

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-

vinced of the truth of spirit-intercourse, you look with respect and deference at that mind which has yielded up its own strong opinions to the same evidence of its truth. It is not strange, therefore, that while your whole soul is deeply imbued with the glorious visions portrayed to the Judge's mind, that your soul's reverence accompanies that feeling for the man also. You imagine your inferiority of intellect, and perhaps of purity, too; and while there are few minds in the whole world to which visions of like character could be given without either degrading them by vanity or perverting them by an unjust application, yet your mind is and must be on a level with his, or how could you act together? Fear not, then, to open your thoughts freely; fear not to say what you think to him, for he will properly advise you. Has he not passed through the same difficulties and been tried by the same circumstances? It is his mind, which from its experience, from his true regard for you, from his recognition of your own mind, and his appreciation of the feelings of your heart, that will exercise a healthful influence on your own in all its perplexities and conditions.

Dr. Dexter, Judge Edmonds in his nature is above the world in many particulars. That he loves you I am bound to declare, and that he feels for you I know. Trust him, therefore, in every thing, and regard him as you do, and you will find when he reaches the mountain's height you will not be left lagging behind.

I rejoice at the feeling of childlike desires which actuate you both. I deeply participate in the common sentiment which I feel governs many of the acts of your life; and let me say to you, Judge, that the half has not been shown you, and your soul shall drink such draughts of pleasure in the contemplation of the scenes which shall be opened to you, that even on earth it will be a foretaste of heaven's joys.

BACON.

I then said, I wished to inquire whether, in receiving these visions, I

made my mind passive enough, and placed it sufficiently under the control of the spirits? For I aimed at keeping full possession of my senses through it all, and at preserving the full exercise of my reason as to every thing that occurred, and I doubted some, whether by this preservation of my selfhood I did not interfere with this part of the teaching?

It was answered:

This is a lawyer-like inquiry. If your mind was incapable of reasoning when the vision was passing before it, how would you be able to decide on its authenticity? or how be able to receive the moral which it contains? No; we appeal to nothing but the simple power of discrimination. We do not ask, even in a vision, that your mind should be incapable of deciding upon the evidences presented. Your senses should all be alive, and thus you are the better able to decide on the nature of the vision, and whether it be from your own mind or from the spirits. This question, however, is proper; and while it rarely happens that a vision is presented to any mind without entirely abstracting from every surrounding object, in your case it is presented as it is for a special purpose, and it is best as it is.

We then proceeded with our criticism, and near the close of one of the papers Mrs. S. proposed to go home, saying she was too tired for the spirits to influence her to-night.

It was written:

I do not think you are the best judge, Mrs. S. They will affect you if you are willing, and I want you to be impressed after the correction of this teaching.

Then, after finishing that paper, it was added:

She will be impressed if she will be passive. Good spirits are around her, and are striving to elevate her mind and thought. She assists you much, and needs your help, too. So let her mind be yielding and quiet.

She was soon influenced, and said:

I come on an errand here this evening, or at least was sent to give that which might be a lesson when taken in connection with some of your teachings.

While a dweller on earth, my occupation was that of a humble artisan, and I earned my daily bread by following a humble occupation, and was only prevented from becoming an enthusiastic laborer in the higher branches of my profession by the force of circumstances, which made me what the world called a poor man. But there was ever within my heart a deep yearning, an earnest longing to excel in that in which I was only a lower-class workman. And having lived out the number of years which my body could sustain my soul on this earth, I departed to another sphere, and now I wish to show you in what I have been engaged since my entrance there. I was not what the world called a religionist, nor was I an immoral man, but my principles were based on the considerations which I could bring to bear in favor of natural reasoning, or, as you may call it, common sense.

Therefore, when entering upon my next state, I naturally shrunk back, being afraid to enter boldly a place of which I knew so little beforehand. I was very soon, however, met by some dear relatives, who received me with exceeding joy and thankfulness. And having explained to me the position which I should have to occupy, they told me I should be amply supplied with instructors, who would patiently and mildly teach me all I might desire to know; that whether it was much or little was wholly depending on myself, for knowledge is never forced on any one in the spirit-world. So after becoming initiated into the ways and customs of that place, or community as I may call it, I soon became deeply interested in the work which my hands found to do, and that was the very same occupation which I had so earnestly desired to excel in while on earth. It may seem strange, but it is true, that I was really engaged in the same occupation, and the same pursuits attracted me which had engrossed me while in the body, but my materials were of a more refined nature.

I resided in that place until I became too old a scholar to learn any more in that school. I was then impressed to

go to another, and so I have been studying and laboring for years in this pursuit. Not in this alone, but it was the predominant topic which has engaged my mind, having the greatest attraction for me, and calling out my energies more powerfully than any thing else. My soul is alive to all the beauties which surround it; and looking about through the land where I dwell, I see many beautiful structures that man would call a vast conception of brain, and that, my friends, is the conception of my brain. That which is beautiful to the eyes of others is an emanation or a labor which has been brought into its present state by the energies which have been expanded and developed in my individual case.

Thus you may see that all spirits have an occupation or employment, but mine is not performed solely by me. There are many others assisting me, and learning of me that which has made me so happy and useful to those around me, while others are quite as useful to me, thus all depending on one another in our sphere of existence.

I can't speak more of my experience at present, but others will who will speak better. This lesson is only given as having a connection with your late teachings—a filling up of shades, another tint in the coloring of the picture.

After a few minutes' interval another spake, through Mrs. S. He began by saying:

For the wicked shall be cast into hell, and all the nations that forget God. This is a solemn thought, my hearers, and one on which we should prayerfully and candidly exercise our minds. Yea, verily. It is a solemn thought. The wicked shall be cast into hell, where the worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. Oh! my friends, flee from the wrath to come. Put away your sins, lest the son of man come in the night-time, and oh! ye sinners! beware how ye tempt an angry God!

This was the doctrine I preached on earth, this the way in which I filled the poor human heart with fear and trembling, with shrinking from a kind and beneficent God whose

only manifestation is smiling on his creatures, by calling him angry! by crying up hell-fire, the horrors of those who disobey, and distorting every thing to suit my own peculiar views. I thought I was doing right and God a service by upholding these gloomy dogmas which I gave forth with such a zeal, with such bitter denunciations against the erring mortals who should have been encouraged and dealt kindly with, and not horrified and frightened with the contemplation of death.

I thus departed from earth, feeling happy that I had done my duty and borne my cross, and might enter into the joys of my Father's house. I entered the spirit-world, but was not met by the rejoicing and bright angels I expected; by some friends, to be sure, but their countenances were sad and gloomy; there was evidently something on their minds. Instead of rejoicing and songs of praise, it was rather a gloomy and mournful greeting on my first entrance, and a sadness came over my soul. I asked how is this? Why should heaven seem so gloomy a place? I said, Friends, can you tell me the reason? There is no rejoicing, no gladness in your looks. You have some inward sorrow. Pray, convey me to Him whose cause I have served. Let me see the Saviour who died on the cross to redeem sinners. Give me something to repay me for all my labor.

One venerable-looking brother, whom I had known on earth, approached me solemnly, and, taking my hand, said, Our life-teachings have been wrong. They have caused more mourning and shrinking from the approach of death than happiness, driving hundreds away by their asperity who would have been glad to gaze beyond the veil of eternity. I asked, Can it be possible that my whole life has been spent wrongly, that I lived an inharmonious life, that instead of doing God service, I have done evil toward my fellow-men?

My soul was so troubled and cast down, that after pausing awhile, I said to that brother, "What shall I do to be saved?" He said, When you shall see your errors, and be

willing to go down and redeem the wrong you have done in the hearts which are there, then, and not till then, will you begin your path of ascension, and by your labor blot out your own sins by assisting others to blot out theirs.

And, my friends, as soon as I was made conscious of my error, I began my work. I gave up my narrow conceptions of the Deity. Groveling worm that I was, how little did I know of the majesty of God! I began earnestly and trustfully to cast away the chains that bound my soul. I began my labors. And, oh yes, it was a labor, indeed, sufficient to wash away my many sins, when I shall have washed away the errors from those minds whose ignorance was made darker by my errors, and who might now have been farther advanced but for my teachings.

I am now ascending. I begin to see the beauties of the spirit-world, and the tears fill my eyes when I think what I might have been.

Friends! thank your God that you are free, and that you are on the road ahead, far in advance of many of the dwellers in the spirit-land.