

Section Thirty-eight.

PART FIRST.

Thursday, June 16th, 1853.

This evening, at Dr. Dexter's, all the circle were present except Mr. and Mrs. S.

It was written:

I AM sorry our other friends are not with us to-night. They assist us much in the efforts we design to make. Have them with you when you meet. But I am pleased to find so much harmony of feeling.

The Judge is better; and though the Doctor is quite unwell, yet we can vividly impress the Judge to-night, and, for the first time, he will be impressed by one of the spirits mentioned, personally. I am directed to say that this spirit will also try to make him feel the hand which he will lay on his brow in token of love.

My friends, could you but know the great joy there is among us, could you see the unspeakable happiness which animates every countenance at the spread of the glorious truths which are being revealed to man, and could you know the deep, earnest faith we have in those selected to give to the world the first revelations of the higher spirits to man, you would then realize the emotions of spirit in the spheres, the emotion of unmixed love at the dawning of truth. Our blessings with each and all.

SWEEDENBORG.

Now the circle will keep silence, and be as still as possible. The teaching will be of much importance. There-

fore let each one be seated most comfortably, so as not to disturb the vision. Glorious things will be revealed of the God, and truth, and true liberty.

The vision then began, and lasted more than two hours. Some things were written in explanation as it went along. They will be found incorporated in the vision. After it was over, it was further written:

This general description is the first in this series. In the next vision we shall attempt to describe persons and scenes. The words uttered are worthy to be printed in letters of gold and set in tablets of silver. I desire to say, that before you meet you should examine yourselves, and divest your minds of all earthly ideas as far as possible. Let your hearts feel what was written on the gallery, "Love one another."

In the name of God, I declare to you, that in your purity, in your love of God and your race, is the whole end and aim of your existence. What will be the end of all these truths, so you yourselves are not the first to feel and act upon the revelations made? Hear, feel, and act. Good-night.

PART SECOND.

VISION.

The vision I had this evening was a continuation of that of last Sunday.

I PASSED along by the same pleasant path, by the side of that stream of deep, clear, blue water, and entered through the same gateway, and traveled on even farther than I had on the former occasion. My object now was to ascend that mountain, which I had observed just as I was leaving before. To do that, I had to penetrate far into the country which lay at its base, in order to find the beginning of a road which wound its way spirally around the mountain to its summit.

It seemed to me that it was not generally known in the country which I had already visited, that there was any road by which it could be ascended. Now and then one would find the path and ascend it, but he returned not again to tell to others how they, too, might go up. But I had reflected upon it, and had made up my mind that there must be some mode of ascending it, and I would try it. I saw from where I was at its base, what seemed to me to be signs of a path up along and around the mountain; and following its direction I went far into the interior, until I found it. It was a wide, smooth, beautiful path, gently rising all the way, but not difficult to climb, yet I saw no one traveling it. Here, too, I must pursue my journey alone. I entered upon the task with alacrity, and as I ascended I had even a more extended and beautiful view of the vast country below me than I had had before. As I went along, I found the journey truly delightful. Every once in a while I came across running streams of pure water, or cool springs bubbling out from the rocks, and here and there shaded bowers, in which the weary traveler might rest himself, lulled by the murmur of running brooks and elevated by the sublime and extended prospect before him.

It seemed that my first entrance into that country had at the time been known only to a few; but the knowledge that a mortal had penetrated where only disembodied spirits dwelt, had spread abroad among them, so that when I entered thus a second time, news of the event spread with great rapidity in all directions, awakening great curiosity to know what it foreboded. As I ascended I became visible to them, and they hastened toward the spot to get a nearer view. They came in all directions, from as far off as the eye could see: some from those deep valleys over which those mists hung, some from the hills which towered among the clouds. Some came with ease and some with difficulty, clambering up on their hands and knees, and asking aid from each other. They came in vast numbers, aiming to

get on to the level, where was the unfinished temple. I saw the vast numbers moving, yet I knew not what it meant. So I paused in my upward journey, and leaning with my arms upon a parapet erected along the outside of the path for the protection of travelers, I looked abroad to discover what this general movement meant. As they severally attained the level at which they were aiming, and which was plainly enough accessible to them, I observed that their attention was directed solely to me, and they were wondering how I had attained that position. I resolved to tell them, for I felt that I could make myself heard by them, vast as the assemblage was getting to be. But for that purpose I must wait for those in the distance to come up.

While thus waiting, I discovered a number of incidents of much interest.

I observed that those who were inhabiting the isolated hills, which I saw in that extended country, could not reach the level at which all were aiming without first descending from their elevation to a position far below that level, and then climbing to the new elevation. They had been very well content with their former position, and thought they had got as high as they could go; but when they saw me, a mere mortal, ascending even higher, a desire to go and do likewise was awakened; they found, not only that there was a higher elevation than their own, but that in order to reach it they must descend from their false eminence, and begin again the task of upward progression.

I observed, also, that the spirits who floated in the air, and gave light to that country, were not visible to its inhabitants, as they had been for a moment to me on the former occasion. They were now again visible to me, and I noticed how singularly and yet how beautifully each one's sphere of light mingled in and blended with the others, and that there was a universal power of attraction of one sphere to another. They were ever attracted toward each other, until they blended in one harmonious whole, which lighted up that world with a splendor not of earth, but heavenly. And

thus I was allowed to see a practical illustration of that great principle of attraction which pervades and governs the whole created universe, and is its eternal law emanating from the Great Mind which fashioned all things.

I observed, also, from one of the spirits thus floating in the air, a stream of soft, violet-colored light, passing directly to some part below. I followed its direction, and saw that it passed to and enveloped the person of my wife. I saw that she was standing on the front piazza of her dwelling, with her back turned toward me. It had become known to her, as well as to all the others around, that I was intending to speak to them, and I saw that she was overcome by the same emotion which early in life had always prevented her being present at any effort of mine at public speaking.

I paused here in relating the vision, to inquire of the attending spirits what that singular colored light denoted? and it was answered: "A desire to progress."

At length that vast multitude had all assembled, and in plain and simple language I related to them my spiritual experience, and detailed the various steps which I had taken in my upward progress. I showed them how it was as easy for them as it had been for me. I described the pleasantness of the path I was now treading, and painted out to them where it begun and how they might enter it.

When I had finished, I resumed my journey, but occasionally looked back to see what effect had been produced. I saw many hurry off to find the entrance to the path. Many found it, and began to ascend it: some with furious haste, which soon put them out of breath; some timidly, as if not exactly sure where it might lead them; some tottering with old age, supporting their trembling steps by leaning on some younger one—and to them every step became more vigorous and youthful; some females, leading young children, who occasionally broke away to chase some little bird or pick some flower by the wayside; husbands and wives walking fondly arm in arm, sustaining each other,

and some calmly, deliberately investigating every step, and increasing in speed as they ascended. In fine, from the level on which the multitude had stood, all the way round to the entrance to the path, and some distance up, they were scattered, hastening to ascend. I paused, and asked myself whether I ought not to wait for them. I immediately became sensible of the presence around me of several of those bright spirits whom I had seen. They answered my query: "No; that will continue forever. Pass thou on to thy task."

I accordingly resumed my journey; and as I passed around the mountain, turning my back on the scenes thus far familiar to me, I came in sight of one which I had much admired in Central America. There lay before me the beautiful lake of Managua, with its densely wooded promontories jutting out into it, the rugged mountains on its opposite bank, with their immense craters, rude and rough at their summits, and their sides a desert waste of lava or volcanic ashes. But here the rough edges had been smoothed by the hand of time, and the sides were covered with a verdant foliage and the habitations of man.

The earth, as well as man, had progressed.

At length I passed above the clouds which surrounded the mountain, and attained its summit. The clouds shut out from my view the country which I had left, and I stood alone on that mountain top, looking abroad upon a new scene. Immediately around and above me, floating in the air, were many bright and shining spirits, some of whom had been constantly with me from the time I had addressed the multitude. They were welcoming me to my new eminence. As I stood gazing upon the spirits around me, I wondered to myself what they found to do, and thought that a life of idleness must be sad and wearisome even there. My question was soon answered. I was told they were ever engaged in contributing to each other's happiness; and I saw that each of them was more regardful of others than he was of himself, and each one found his happiness in in

creasing that of others. I learned, too, that many of them were engaged in duties in the spheres below them, in teaching and elevating the beings there—that this was to them a labor of love, and was as vast as it was endless. And I learned that many of them were occupied in studying nature in all its operations, following planetary systems in their movements through the universe, searching out the laws which govern them, and seeking to learn the attributes of God from the works of his hand. I saw them pursuing the planets in their orbits, and learning at once the infinite variety as well as the infinite wisdom of the eternal laws which govern them. I saw them careering through space in the rapid comet's train, watching with wisdom's eye the process by which those vast masses of disjointed matter were gradually progressing to the formation of a world, from whence, also, in time should spring immortal minds to people eternity.

And I was bid to look abroad on the universe that was rolling before me in the illimitable regions of space, and behold how immense was the field in which the immortal mind might roam in search of that knowledge which is from on high, and will make it wiser and better unto salvation.

Far off in the distance, with lofty and dignified mien, seated on a throne, and facing toward me, I saw a bright spirit. On each side of him was an assemblage of spirits, who were attending upon him.

In a little while the whole of that scene moved toward me, and the spirit who was seated on the throne approached so near that I could see the expression of his countenance. It was that of calm benevolence and wisdom. He caused me to be taken from the mountain—how I know not—and then he and his attendants, bearing me with them, returned to his former position.

When we arrived there, I saw on my left, high above me in the heavens, a very massive and magnificent temple, and a path that led up to it from behind his throne.

As I was describing this, it was written, through Dr. Dexter, "It is for you to ascend."

I did ascend—how, I can hardly tell. It seemed as if I was borne along by some power not my own. I arrived at the entrance to the temple. I want language to describe its beauties. The order of architecture was unlike any thing I had ever seen, but it was so perfect in its construction, that it was indeed pleasurable to look upon, and so just in its proportions, that I was unaware of its vastness until I measured it by a comparison with my own dimensions. It was built around four sides of a parallelogram, leaving an area inside, uncovered overhead, and capable of containing many thousand persons.

On three sides of the building were rooms devoted to the residence of spirits. There were three stories of these rooms and galleries running around those three sides on each level. At the other end was a platform, ascended by a flight of steps, interspersed with smaller platforms or landing-places. I counted the steps in the several flights. They were 3, 5, 7, 9, 7, 5. I ascended them, and stood upon the main platform. It was vast, and capable of containing many hundred people. From it were entrances to different departments devoted to the use of its inhabitants, and several openings or windows from which I looked, and had a view of the surrounding scenery. I beheld at one place a beautiful garden, over which rested a light more beautiful than any thing I had yet seen. The foliage was of a beautiful green, but was transparent. At another place I looked abroad upon the universe, and down before me I saw many planetary systems, rolling in their orbits as various as the imagination can conceive: some in a horizontal plane, some rectangular, and others in various directions, seeming one vast discord, yet easily seen to be the wisest harmony when once understood.

When I had gazed for some time upon this scene, I heard gentle music from a numerous band, and vast numbers entered the temple.

The area and the galleries were filled by many thousands. On the platform entered the presiding spirit, with several hundred attendants. He took his seat facing the multitude, and bade me look upon them and read their thoughts. I did so, and in every heart there was this thought alone, God is Love. Along the front of the galleries, on three sides of the area, were written in words of a bright silver flame, the words, LOVE ONE ANOTHER, in Arabic and Roman characters and German text. The space above the area was filled with hosts of shining spirits floating in the air. Some of them drew out a scroll and spread it before me. On it was written PROGRESSION, ONWARD, UPWARD, FOREVER. When I had read the words, they fell back and opened to me a view above and far distant; and there, as far as the eye could reach, I saw new scenes, new countries, new stages of progress, one above another without end.

When I had seen these things, the presiding spirit then spake to me these words (they were not uttered with vocal sounds, but I read the thoughts in his mind as he formed them, and so, it seemed to me, did all that vast assemblage):

“Go back,” he said, “to earth, and teach its darkened inhabitants how glorious is the country which they may inhabit, how bright the happiness they may earn for themselves!

“Beseech them no longer to grovel in the earth, seeking their enjoyment in earthly objects, but to look up, up, and from on high shall come to them the knowledge which shall indeed make them free. Teach them that happiness and heaven do not come to them as a gratuity, but are to be earned by their labor, to be merited by their toil. Teach them that God does not work by miracles, but by eternal, immutable laws, which are all-powerful to save, all-mighty to condemn, and which are not found in the glosses of men, but are written by his own Almighty hand, in all of nature that is spread out around them.

“Bid them look out upon the universe of worlds, which from your high place you can behold marshaled in their

orbits through the boundless regions of space, and reflect upon the countless numbers of living souls inhabiting them and destined for eternity, and ask themselves if it can be that for this earth, which is but a grain of sand on the shore of eternity's ocean, His eternal laws can have been suspended?”

When he had finished, I was led rapidly back to earth by the way I had trod in ascending, filled with the thought, How vast, how boundless must be that love which can thus open to man's attainment such illimitable fields of happiness!

Section Thirty-nine.

Friday, June 17th, 1853.

This evening, at my library, Mr. and Mrs. S. were present, besides the Doctor and myself.

The Doctor had been saying something about his connection with me, in regard to these very extraordinary revelations, etc. As soon as he felt the spirit-influence, it was written:

I WANT to say a few words to you both to-night, in our old style of plain talking.

I have heard your remarks, Doctor, and I think I appreciate the feeling which gave rise to them. A mind like yours, tenacious of its own thoughts, hard to convince, and earnest in its efforts, is likely, when it gives its belief, to give it with the whole force of its power. The condition in which you are placed with the Judge is one which draws out the secret feelings of your nature. You venerate intellect and you appreciate sincerity. While you are con-