of spirit-life,
its activities and its presence, as shown by
the return of spirits in our midst.

It was Henry Ward Beecher who said that
those who excel, are those who are thorough­
ly magnetized with spiritual truth.
Purity and goodness can be killed by ne­
glecting to obey the inward voice of reason.
Contemplation of spiritual matters, enrap­
tures the soul to the harmonies of nature,
and one then finds that vibratory forces work
in unison with other forces, for good.
The appropriate time for the considera­
tion of past occurrences, is when the mis­
takes of the past have been acknowledged,
and resolutions made for the future, for ad­
vancement. Now is the time for all of us to
look forward to a bright future; the clouds
are dispersing, the brilliancy of the sunshine
will soon be noticed, and the past will soon
be forgotten.
The communicating force, which is able to effect a union of angels and mortals, is being strengthened, day-by-day, and many are thereby enabled to get comforting messages from their spirit friends. To such, mediumship becomes a positive personal means of communication with those spirits who are attracted and welcomed.

The worship of one's ancestors is a mistaken idea, unless reverence is paid to them as spirits of progression. But this admiration should be given to all others in spirit-life who give evidence of advancement.

Like the fragrance of roses sweet, there is a fragrance of human life, which has, in a humble way, been devoted to the amelioration of suffering, distress, and misfortune in others.

In the beginning of the earth's history, the cry went forth for light, and physical light illumined the earth. And when humanity found itself inhabiting the globe, there issued a cry for more light, (intellectual illumination); and then and there was initiated a human endeavor to eat from the tree of knowledge, and to taste of the fruit of infinite creative power — and it was good.

Ever since has the cry for knowledge and spiritual illumination gone forth! There are mental teachers in abundance; there are mediums who are chosen to voice the thoughts of exalted spirits, and yet the multitude has not been fully enlightened by the truth of Spiritualism, because of obstacles and restrictions placed before our worthy mediums who are willing to teach everybody, from a sense of duty and not for any mercenary consideration.

Furthermore, I protest against any and all legal bans put upon the free exercise of the god-given gift of spirit mediumship, which enables us to receive messages from our spirit relatives and others who wish to reach us.

It seems to have been my earthly mission, to be identified with worthy yet unpopular causes that are advanced solely to maintain liberty, or to uplift humanity. And if others could realize that such associations tended to develop one's own qualifications for righteousness, they would also be found working and watching for some worthy yet unpopular cause to help others.

Jesus, the great man-medium, seer, and teacher of spirituality, said: 'I come not to bring peace, but a sword!' Rightly interpreted, this 'sword' means the double-edged weapon of Justice, to be used in the hands of Wisdom and Truth, to slay Ignorance and
WHAT SPIRITUALISM REALLY IS

Ecclesiastical Error, both of which are so prevalent even in this day of general education.

* * *

Soul-food is presented to us, and it is received with unspeakable joy, because we know that it is manna from heaven. There, with progress, the purest spirituality obtains by humans, because the gross material body has been cast off, and carnal desires are lost almost entirely.

* * *

There being seven spheres in the heavenly realm, as far as we know, absolute perfection lies still beyond the seventh.

* * *

Protection against backward influences is vouchsafed unto those who trust sincerely in power divine, from noble and enlightened spirits.

* * *

Coming to an understanding of the ever-present spirit forces, we are glad to say that acknowledgement of the presence of these forces, helps us to progress in the acquisition of further knowledge and even details of spirit-life.

* * *

They have their pleasures, avocations, and duties; and senseless "rest" or idleness finds no lodgment there. Opportunity and desire for progress go hand-in-hand like friends; and achievement is even more marked there, than in mortal life.

* * *

Too often we find that persons of psychic ability fritter away their time in phenomena which is simply entertaining.

* * *

The holy communion on earth, has reference to those peaceful homes where harmonious conditions are extended to meet the forces from spirit life. Such contact with righteous and enlightened spirits thrills us with joy, and it convinces us that much happiness awaits us all, when we leave mortal life for the more enduring realities of spirit-life.

Our thought sometimes takes us great distances; and spirit friends tell us that they glide about in ethereal space, and can also go great distances searching for knowledge that attends the experience of travelers.

Mortals with mediumship, are sometimes known to send the soul-body or astral-body great distances; and when drawn back again by a magnetic cord to the physical body, they are prepared to describe the views which they obtained while on the astral plane. Thus
WHAT SPIRITUALISM REALLY IS

is heaven brought to earth, as described by the astral traveler.

The errors one makes in mortal career, are like mile-stones along the journey of life; and as one looks back retrospectively on mistakes, of commission or of omission, he learns that it is unwise to repeat the same offense. And wisdom is what all strive for, so as to gain progress, in business, society, profession, or spiritually.

So it behooves us all to be extremely careful of temptations, allurements, and habits that demoralize even if they are such as do not amount to the standard of vice or utter depravity.

Evil must be cast out by supplanting it with good, with loving kindness and mercy. Still, there must be no temporizing, no compromising with reactionary evil forces, influences, or controls.

Keep on thou mighty force for good! Go forth and slay the dragon of Error!! Wipe out the iniquitous tendencies for corruption!! And may the holy angels and archangels of glory, be thy constant staff to lean upon in time of weakness, fear and stress; for the Supreme Mind is ever watchful, directing and protecting.

By speaking of the three 'true fundamentals,' I mean: 'spirit-life,' 'spirit-return,' and 'mediumship.' These, placed together, embody the main truths of Spiritualism.

The sublime truth, as it comes to us from exalted spirits, teaches us that, as we sow thus do we reap.

So many are waiting for the facts of spirit-life! When we ask the laity, “What do you most desire?” Their answer is: “More light in simple language about spirit-life.” So, with uprightness, attracting those righteous spirit teachers, it becomes my privileged duty to receive, and then to transmit, knowledge, from spirits of attainment and character.

Rays of spiritual light, from spirits, will illumine the minds of all who are ready to receive the message from spirit-land, eternal in the heavens. It is a message of joy, which says: “We still live!”

A mind consoled by the thought, and the conviction, that continued existence on the spirit plane is a fact, experiences the joy of knowledge that is comforting beyond estimation. So why keep back the flood of wisdom from spirit-life?

The clergymen of orthodoxy know that there are spirits, good ones, as mentioned in their bible; but as teachers of truth, they seem afraid to say anything about the angels and archangels of heaven. They are inclined
to dwell on a fearful place, called “hell,” which has no discoverable existence, and so they are like “blind leading the blind.”

They fail to notice the errors, (not condemning the clergy), but they entirely overlook the fact of spirit existence of the soul-body, after death of the physical form. They do not understand this, and do not seem able to comprehend it.

Oh, how beautiful are the teachings of Spiritualism! ....And so beneficial.

[Note—
I want to say, that any orthodox clergyman who happens to read my writing, need not feel ashamed to “search the scriptures” till he comes across those passages which distinctly mention spirits — spirits that are human — and good — not fallen angels from some unknown star — and let him dwell on the mention, in his bible, of the various spirit phenomena.

What more striking evidence do you want to have of independent spirit writing — sometimes called independent slate-writing — than the instance of the writing of the ten commandments on tables (slates) of stone? Again, there was the spirit writing on the wall — you all know the startling inscription: “Mene, mene, tekel upharsin!”

Yes, the bible plainly teaches spirit-life, spirit-return, and also that spirit messages came through mediums, of news, advice, and prophecy.

Clergymen have come to me from the spirit side of life, to tell me that what has been stated in the preceding paragraphs, is true, substantially. They are always welcomed by me, because the clergy (now in spirit-life) feel that their teachings, while on earth, were quite misleading, contained error of heavenly life, and fell short of the high mark of advanced spirituality.

So I mention these matters very plainly, not to censure the expounders of christian theology, but to urge them to be ever mindful of the duties set before them, by their own bible,—as well as by me, personally.]
CHAPTER IV.

Heavenly brightness will fill you with joyous mental illumination.

To casually mention to some bereaved friend, that their loved one is alive, in spirit, and (after gaining strength as a new arrival in heaven) will be able to communicate with the sorrowing mortal—this need not offend any one.

Knowledge of spirit existence is beneficial; it gladdens hearts, and will be so good for you, my friends, if you will only receive the doctrine of Spiritualism. Many do receive it, but fail to openly acknowledge the truth of spirit phenomena.

The political election in this country, is attended with much comment and enthusiasm; and the people soon settle down to daily routine. But elections do not always truly represent the popular opinions. Likewise, one cannot simply vote and expect the vote to accomplish miracles.

Great changes (like peaceful revolutions, or even violent ones), come when least expected, with cataclysmic force, not by slow processes of evolution.

But a change of one's opinions on spiritual matters, (like from materialism to Spiritualism), is attended usually with much pondering, research, and the weighing of evidence over its phenomena as demonstrated through spiritual mediums. Such elections are of the permanent kind, and entail a life tenure.

National peace, like peace in the family, rests on harmonious relations with other nations. And harmony and love are so nearly synonymous, that we often speak of them as such. So love engenders harmony, and harmony insures friendly relations with others. Heaven, the only abode of departed souls, (not dead ones), is described as a paradise, in comparison with the earth-sphere of human life—which is attended with considerable strife and tumult.

Proceed on with your ideas of spirituality, of righteousness, and of noble endeavor, because it takes you along the beautiful white path, with flowers of variegated hues on each side, which leads to the ornate arch marking the entrance to the illuminating knowledge of spirit-life.

There one finds peace, harmony, and that celestial love of spiritual quality which closely approaches divinity.

And that experience, my friends, will
sooner or later, become a fact of reality for every human soul, when the physical body is discarded to become dust. That is the time when the resurrection, (which is a natural phenomenon) actually occurs. And this event, being one of Nature, solely, it logically is declared to have no reference whatever to one’s religious affiliations, or otherwise.

Therefore, everybody is elected to fill a position of personality, in the heavenly sphere of activity. All belong to the so-called ‘elect.’ All are fitted to survive the shock or transition commonly called death — but which, in reality is a re-birth, a re-generation, or strictly speaking a continuance of life under changed conditions.

Let us pray for those benighted individuals who cling to error of tradition, asking God to remove the scales of religious superstition from their mental sight, so to enable them to discriminate between darkness and light, and to be then able to realize that spirits surround us, and can help us to advance, while in mortal life.

The shepherd of old, Abijah, of biblical time, comes to me, as a spirit who wishes to give counsel and advice to those who are having mental struggles over dogmatic theology. “Use your reason!” he says. “Clear your mental vision by eliminating creed!” he adds.

The subject for consideration, which is spiritual, needs no explanation (that does not explain) from those, who, with learned titles, college degrees, or professorships, throw dust in the eyes of honest investigators.

The wise course for one to pursue is to glean one fact from the harvest-field of spiritual knowledge, and to cling to the possession of that one fact, tenaciously. Other facts will follow.

Many skeptics have become believers in the science of Spiritualism, and have learned that it is, indeed, Divine Science.

The past record of a person stands in his praise, or as his censure; and altho’ it cannot be entirely brushed aside, resolutions for the future as well as consideration for the present, serve to establish a standard for character.

Our spirit friends can help us more than one might imagine, by impressing us mentally, just what to do when embarrassed by sudden emergencies or even by doubts and uncertainties over procedure.

You can carry the flag-of-freedom to many bowed forms, by showing that mortal life precedes celestial life and that both are stern realities.

What does it matter, if one loses all material possessions, and reaches the line of
demarcation between the known world and the unknown? Death of the body, releases the soul-form — which is like a gauzy vapor-like structure, and can glide along anywhere, with rapidity, going almost anywhere, with consciousness retained and with intelligence to express itself. This is the life, the eternal life in spirit-form which all spirits try to teach us, all of whom do invariably agree that spirit-life is a positive natural condition of human existence.

Again and again, the gospel of glad tidings is preached, to declare that all may become free from dogmatism over conditions surrounding life in the mortal form, knowing now that the blending of it, is into a state of existence called spiritual life — in the different spheres-of-progress in heaven.

Our Father is there, everywhere, with many mansions prepared for souls as they arrive in transit from earth to heaven.

The power of spirit (which is divine life), is incarnated into every specimen of humanity, in the immaculate conception of babes; and that force divine never is abstracted from the soul, either in the mortal or the celestial stage of life.

Prayer of thankfulness for God's bounty, on every day of the year, makes thanksgiving a righteous expression of sincerity from us.

And in return for such acknowledgement, greater gifts are showered upon us by the Infinite Power, through those beneficent spirits, who continually encourage us to personally demonstrate the possession of those graces and virtues that elevate and ennoble all. All of which is conducive of harmony, peace and love of spiritual quality, like a fountain that serves to refresh and to continually renew those favorable conditions of advanced humanity.

Our spiritual knowledge comes from the vast storehouse of spiritual truth, from exalted spirits of progression, in which race, creed, station, play no part, but where character reigns triumphantly.

(The soul-consciousness so often spoken of, is a realizing influence of our inner self. This implies some power that is hidden, and yet its presence is felt by every one. Some inaptly call it conscience; but conscience is only an expression of the soul, through mental process. Once recognized, it behooves us to dwell within the influence of soul-consciousness, for by doing so, the highest condition of spirituality is experienced. And that elevated condition, (embracing purity of heart), blesses us, and leads us into the path which takes us along to a knowledge of spirit-life.
and of the actual presence of enlightened spirits in our midst.

Prayer, and watchfulness, with the help of angel hosts, is like a fortress of strength, to ward off those evil influences which continually beset every mortal.

Warlike conditions beget other conditions of strife, discord and destruction. Our exalted spirit friends work hard to prevent enmity of our fellows.

* * *

Note—by Dr. Bryan:

The noble spirit of President Garfield comes to us this evening and personally dictates the following message to me:

"The hour has struck, and the time is ripe, for men of humanitarian thought and feeling, to assume the reign of public office. Too long have the common people—the public—suffered from various forms of gross injustice in affairs of executive and administrative power."

"Holy influence of the godly, the upright and the unselfish, will assert itself, and there will then come a form of industrial peace, in all national affairs, that will approach a condition sometimes called the millenium—which means the dawn of righteousness for all."

Your fellow-worker,

Jas. A. Garfield.

* * *

King David has just communicated to me (Dr. Bryan) by impression (while his spirit form is seen clairvoyantly, as an ancient man in costume of the East) the following:

"In biblical times, it was the custom to offer prayers to God for protection, from all evil influences that are liable to beset the path of life, by day or night, when physical or moral accidents threaten injury. See Psalms CXXI and CXXII.) And now-a-days, amid the wearying conditions of materiality, we can do as well as the ancient ones, by approaching the consecrated places, so as to ask God's protection, with the intervening help of those beneficent spirits who are ever helpful to us."
"Protection against backward influences, is vouchsafed unto those who trust sincerely in power divine, from noble and enlightened spirits."

—(Spirit Henry Ward Beecher)

A spirit relative at this opportune moment says, in a personal message, as follows:

"Yes, my dear W——, I feel that the ship of good fortune, with God's protecting influence, is carrying you, both safely and surely, through the vast sea of life, of light, love, and purity of thought."

"Every blessing is given to those who merit the bestowal of gifts of speech, writing, and spirituality."

"And may the course you have now chosen, be one unbroken by any untoward or backward condition."

Your loving Alberta.

The supremacy of mind over matter, and of soul over both, is an impressive fact in evidence to students of advanced psychology.

And it is both gratifying and reasonable to assume, that soul-power can be exerted, for good, by all who will take the pains to use the gift of soul-consciousness.

Coming to a realization of this gift of soul-consciousness brings a deep sense of satisfying spiritual joy.

In a superlative degree, there are spiritual gifts of power given to us, enabling us to manifest principles of His love, wisdom and intelligence, as embraced within the knowledge of the divine truth of spirituality and of Spiritualism.

The divine law and doctrine of Spiritualism, teach mankind the true principles of life and the refined moral characteristics of moral conduct which lead to the pathway that is illuminated with the light of God's glory, love, and supreme intelligence — that leads us on, and on, to the beauties and the grandeur of the world, which is known to the true workers of Spiritualism.

Those who are negative cannot get the spiritual views which they might get.

We should not worry over the cares and discomforts of daily life.

We have God's mercy and tender love; it is He who watches over His flocks.

Those who put their trust in the all-powerful and Infinite Intelligence, have already realized a true conception of the deity. And it is no hardship to acknowledge this as a fact of conviction, even in the face of a confused mass of materialist statement; be-
cause, by glancing all around us, one cannot fail to see the numerous evidences of the Great Creative Mind made manifest in nature's various forms of animate and inanimate conglomerations.

Which view seems rational, reasonable, and logical to you? Alternatively, life that would mean annihilation, after reaching a high degree of physical, mental, moral, and spiritual development, — or a life that is too precious to be destroyed, but made to extend, with continuity, into the land of eternal life, where spirits of men are made perfect?

The life which brings us to comprehend, that soul-consciousness is a valuable asset of personality, also carries us into the path of the beauties of celestial light. This, in turn, helps us to receive, reflect, and radiate, the heavenly spiritual qualities so prized by all advanced thinkers.

Therefore, to radiate light, love, truth, and mercy to all mankind, means that we have become truly charitable; we then have forgiven the trespasses of others, and have learned to love our neighbors (in a true spiritual sense) as ourselves.
SPIRIT MESSAGES

(Impressionably received by
Wm. J. Bryan, M. D.)

A spirit lady of commanding figure, in white robe, white cap, and white hood, carrying a small fruit-basket of red cherries, is seen, clairvoyantly, who, approaching, says:

"As teacher of psychological truth in Alexandria, Egypt, and as a teacher still, I come to you, Dr. Bryan, to wish you god-speed on your journey of education — your writing of psychic teachings and spiritual thought, for the masses.

And as a co-worker, I offer my right hand of fellowship, recognizing in you the non-mercenary inner desire to be of benefit, educationally and altruistically, to your fellow-man.

The principles which you now teach, are the same as I taught to the populace, many hundreds of years ago! The doctrine is sound!! The truths can be proven to be founded on facts!!"

For progress and attainment,
Hypatia.

(Note).—Hypatia was the daughter of Theon, astronomer, mathematician and head of the Neoplatonic school early in the fifth century. She was famed alike for her beauty, wisdom, purity, counsel, and her tragic fate, when she was murdered, in the year 415, by a jealous mob.)

* * *

Spirit Judge McCallum says:

"The day is not far distant when psychological science will touch the hem of the judicial ermine, and it will awaken the legal minds to an extent that will be both surprising and instructive. The wise wigs know much, but do not know it all, at present.

Just think of a spirit testifying in a court of law. This is within a degree of probability, before many years, for all scientific knowledge finds weight with legal minds. And I can say, for one, that spirit-life is a certainty."

Judge McCallum.

Peter Carroll, (who was found in his office chair assassinated), as a spirit, now says:

"Slowly but surely, the awakening comes to me, in spirit-life, that there is progress to be made.

Ring out the glad tidings of another life, which has for its merit, the joy of living."

* * *

* * *
Spirit "Uncle William," (an old colored man) says:
"The day is dawning for the birth of a new spiritual joy known as the fear-of-hell-cast-out."

Spirit Fred. Douglass, anti-slavery orator, says:
"Emancipation from error, release from mistaken motives, and a modicum of freedom from enslaving habits, are three conditions which all should strive for, earnestly.
There is progress ahead, for all!
Your friend, and teacher of a broader emancipation."

Fred. Douglass.

At this moment of writing, a beautiful nun, with the veil and cape, white basket of white roses, handing one to me, is seen clairvoyantly to be
Saint Cecelia,
who says:
"I bring the charm of music to the pious, the worthy, and to those who attune their soul-force to the melodies of spirituality.
Let us celestial musicians, seek you of the earth plane, to inspire you with the sweetness of song."

Let the bells, the chimes, ring out their melody of forceful joy and exultation, for its music now reaches to announce the birth of a greater freedom, the transmutation of love from all error to a condition of righteousness, heavenly-mindedness, and exaltation.

For true progression, one must be cleansed of all impurity, uncleanliness, all thoughts that lead to destruction, all habits that are not becoming to a true Spiritualist — one who wants to stand on Mt. Zion, is wanted.
"We want to purify!" saith the angel hosts.

Priestly purity is demanded. God hath his chosen people and his eyes are upon them. The aspiration and service must not be of lips, but of heart.

The procession of saintly persons, filled with an exultant feeling, sing praises unto God for blessings and bestowal of bounteous gifts of peace and good-will.
We come to say that nowhere is there to be found such joy, as when the mortal has given himself up to the workings of high spiritual forces.
And the day is not far distant when spiritual knowledge will be universally accepted,
as truth from enlightened spirits with divine power to assist.

* * *

James (Father) now says:

"My son, with abiding faith in spirit power and divine blessing, you will proceed on your journey up the spiritual mountain, wherefrom a view of grandeur and beauty awaits the eyes of those who are steadfast and true to deep-rooted principle.

We trust that all will be well, for further progress in your writing efforts, to bring the news of Spiritualism to the multitude."

The day is dawning for the outburst of brilliant illumination of spiritualized conditions among the people of earth. Phoenix-like, they rise up out of the ruins of antiquated ideas and the ashes of superstition and bigotry. They are removing the debris of doubt, and are having the house—the temple—(wherein soul dwells), cleansed of orthodox error, and a degree of spirituality is shown, that has never before blessed a prosperous and peaceful nation.

So after war, comes peace and its helpful conditions; out of evil, good arises. Progress is assured.

Yes, we sing our songs of praise to Infinite Intelligence, feeling deeply, with reverential awe, that song and prayer may be combined, sincerely to show our gratitude for many blessings showered on us daily.

The ancient biblical characters were wont to praise God, from whom all blessings flow to us through the intermediaries—the enlightened spirits of old and of modern times.

In prayer, we unburden our souls of all falsities, camouflage, and unsoundness, knowing full well that with our simple mentalities we cannot, logically, succeed in evading the issue, nor by trying to deceive the superior Infinite Mind.

Whether there be a personal God or an impersonal impelling supreme force, prayers of the faithful are bound to bring their reward. Of course, no one would presume to change the course of God's will; but the object of prayer, is to help us place ourselves in harmony with the transcending spiritual power, with the approbation of angel hosts.

So many in earth life, pass over at time of death-of-the-body, who know nothing of the life eternal in the heavens.

Such persons find themselves in a place that is strange and mysterious. They are liable to remain in a state of ignorant infinity, till something comes along to arouse and to awaken those benighted souls, to a realization of their status as spirits in Sum-
mer-land,—as individuals still, but minus the old physical body.

There is a tendency, with many, to overestimate their goodness, and thereby become unprotected from the wiles and snares of others who may be termed 'undeveloped' mortals. And a prayer to divinity, will, in time of stress or peril, fortify us against dire results.

Pitfalls have been placed in the pathway of many upright persons, and not a few have succumbed to the downfall. Alert to scent danger, and with a deep trust in an overruling and protecting divine providence, will be the strongest allies when struggling with life's opposition forces.

The concerted action for good, of those bands of enlightened spirits who never fail to watch over the course of life in those mortals who are sensitives, may be regarded as a great blessing. And so it is.

In speaking of the outpouring of wrath of Jehovah (the god of the ancients), the meaning thereby, if interpreted by latter-day thought, would show to us that such demonstrations of disfavor really come to us from righteous spirits, who endeavor to show disfavor of immorality among mortals.

Such warnings are for our good; and those who are wise will take heed, and not sacrifice themselves to iniquity and its fatal consequences.

Total depravity, (if such a condition could really be incarnated in any one), would be significant of absence of divinity. Yet we boldly affirm that God is everywhere, which would include a divine presence in the so-called totally depraved.

Yes, my friends, show me the fallen, the misguided, the vicious one, and by close inspection there will be found a spark of infinite goodness indwelling in those be-nighted creatures, which is capable of being fanned into a flame of higher manhood, and purer womanhood, which will cause us to show homage to God for the omnipresent divine power for good.

The calm that comes like a cooling zephyr at eventide, proves to be a refreshing condition favoring psychical development and the manifestation of our spirit relatives and friends.

Give them a sincere welcome, and they will at once be en rapport, for many of the soul inspiring thoughts which we receive, do really come from them to us, as impressions. Therefore, let us be glad to have them present, for we can learn from them, besides being entertained.

The good and true are blessed with a reali-
zation of the power of the Infinite, through beneficent spirits.

The subject under consideration being one of veracity, one should under all circumstances speak the truth, because it is right to do so.

Disquietude, discord and inharmony are often psychical conditions. An undeveloped person of low qualities, servile to reactionaries and debasing tradition, if allowed to even walk through a private holy-of-holies (seance-room) — would greatly disturb normal conditions therein. As well might one expect wood and coal in a stove to burn, when some one was throwing in water. Evil and peace will not unite. Water and fire do not assimilate.

Ancient customs, some of which still prevail, are like the civility we manifest toward strangers, with welcome.

The Illiad, with its tendencies to literary achievement, had also the merit of being true to nature in its descriptive passages. And this quality to truthfulness is such as all writers, historians, and poets, so highly prize, as a virtue of inestimable value and true worth in mankind.

Let this quality, be your own goodly portion, and wisdom will be blended with inspiration from spiritual source, to elevate and to bless.

The darkness of night, and the blackness of despair, cannot be more repulsive than that which a condition of untruthfulness produces.

For a symbol of truth, we have the lighted torch, which disperses the gloom of darkness and (d)evil in our midst.

Let each of us be a chancellor of peace and liberty, with the highest degree of manhood and its tenderness and loyalty, to teach the doctrine of Spiritualism boldly.

The consideration of a noble character is always most gratifying, as it certainly brings a condition of peace and harmony, notwithstanding the struggles with adversity, error, and criticism, may have been many and formidable.

One thing, in nature, succeeds another, and countless change-upon-change is the order-of-the-day. On the other hand, there is regularity and method, plainly showing the handiwork of the Supreme Designer.

Seasons come and go, and which shall be, till the end of the earth's existence. Worlds are made and destroyed, or rather changed. But the Master Mind remaineth forever; for time, space and divine power are illimitable, without beginning or end.
The peaceful and happy mind delights to dwell, in wrap contemplation, on divinity; for, like prayer, such thought begets a fuller measure of spirituality to bless and to sanctify us mortals.

So, surrounded by material conditions, it certainly is good to remove our mind from materiality, and to draw unto us the tender vibrations of the heavenly hosts of enlightened spirits, who invariably respond to our call.

A song of gladness issues from the joyful ones, over the discovery that their beloved relatives and others are over in the near yet vast Great Beyond, dwelling as spiritual beings, in the land of continued life and progression.

To those who have had convincing proof of spirit-return, my previous statement is no idle phantasy of an unbalanced mind.

To them, the discovery is a fact — an absolute fact — that natural existence continues, in the space that is contiguous to the earth's atmosphere; and that spirits come to us, piercing through the fifty miles of atmosphere, and re-visit the former places-of-long-ago.

Then, my friends, let us place ourselves in an attitude of humility, and with reverence to Infinite Intelligence, rejoice over the knowledge of the coming of the new-birth — the birth of the soul into heaven, where dwelleth all who pass out of mortality to immortality.

My co-worker Thomas Carlyle in this special message says:

"With the sincerity and purity of a good mortal life, we of the spirit-band can come to our relatives and friends, and can comfort them in the time of sorrow. (We hover near, around and about them,) to whisper soft, sweet, gentle tunes of harmonious melodies in their ears, in the still, quiet hours."

He continues:

"Be ever ready, to give ready hearing and a kind hand to the heart-rending souls, that they may have faith to look up, and that their dear ones in mortal life may know in time of bereavement that they still live."

"Be not ashamed to preach this gospel truth, to those who may gather around, who are seeking for spiritual knowledge, to learn more of the life beyond."

"We rejoice over your progressiveness, (meaning all who are reading this book); and may God bless all those who are endeavoring to seek the light and truth of Spiritualism."

The circumstances attending spiritual development, are such as to encourage one to
progress in knowledge and attainment. One spirit phenomenon may appeal to us more forcibly than another; and yet the conviction of the truth of spirit-return is ever present.

One likes physical manifestations of spirit force, while to another the mental phases of mediumship are more appealing, and more lasting in their impression. One phase of mediumship is neither higher nor lower than another, because all we seem to need; therefore, all phases are necessary, in order to satisfy different people of the truth of spirit-life.

So many obtain convincing proof, and still they are looking for more evidence of spirit-return,—never satisfied. Others, again, want to be entertained and amused by witty messages. So there are different grades of investigators, who may be termed honest seekers of the truth of immortality. And when no other motive is present, bereavement will urge one to seek religious consolation in Spiritualism.

The uncertainties of mortal life need not alarm us, because we must expect them as a part of mortal existence. But when we come to the consideration of passing over into eternal life, as spirits, there is no uncertainty about that condition.

If everybody were as sure about a continuance of human existence as I am positive, then all would be well for Spiritualism.

And I feel called upon to make this great truth plain, to all who have eyes to see, and ears open to receive the beneficial knowledge, that all eventually reach the spirit world and inhabit it, as spirits.
CHAPTER V.

Ignorance — Skepticism.

Though worldly wisdom shake the cautious head,
No truth from heaven descends upon our sphere
Without the greeting of the skeptic's sneer:
Denied, and mocked at, till its blessings fall
Common as dew and sunshine over all.

—Whittier.

Ignorance — the greatest foe of mankind
— must be dispelled, and truth substituted
for error, so that genuine progress may be
made by all, here, right now.

Do it now by obeying the impulse for
good!

So many grievous mistakes are made by
those who fail to stop, look ahead, and listen
to the still small voice which impresses us to
learn that it is important to have a knowl-
edge that amounts to a decided conviction,
that our relatives and dear ones can com-
municate with us, from the pearly shores of
heaven.

The knowledge, wisdom, and truth, which
bring us to a condition that embraces spirit-
uality, also enable us to understand the fact
of future continued existence. And this

knowledge is for all; yet only those who
apply their knowledge, with reason, can be
made to fully appreciate the value and the
meaning of the positive statement, that all
are sure to meet with the reward of future
life — if a natural event can be designated
as a 'reward.'

This condition entails no punishment or
torture to disbelievers, nor to those who
ignore or even reject the spiritual teachings
of immortality.

The seed is planted for spiritual food, and
the harvest, in due time, will be of a spiritual
character, to nourish the soul and to sustain
it for future effort.

There is a time for receiving the message
from enlightened and exalted spirits: it is
when one has determined sincerely to walk
uprightly in the foot-steps-of-the-Almighty,
whereby a foundation is made for the recep-
tion of our spirit friends and relatives.

Like attracts like, in almost every sense.
Good thoughts lead to good deeds. Prepara-
tion, with wisdom and loving-kindness, ear-
nestly seeking moral elevation, necessarily
attracts the graces and virtues of life which
are so highly prized by all right-minded per-
sons.

Likewise, (in a physical sense) try to
attract the best, the noblest and highest spir-
its, and the result will bring success as wished; and developed spirits will gather around to help and to protect you from all evil, with God's guiding mind. See Psalms CXXI.

High, grand aspirations, will bring the most beautiful angel forces, to overwhelm you with inspiration, and the illumination that gives permanent exaltation.

Lead us on, kindly light, into the mysterious sanctum which yields the spiritual force to bless us for well-doing and well-being — right-minded in the sight of the heavenly hosts.

King David of ancient reign, sang the songs of sacred melody to glorify our Heavenly Father, for his mercy, justice, and bounty showered on the faithful who served God and man sincerely and honorably. So he, as an advanced spirit, wishes to come to me and to you, to raise us up to the king's throne set in town and in woodland also, so that his kingly favor may help us to rise as high as the highest aspiration can elevate us.

The rapturous melody of tuneful harmonies greet the ear, and make us feel that music hath charms to lull us to peaceful conditions, so that inspirational thoughts may have a free dwelling place within us.

Sing, and all the world seems to sing with us, making our hearts lighter, and helping us to forget unpleasantness.

In the spirit-world, the most entrancing music of the spheres resounds through space, to entertain and to spiritualize those who have ambition to progress toward attainment.

Silence is golden. All bad thoughts tend to tarnish the golden efforts.

All the books that have been written in the past, have had a potent influence on the minds of the people, chiefly for good, because authors invariably try to give out their best thought. Have you noticed how many writers of books had minds that tried to break away from materiality, seeking the spiritual side of life, to fathom its subtleties?

Let us get right down to the solid facts of nature, and learn that it is truthful to declare, with no inept statement, that every human being is a spirit now, encased in a covering of flesh; and that this encasement will be cast aside as gross material, allowing the soul to ascend into ethereality. This is a description of so-called death, and which need not give you any alarm whatsoever.

Transition of the soul-body (from mortality to immortality), is a natural event — not a miracle — and why grieve over any change that occurs in nature?
We express joy, with a smile, for the new-born babe; let us greet death (of the mortal body) with a smile of satisfaction, over the knowledge that a new and surpassingly beautiful existence greets us, over-the-border, in the blissful Great Beyond.

The power of the mind is great, and can project its thought into anatomical parts of the body, into places and conditions, and even out into the vastness of illimitable space, past planets, stars, and stellar constellations.

So thought travels; and therefore, it must be a thing. There is a popular saying that “thoughts are things,” and the assertion is a truthful one.

One practical application of the power of thought, is to put it to good use by commanding this power to eliminate all adverse or ‘bad’ thoughts within our own mentality. Hence the power of thought may be used to purify one’s self, and thus to be a living example to others, of purity and cleanliness — and which is appreciated by those strangers, neighbors, and acquaintances, who are “worth while.” So it is logical to say that, from a standpoint of mentality, one’s position is always advanceable.

Let the mind be active, and you will find that the sub-conscious mind (acting on the mental mind, or brain), is still more active; and besides, it holds a finer and more subtle psychic (soul) quality. This is logical, because every one will admit that soul quality is superior to the quality of mere glandular or muscular tissue.

But what does this mental action lead us to? One path leads to those aspirational and intellectual intuitions, which help us to visualize heavenly scenes. That is always the transcendingly upward path. The other path is set for us to tread during our whole mortal career. And in a worldly-practical way, we use our conscience, judgment, and the final arbiter of reason, to properly guide our footsteps in business, society, and in our general growth.

Starting from brain, mind, reason, subconsciousness, intuition, and aspiration, we reach a condition aptly termed divine, because it carries us, in thought, to the force (which reaches us) from Infinite Intelligence. This force or power of spirit, is impressionally given to mediums, for the purpose of promoting knowledge of occult power among our fellow-beings here on earth.

Every day shows evidence, that the people of earth are more-and-more anxious to receive help from the Infinite, through spiritual channels, to enable them to gain advance-
ment, mentally, morally and spiritually, while they maintain proper or normal bodily health and strength. The wheels of good fortune may propel us along serenely, safely and agreeably, single or double, through mortal life; there may be strife and discord, contention and bickering; ingratitude and insolence to overcome; but eventually, we all find that the journey-of-journeys leads us to gain glimpses of a vision, whereby we realize that we are to reach a place in God's eternal life.

"Seeing is believing," is a trite and popular saying which has many applications. But when one expects to see a spirit form, he should first learn if he be gifted with the psychic sight called 'clairvoyance.' This quality enables one to see a spirit; but all do not possess this gift, hence all cannot see spirits.

However, it is reasonable for us to accept the testimony of clairvoyants, as their gift of seeing spirits is so frequently demonstrated, that one is forced to admit the truth of clairvoyance.

We exult over the mastery of wrong tendencies, and say that the future holds vast storehouses filled with spiritual treasures, bountifully bestowed on the faithful by divine favor.

It is so true, that all mankind eventually reaches the plane of thought whereby they fully realize that pleasures, to be of lasting benefit, must be unselfish ones, with true spiritual motives behind them.

One who becomes spiritualized says, "We have conquered the enemy of distrust and discord. Let bygones be bygones. All's well from now, henceforth, and forever more."

Adaptation of self to others, is a condition that must be studied, wished for, and exercised with a super-human force of expression. This is a practical condition of daily life, whereby progress is made step-by-step with patient endeavor. Some call it tact; others term it the application of high moral control over self; while others admit that 'tis a divinity which shapes our course and shows one how to be considerate of others less fortunate.

The angel hosts of advancement proclaim their power for good, by impressing us all, at times, to stand bravely by the colors of truth, mercy and goodness, in our attitude toward all mankind.

No, the wicked do not go unpunished; but it is not a physical chastisement in a literal hell of everlasting torment, such as theolo-

gians are in the habit of picturing to the credulous.

The mind must have its day of reckoning. The past is recalled. Remorse penetrates the deepest cell of conscience, and regrets are outspoken. Then it is, that prayer to the Almighty becomes earnest; and with this sincerity of reproach, and craving for help, with confidence in the power of Supreme Intelligence, a step is taken for wholesome good. Goodness is gained thereby, and we say that the prayerful effort has been answered by successful aid toward future progress of the individuals.

An aura of the astral body possesses the inherent quality of both color and illumination, so that others may distinguish the personal brightness, and recognize the person's character, by the color of the effluvium. So we see by this, that a mortal takes something with him, when he joins the angels in the heavenly spheres of progress.

This information reaches this writer by impression, from enlightened spirits; hence the knowledge thus given, is weighty and truthful — not mere conjecture, or the product of an over-wrought imagination.

It goes to prove, therefore, that there is light in heaven, — not utter darkness in the world to come, — and that our astral body (also called the soul form) has a place and a standing of conscious identity in the next life — the life eternal, where spirits abide.

Again, the soul possessing the inherent dynamic quality of forceful continued existence, it remains, therefore, for me to assert positively that the soul claims redemption.

The power of redeeming the soul from past experiences of error, vice, and crime, is beyond, yet within the reach of all to save the soul from desuetude, even to its uttermost limitations. 'Tis the power divine, ever present, and capable of being absorbed and assimilated by every soul which yearns for righteous advancement.

The so-called "undiscovered country" of Shakespeare, is none other than the real heaven, where mortals of earth existence spend their future eons of limitless time, or unmeasured existence.

Exploratory explorations can be made by those who are able to separate the astral body (or soul-body) from the mortal body for a short time, and then, by means of the magnetic chord, be drawn back again to the earth form. When unable to return, by being detached, the phenomenon of death of the mortal body takes place.

So there are limitations to flight of the astral body. To return is one event; and to
return with ability to memorize and to *describe scenes* of heaven, is an achievement that calls for peculiar psychic qualities requiring bodily strength, acumen, and intellectual clearness.

Oh, the happy thought of again meeting, face-to-face, the dear ones of long ago, fills me with joy inexpressible. The news of our meeting to come, will spread far and near, and 'twill be a thanksgiving day with gratitude to our Heavenly Father, for the blessing of the reunion.

Clinging to old delusions; guided by tradition that is old yet valueless; cowed by fear of vengeful wrath; let us realize that with such an incubus, one cannot make any headway toward real righteous attainment. But goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our life, if we lift up our voice, with confidence in our Creator, and, with humility, ask for divine help and power to advance in knowledge, truth and to tread spiritual paths.

We need not waste much time with vain regrets over a mis-spent life, because hope takes us along, and up, with assurances of a final triumph. Stop! Pray not to yield to adverse influences, then the way will be laid on the spiritual path, for progression.

Let to-day be a day of rejoicing over the victory over past carnal conditions — never to return. Progress is then assured, and all's well. Thanksgiving comes with hearty good cheer, with prayer and thankfulness for the good that has been received during the year. Prayer causes protection to follow in the path of the godly.

The open-book-of-Nature, tells us on every page, that every day is a day of thanksgiving for those who walk uprightly in the sight of the angel hosts. Past low conditions are forgotten, for they are being supplanted by improved ways and means for spiritual unfoldment, for those who are willing to help themselves in this unfoldment, with divine help.

So it is true that "Heaven helps those who help themselves," in one vast co-operative uplifting effort.

The immediate demand of those who are undeveloped in righteousness, is one largely of self-interest, to obtain possessions, caste, wealth and position. But with moral and spiritual advancement of the individual, there cometh a super-human aid which is divinely fair and gloriously elevating — 'tis the influx of Infinite Intelligence into every nerve, fibre and tissue, of our selves — and great is our reward for well-doing.

To us, the astral world seems to hold many
mysteries and hidden beauties which the clairvoyant alone is capable of visualizing, unless we include those psychics who are able to take flight to the astral realms by detaching their soul-body from the mortal body. Some who have done this, describe the beauty, magnificence, and dazzling splendor of the astral regions, in a way that still seems mystifying to us.

The auras of God (typifying infinite intelligence), are his handiwork shown in the brilliancy and beauty of variegated colors, which no mortal tongue can properly describe. The magnificent grandeur of visualized paintings, scenery, and designs of patterns, with solid back-ground of variegated colors, are seen as with a magnifying-glass.

So there are wondrous features and conditions for us to behold in the next (celestial) period of our existence. While some may catch a glimpse of them now, it remains for most of us to wait for the good-time-coming, when we shall leave mortality for immortality.

It is a self-evident conclusion, that, as maturity of a mortal is a sequence of the infantile stage of life, so is the celestial life (for all of us) a growth to real maturity of personality. Therefore, so-called death of us, is acknowledged to be a change to a happier and more progressive state of continued existence. Death is thus robbed of its terrors, and we leave mortal life with few regrets, knowing that a welcome awaits us on the Other Side.

When we notice people grieving, for months and years, over bereavement of some loved one who has experienced the Great Adventure, we cannot fail to have a friendly desire to teach such mourners that their grief is largely a selfish personal matter, and that their ignorance should be dispelled by a knowledge of spirit-life, and of the truth of spirit-return. Grief and despair are then changed to rejoicing, for the glorious astral life of spirits is a reality devoutly to be wished for—and 'tis a consummation that can not be prevented, as it is a natural condition.

There is an indication that more-and-more people are learning the truth about Spiritualism, because badges of mourning in public, pomp and display of terrifying aspects of death, costly funerals, and expensive mausoleums, are all now being avoided by the well-informed.

Greetings from our spirit friends, before festive occasions, presage felicity; and such greetings are expressive of their tender regards of loving-kindness for us. Spirits cer-
tainly come to visit us frequently, and as “like attracts like,” congenial people attract congenial spirits.

This force of attraction or affinity prevails to an extent throughout all forms of nature, that stamps it as one of Nature's fundamental laws. Chemistry recognizes the law as the force which makes possible the combination of atoms. And, likewise, psychology recognizes the law, teaching that a good thought attracts good spirits, while bad thoughts attract undeveloped elementals.

The holy influence of progressive and saintly spirits of heavenly habitation, comes to us like a refreshing breeze of fresh air, and the sensitives do “feel” or “sense” that benign influence as a source of exhilaration. On our part, a receptive mood proves to be a welcome to those enlightened spirits who seek to do good by us, by coming to impress our brain, for right incentive and righteous action. And when this is accomplished, they say that their duty becomes a pleasurable one; and naught but good is the result.

When a spirit has failed to seek progression, and, as an earth-bound spirit, remains in a condition of low materiality, (sometimes not even aware that they have entered spirit-life conditions), our prayers and exhortations prove to be of decided benefit to such spirits; and they express their gratitude to us, for our intercession.

We acknowledge the truth of spirit-return, for it is a scientific fact of nature. And let us give thanks to God for the help and guidance from our spirit friends.

In ancient times, mythological gods and goddesses occupied the minds of men. But as knowledge increased, their minds broadened, and as one result, we find them worshiping one single god, Jehovah, still as a personal god. Now, in modern times, the cynosure of all eyes and minds is placed on the modern conception of divinity, which shows God to us as an impersonal Supreme Mind.

Spiritual treasures are spread before our eyes to show us how much we are to be thankful for. So let earth resound with expressions of thanksgiving to God, for the innumerable blessings showered on us now and during the past year. Never forsaken, the righteous wax fat in all that goes to make life a grand success.

To all spiritual mediums, let me say, “Proceed diligently in your good work, as disseminators of 'the truth about Spiritualism,' and great will be your reward.”

Divine blessings flow as freely as the mountain torrent, to benefit us in many ways; and appreciation therefore brings
manifold tokens of reward to us. Likewise, to acknowledge with sincerity, the help of our spirit friends and relatives, brings to us increased power to demonstrate that celestial spirit-life is a reality.

To be carried back in thought a thousand years or more, places us in harmony with those ancient rulers who considered the needs of their people, and who treated their battling yet vanquished foes with magnanimity.

Human nature craves knowledge from the wise ones of long ago, feeling that the many years have added to the storehouse of their mental accumulations, and that they can yield the buried treasures of matured thought to us. Substantially, this is true; for those enlightened rulers of the ages ago still live, still think, still gain knowledge of experience, which, (as spirits returned to us) they are willing to impart to us.

To treasure the good, pure, and the aesthetic, means to accumulate in our minds those sublime and elevating thoughts which lead us up to contemplation of things spiritual; and approaching the Infinite Power above and beyond, they carry one to the highest, with knowledge for obtaining more spiritual force.

The lamp of light is filled with the oil-of-

 gladness, helping you to see clearly the important truths of spiritual knowledge. To fulfill obligations, advanced spirits will guide you safely and securely along life's rugged pathway, with one success upon another, with joy and thanksgiving.

To be successful is to be ever mindful of the truth. Let not the mind waver, then pleasant changes will occur to brighten your pathway, which I have called the straight and narrow path which leads to success.

The truth, when presented to a clamoring public, will interest and awaken them to thought over higher things of life than mere material matters.
PRAYER
We do give thanks unto thee, almighty God, for the bounty of thy precious gift of occult power, to manifest to others the divine truths of spirit manifestation, which gives us joy and happiness. And take away all obstacles and all influences that would tend to lead to the unfruitful tree-of-life. Help us, Oh, God, to realize our presence in thy sight. Keep us pure in heart and upright in our daily walks. Let us be true to ourselves; and let our light shine before men, so that souls may long to hear from us, and believe in our doctrine of spiritual truth.

May every day be a thanksgiving-day, while we make a firm determination to do the will of our Father in heaven, so as to gain spiritual power, to unfold and unveil the mysteries of hidden powers that are within us. Let us continue to pray for strength and self-mastery over wrong-doing in the sight of God. May thy presence ever guide and protect us. Amen.

CHAPTER VI.

The theme that comes with brightness and clearness to the mind of purity, proves to be one of virtuous probity, and is recognized as character. The upbuilding of personality, of mental and moral qualities that are so highly prized by all progressives, is a matter of evolutionary process, and requires the time of infancy, as well as the following periods of our career, to bring it to a reasonable degree of ripeness.

But if you are looking, here, for maturity of self, you must be reminded that perfection is not attainable in mortal life, nor even is it known to reach perfection in the astral world as far as the seventh sphere of heaven; but in the vast unknown beyond that boundary, when one may blend into the affinitizing substance of the Infinite and reach the at-one-ment with God, then may our hopes be realized — then may perfect harmony reign.

Sweet memories carry us back to the innocent days of childhood with its accompaniment of childish toys and fancies. Then, days of early hopes came thick and fast, with wishes for rapid growth, possessions,
and social advancement. Then middle age, maturity, and the long expected transition, erroneously called 'death.' If this description is a correct one of your career, let me say that, instead of ending, your life is only just begun. The future, (of time without limit), eternal in the heavens, is to catch you up and hold you in its arms of ethereal ity, forever and forever, through changes innumerable, yet always it is found that personality persists.

There, the illuminating power of angel hosts is cast upon one till he rises to seek progress toward the source of all light — the Supreme Mind.

When one seeks rest from the cares and vicissitudes of life, his mind generally becomes quite active over possibilities of the future; for always, there seems to be a future ahead of us all, with its new conditions and probabilities of greater happiness than what has been experienced in the past.

Great thoughts, (like oaks), from little mentoids grow, as you think over what the future may probably, and possibly has, in store for you. Each thought is likened to drops of wine from a bottle, falling on corn, to stimulate it to sprout and grow. And as one deep thought grows out of another, like pure white petals of the beautiful magnolia blossom, with maturity of logical thought, there comes the fragrance of the golden yellow stamens of ripe acquisition of knowledge, over the fact that immortal life in the spirit spheres cannot fail to be our common and glorious destination — whether one's past has been one of uprightness or of guilt, it matters not, because the destination shall be reached by all.

The harmonies and beauty of the heavenly spheres are incomparably grander than any similar qualities or features known to mortals; because, materiality being eliminated, the spiritual qualities of mankind then shine forth with resplendent illumination. Even the variegated colors, there, are more attractive than anything seen in earth-life by mortals. The rainbow, the coloring at sunset, the scintillation from gems — all combined could not surpass, in brilliancy of color, the wondrous hues produced by the angel hosts of heaven, and associated with them to indicate their virtues, characteristics and personal character.

So let it be known that throughout nature, in multitudinous forms, sizes, and colors, indications are presented to us, of the god-like qualities which they inherently possess. Divine influence pervades everything, every-
where, with its infinite power, goodness and light.

How many of us fully comprehend the power of spirit— which is life itself? No matter how old our spirit friends and co-workers may be, when they convey messages to us, they try to make their meaning plain and easily understood.

Robed in pure white, the exalted ancient spirits come to us with blessings, and they seek to impress us with their integrity and uprightness, knowing fully that if we mortals will but gather some of their spiritual force, we will gain a possession of great and lasting value.

So these good angels come to us, one after the other, to show by their presence that the onward course planned for us toward high ideals, meets with their approbation.

The good influence which an orator of honor throws out to the audience, is felt by them as if it were an electric current. Some call it personal magnetism, but in reality it is *spirit power* that can pierce every brain-cell of each individual within hearing of the speaker. So it is not so much the words, as it is the *spirit power* from the orator, which electrifies the listeners.

The nobility of value, my friends, that is worth more than material treasures, is the noble mind of a living temple (body) that is pure and undefiled, acceptable in the sight of divinity and the exalted spirits of ancient and honorable lineage and upright character.

Let us put on our robe of honor, so as to be worthy to receive the messages from our spirit friends by the power from Supreme Intelligence.

The sphere of heaven justly called the sphere-of-progress, is one in which all who have ambition to advance in thought, deed, and action, toward true progression, may do so. No obstacles are placed before the seeker after truth, yet there are personal hindrances that are like repelling influences, which each candidate for advancement does encounter. This condition is somewhat like one’s course through life on earth, where progression is also attainable for those who possess the necessary qualifications for success, and who exercise them for advancement.

A clear, cold, crisp atmosphere is no less exhilarating than the sense of freedom which steals over one when all clinging incumbrances are removed from one’s life, and a spiritual peace takes the place of material excitement and triviality. (Then it is that nature and nature’s God come into consideration, and a fair share of time is given to the contemplation of destiny, and attempts to
solve the riddle of life and of death of the mortal body.

By one’s optic vision can be seen the signs of dissolution, decay and disintegration of the mortal remains. Bones can be ground and spread in the wheat field, and can be actually seen in the growing crop of grain, as evidence of the phosphatic assimilation in vegetation. But this thought startles us from a lethargic condition of material concern to a question like this: “Where has the life principle, which so recently vitalized the mortal remains, gone?—and still more startling is the thought: “Whence came that life principle?”

The answer to “Whence” is that the life principle was accumulated from the vast universe and its spirit forces from divinity; and in due time “it goeth back whence it came.” Change certainly has taken place; but annihilation—never!

The emblem of a bell has for its symbolical meaning the ringing out of glad tidings of spiritual truth; and as the sounds from a bell vibrate like waves in every direction, there are circles of willing ears waiting and listening for the welcome sound, that will bring to them some tidings of loved ones gone on before them to their heavenly home. The bell of celestial worth and service rings out the news of immortality; and its pure “white thought,” which it conveys, outrivals the lily in its pure whiteness.

When we are taught by our religious instructors to not “hide our light under a bushel,” but to let it shine forth to illumine the minds of mankind about the truth of spirit-life—let it be understood that this means the light of heaven, mingling with the light of earth, to uplift us all from error, false tradition and superstition.

A bird coming with a lily or other white flower in its bill is emblematic of welcome news of purity, which is brought from the life beyond to cheer us mortals, and to encourage and hearten us with a reaffirmation that “all’s well” Over There.

All over the earth human beings are born, coming suddenly like innumerable mushrooms which develop overnight. They gladden the hearts of parents and relatives by their presence, their beauty, and the hopes and future possibilities, which lie imbedded in each infantile form. It cannot be possible that these children, with divine possibilities, are born with wonderful capabilities only to be destroyed, utterly, in the near future! Banish the thought!!

The limpid stream of water reflects the hues of sky, cloud, foliage and sun’s rays: our
virtues, moral attributes, and yearnings for access to the Infinite, do reflect in us the supremely divine qualities of the Creator of heaven and earth and all that is therein.

Spiritual adepts who see a large golden light come down from heaven, say that it typifies a golden harvest of souls from earth to heaven, and is the occasion for rejoicing over the knowledge that all souls live-on-and-on forever. There is no death of the soul’s personality. The flag that flows out straight and full by the east wind, brings a sign of victory over those thoughts and influences of the ignorant and prejudiced ones, who would seek to crush the edification and illumination which Spiritualism offers to all.

Have you noticed a bird in its flight carrying a panicle of flowers and an ear of grain in its beak? This indicates the beauty and the ripe thought, which are brought to us from spirit-land.

A candle that burns a long time needs to have its wick trimmed; and this is like one whose spiritual light grows dim at times, and needs the re-vivifying influence of infinite power. [All of us need this divine power to strengthen and to sustain us on the journey of life]

Let us take the golden ladle of sincerity, and dip down deep into the waters-of-life, to fill our white bowl of spirituality, knowing that the gain will be munificent and imperishable.

Look at the tree of life! From it comes (through the caterpillar) the silken strands of good thoughts, kind deeds and spiritual growth, to make our lives acceptable to divinity, with the approbation of our guardian angels, and the gratitude of mankind. A good life needs no lamps to light its way, nor a blast of trumpet to announce its presence. Each day brings to us a patch of colored fabric, which we incorporate (symbolically) into a cloth or sheet of sufficient size to wind around us when ready to make ascent to our eternal home in heaven. At that time earth and heaven seem to blend into each other as a mass of most beautiful colors and design.

A ship sailing in the smooth water brings us to the thought that hope and expectancy cause a firm conviction within us, that the passage into the Great Beyond will be a “Great Adventure,” attended with conditions of peace, tranquility and delight.

Unto thee, O, thou Infinite Intelligence, we give thanks, wishing to sail the deep blue seas, and to cast the knowledge of spiritual truth over land and sea.

Eternal light in the heavens may seem
mysterious to many, yet it need not mystify us, because force of the Divine Mind is ever present and powerful throughout nature, to create and to endow substance with spiritual light, heat, magnetism and force. As spirit can make all things possible, let us consider the wonderful production of light and color which emanate from every human being, reflecting character and thought, and called aura.

There is abundance of spiritual food for all to partake of, and so it remains for those who are desirous of obtaining some knowledge of spiritual matters, to step forward, out from the darkness of ignorance, and learn from the source of all knowledge, that we creatures are destined to a spiritual life, after the mortal existence is terminated.

And nowhere in the impressional writings from spirits can the truth of immortality be found in plainer language than in this book, which will continue to be a source of inspiration to many benighted souls of earth.

As a soft-toned trumpet announces the presence of soldiers and their duties, sounds of melodious tones greet our ears, to tell us of the fact that our spirit friends are able to reach us with messages of life in the spirit realm, announcing the joy and peace.

Antiquity, thou art noble, kind, and true to traditions, of the desire to progress from crude and rudimentary conditions toward a higher standard of life among the tribes and races of men! And it is a positive assertion, that kings and queens, as far back as some mentioned prominently in the bible, do make their appearance to clairvoyant mediums of to-day, and they do give utterance, in no uncertain words, that they live yet, as members of the spiritual kingdom.

Let it be remembered that time is largely used by us mortals; but to spirits, space and time have no limit, and are not used in reckoning by them.

The Queen of Sheba now comes to say, that she carried gold and valuable spices to present to her tributary king; and that she would wish to carry the precious gifts of spiritual knowledge and hope of immortality to all people of earth. How gracious, and full of loving kindness, to learn that humility in a queen becomes one of her most precious gems of the crown of womanhood!

In olden days the ship-of-state (government) had the king at its helm, as sole authority over his subjects. But now, with an advancing civilization, the people themselves are gaining wisdom, power and righteousness, and need no rulers of kingly mien to dictate and to misguide. More-and-more
shall the spiritual qualities be diffused among the masses, so as to enable them to avoid misguidance, mis-rule, and economic oppression of industrial kingcraft. The ancient kings and queens, in spirit, now look down on us from their sphere-of-progress, and applaud the efforts of the people of all classes, to throw off the chains and shackles of economic serfdom, and to rise in power, might and love, to co-operate, to fraternize, and to commingle as men of equality, in the sight of heaven and earth.

A book of spiritual truth is likened to a ladder that reaches up-and-up, to the region where bluebirds of happiness are singing over the thought that purity of its spiritual teachings is the highest of the high.

The faithful need not be surprised to receive wonderful evidences of spirit-return, for it is to them that enlightened spirits are glad to demonstrate their power. Jesus, the master-seer of all mediums in the past, occasionally manifests his presence now, in spirit form, to mediums of worth and efficiency, who are worthy of receiving such an exalted angel from beyond the seventh heavenly sphere.

We ask God, in prayer, to save those wayward and unruly ones from unrighteous actions, and to be entirely freed from all stumbling-blocks along the path of life.

— And such prayers are answered.

As the elephant towers above all other mammals, so does spiritual thought mount higher, and possesses greater volume of power than all other thought. This shows us that trivial matters of daily events need not occupy all of our mental consideration, to the exclusion of higher thought.

Let us listen to the angel's trumpet, as it sounds the note of glad awakening in spirit-life, of those who realize that there is no death of soul's personality.

And let the joyous bells ring out the glad tidings of relief from sordid conditions of life, for those who look for a savior, and find within themselves that still small voice which tells that salvation from all sin must come from one's inner being—with a sincere feeling of repentance, and a prayerful attitude toward God and the angel hosts for forgiveness, protection and help. Then shall the victory over sin be realized, with the future course directed up-and-beyond all backward conditions of life. Thus is redemption from error made plain for easy comprehension.

The horseshoe of "good luck" or rather of success is found suspended over many doorways as a symbol of felicitous anticipations, which attend those who earnestly strive for
good conditions of life amid odds, which, at
times, seem overwhelming. Material accu­
cumulations, like money, do not of themselves
bring success, unless there be an element of
righteousness accompanying the money
gains. And again, success does not imply
that all things desirable must be coming to
us alone, (for we must give in order to get.) In
this meaning, when looking at a statue of
Lincoln, I can almost see a fountain of good
thoughts streaming out from his form and
running in all directions, with charity to all
and malice toward none.

The dead hopes of futile endeavors to gain
ascendancy by seeking ephemeral pleasures
of passion, lie buried in oblivion of the past,
because the less ardent yet most permanent
qualities of aesthetic ideality and of un­
selfish regard for humanity have entirely
supplanted those blasted hopes of old.

The kingly quality of an overshadowing
spirituality, comes to us when the yellow­
light-of-wisdom blends into a broad ray of
white light, emblematic of purity of thought,
deed, and action. It comes with strong spirit
power to bless its recipient, and happy is he
who can comprehend the richness of that
spiritual gift and enviable blessing. In turn,
the white-light-of-purity blends into the
color of blue or royal purple, emblematic of

those spiritual charms which all admire and
look at with reverential awe.

On the solid block of granite as a firm
foundation of truth, there rests the emblem­
atic globe of pure white light, to indicate
that the wisdom which comes to us from
angels in heaven, who have progressed to
spiritual heights, is the truth of ages and the
glory of the godly.

Let us walk in the footsteps of Jesus the
inspirational speaker, seer, and spiritualist
medium, who taught that "spiritual love, with
service, is the greatest thing in the world."

Let not temptation to adverse conditions
overcome us.

The wondrous treasure of knowledge that
makes plain the mysterious mystifications of
occultism, doth reveal to us the secret work­
ings of those righteous spirits who dispense
news from the spirit side of life. Such knowl­
edge is not "bottled up," but is held in re­
serve, for the edification and delectation of
those who are spiritually poised to receive
the truth that shall set all free from the
mental bondage of ritualism, ceremonialism,
and myth-ology.
CHAPTER VII.

A dainty basket of beautiful flowers, when presented to a friend, is appreciated as a gift of sincerity and kindliness. Angel friends strew our pathway with flowers as evidences of their appreciation of our efforts to please them, who watch over us, when they see us walking the straight and narrow path which leadeth to peace of mind over the knowledge of spiritual truth.

* * *

A barrel of strong drink, having properties to stimulate and excite, even to a condition of physical collapse or progressive paralysis, should be shunned as positively as one should avoid those activities of an exciting nature which lead one on-and-on to moral degradation into the slough of despair. Then, all conditions being favorable for worthy advancement, one grows into the higher state and stages of thought, whereby he feels as contented as birds of the air in or near the mother's nest, where they are assured of present and future success.

* * *

The bluebird of happiness is ever on hand, yet sufficiently distant to oblige us all to seek happiness, in order to find it.

* * *

Old, yet ever new, wisdom of the ages has strength and beauty to incline the understanding of mortals to the consideration of the oldest knowledge of all — the creation of the universe by supreme spirit intelligence — God.

Clairvoyants see so many beautiful emblems, it would be to others like a continuous moving-picture show or panorama of scenes placed before them — to see by the sixth sense, what spirits wish us to see.

As one shepherd succeeds another, so do teachers of human flocks come one after the other with ancient lore, tradition, and the knowledge of experience, to place their leaves of printed matter before us. Their compilations are presented to us as open books of spiritual facts, and we discover that they were inspired writers of the word of God through the intermediaries or denizens of the spirit world. Such writings furnish us with the key which unlocks the mysteries of spirit-life, and shows to us the activities of life which we anticipate as our own future existence.
With all such spiritual writings there is seen, by clairvoyants, the emblem of an umbrella, which signifies protection—that acceptance of those spiritual teachings will protect us from falsity and render us immune to ecclesiastical error.

One of the oldest musical instruments is the harp with its vibrant tones of purity, to touch with its chords the heart's tenderness, and to awaken emotions of love that might be likened to that love for humanity, which springs up with strength eternal in the hearts of men and women for others, with spiritual fervor. And to intensify that emotion, let us give gifts of flowers in basket and wreath, to those who are near us now—not waiting till the right time passes, and becomes too late for us to express our friendship and kind regards for others.

The flag of the free is bound to wave triumphantly, for those who are willing to struggle and strive for conditions of freedom. Likewise, we notice that those who gain access to spiritual heights must do so by overcoming obstacles, by avoiding temptations, and by diligently applying their time to improve, to unfold, and to become soul-conscious. True redemption from error and soul salvation follow as a sequence, and the flag of their spiritual freedom is seen waving as an emblem for others to do likewise.

The prophet of old had his books or rolls of manuscript, for it shows prerogative as a human, in contrast to animals, by his ability to use articulate speech and also to inscribe his thoughts on stone, parchment, and the paper of books, so that his knowledge may be perpetuated, after death of the body. But this is not all. The book-of-life has more chapters. They are written in heaven by those wise spirits of integrity and uprightness who seek earth life again to help mortals along the rocky roads to spiritual knowledge and success of the permanent kind.

A stream of spiritual wisdom seems to come to mediums of honor, from the spirit realms, to enable them to ring the bell of glad tidings that “There is no death,” when all are free from the mortal body—because all do then assert themselves as free moral agents in spirit form, ready to progress, ready to return to earth again at intervals, and ready to declare that they still live.

The eagle as a large bird of power and sagacity, soars high and reaches the highest regions above earth. As we mortals soar in thought, so do our spirit forms literally find strength to make flights to great distances, even to planets beyond, bringing back accounts of their remarkable trips, tied up as
we would tie bunches of celery.

The round white light, so often seen by those mediums who are gifted with clairvoyance (second sight), is an emblem of illumination-for-the-soul and purity-for-the-body. It comes as a welcome visitor, to shower praise on the upright, the pure-in-heart, and to those with 'clean hands,' for they are acceptable in the sight of the enlightened angel hosts of heaven, and also acceptable to divinity.

Coming to a deeper realization of the truth found in Spiritualism, we feel the necessity of disseminating the knowledge that sets us free, mentally. Knowledge of any kind is not meant to be stored up in a reservoir, but like the fountain it should be given out to all who are thirsting for spiritual wisdom, because it is the essence of all philosophical truth. None but the mercenary would interfere with the seeker after truth, and such interference can never amount to a total suppression. So let the bells of freedom ring out the glad tidings of the birth of saving-grace found in every good message uttered and sent to us from those angels of enlightenment and exalted position.

Onward-and-upward we go in thought, to place ourselves in proper condition to receive the impressions of our spirit relatives and friends; and it is predicted that many will begin to commune with spirits, who never did so before. Yes, spirituality will strengthen your moral force, develop character, and lead you into the way of the solemnity of spiritualized thought. Then, communion with the angel saints will remove all doubt and uncertainty from the mind overburdened with enthralling bonds of superstition and error. The clouds of ecclesiastical doctrine are rolling by, as they represent the husks that cover the grain of loving-kindness—which needs no salaried almoners.

Green fields of golden grain remind one of the approaching harvest, when there will be time for rejoicing over the abundant production from Mother Earth. And in a greater degree for rejoicing—not grieving—is the thought that time is ripening human souls, so that they may soon enter the kingdom of saints in heaven, where all souls take up their future habitation. This is called the harvest-of-souls which Mother Earth yields to divinity the source of all life.

An aged prophet comes to me now, with a lighted candle, to show that each spirit, may he be ever so old, does radiate the light-of-other-days to us, and bids us gaze at the
spiritual illumination which the ancients can bestow.

Dust collects everywhere, seemingly misplaced, and we use a mop to remove it. And the effort is not useless. (Like particles of dust, our faults do accumulate till they greatly embarrass us. But with effort, our shortcomings may be brushed aside, and our faults can be eradicated.) All of our remediable defects of character are seen by our spirit friends, who graciously help us to improve, by their suggestions to us by impression, or by advice sent to us through spiritual mediums. Though our sins be many and our iniquity great, the Lord and our guardian angels devise ways and means to accomplish our redemption and salvation. Not only is it possible for us to have our faults removed, as a stream or fountain of water clarifies itself, but it is possible for mortals to rise out of depths of degradation and become pure white in unfolded character, to the glory of an infinite intelligence manifesting within us, and by the sanction and encouragement of our spirit relatives and friends who have lent their aid to us.

Anticipating future psychic advancement, it is well to state that considerations of importance make it necessary for those who seek progress, to abstain from all forms of excitement and stimulation, so as to place themselves in the best possible condition of receptivity. The ethereal quality of psychic force is not fully comprehended by mortals, as it cannot be seen; yet, while silent, it is potent with dynamic energy to act on the material brain cells, so as to impress them with spirit thought. This is not supernatural, but just a part of nature, even as spirits are governed by 'natural law in the spiritual world.'

As the sound of trumpets greets the ear, so do the heart-felt wishes of spirits of integrity reach us like notes of gladness, harmony and melody.

The bell, which rings out the volume of undulating wave sounds of gospel peace, tells us of the voice from heaven announcing the birth of a new era among the people of earth, wherein a higher plane of ethical conduct and of moral thought will be reached.

The white cross of religious fervor, depth of feeling, and righteous reverence for the Supreme Intelligence which directs the planets in their orbits, furnishes us with a symbol of purity, and of sincerity, to take into our daily lives in a practical way — which means the true application of religious principles.

The serpents of iniquitous and envious
propensities are none other than those low-minded creatures with undeveloped morals, who creep along looking for a chance to do wrong to others, by sending out bad thoughts to harass and to stifle the good qualities of their fellow-men. But a firm stand for the right, (with the conviction that the righteous will be given power from the Infinite), enables us to overcome those evil influences and to render the efforts of the vicious ones null and void. There is a divinity which aids us in protecting us from the evil thoughts of others, even to the full protection of our soul.

A nun, dressed in white, comes to me through the clouds and snow-storm to-night, to say that she is now on the pathway of spiritual endeavor, casting all sectarian thought aside, to give us the positive statement, that the spirit world contains spirit humans of all shades of thought and opinion. There is progression there for all; and not one is neglected utterly, but all do receive that illumination from spirits of advancement, which helps them to see more clearly their way onward toward higher spiritual attainment, be they ever so slow or backward. Hope comes to them, one by one, and then do they realize that death means a regeneration literally, because the old mortal body no longer carries the soul—with its inherent life (spirit) force, to continue on indefinitely.

All forms of dross as well as metals of value find their way into the melting-pot, and the fire soon enables the alchemist to separate the substances. The day-of-reckoning comes to us when our inner voice commands introspection, so as to separate the good from the bad. Then it is that we realize that the “fire test” is being applied, with the hope that only the good will permanently remain to bless and to sanctify.

When difficulties are to be overcome, we buckle on the armor of faith and courage and start on the way that leads to achievement. And by surrounding those obstacles, we grow stronger and better fitted to grapple with greater enemies who continually beset the pathway of the upright and just.

The two trumpets called ‘Integrity’ and ‘Will,’ give out blasts of sound that are recognized by others, and naught can subvert or silence these two trumpets of the godly.

There is a basket of good and useful gifts for all who are in need of spiritual presents, such as mercy, truth, kindness, patience and charity—which come from spirit source—divinity—to make us rich in heart. This basket is filled to overflowing, and seems to
be replenished from time-to-time from an inexhaustible supply. Just as Nature produces enough material things to satisfy every one, so does our Creative Intelligence give bountifully and abundantly of spiritual gifts, so that every one may become rich in their possession.

The bugle-call to action finds us ready to advance to conquer all opposition to the truth of Spiritualism. In this instance the pen is mightier than all weapons or forms of attack which lack sincerity, or love of truth, — which opposition springs from prejudice, ignorance, and mercenary motives. The pen of spiritual knowledge brings forth facts-after-facts that are indisputable, hence convincing to the most honest investigator or truth-seeker; and a flood of light issues from the pen that is guided by spirit power, because the illumination is from actual spirit entities of enlightenment. Leaves of ripe knowledge issue from spirit source, and they grow in size with the accompaniment of spirit force, till they are seen and pondered over by seekers after spirit truth. These leaves hold, and then scatter, the ripe seed of spiritual facts and spiritual phenomena, seeking the fertile brain cells of those who want to learn about spirit-life.

Let us assemble to proclaim the glad tidings of the dawn of a better day for mankind, inasmuch as it betokens a lively interest in the material and moral advancement of earth's people.

As a bird makes its flight with white roses in its bill, as a token of love and truth, let us go through life carrying the news of love and truth to the masses, of the fact that Spiritualism teaches us more truth about the kingdom to come than all ecclesiastical organizations throughout the world.

Now let me say that conditions for wondrous works along psychic lines are ripe and satisfactory.

Books from spirit source of crystalized thought are being printed with a definite object in view. The object is manifestly altruistic, educational, and indicative of the power-from-on-high, filtered down through the cultured minds of righteous spirit hosts of heaven. Peace they give, peace they bring unto you, because all loving regard and kindly interests spring from an earnest desire for tranquility. Combat, the other, opposite condition, is a disturbing one, and is only productive of discord and inharmonious activities.

So let us have peace now, henceforth, and forever! Our friend General Grant now says, that he is to be found active in efforts
to establish an uninterrupted world peace by impressing the minds of the covetous ones, with power of state, to decry the warlike force, which in the ultimate is the direct opposite to the love of God — of good — and all that is noble and praiseworthy.

The open-book-of-precept, orderly conduct, comity, and justice, is a volume of merit, which is set before every one capable of forming judgment of themselves first, and then of others. The dark clouds of distrust and suspicion are pushed aside and dispersed by the silvery white clouds of optimism and confidence, so as to show us how to deal with our associates of honor, integrity, and goodness. And it is a blessing from the Almighty that is vouchsafed to us, for exhibiting that form of charity for those who are undeveloped, which springs from the heart-fountains of sympathy and sincerity.

Who is he that never needeth help? All, do at times need the help which is bestowed on those who ask, with humility, and reverence, from the Supreme Mind, who doeth all things well.

Those watchful spirits who approach near to the Divine Mind, thus receiving the influx of the Supreme Intelligence more direct than mortals, are better qualified to teach us the way, the truth, and the life one should live in order to receive abundant reward for well-doing.

Efforts that are made to give spirit writings to the public, are attended with surprise mingled with pleasure, knowing that such writings are read by many who may not have the courage to openly admit that great joy is experienced; but heart-felt thanks are given out for the consolation from spirit messages as transcribed by appointed mediums.

Every bird that flies past you, seems to carry a message of love, for we notice their speed, ease, and freedom, which betoken contentment and joy; and their songs are chirpings of light-heartedness that make us feel cheerful.

Man needs no pedestal to help him give forth judgment, for the sacred book of ancient love is amply able to furnish that which is needed to introduce the Lord's mercy and loving kindness, and with it fill the hearts of mankind with good thoughts, whither goeth good deeds, to glorify our Father who is in heaven.

Those friendly shade trees that shelter us from the sweltering heat of summer, are like the good spirits who come with their protective thoughts, which drive away unfriendly influences; and then we realize that
their value is great, and as sturdy as the great oak trees.

* * *

An ancient Egyptian king manages to impress his personality on me from spirit-land, bringing news of the fertile condition of spirit-forces by bringing bags of harvested grain, which, when opened, disclose the fact that each grain is intended to represent a good thought. Those advanced spirits who carry golden grains of wisdom to us, do show us that their influence for imparting knowledge to us is powerful, because enlisted in the righteous cause of Spiritualism; which proves to us that spirit existence in the heavenly spheres, is one of universal gladness — that immortality is our future.

* * *

As the old year passes gently into the New Year, so do mortals step over-the-line, which acts as a dividing-line between the earth career and the life immortal.

In the coming year, marvelous things are to be known and said, in a psychic sense. The sub-conscious mind will go out into the astral realm; will there commune with spirit intelligences; and will then convey the intelligence to the conscious mind. Birds, as messengers of love, come as emblems to tell us of the grand success of psychic work. — And may the Christ-like feeling of loving kindness prevail in your hearts throughout the entire year!

With all adverse conditions removed, psychic matters will shape themselves pleasantly and profitably. Deserving, you shall receive the spiritual fruits of well-spent efforts to advance in knowledge and usefulness. Then go forth to enlighten those who seek for the truth to be found only in Spiritualism, of spirit-life!

Harmony prevails in the camp of reason, to bring peace and a happy union. This condition is conducive of spiritual communion, and is quite necessary for all demonstrations of psychic power.

* * *

The following personal message now reaches the author (Dr. Bryan) from his spirit-band:

"Goodness and mercy shall be your portion all the days of your life; enabling you to proclaim the news and the theme of Spiritualism to the reading public, which clamors for the facts that convince them of immortality. Let this mission be attended with faithfulness and assiduity, and all blessings will be heaped upon you as a reward for well-doing: Peace and victory come to condition this reward."

* * *
An angel messenger, who comes with a white flag of truce between the contending forces of Truth and Error, earnestly pleads for mercy for the undeveloped creatures who live by wrangling and combat, feeling sure that time will enlighten them to strive for noble efforts of high ideals of life. And all of us who have not yet reached perfection, may also strive for higher thought that points the way to divinity.

The bell of liberty rings out a sound of boldness, joy, and satisfaction, knowing as we do, that the soul of man does not go down to the depths of utter degradation, but liberty comes to those who are burdened with vicious tendencies, and they have opportunity to rise higher, so as to attain a degree of spirituality.

Are we slaves to passion, money, or error? Then let us gain freedom from those enthralling conditions, by throwing off the burden of enslaving habits and tendencies, so as to gain the victory, over selfishness, that brings salvation.

The open window that gives us a view of celestial life, allows us to visualize wondrous scenes in 'cloudland' approaching the land of spirits beyond.

As the magnetic needle of the compass always points to the north, so should our aspirations point toward the source of all creation, our Heavenly Father, recognized as the impersonal, omnipresent Deity.

On the altar is found the sacred vessel that holds the material symbol of abundance, to supply material needs, making allowance for the need of spiritual food, as well.

A more homely emblem, the grindstone, performs a most useful function in sharpening the double-edged knife, wherewith to use in cutting down obstacles to our progress, and in leveling our pride, so that we may progress, with reverence to the Infinite, and with humility to take the place of vanity. Then real advancement can be made on our journey-of-life.

Assurances of peace, which pile one above the other, bring the welcome news of harmonious conditions; and the glad anthem of praise and gratitude to Deity swells and reverberates over and above all lower conditions.

Coming, as we do, to a comprehension of the requirements of a righteous life, it behooves us to pay strict attention to those deep spirit impressions that come to us to help us from sin and subsequent sorrow, by being faithful to our higher nature, and to seek that moral and spiritual fullness which
betokens the exalted life, while here on earth.

Let us continue to sow the seed of righteous endeavor, even if it takes time to see the reaping of the harvest, for soul-elevation is always a process of evolution from lower to higher ethical conditions; and it is noticeable to even the casual or superficial observer that mankind has not yet reached the pinnacle of its perfection. Still it can be decided, that humanity is looking onward-and-upward to the Spiritual Alps; and patience, courage, and persistency, will carry us to elevations that might at first seem inaccessible.

So soul-elevation is attained by those who strive for entrance into soul-consciousness, and who then continue to dwell therein, thus giving them, in advance, a foretaste of heaven and its joys — which are the permanent joys.

So let us start from our present point of vantage, and, by expanding in volume of heavenly-mindedness, cover over the field of righteous endeavor by seeking the practical good of altruism. In so doing, we “lose ourselves” while helping others, and spiritual growth is attained. This advanced condition leads one into a position to understand the phenomena of Spiritualism. It is plain, that a spiritual attitude is conducive to spiritual growth, and that exalted thoughts attract spirits, so that spirit manifestation results.

For these reasons, it is evident that all who enter the holy-of-holies (the seance room), should leave all material conditions outside; if allowed to be brought in, the meeting is disturbed and rendered unsatisfactory.

Clairvoyantly, an angel saint is seen, robed in white, leading a choir of mixed voices that swell with an anthem of humility and reverence toward the Almighty — that impersonal force which prevails in and through all the universe.

Those devotees of the cross of purity, who find themselves in a state of righteousness that is likened to sanctification, through symbolical and occult reasonings, do actually enter that state of soul purity that transcends all earthly or material conditions. They see the patch of blue sky and mentally soar past the beautiful cumulus clouds and enter the ethereal space, where the boat-of-progress then carries them through a placid sea-of-bliss — then on awakening, they relate the experience of a vision of the astral world.

Again, a cleft in the rocky side of Mount Sinai reveals a cavernous meeting-place of spirit saints, and the habitations in the valley below, where there is abundance of food, both material and spiritual,
Let us picture a broad field of tulips of golden glow, that seems to outrival a brilliant orange sunset. Such a scene would be typical of the spiritual emblem of superior wisdom growing from unusual strength. And these conditions represent features that are prominent in spirit-life, for the enlightened spirits gather and dispense words of wisdom to us (through appointed mediums), to show us, that life to come has beauties of color, mines of wisdom, and towering strength of exalted purpose that are marvelous.

And then it comes to us in thought, that we should learn to take advantage of these conditions, by gathering unto ourselves as much of that spiritual wisdom, beauty, and strength, as we can possibly acquire, so as to raise ourselves up higher, and thus be able to teach others according to that which we received.

While on the earth-plane, one still may live spiritually, with thought continuously on spiritual matters. This condition carries one into ecstatic states of mentality, whereby greater contentment and happiness ensue. This does not imply that one need follow any set rules of procedure, but simply to have a sincere determination to place the mind and body within a spiritual atmosphere, with no needless material friction to disturb the psychic condition.

As a result, your spirit relatives and friends of integrity find a strong attraction to draw their forces to you, for benefit, for advancement, and for mutual co-operation; which condition pleases our good spirit friends, and therefore, we are bound to do our best to bring favorable conditions for success.
CHAPTER VIII.

To be a true Spiritualist, is to be well-grounded in the knowledge or science of its phenomena; and then to put in practice, in daily life, the philosophy of Spiritualism. Knowledge, without application of knowledge, carries no weight, because it would be likened to a beautiful edifice that has only been planned on paper by the architect.

A Spiritualist becomes imbued with a feeling of loving kindness for humanity, and his thoughts go forth for upliftment, for education, and for a universal peace. Because evolution is the fundamental principle of immortal life as well as mortal life. He realizes this with a most powerful positiveness. This doctrine is distinctively one of the Spiritualist teachings.

The power of the spirit is received by those who seek it with sincerity, by prayer to the Supreme Mind, and by communion with those righteous spirits who are attracted to us.

Having sought and obtained spirit power, (from divinity through spirits), this force can be retained by dwelling in that state of soul-consciousness which was previously entered into.

Closely allied to that condition, is the attainment of high aspiration and of inspirational ideals that show to us the sublime state of spirituality, which worthy mediums can and do reach, by application, concentration, and through moral worth. All are mediumistic; every one can make the effort to become more mediumistic, so as to receive those spiritual benefits, from spirits, that prove to be of great value for progression.

Adepts of Spiritualism, and clairvoyants, can see the colors which constitute a personal aura of those who advance in spiritual knowledge and character; they are found to be a golden amber, light and dark blue, surrounded by blue clouds and a white glow, which betoken a spiritual force that radiates truth and love to all others.

From the horizon, the morning sun is seen to rise in all of his massive beauty, radiating brilliance far and near, penetrating the city-of-the-astral-world, and shining forth with electrical force of great potency and strength-giving qualities.

The tree-of-life is none other than the overshadowing growth of a spirituality that blesses those who seek it; for it means that the Infinite spreads over us a protective in-
fluence that helps us to walk in the path of uprightness and honor.

Summer brings forth an abundance of flowers of all kinds and colors: still the autumnal season has its beautiful cymbidiums to delight the eye, till the bell of Christmas rings out the glad tidings of the birth of one who possessed remarkable psychic powers as a spiritual teacher, healer, and message-bearer from spirit-life and from divinity, always claiming that he and his Father (God) were one in thought, deed and action. And such as he was, mortal, yet with strongest characteristics of god-like qualities, he comes now to us, from and beyond the seventh-sphere of heaven, to proclaim that not he, but the power (Infinite Intelligence) that sends him, is the creative force which we should acknowledge as being the Power Supreme, over and above and through all.

As the camel travels over a desert; treading with expanded toes on the sands of barrenness, so do the teachers of Spiritualism walk along, treading under foot the barren thoughts of multitudes who are enthralled by an engrossing materiality, which shows dormant minds that need to be awakened spiritually. There is help for the helpless! The high priest of the temple of spiritual knowledge, comes on a charger to attract their attention, and to interest them with wisdom from spirit source, so that their souls may be illumined by the truth of Spiritualism! The desert places (ignorance) soon show some signs of life, to prove to us that irrigation with the waters-of-life, and illumination from spirit source will cause the flowers of spiritual beauty to blossom abundantly.

A ship is seen sailing along smoothly in mid-ocean; the dark green waters are reflecting variegated hues of a vivid sunset, where the sun goes down in a brilliant sea of glorious coloring. In similitude, let this be a symbol of mortal life, wherein we proceed along, day-after-day, with our ups-and-downs, till the time comes for our sun to set, but destined to rise on the shores of the land that is eternal in the heavens.

To speak of the “material touch of a vanished hand” of spirits may sound paradoxical, and yet it is a form of physical manifestation that has been experienced by mortals, who attest to the genuineness of this spirit manifestation.

A form of spirit-return called etherealization (where the full figure of a spirit is seen), is what has long been known by the name of ‘materialization.’ Elementary substances are
gathered together by spirits and so placed that there appears a form, an exact counterpart of a person, which is seen and recognized by mortals. This is the phenomenon of etherealization. The question of identity comes forward; and this manifestation is one which readily convinces the most skeptical observers of the truth of spirit-return.

Raphael, the great artist of mediaeval times, the painter of famed madonnas, is still interested and active with the concerns of art. And he comes to say that all great artists of genius have that innate quality of attraction for spirit forces which do guide them, to delineate nature with an accuracy that seems wonderful, even to connoisseurs of art.

So, genius is spiritual—from outside source—not altogether the mental power of the individual; but must be considered as a phase of mediumship, whereby the one of genius acts as an instrument for higher power to direct toward accomplishment.

A spirit who now comes, with bushy long gray hair, bronzed complexion, and elderly, is seen clairvoyantly. He says:

"I come as an ancient who directed the forces of a national interest, and now that I can return, do so, to convince you that age does not impair spiritual force; but on the other hand, spiritual power from the Supreme Mind is ever present and all-powerful to enable us to manifest. A thousand years are but as yesterday, to those ancients in spirit-life who can look back that far, and yet who do not compute time by days or hours—time and space and eternity being illimitable."

Spirit Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, favors me with his presence this evening and desires to have the following statement from him placed before the public for their consideration:

"The democracy that appeals to spirits of advancement, is the democracy of loving kindness, of justice, mercy, and co-operation. Political expediency and scramble for office and authority, are evidence of matters that are largely material, and they do not receive deep consideration from true believers of democracy. Too often does the autocracy of entrenched authority, impose burdens on their fellow-creatures, which outrages their democracy. But those who suffer long from such injustice, have the hope of better conditions, to sustain them. In the spirit-world, a condition of true democracy prevails; for the absence of autocratic domination, makes
it possible for all to dwell in peace, and har­mony, according to their desire to progress toward attainment of high ideals."

* * *

Leaf and branch, bud and blossom, with the awakening of another springtime to show that nature has an annual resurrection — is an indication of the time to come when each of us will blossom forth in the majestic form of spirit existence, in the new world, where we renew those ancestral ties, and come face-to-face with relatives and friends who have preceded us to spirit-life, and who can return at pleasure.

An apostle of truth, with the trumpet of announcement, goes abroad to publish to willing minds, the principles of facts which all shall learn, sooner-or-later, of Spiritualism.

The beauty of the spirit world is enhanced by colors of rare quality and brilliance — nothing like mortals see. And, for a clairvoyant to have a glimpse of this beauty, occasionally, means preparation for future experience, when the spirit world is reached.

Welcomed, an ancient spirit is glad to reach mortals, to acquaint them with some preliminary conditions of the future life, and especially to teach you the plain fact of future existence (as spirits), manifesting in the life eternal.

Antiquity is impressive. Yet back of the ancients, there must have been periods of time, far back, toward the beginning of time — if there could be such a beginning to time, space, or eternity.

And when we “shuffle off this mortal coil” of flesh, and obtain freedom to reach the spirit realm, we realize that this short mortal existence is a preparatory condition, which spirit existence continues to a completion.

Christmas greetings pass back and forth. Wreaths of green and red with starry emblems of hope are seen, to indicate the mutual expressions of kindness that are in evidence toward the close of the old year, yet “marking time” to the footsteps of the way into the glad New Year. So do mortals send forth expressions of friendship, regard, and love to others; and thus the season is made joyous, harmonious and elevating. Progress is made. Let every week of the year be a season for exchange of beautiful sentiment, with sincerity, and unselfishness.

* * *

An ancient king, crowned, and with robe and scarf, makes his appearance now and says:

“I bring tokens of friendship, (as one of
ancient times and lineage), in a basket, and hand out a key. This is made to unlock the storehouse of ancient mysticism, which reveals many of the religious rites and ceremonies of a race long effaced from earth.

And at some future time we will try to tell you some interesting details of their existence. First of all, the dancing ceremonies, then deliberations, and finally executive activities."

* * *

Booker T. Washington now enters and impresses me to write the following:

"It is singularly appropriate that there should be rejoicing, on Christmas, over the birth of a god-like mortal who obeyed his Father's will, and left his imprint on the sands of time.

So, my friends, let us now rejoice over the birth of spiritual knowledge, which tells us that, in spirit-world, all find a haven of restful contentment, after buffeting the waves of strife and injustice in mortal life.

Free we are, and ever shall be, emancipated from the chains of superstition and error, and able to take up the duties of spiritual growth, so as to progress unto the kingdom of God."

* * *
Fred. Douglass, the anti-slavery orator, in spirit, conveys the following message to the public, through the author:

"It is not to be doubted that we, in spirit, can return to impress the minds of men, with the necessity of learning that earth-life does not end human existence.

This is the great revelation, and it is the most important fact or knowledge of life. For, without a knowledge of spirit-life, mankind drifts along on a vast area of uncertainty, not knowing whither he goeth, without ambition, hope or cheerfulness. So let us bend all of our energy to teach others that a life here on earth is simply the preparatory stage of existence; and that life of the soul proves to be eternal, indestructible, and progressive.

Impressional writing, of my friend here with us, is to be admired, and his writing encouraged, for great good will result from it."

"Companions in thought give unto you (the author), a wholesome praise, for your efforts to write impressively for your spirit-band, and for your humble efforts to carry the spirit message of glad tidings of immortal life—which is all happiness and mental sunshine to spirits of progressive tendencies.

We are glad to come back to visit earth people, but would not care to become mortals again, even if this were possible," is the short message from spirit Henry Ward Beecher, the former eminent clergyman of Brooklyn.

"The season's greeting from one (Abijah) whom you recognize as tending his flocks and herds!

And now, as spirit, I (Abijah) watch over the faithful ones, to impress them with thoughts of future existence, and to tell them that the Infinite is the one who watches over all, to direct and guide with that supreme intelligence that is marvelous beyond all human comprehension.

For it is true that we do not exist simply by chance, but all is designed by the Supreme Mind.

Music of harp and psalter sounds on the modern ear with a weird strangeness, yet their melodious tones so pure and sweet, do awaken thoughts of an ancient period, when the nomadic tribes of Israel flourished."

David of biblical period, impresses me to write for him, saying, that profound rever-
ence for the Almighty is still the dominant thought in his mind; and a willing service to God by seeking those mortals who need guidance, is his way of performing that service. *Every* spirit who so acts out a practical service for good, must be regarded as a savior of mankind; and no particular individual should be regarded as an *only* savior.

Robert G. Ingersoll, in spirit-life, desires to contribute to this volume, the following three paragraphs:

"Two beautiful large golden butterflies flit by as emblems of immortal life, and it seems to me that, if materialists would only stop to consider the wonderful design manifested in nature, they would catch a glimpse of the mind of the Infinite Designer, who fashions all things animate, and breathes into them the life-giving force called spirit.

And when the heavens give forth their wonderful stellar constellations, what an irresistible impulse comes over our awe-stricken gaze, impelling us to exclaim, "Lord, God, maker of heaven and earth, to thee do we bow in abject obeisance, to acknowledge that thou hast even endowed us with mentality, and quickened it with ability to recognize thy power in the supernal regions of the celestial world!"

Let us look over the hedge-fence of a material condition, and pierce the mental fog with a clear vision of the beauties of nature — over, up, and beyond — unto things spiritual! The light of a candle is not sufficient to illumine our pathway to knowledge of the Infinite — neither can the dim light of materialism be of any use to guide us mentally, to the sublime heights of spirituality, and to the power beyond."

Bring flowers. Carry them to the sick, sorrowing and disconsolate. Brighten the conditions around your friends, with presents of carnations, balsam, and fragrant narcissus. The time is now — not waiting till it is too late to be appreciated. A token of friendship’s greeting, flowers, is always acceptable.

We stand firmly and squarely on a mat or rug which is emblematic of Spiritualism. Its texture is woven with words of wisdom by spirits, and its color is light blue, which means that their instruction is purely spiritual — only dealing with material matters when it tends toward our spiritual advancement. As we mortals overcome material conditions, sound development takes place.

The Christ-like foundation of development, the plane that is pure and spotless, is repre-
sent by the emblem of a white arrow that speeds on its way to hit the target of a life that has high ideals. Trivial and meaningless conversation, as well as foolish habits, and thoughts that are weakened by selfish desires, are material conditions.

Harmonious conditions, with the illumination received from spirit source, tend to elevate us above the sordid influences of everyday life; and one must be considered fortunate who can rise to overcome all conditions and influences that are plainly detrimental to righteous development of selfhood.

An enlightened spirit gives this exhortation:

"Stretch forth thy hand and proclaim the truth. Be up and doing, as on a sunny day. Be pure, noble-minded men and women. Let the spirit within thy soul shine on thy countenance, that you may attract and draw unto you souls that are downhearted and weary, and passers-by will stop for a word of consolation. For they will see the light of truth in your countenance and will stop (as for a drink of water) for a word of consolation, feeling that there is something in the stranger's face to know that they can receive a word of comfort, and be told what they want to know."

We want true mediums and psychics, whose pathway is light, love and truth, so that they may radiate their love to all mankind; and with their soft gentle voice and tender touch to heal the poor weary souls from their worry, cares, aches and pain.

The power to heal comes from the Supreme Intelligence. Those healed will say:

"I am healed by the known power, and know that there's reality in spirit power saying, 'I am healed by the power divine after all other power has failed.'"

My brothers, who are mediums, take a firm stand; be truthful, steadfast and true; for through spiritual effort in writings and speech, great good can be done. Don't tarry by-the-wayside. There's nothing in worldly selfish pleasures but death and destruction.

This spiritual work is too beautiful to be tampered with. During the coming years be true; lead a good life and others will see your good works, and they'll follow you. The ones who are heavenly-minded must be the leaders. Let us first be right ourselves, then travel along the Pathway of Truth.

When we proclaim the fact of human resurrection—the birth of human souls out from their mortal bodies (at so-called death), we feel that a great truth is disseminated among those who are willing, yes anxious, to receive the truth of spiritual facts. To them cometh wisdom because they have
“ears to hear,” and eagerness to receive the truth of spirit-life.

The pathway of truth leads from truth to truth, and there’s nothing on it but truth. And while traveling along this pathway, let the illuminating light of truth radiate the joy of well-doing and carry to others a sense of fitness and responsibility. It lightens our soul like a spring day bringing the soft gentle breeze, the warm gentle rays of the sun, the fragrant blossoms with bright coloring, the tender green grass, the sound of birds and the cloudless sky, all appear to us giving evidences of truth in Nature’s processes. And thereby, believing, we renew our faith in Nature’s God and offer prayers of thankfulness for these evidences of truth in Nature’s processes.

Ecclesiastical authority, so-called, being self-imposed, oftentimes becomes arrogant toward those who teach the truth of spirit-life, spirit-power, and spirit-return. But the truths that are spiritual, are mighty and will prevail, as surely as evil is overcome by good. Knowing this, all spiritual mediums of honor, obedient to the call of the voice of enlightened spirits, do give forth the spirit messages of love, healing and consolation, knowing that the light-of-wisdom from the heavenly spirit hosts doth possess power to pierce the darkest clouds of ecclesiastical error, doubt and superstition.

My spirit friend Thos. Jefferson, wishes to add the following paragraph:

“Peace of the soul comes to mortals, here and now, by absorbing spiritual inspiration, by catching and appropriating the “wireless” messages that are sent throughout the universe by spirits of advancement for human welfare and advancement, so as to broaden our knowledge and elevate us aspirationally.”

Spirit Thos. Jefferson adds this paragraph:

“The seat of learning, knowledge and truth, is at the foot-stool of the infinite source of all creative thought-power, which comes to us mortals as a filtrate through enlightened spirits in heaven. So, when a doctrine is presented to us for consideration of its merits, it is our duty to discover if it be a man-made doctrine or the truth from divinity.”

Life in the spirit-world is enhanced by a preparatory fitness to enter the heavenly realm; therefore, it is an urgent matter for mortals to seek this preparation, by the formation of character and by learning the fundamental facts of Spiritualism—then
there is a fitness for entrance into spirit-land.

Once there, a spirit cannot return to begin all over again as a mortal — which would be the opposite of progression. Progression is found to be the natural aim of life, here and hereafter. So, re-incarnation is logically impossible; it is a myth of fertile imagination.

When a mortal, Thomas Jefferson, was prominent as an advocate of all forms and conditions that should be the common heritage of all. He stood uncompromisingly for democracy. Now, as a spirit entity, he renounces nothing, and is pronounced for the teaching of the truth that spirit-life is for everybody — if this may be termed spiritual democracy.

* * *

An ancient king, crowned, now comes to me with the following words of peace:

"To be with you tonight, my friend, is a great pleasure, for it allows my utterance to give vent to its feeling for thankfulness, to know that mortals soon will cease to battle with each other on account of stubbornness and trickery of so-called superiors.

And when all hearts are filled with the sincerity of loving-kindness, mortal combat will automatically end, and the sword will be turned into a plough-share 'to produce,' instead of 'to destroy.'

And it is true that peace hath its victories, not less, but greater ones than war; for all will admit that one constructive thought or deed is worth a thousand of the destructive kind.

So let us receive the good, the peaceful, and the harmonious conditions of life into our hearts and minds — which hearken unto the spirit voices of wisdom, which say that sincerity of purpose is always of the constructive type, and therefore peaceful and non-combative."
CHAPTER IX.

The acorn, being an emblem of growth and development, it is well to receive it as a sign of spiritual evolution, as well as of material growth. Great deeds spring from little thoughts of kindness; and when we plant this seed-of-righteous-endeavor, mighty oaken groves of commendable actions are sure to be the sequence.

Great knowledge and sincere encouragement are the portions handed out to the worthy instruments-of-service (mediums) by those endearing spirits, who come to us with a feeling of beneficence. These noble spirits of ancient and modern times, are attracted to mediums who prove steadfast and true to the philosophical instructions of those learned and upright spirit counsellors. This mutual attraction is logical and not to be wondered at, because it confirms the assertion of the old axiom, “like attracts like.” So the fruits of this beautiful condition of co-operation, (the object being the good of mankind) are found to rise superior to those efforts of mortals who are self-seeking, for position, fame and wealth.

The beauty of landscape, garden and field, with intervening forest and lake, all combine to make a view that delights the eye of artist and idealist. But let us take you to the astral region, and then you will gaze upon wondrous scenes of dazzling splendor, of brilliance and wealth of color, that have no equal counterpart on the earth throughout. Whatever mortals have of beauty and sublimity, in the astral realm is found its duplicate, but on a larger and grander scale — which magnificence cannot be adequately described. To use a homely expression: it must be seen to be appreciated. As heaven is a permanent institution, all will, sooner or later, view the celestial scenery.

Pebbles on the pathway and sands at the seashore are not more numerous than the thoughts from spirit source, which travel through ethereal space to reach others (both mortal and spirit), to assist them in progression. (Thoughts are things of mighty power) thoughts create each passing hour for advancement; and as the reader finds gems of thought wreathed with the magic and imagery of plain yet roseate thought in this volume, remember, that it comes by impression, from spirits to enlighten, cheer and console us.

The strengthening of mentality, the sin-
cere desire for spiritual knowledge, and work which so deeply interests us, come with a firmness by putting our trust in God and our spirit friends who guide us along the beautiful golden path-of-uprightness. In the still hours of the night when spirit contact is closest, let us pray to them and to our Heavenly Father for those spiritual gifts, and we shall receive abundantly.

Recompense is demanded for material goods and services; but when dealing with a great moral question or with a matter where spiritual qualities predominate, who would think of lowering the standard to a monetary basis? A mother does not desire money for her condition of motherhood; no, love governs the maternal quality. Should one perform an act of kindness for pay, either in money or praise (which sometimes means flattery)? No, recompense would be mean the 'good Samaritan.' The reward is in the motive of doing good because it is good to do so.

Bringing this thought to the consideration of mediumship, let us urge the statement that spiritual phenomena should be demonstrated primarily with the expectation of remuneration entirely eliminated. But for those mediums who depend on their services as the only source of livelihood, it is appropriate to say that "the laborer is worthy of his hire." So, with this distinction, the general public is aided in forming judgment by suggesting a modifying discrimination.

All will admit that teachers, mediums and other professional people, are entitled to either a salary or fees for their material necessities. But it is reasonable to reiterate that, mediumship should never be simply a money-making proposition. Enlightened spirits are not in the money-making business; neither do upright mediums exercise their god-given gift purely for mercenary purposes.

Ever willing to serve those righteous spirits of literary ability let me state a thought which is uppermost in the mind of many: "What is the right way to reach heaven—by which creed, church or doctrine, shall one be guided?" Wisdom, knowledge, and an upright character, act as endorsements on one's spiritual passport when crossing over the line-of-demarcation at time of death of the mortal body — when the soul takes its flight to heaven. Its entrance into heaven is a natural event; it cannot go to an imaginary place called "hell," being non-existent; and no king, prince, potentate or ecclesiastic, has any power of control over a soul when it leaves the mortal remains— which perish
and mingle with the dust of earth as inert matter.

Alluding to the theme which has engrossed some of the most brilliant as well as profound minds of ancient and modern times, it is proper to state that immortality is not essentially a church doctrine, because one does not require the intervention of any church authority in order to effect the change, from mortality to immortality. Great theologians who are now inhabitants of the world of spirits, are willing and anxious to return to earth as missionaries-of-truth, to impress the minds of mankind with the importance of preparing for change of so-called death, so as to enter the celestial realm in a proper condition for rapid progression. Preparation for any event is praiseworthy; and especially is this true for the Great Adventure, notwithstanding every human soul will cross the border into the Great Beyond, sooner or later. It is positively the destination of every human being, regardless of the previous physical, mental, or moral condition of each one. Have no fear, for all will be well, progressive and natural—as natural law governs the spirit existence, and the same power controls mortal life; one life being a continuation of the former life.

A New Year approaches with a sense of gladness in our hearts, which are full of kindness toward others. Spirituality in us, befriends a rich harvest in the year to come, because righteous thought begets deeds of uprightness and loyalty to high ideals of ethical conduct. Press with vigor on, my friends, for a heavenly race of spirits demands thy zeal in the cause of Spiritualism, which is all honor, wisdom and truth, and a great benefit to mortals. It is the revelation that astounds us with a glimpse of the realities of the world to come.

* * *

U. S. Grant, the peace advocate, wishes to convey to all, the following three paragraphs, so characteristic of the great president and leader:

"With deep meditation over peaceful conditions which bring prosperity to the honest and faithful ones, it is refreshing to know that destructive tendencies of modern warfare are becoming more and more unreliable for settling disputes; and the peaceful method of arbitration is being advocated, because it makes us safer for the democracy which rises from a basis of friendly cooperation—instead of deadly combat.

So let each New Year be ushered in with sincere declarations for peace, with resolutions firmly formed for national and interna-
tional harmony, such as peaceful methods alone can establish with any degree of permanence.  

Peace and good-will to all!"

* * *

The time for communing with our enlightened spirit friends is now, with firm concentration, every day, in order to attract and hold the high spirit forces.

Reunion with our relatives and dear ones, through spirit communion, is attended with deep emotion of joy; and it is a time for rejoicing, when we realize that they are able to come near enough to exchange greetings. We must make these conditions possible, so as to prepare the way for the reception of our spirit ones, by thinking of them in mental concentration,—avoiding material matters as much as possible.

Every closing of the old year brings to us memories of the recent months that have passed, and one is inclined to review his experiences of that period, with wishes and expectations for the New Year. It is a time to form new resolutions for right conduct, with endeavor to come in closer touch with those high forces in heaven, so as to make greater progress for good. And each day we can devote a little time to the reconsideration of those good resolutions and soulful accord.

To be in the right attitude toward our spirit ones of the heavenly host, means that we should try to be receptive to spirit communion and the impressions which come to us when in this condition.

'Concentration' is the watchword of spirit communication; and lucky is the one who is willing to give time and patient work, so as to develop mediumship with the power of permanence. Such condition is highly commendable, and it is sure to yield results that are both beneficial and satisfactory for the good of all.

We come with greetings of friendship and a kindly-disposed thought of welcome to all who yearn for knowledge of spirit-life, to say that there is no death of the soul at any time; but when life-force is withdrawn from the mortal body, it certainly perishes forever; and its elementary chemical substances enter into the vegetation on the earth's surface. This chemical transformation is the only resurrection of the mortal remains of mankind. This resurrection of the soul-form as a spirit personality, must be considered as the only real resurrection, in which condition we live on, forever-and-forever, amid the
heavenly hosts, with Supreme Intelligence pervading all.

Oh, how highly prized is the loyalty of friends who know that it would be impossible for true friendship to give expression to any form of disloyalty! And let it be said, in addition, that faithfulness, with truth to guide, will aid us in the firm determination to unite friendship, between mortal and spirit — just as a gold band or bracelet typifies complete union of interests.

* * *

In royal costume of purple, and with the appearance of a counsellor, old in years, ripe with knowledge, and with wisdom and goodness to direct — this ancient spirit, enrobed, has a message for us latter-day people:

“Stay not the hand of progress, of civilizaion and prosperity, by acclaiming those who sacrifice their brethren in the combat of national strife, destruction and death. Turn around, face the East and realize that the dawning of a better day will usher in an era of peace to those who advocate peace.”

* * *

The determination to acquire spiritual intelligence, from spirits, necessitates a preparatory condition of mental receptivity and repose. This engenders a harmonious state, wherein exalted spirits dwell — with delight. So true is it that mental concentration of our spirit friends brings them to us, that it is a truth of spiritual science that is so generally accepted, that I almost hesitate to mention it. But the truth is made plainer by repetition, till error cannot successfully prevail against it.

The future holds much in store for the dutiful mediums in rich reward; for it is well known that goodness, to be practical, must be exercised by a willing service for others — sometimes for mortals and other times for righteous spirits who teach ‘application’ as well as ‘aspiration.’ Inasmuch as service implies ability, capacity and willingness, let us say that an unselfish deed will bring out one’s good qualities of mind and god-like attributes of soul, that every body admires, and which some do emulate with success.

To press forward with aspiration, and with determination to succeed, tightens our mental grip on soulful resources; this enables us to cut away bad conditions, so that the seed of upright conduct may be planted, to yield a crop of radiant deeds of love.

Golden grains of knowledge are brought to us, from those good and wise spirits who feel that they must sow the seeds of initiative in good deeds, within us.

We listen and hear the still small voice
directing us; we take heed; we obey the spirit impulse, and another stone is placed in position to upbuild character. The flag of spiritual victory then waves as a token of reward, our illuminating influence is seen by others, and our light radiates a feeling of kindness, even if the light be as small as one from a candle. A beehive of stored-up treasure sweet to the pure-minded, may be old enough to be petrified like a statue, and yet such treasure, if spiritual, will never be utterly lost to mankind. Modern and ancient Spiritualism is this kind of treasure — beautiful, sweet, with honied thought, and as true as wisdom from Infinite Intelligence.

The churches try to do a work of regeneration; and with their limited knowledge of spirit-life, they do accomplish much good, in spite of errors of creed and dogma.

But it remains for us to enlighten the church people on the facts and philosophy of Spiritualism. Without this knowledge, the church makes very slow progress.

So let the flood-gates of reason be opened, so that the on-rushing waters-of-life may reach the stream and currents of penetrating wisdom, from spirit source, to the uplifting and spiritualizing of the multitude. Let Spiritualism prevail!

Identity of a spirit seems to be an important matter to those who receive spirit-messages. When the messages are personal ones, it is quite right for the receiver to recognize the spirit, from description or by some detail.

Consolation cometh to the discouraged and disconsolate ones, from spirit source, to those who will throw aside their grief for a moment and then listen to the mental impressions that come to them in the stillness of the twilight hour. Be calm, receptive, casting doubt aside, and messages will come to you, from those righteous spirits who are anxious and ready to instruct mortals, and to guide them safely and surely to success.

Independence and democracy are almost synonymous, because the opposite condition — autocracy — presupposes dependence and the servility of serfdom. Self-conscious power of independence, being the very foundation of democracy, all opposite forms of oppression will eventually be banished from the hearts of mankind, and therefore assertion commends itself as being true to the general progress that is manifested throughout nature.

Likewise, all forms of oppression are entirely absent from spirit-life in the heavenly realm. Over there, independence begets freedom to advance toward high attainment,
where aspiration is unimpeded and there is an open-field-of-fair-play for every astral soul.

Vibrating waves of thought come from the good spirits of the heavenly spheres, announcing the birth of a new era-of-man. The time is ripening for an increasing volume of spirituality in mankind, and this forebodes all kinds of good things, advancement of civilization, and cumulative happiness here on earth.

Minds are becoming more receptive to the facts and truth of spirit-life; and this knowledge will greatly elevate the multitude to a higher plane of thought and morality.

Statutory man-made law oft-times fails to accomplish much in reform matters; and punitive correction works great injury to the very condition it seeks to correct; while that form of charity which is cold (like almsgiving) and lacking in heart-felt sympathy, only works injury to all.

Brothers, comrades, kith and kin, loving kindness from within, is the true binding power!

Land for the disinherited, freedom from economic serfdom, equal opportunity for all, and knowledge of spirit-life taught from every rostrum, pulpit and school,—these are aims, which, when fulfilled, will bring peace and joy to every one of earth's children!!

While material conditions surround us, it becomes necessary for us to conform to that state, and to seek the best that Nature provides; but when we gain in perception sufficiently to comprehend the fullness of life's course, here and hereafter, we do then realize that material affairs and conditions are eventually to be outgrown—when we all pass into spirit-life. Therefore, let us not put too much effort into materiality, lest we overlook the permanent good which lies imbedded in the spiritual rock-of-salvation.

That cheerfulness of face and manner which is like radiant sunshine—brightening life, dispersing gloom and adding value to mortal presence—makes existence a contentment, and a joy of every-day routine. This is the way our good spirit ones come to us. Aches and pain, strife, worry and care, are conditions of the past life, on earth, and do not accompany soul's entrance into the secondary stage of human life.

Hopeful expectation of again meeting our spirit relatives face-to-face, is not marred by the thought of illness, physical mal-adjustment or mental disqualification, Over There. Cheerfulness reigns there.

The question which is so often asked by mortals of spirits, is: "Are you happy?"
And the answer comes, invariably: "Yes."

Those who are exempt from the cares and strife of mortal life, do reach the heavenly realm without burden of any kind; because the new life, with its new conditions of peace and harmony prove very agreeable to the soul that longs for rest from wearying affairs of mortal existence.

Let it be understood that a change to immortal life does not mean a state of complete rest, inertia, or absence of activity. No; for spirit-life is life, not death and annihilation. It has its duties, its ambitions, and its achievements for every soul that enters the heavenly sphere of progress, where ambition and opportunity go hand-in-hand for attainment.

To replenish the mind with thought, to make progress, and to fortify character, one must at times draw on the source of all wisdom — the Master-Mind of Supreme Intelligence — whence cometh our help; and the exalted spirits are ever ready and willing to do their utmost to benefit us by their healing, strengthening power, their mental strength, and their elevating influence.

So, altho' we have innate soul power of our own, more power must be obtained, continuously, in order to maintain a perfect equilibrium of psychical force. Just as the earth abundantly supplies our material needs so does the spiritual part of the universe furnish us with spiritual food to build up the needs of our subconsciousness.

And we need not be puffed up with vain-gloriousness over our vast storehouses of knowledge — which at times seems to be a mental growth. The psalms of David state correctly the origin of our great funds of knowledge: "Our help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth;" and an earnest desire (prayer) for more knowledge, meets with a ready response, when we learn to appreciate the spiritual help of divinity, and the guidance of our good guardian angels.

It is self-evident that this knowledge (which permeates our brain-cells and stimulates thought-consciousness), does supplant ignorance, inertia, and void, thus creating within us the mentality for advancement, for conquest of immorality, and victory over death of the mortal body — because the soul body survives the change.

* * *

Pointing upward, saying: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help," David now says through this author, impressionably,

"I lift up mine eyes to behold the splendor
of the celestial realm, and there I see innumerable spirit hosts of heaven, now immortals, who in turn find that help and strength come from the Infinite Intelligence made manifest throughout the universe."

* * *

Prayers of the faithful are availing, because they appeal to the source of all light, love and truth — the Infinite.

Human beings are like sheep inasmuch as they are liable to be led astray — by financial creeds, doctrines and ceremonies. Let the yoke of ecclesiastical error be placed on you, and your mentality loses its power of logical reasoning; mental degradation — hypocrisy — ensues. And the yoke that is placed on a young person is likely to remain there for an indefinite period, thus becoming a permanent fixture. But one of determination can remove the weight of superstition, and, by firm conviction of the truth of immortality in spirit-land, become immune to ecclesiastical error, which asserts that mortals may have two destinations for the soul. While the truth is that there is one future abiding-place for all souls, in the heavenly realm, as spirits.

Far away beyond the sight of mortal eye, lies a region known to the ancients as Valhalla, but which at the present time is known as heaven, our future dwelling-place, or spirit summer-land.

* * *

As a teacher of spirit truth, through the gift of mediumship, let it be known that all spirits of righteous endeavor with education and ability, do gladly proclaim the truth of Spiritualism which declares that every human being doth continue to live on in the next sphere of activities — the spirit world.

This simple yet truthful statement is made as a most emphatic one, because it is the most important revelation to man; and it concerns him deeply, whether he realizes and comprehends the message, or not. The blessings of a comfortable or even a luxurious living is as nothing compared to the comfort and consolation one gets from a conviction of the truth of immortality of the soul, while retaining one’s personal identity.

As yet, it can not be said that fifty per cent of the human family have a knowledge of Spiritualism; therefore, it remains for the accredited mediums to actively demonstrate the fact of nature, that spirit-life is a reality. The benefits which accrue to an individual who gains a knowledge of spirit-life, are many and invaluable; and there is gain, not loss, by obtaining proof of life after so-called death. So it evidently is my mission to
impressionably receive instruction from emi-
nent and righteous spirits (regardless of 
race, color, or sex), who dictate their words 
of wisdom, truth, and light to me, that I may 
publish such messages to the multitude — to 
the laity especially — those who are anxious 
to have some proof of the fact of immortality 
immediately after dissolution of the physical 
body.

CHAPTER X.

The day may be cloudy, cold, dreary and 
even stormy, yet with a righteous influence 
surrounding us, we cannot feel any depress-
ing condition of the weather. Where two or 
three are gathered together for spiritual de-
velopment, there will be found the holy in-
fuence which is elevating and comforting. 
To be alone, is not necessarily a sad condi-
tion, because one can attract spirit relatives-
and friends, so as to be literally surrounded 
and filled with spirit influence that will 
render one immune to lonesomeness.

Diligently we apply our mind to the study 
of psychology (science of the soul) which 
recognizes the soul as a spirit inside the mor-
tal body; so we understand that we are a 
duality. Likewise, we are separate, because 
the soul-body is detached from the mortal 
body at time of so-called death. Therefore, 
this is as readily understood as the statement 
that maternity embraces the embryotic state 
— a physiological duality.

Let the resounding praise of all go to our 
Creator for these wonderful works or mas-
terpieces of creative mind—the body and
soul. And manifesting on earth, in this dual form, mortals rejoice over the truth which Spiritualism makes plain to all, and which brings to us a universal religion. By giving our energy and work to this spiritual truth, mankind is benefited and is awakened to the highest form of enlightenment — to know that the soul lives-on-and-on, as a distinct personality, forever.

The colors of gorgeous variegated hues, in which some spirits are enveloped, are left behind them for a moment, somewhat as a flower leaves its fragrance near by.

King David is now seen (clairvoyantly), looking up to other exalted spirits with admiration, and all seem exalted and adorable.

The Prince of Peace now comes and smiles upon his children; 'tis the illuminated form of a white-robed angel form, who brings cheer, encouragement, and new hope to the minds of the faithful.

Future progress and success depend largely on good thoughts, which are seeds for a harvest of goodness and beauty.

The humanization of people into saints can be accomplished when mortals feel willing to co-operate with spirit force, seeking the help which cometh from the Infinite.

Intellect, when exercised with intelligent forethought, is a mighty power in directing physical force, so as to extract the material things from nature for the necessaries of mortal life. Then, let intellect be put into co-ordination with moral force, and also with uprightness, and all will be in line to advance into a realization of spirit power, leading to achievement of ideals of peace, prosperity, and lasting pleasure of spiritual happiness.

While the acme of perfection is neither vouchsafed to mortals (nor absolutely to angels), people who strive for the humanizing influences of unselfish conduct, will be rewarded, by growing into a state of heaven-mindedness that compares favorably with sanctification. "The evil that men do" is a constant obstruction to progress toward their fuller humanization; with evil banished, they rise above the animal plane, and then function as human beings in a process of evolution.

After the tempest has subsided, after the wearying strife, struggle, and turmoil over adverse conditions of life, there comes the quietude of peace and harmony, which lulls the wearied brain to rest, making the acquisition of new vigor a psychic possibility. But sleep and rest are temporary conditions. During sleep, our soul is invigorated by the silent yet potent spiritual forces of the uni-
verse. There comes the glad awakening, and we find ourselves ready for continued activity of the constructive kind.

Activities of the ephemeral and destructive kind, should be discountenanced and avoided, because they bring no lasting benefits. For this reason, our spirit friends of enlightenment always dwell on the necessity of peace, in individuals as well as in family life, in society, and in nations. Mortals are continually urged by them to dwell together in peace — seeking a knowledge of that spiritual peace which, being divine, surpasses all human understanding unto a complete comprehension.

The presence of (spirit) royalty accompanied by friends with baskets of flowers, betokens a condition of harmony, with well-grounded reasons for its continuance. Beauty, melody, and concord prevail where the situation is of reverence and humility. And then progress is easily made toward spiritual attainment. Peaceful conditions or harmonious surroundings are such as spiritualists continually seek, enter, and dwell within.

Rays of light, from our exalted spirit friends and relatives, pour down on us to illumine our minds with spiritual knowledge; this is done impressionally on those who are mediumistic, and when they radiate this spiritual thought to us, sometimes we feel that it is our own thought, whereas it really comes from spirits, for the good of all.

Spirit-life is attended with many wonderful surprises that outrival any experiences of mortal life, and attempts would be futile to describe them in detail. Suffice it to say that all will come to realize the change — the passing-over into spirit-life. (And when we do pass over, let it be with as little mourning as would be consistent with those who embark on a pleasant voyage to a land of attractiveness and prosperity, where the welcome is extended with a cordiality that means loving kindness to all.)

Let us picture the Prince of Peace, with a worthy spirit medium kneeling at his feet, ready to have conferred on her the highest honor possible for a mortal — a spirit halo — emblem of those who walk in the light and who radiate the light from its source — the Infinite.

The bell that rings out the glad tidings of news from the spirit world, rings sweetly, with a sound that is silvery and pure, — emblem of the gospel of spiritual purity, and uprightness of character, so highly prized in the spirit or heavenly realm.

We see a current of spirit force (indicating
power); as it goes through the atmosphere, all obstacles are overcome, all incumbrances cease to overburden its influence, till it reaches the mind of mortals, especially the ones who have psychic ability.

Let the medium who is good, pure and non-mercenary, have a circle of white rays surrounding her, and she will be known to receive the golden rays of spiritual knowledge from the heavens above; — in addition, a rainbow emblem would clairvoyantly mean that her bow-of-promise-and-hope continually accompanies her on her open pathway to the Spirit Garden, finally reached.

Every statement, assertion, or spirit message should be weighed in the scales of reason, wisdom and truth. Accept the result or conviction so determined, and let not the besmirching influence of traditional error affect your sound judgment of spiritual phenomena.

That quality of spirituality which induces us to look heavenward, doth oblige us to trample materiality under foot, knowing that we are progressive creatures, now, henceforth, and continuously.

Times change, and so do conditions which surround men, but mankind is the same now as in the former ages, with the same thoughts, feelings, and aspirational motives.

He had a knowledge of spirit-life, as we notice that the bible contains a number of accounts of spirit phenomena. Modern Spiritualism is a revival of ancient Spiritualism, and is becoming more popular with the thinking radical element of present-day society. But from this one should not assume that christianity, or any other religion that has dogmatism for its foundation, places any stress on spirit-life.

But it is useless to ignore simple facts of nature, or to declare that they are not facts when proof can be furnished. Spiritualism occupies this position, as it furnishes dependable proof of spirit-life, and of spirit-return to earth. And when clergymen reach the heavenly shore and experience contact with the real waters-of-life, as spirits, it is noticeable that they are eager to return as missionaries-of-truth. Their object is to continue their unfinished work, by impressing mortals that there is no resurrection of the body, but that there is resurrection or re-birth of the soul-form into Spirit-land.

The deep reasoner begins to doubt the dogmatic theological creeds, the unreasonable details of natural occurrences — miraculous birth — and other similar church essentials of blind faith. All spirits reiterate and say: "We gladly come to man to prove to others
that we are not dead, but that we live on forever and forever. But there comes the great awakening, and then we see that the wonders of the astral world are grand and beautiful."

Hail, all hail to the King! Peace, joy, and happiness will come to all nations! This bitter strife will soon be at an end, and warriors will cease to handle the gun to slaughter human lives! There will be brotherly love among the nations. There will be great sorrow expressed from the head of the nation, but that will not pay for the great loss of human life and the suffering. But happenings bring about true sources of light to uplift, and awaken new ideas in the soul of mankind— and which will be Spiritualism— (spiritual thoughts and the phenomena of Spiritualism.

An African king is now seen clairvoyantly and he states as follows:

“I like to come to you. I come with strength and power to overcome the obstacles that may be laid in your pathway. We will cut down every ‘dead limb.’

We come from the land-of-gold, but there is nothing grander than views of the astral world as we go from sphere to sphere. We will try to carry the medium out, so as to describe them.

Earthly treasures (like gold and silver) cannot be compared to the wealth of spirit knowledge. So go forth with tongue and pen, to teach the teachable that we live in the life that is eternal in the heavens!”

Let the peace which passeth all human understanding dwell in the heart and mind of men, so that there may be realized the power of the indwelling spirit force. Let nations proclaim a peace that will withstand all military assault; then warriors will be peaceably employed as artisans and food producers. The bitter strife that is engendered by commercial rivalry is likewise to be regretted; and in time this condition will be adjusted to conform to requirements of justice for all producers of food, raiment, and shelter.

The beauties of the astral world are seen by piercing the veil which separates heaven and earth conditions.

It is noticeable that redemption from low conditions comes to those who have ambition and prayerful desire to become examples of goodness and mercy which endureth forever. And when we come to realize that redemption from error is centered within us,
we rise up and declare with determination that we shall open the white door of purity with the key of knowledge, and enter into the realm of blessedness and peace.

Redemption is obtainable by all! None are lost!! All are saved for higher places, by the determined effort to overcome all evil influences and tendencies by the expression of firm will power, aided by the spirit power of divinity!!!

The Scottish clans, noted for their strength, agility and hardihood, have withstood many opposing forces, yet they remain firm and true to their ancient traditions.

Furthermore, music and melody of the Scotch may not appeal to all ears alike, yet the bag-pipe and xylophone-cymbals are strong stimulants to the jaded soldier, so self-evident to all close observers.

* * *

[Thomas Carlyle, the noted author, as an exponent of Scotch literary ability, ranks amongst the highest of his contemporaries; and his method of critical analysis and exposition of the foibles of social institutions, is unsurpassed even at this present day.

But Carlyle of the past was an eminent, profound, versatile writer, touched by the thought of divinity, yet not possessing a knowledge of spirit-life. To-day he possesses this knowledge by experience as a spirit, and is anxious and willing to tell us in this book about the life eternal in the heavens.—Editor.]

* * *

In symbology there is found the emblem of a bursting egg with a large mass of light over it. This, when explained, means that mortals are encompassed by a shell of materiality which can be broken through to effect a reformation of our soul into the light of spirituality, which is over and round about us all.

There is opportunity granted to every one of us to escape from our bondage of the past and to emerge into the illuminating knowledge that spirit-life is the common yet glorious destiny of all human beings.

So there is the redemption of the mind from ignorance; likewise, the reformation of the soul from mortality to immortality. This sublime fact of importance is the very foundation of Spiritualism. It is naturalism; it is an episode of natural history, and not supernatural, therefore.

It is noticeable that these conditions indicate advancement, or progression, from a lower to a higher scale of life. This is logical, also natural, because we find that endless progression is the most prominent feature of
life throughout the universe. Even worlds are formed, have their period of maturity, and then undergo changes that “destroy” them as one mass, to be re-made into other worlds. In this meaning, let it be understood that a change does not mean utter annihilation, for chemistry proves that nothing is ever fully destroyed.

An apostolic blessing, that signifies an uplifting of the soul, brings recognition of the merits of those who have rendered service to others unselfishly.

And as the silver pitcher gives its outpouring, with the breaking-of-bread, one is inclined to leave ceremonies and approach to the outstretched arms of Mother Nature, and there be received as one who values the works of God above the works of man.

A vision of the Lord’s supper brings also the dove of peace as a symbol that all mankind should acknowledge the power of Nature to produce enough for all, and that there should be peace, not strife, over the equal distribution of the products of the earth for man’s material needs.

A fountain of a thousand jets of water; a spiritual book of a thousand thoughts sparkling with subtle wisdom hath pre-eminence over those muddy streams of racy mouthings which only cause a loud laugh to betray their emptiness.

Give us the red, ripened, luscious fruit of the tree of spiritual knowledge, that we may be refreshed thereby and feel satisfied with the juicy fruit of maturity!

Let us imagine a tennis-racket without its woven netting: it would be impossible to use it as a bat. Just so it is with our lives: To repel temptations and evil influences we must use a racket that has a stout frame of determination, with a woven netting of spiritual force to ward off all adverse conditions.
that may be hurled toward us by others with envious, jealous, or prejudiced motives.

When filled with gloomy forebodings and thoughts of despair, we look up and see the bright rays of sunshine which penetrate our dark thoughts and change all to light and brightness; and then we feel unburdened, as free as a bird, ready to unfold our capabilities—like an unopened magnolia flower.

To unfold, to grow in knowledge of spiritual life, one feels uneasy when surrounded by those churchly environments of ancient myth, doctrine and ritual, that confine one's mental capabilities. One must escape from those narrow and enthralling confines, and get into the open air of universal freedom-of-thought, so as to come in close contact with spirit forces of truth.

Religious childhood need not confine us forever! Let us use all of the mental force at our command to give us courage to seek the light, wisdom, and truth of Spiritualism.

A small candle, dripping and dim, represents ecclesiasticism; a large candle, in perfect condition, represents Spiritualism; while a medium-sized red candle is emblematic of power from on high which manifestly has permeated the entire large candle. Candles are esteemed as symbols, because of the meaning which they convey to our minds, particularly of the light of spiritual and spirit illumination.

"Materiality" and "Superstition" are two other candles which give a light that is dim, and which is now being extinguished by the hand of spirituality in the act of throwing them both into the open sea of oblivion.

Let the four candles of "Friendship," "Love," "Truth," and "Wisdom," light our way, so as to enable us to see the permanent power of divinity and realize that the help of our enlightened spirit ones is ever near to us all, in time of need.

Simply to the cross we cling because its form is linked to the cause of progress, and it is lighted with the light of truth—immortality of the soul as a spirit entity, (immediately after death of the physical body.)

Victory over material conditions, with strength to make the victory permanent, is a combination to be prized by all who have developed spirituality, through patient effort and concentration.

Unfoldment of capabilities does not always have a rapid growth of expansion like a cauliflower.

Knowledge of immortality confers a sense of purity in the life to come.

The sum-and-substance of deep religious principle is found to be a strong desire to re-
verence divinity, and to learn to keep the commandments of those exalted spirits who can direct, instruct, and guide us along our earthly career for good.

* * *

Place the lighted lamp at our feet, we pray Thee, that we may read the precepts of Thy book of wisdom, and follow Thine instruction; then search us, and weigh us in the white scales of purity, to see if we be found wanting. Nothing can move us from our firm foundation in Spiritualism if we possess the qualities of purity and righteousness.

CHAPTER XI.

A book of spiritual truth commends itself to us, and we are prompted to urge others to read it also, so that they may be enlightened and edified.

Two persons who are shaking hands in an open door-way are not separated by the threshold below; why not have humanity filled and maintained by heavenly thoughts — soft, meek and gentle, with the mind expressive of spiritual acknowledgement? Humanity would then be one and indivisible.

By giving earnest praise unto the Creator of heaven and earth, as did David of old, we gain in spiritual strength—not that our praise can flatter or alter the Almighty a particle. But praise is good and beneficial, just as we say, "an open confession of guilt is good for the soul's progress." So, being creatures endowed with thought, and capable of expressing it, it becomes our duty to praise God and the mighty spirit hosts of heaven. It is helpful to us, likewise beneficial and commendable from every point of view, to praise the power of Infinite Intelligence, which is in evidence to all who have
"eyes to see and ears to hear," and who have a mind to comprehend.

This praise embodies the love that is in us all, which seek expansion because it is unselfish; and, therefore, we radiate it to all mankind.

Civilization as we see it, does not mean large population, nor large office buildings, nor even palatial residences or bulging banks; on the contrary, it means the popular possession of logical reasoning, and a volume of righteousness that can carry a nation along safely through stress and storm of ignorance, and mercenary motives of a minority.

Have I a full determination to do what is right, and be steadfast and firm in the faith of goodness, to take up the cross of righteous duty, raising the banner of victory over baseness; reaching the spiritual heights of Mt. Zion, and proclaim the truth of a Christ-like life? — This is civilization!

A nation is exalted to a high civilization according to the aspiration evolved in each integral part of that nation.

The soul aflame with ardent desire to ascend the spiritual heights to their pinnacle, fills one with the sublime ideals of spiritualized thought, enabling one to pierce the doubts and uncertainties of speculative philo-

osophy, and reach the wisdom and truth as it comes by inspiration, through exalted spirits.

"Regarding psychic influences and spiritual development, let me say that the reality of repose is proof of spirit influence; and that the quieter you are, the stronger will the impressional force. Seclusion from others, is the best course to adopt, as a general rule — the object being to avoid materiality in all of its various forms." (Alberta).

The condition of supremacy over materiality is quite evident in those seeking psychic development, and it goes to show that spiritual events will crowd upon each other in advancement toward qualified mediumship. The path of beautiful progress lies right along ahead, and achievement with patient effort brings grand success.

In the spiritual movement there can be no such condition as failure for those who learn to enter and dwell within the folds of spirituality in their daily lives. Slowly, yet surely, we see many psychic students making the ascent to spiritual heights, while tapping the source of inspiration — which is divinity and help of enlightened spirits.

Kings now in power will soon come to realize that their reign will be short and full
of surprises. Kingdoms are founded on false premises; and therefore they are now and always have been liable to topple over at any uprising of the people. The people — democracy — are or should be the real rulers, because they are the foundation and the real producers in any nation. So let the changes come, as they will usher in an era of new freedom from autocracy, tyrannical oppression and kingly injustice.

We want the dove-of-peace to come and stay with us; let it bring twigs of brotherly kindness lighted with tiny lamps of good-will toward all, so that there will be a firm grounding of permanency for the peace that surrounds us all, because centered in loving hearts.

* * *

Spirit Booker T. Washington, the prominent teacher and orator, impresses the following on my brain, for the public:

"The nearer one comes to a highly spiritualized condition, the closer does he come to spirit entities of the plane of progress. Attainment of high ideals in thought, and their practical application in daily life, will be the result. So let us make all the progress possible, with aspiration, so as to obtain that saving grace which divinity bestows on the upright, regardless of race, sex, or color.

And now, cautiously, we approach a subject of interest to many, i.e., how to come in contact with our spirit relatives and friends for good and beneficial purposes. They favor us with their presence; and when clairvoyants see them and unerringly describe their personal appearance, their identity is made plain, and we exclaim: "The dead are not really dead, but are alive, active and communicative!"

* * *

To have a realization of divine power, means that the power be utilized daily in all of our activities for good. This power, silent, yet so potent for our benefit, literally abounds everywhere, since God is omnipresent; and our mental, moral and spiritual desires can attract divinity to us at all times.

Seek and ye shall find it, knock on the open door of the spiritual kingdom, and at once you will be entertaining angels, fully aware that the presence of exalted and righteous spirits will be of benefit to you.

The identification of friends who return to us from the spirit-world is made certain by having certain characteristics of the person (or of his business or attainments) presented to us, so that the recognition will be convincing.

Every one must be convinced by personal
experience, that the spirit friends can and do return to us, to let us know that they are in the land of the living spirit hosts, and capable of demonstrating their presence to us.

This identification and recognition is certainly very gratifying to those who seek communication with the spirit-world. Deep heartfelt consolation is thereby experienced, and the knowledge of spirit-life and of spirit-return thus obtained qualifies us to speak authoritatively on the subject of immortality.

Great good flows from such blessings, and humanity is placed on a more spiritual foundation, as one-by-one we become Spiritualists, by reason, insight, and by actual personal experience.

To profit by grasping opportunities, is sometimes called "making hay while the sun shines;" and in a spiritual sense, to gain a knowledge of the life to come, would mean that we had profited by the teachings of Spiritualism, by becoming convinced that mortal life does not end our entire existence.

Happy is one who can say that he has accumulated a hay-stackful of spirit truth, and has ascended the spiritual ladder of psychological knowledge, ready to receive the divine blessing for entertaining high aspiration of thought and desire for progression.

With good strong faith, we can master all material conditions; nothing can interfere to hinder us from reaching the end of the journey; but when we come to the dividing line between mortal and immortal life, and we are over the realm, with peaceful conditions of spiritual relations of the heavenly sphere, we are glorified with celestial tidings from on high.

Then we can proclaim the wondrous stories of Jehovah the King, and of Jerusalem, the city of mansions and temples having the grandeur of cathedrals, and grand altars with candelabra of beautiful lights formed in crescent shapes. There were ninety and nine candles to represent the majority of people who have some of that righteousness within them that carries them along with uprightness; but the one candle that is missing to complete the one hundred, is the person that is sunk in the mire of iniquity and needs the light of salvation from on high.

In order to have peace and harmony prevail in our midst — in home, shop and nation — each one must have loving kindness within, and then must radiate it out to all mankind, to friends or foes, superiors or inferiors, in words and deeds as well as thoughts. Emphatically, there can be no discord where kindness abounds, and the dwelling-place-of-
happiness is in the sphere of harmony, no matter how circumscribed that sphere of contentment may be. Altho' 'this said that "discontent is the mother of progress," this means that discontent must go hand-in-hand with an earnest, righteous ambition, toward success, which is over the road of progress.

Rejoicing over harmonious conditions of peace, is prompted by a realization that there can be no progress without peace, because the righteous activities of life all start and end in progression.

And when we commune with our enlightened spirit friends, we find that they continually impress us with the necessity of always having an even mind, even throughout the trials and vicissitudes of daily life. . . . And may the inspiration from the Infinite, act as a rod and a staff to lean upon for help and comfort, together with the consolation which flows into us when we gain a knowledge of the life of our spirit relatives and dear ones in the heavenly spheres.

CHAPTER XII.

Fear enters the mind of many, so that they become confused and uncertain as to what to do.

I can say from personal experience that I have had some dreadful and fearful events in my life — all of which never happened!

"Don't cross a bridge till you come to it," — tells us plainly not to 'borrow trouble' over events that will not happen.

Be strong, fear nothing, not even death!

Because it is true that so-called death is only a pleasant adventure into the known Beyond, and the change is not marked by annihilation of the soul, but rather by progression into the beautiful life eternal in the heavens, for all of us.

Let us have no fear of the harvest-time-of-mortal-life, when each one will meet the spirit reaper, and then taste of the fruit of spirit-life. . . All of the innumerable throng of spirits, who return for brief periods to earth, tell us how good it seems to dwell in the kingdom of heaven, with a continuance of personality, thought and consciousness.
All emblems of divinity begin and end in light; a dazzling white illumination is seen by clairvoyants, and its intensity and purity, although agreeable, is marvelous to behold. When Jesus appears in visions to spirit mediums, he is said to be enveloped in an aura of this same white light, (somewhat similar to the white glow that a piece of coal throws out when at a “white-heat” temperature).

A light suddenly appeared from heaven, descending on Saul and his band of followers, and a voice from heaven spoke: “Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?” This spirit phenomenon had the effect of changing Saul — the marauding prosecutor of Christians — to one filled with loving kindness, and known to this day as St. Paul.

A spiritual crown-of-glory awaits all who humbly hearken unto the still voice of reason within, and who hearken unto the teachings of their exalted spirit friends.

A roll of cloth or paper unwinds steadily, almost monotonously, slowly reaching the end — to typify our mortal career as it unwinds or unfolds in its development, from day-to-day, till the end of mortality — which means the beginning of immortality. Then the soul is carried along, like a beautiful ship, which seeks its port or haven of temporary rest, to unload its material cargo, and to take on a cargo of new life — the life eternal in the spirit form of activity — sailing on and on, with divine light continuously illuminating the pathway.

When we stop, look, listen, and have a desire to progress, the way is opened and the pathway is cleared of obstacles, so as to allow us to advance in knowledge, truth and self-consciousness. At times we may find ourselves beset with discouragement, but it is the truth seeker who obtains the truth, because he makes an honest effort to obtain it. Those who investigate the phenomena of Spiritualism without prejudice, though not believers, are sure to see astonishing manifestations of spirit power, which will convince the most skeptical of the truth of immortality, of spirit-existence, and the return of spirits to mortals.

Remember, psychic power, and divine power, are silent yet potent forces. Just meditate for a moment, over the fact that there is a mighty force, from the Infinite, that causes the earth to revolve on its axis once in twenty-four hours. No one can see that force, yet all admit its continuous presence.

While speaking on the general subject of liberty, I want to say that freedom of thought, deed and action, implies an open,
public way of expression, providing it does
not cause libel or criminal mis-statement.

Prejudice against progressive movements,
where it amounts at a hatred, would impose
restrictions on the expression of free speech.
But Spiritualism, being the truth, cannot fail
in its ultimate attempts to thwart all adverse
conditions. Truth is bound to rise in its might
of reason, and overthrow untruth!

So many people are anxiously trying to
talk with their loved ones who have passed
the dividing line between so-called death and
spirit-life! And it is quite likely that those
mourners will find mediums, in order to
obtain their spirit messages, to communicate
with their relatives and friends, and to re-
ceive the deep consolation from communion
with the departed ones.

All hatred against Spiritualism is sure to
disappear, because contact with enlightened
spirit ones, is so productive of good; and it
brings to all a proof of life after so-called
death—a wonderful revelation! Surely,
that which is good, pure, and consoling truth,
cannot harm any one!

It is a most gratifying instance to say that
our spirit relatives hear the sincere prayers
of mortals to Infinite Intelligence—the Lord
of hosts.

An equestrian waving two flags, one light
blue and the other dark blue, is emblematic
of riding over material conditions triumphant-
ly, with an unfolding of character that
places upright mortals in the ranks of the
exalted—even while on the earth-plane—
rising above and over that materiality which,
though present, has no permanent value.

The gilt chair of luxurious comfort pro-
vided for those psychics who are steadfast
and true to the high interests of the spirit
guides, is an emblem of reward for the
faithful.

The fern representing harmony, the bloom-
ing rose representing development, and the
lily representing purity, are all emblems of
conditions surrounding the spirit medium
who appears before the public in sincere,
earnest, and truthful work for spirit mani-
festations.

The emancipation of each individual from
the slavery of low material conditions, is
accompanied by a most satisfying inward
feeling. It reminds one of entering a dark
room, when soon the light is made to illumine
the room—our soul is illumined by bright
conditions of heavenly-mindedness—which
is, akin to exaltation.

* * *

The prominent anti-slavery orator, spirit
Fred. Douglass, offers the following suggestions:

“New force and strong power from spirits to mortals (having its source in Infinite Intelligence), reaches those who consciously or otherwise have earnest desires and prayerful attitudes for divine help.

(And I come to you, my friends, to assert with an emphasis that is without limitation, that all who seek spiritual advancement or psychic development will have the unqualified assistance and guidance of exalted spirits.)

All mortals are expected simply to do the best they can under all circumstances, especially to keep an even mind free from gross or lowering materiality.”

President McKinley is present with me this evening and from the spirit-world he sends (through me) the following cheerful expressions:

“To you, my friend, Dr. Bryan, earnest worker in the cause of Spiritualism — we of the spirit-band applaud your efforts, and we are a unit in our desire to be with you wherever your feet may go to carry the glad tidings of another day — of the day, or period of time, which has no limit but is continuous throughout eternity.

Blessed are the peace-makers, for they shall inherit all that the earth produces for their material comfort and necessity; and a rich reward awaits them in the realm of spirit fraternity.”

A white balloon anchored to a person’s strong hand, is an emblem of humanity endeavoring to attach itself to the white conditions of goodness and purity, thus obtaining the victory over material conditions of life. A flag waves triumphantly to indicate this victory. (These symbols are clairvoyantly seen).

Thomas Carlyle, author of Sartor Resartus, etc., etc., the eminent literary man of international fame, now dictates the following from spirit-life, as a special concluding message:

“As peace hath its victories not less than war,” so does a noble life of unostentatious effort and duty bring its great reward in the upbuilding of character — which is the possession one carries over into the future life in spirit-land. Just contrast this, for a moment, with the material possession of money — which is only gross “filthy lucre,” and is valueless because not needed in spirit-life.

O, the power and the glory, in a knowledge
of immortality which is proven by the phenomena produced by spirits, through mediums or direct to individuals!

From first to last, this book of spiritual knowledge and spirit-facts, commends itself to all minds that stop to use their own qualifications for reasoning, deduction, and impartial judgment.

The time is ripe for truth and knowledge to have their right to teach and sway the multitude from the falsities of conventional theology, to conditions of absolute verity regarding spirit-life and spirit-return.

—And we pray thee, our Heavenly Father, that the scales of error be removed from the eyes of all mankind, so that they may see the light of spirit truth, and cleave unto their spirit guides, mentors, and teachers, who, with uprightness and zeal, bring to mortals a knowledge of resurrection of the soul or immortality triumphant.”

* * *

CONCLUSION

By DR. WM. J. BRYAN

So now, by looking backward, we find that we have ploughed all through the open-field-of-mortal-life, discovering its periods of growth and phases of mentality; likewise the seed has been sown for bringing to view the numerous conditions that carry us toward a highly spiritualized state, and leading us into the careful consideration of spirit-power, spirit-life and spirit-return.

Throughout the time which I have patiently and willingly transcribed the words of wisdom for this book, as they reached my receptive and impressive brain, I have had a galaxy of spirit friends, relatives, and others prominent when in earth life, constantly by my side to impart their knowledge to me; also to give me their advice, guidance, and protection — with the Divine Mind ever present as the Supreme Directing Force.

My friends, their wisdom is for you—while I am but an humble instrument through whom the knowledge is conveyed.

Nearing the completion of this book of
spiritualist truth about the reality of future life, "stranger than fiction," more wonderful than any material fact or object, we hasten to reach the end; yet there is no end to Nature, nor to spirit-life—eternal in the heaven.

You will do well to ponder over these statements, which come (impressingly) from exalted spirits direct to the author; and by having the faith to acknowledge their inspirational value, the reader will get consolation such as cannot be obtained from any ecclesiastical writings of tradition.

Approaching the winter-of-mortal-life, with bins filled with fuel of stored-up-knowledge of matter and spirit, I look through the open-window-of-content; and, dwelling in a satisfying state of soul-consciousness, I look out upon the tree-of-life with green verdure, luxuriant, and protective—foreshadowing the glorious life, in spirit, in Summerland.

THE END