

## BIRTH OF A CHURCH.

How National Association of Spiritualists Was Started.

Recognized Legal Body of Religious Worshipers, Incorporated in Washington According to Act of Congress.

[Special Washington Letter.]  
"SPIRITUALISM is a recognized religion, incorporated according to law," says Capt. Milan C. Edson, one of the organizers of the National association.

"The acts of congress covering religious societies have been observed and our incorporation, in 1893, sets forth that 'the object of said association is not for worldly profit, but for the purpose of religion, to promote religion and morality, to provide for the erection of temples and lecture halls, or other suitable places of worship where the religion of spiritualism may be taught, and to provide for the education and licensing of proper persons as authorized lecturers and preachers of the religion of spiritualism.'

"It is not generally understood throughout the land that we are a recognized legal body of religious worshippers. But, ever since the incorporation of the National association, our status has been the same as that of other churches, and our preachers receive all the railroad and other courtesies extended to the older established churches."

There are two church organizations in this city, and there are from 6,000 to 8,000 believers in the creed of spiritualism. Like very many of their predecessors in the field of religion there has been a split or schism; one class believing that Jesus was divine, and the other class believing that He was a wonderful medium for the dissemination of truth. Both bodies of believers recognize the National association, and will continue to do so. It is claimed that in this country there are now more members of the Spiritualist creed than of the Unitarian or Universalist; consequently in numbers they are entitled to consideration as a considerable body of citizens.

Capt. Edson says: "When I came to Washington, in 1871, I found that large and successful spiritual meetings had been conducted here from about 1861. During the civil war large meetings were held in Union League hall, Ninth and E streets. George A. Bacon conducted the meetings. He is now a clerk in the civil service commission. Later equally large meetings were held in Harmonial hall, on the south side of Pennsylvania avenue, near Sixth street. Upward of 1,200 people used to attend those meetings, which were conducted by Dr. John Mayhew and Col. J. C. Smith. In 1872 that hall was torn down and the society moved to Lyceum hall, Thirteenth and E streets. From 1875 to 1885 there was no society here and the meetings were kept up by myself as an individual. I took the responsibility of hiring speakers, halls, and making collections for the maintenance of the meetings. During all this period I felt the necessity of the formation of a national association, and realized that a dominant society must be established here, at the capital of the nation, whose prestige should be such as to authorize it to call a national convention. To this end I bent all of my energies, and finally succeeded.

"The present first association was organized and incorporated in 1885 with John B. Wolf as president, myself as vice president, and Gott A. Hall as secretary. Then our society rapidly grew in numbers and strength. In October,



CAPT. MILAN C. EDSON.

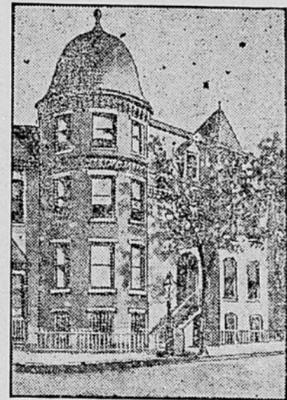
1889, Mr. Wolf's spirit departed from his visible body, and I became president, serving the society as such until 1898. Brother Wolf and I often talked about the need of a national organization and he enthusiastically supported me in the details and ideas of the work.

"The association owns the building at No. 600 Pennsylvania avenue, S. E., which it now occupies as its headquarters. It was a gift to the association from its treasurer, Theodore P. Mayer, after his stipulation had been complied with that the sum of \$15,000 should be donated to the association by the Spiritualists of this country. The ground and building are valued at \$15,000, and, with a similar sum in the treasury educational, missionary and charitable works are pushed forward rapidly and systematically, its area of public influence being constantly increased."

The historical data on file in the headquarters here show that in 1893 Capt. Edson caused a committee of five to be formed for the purpose of having a delegate convention in Chicago, during the great Columbian exposition. It proved to be a successful effort, although tremendous energy and toil were required during that long spring and summer in the matter of correspondence and the soliciting of funds

sufficient to cover the expenses of a three days' convention. When the treasurer of the committee reported that the contributions from the country amounted to enough for the purpose in hand, the committee issued a call, beginning thus: "A delegate convention of Spiritualists of the United States will be held in Chicago, September 27, 28 and 29, next, for the purpose of organizing a national association of a permanent character and the selection of a national committee with sub-committees on all subjects vital to our welfare."

The call went on to give specific directions for the selection of delegates from each society, and the records show that responses were numerous and prompt, many writers offering



SPIRITUALIST HEADQUARTERS.  
(Located at No. 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D. C.)

financial as well as moral support. The Spiritualists in every state took up the idea with enthusiasm. When Capt. Edson called the convention to order at noon September 27, 1893, in the hall at No. 77 Thirty-first street, Chicago, about 800 properly chosen delegates were in attendance. Capt. Edson was elected temporary chairman and Maj. R. A. Dimmick, temporary secretary. Committees were then appointed by the temporary chairman. After the committee on credentials had reported, and the duly authorized delegates had been seated, a permanent organization was effected.

On the following afternoon the committee on organization submitted an elaborate report, which was amended and adopted. This is substantially the creed of the sect. The gist of it is in the following sentences: "We affirm a belief in conscious spirit individually after transition, with the power of communicating, under proper conditions, and in accordance with natural law, with spirits incarnate; and that the laws of spirit progress and evolution are not interrupted or suspended by dissolution of the physical body." At the headquarters here the following interesting definitions are found: "A fortune teller is a person who pretends to forecast the future without the assistance of incarnate intelligences, finding occult powers in cards, charms, dices, etc., and bases his whole system upon conjecture, not upon facts. A medium is an instrument through whom disembodied intelligences make themselves known to mortals through positive proofs of their identity. Fortune telling is no part of spiritualism, but has been a barnacle of gigantic proportions that has seriously impeded its progress."

The building occupied by the national association is in full view of the great congressional library and the capitol, is within five or six minutes' walking distance of those centers of intelligence and statesmanship. The officers for the present year are Harrison D. Barrett, of Boston, Mass., president; Theodore J. Mayer, of Washington, treasurer; and Mrs. Mary T. Longley, of Washington, secretary. The offices are well furnished, and the employees are kept constantly busy. There is an excellent library here, containing all the available literature tending to demonstrate the truth of the religion advocated, and also all books and articles published in opposition to the religion.

Leading advocates of this creed say that it is in full accord with all Christian creeds heretofore developed, because all creeds teach a future spirit life. They say that St. Paul exclaimed: "We are compassed about with a great cloud of witnesses." Mrs. Levy, for many years prominent here in mediumship, said: "We believe all that the churches teach and more. We simply believe that our departed loved ones are not only living, but that they can communicate with us. Just at that point we are accused of charlatanism. We are fortunate to live in an age of liberality, or they would be burning us at the stake because of our advanced faith."

The meetings of the First society here are held Sunday mornings and evenings in Masonic hall. There has been no effort made to erect a temple here, but the national association will undertake that work during the coming year. They will not call upon the people outside of this city, unless it is found to be necessary to do so. Quite a number of rich men belong to the society here, as is evidenced by the gift, from one of them, of the house and grounds for national headquarters. Besides a number of congressmen belong to the society, and it is expected that they will contribute liberally while congress is in session here the coming winter.

The best thing to be seen in this national organization, at a cursory glance, is its deep dark frown upon fortune-telling mediums, who impose upon ignorance, superstition and credulity.

SMITH D. FRY.

## PORTO RICAN CHOCOLATE.

It Is the Very Best in the World, According to Those Who Have Tasted It.

The new territory, Porto Rico, is beginning to put itself in evidence here and there in the big American cities. Its fruits, cigars, cigarettes, sugar and coffee are now familiar sights, and in the past three months the crochets and bon-bons of Mayaguez have appeared at one or two stores in the Broadway district, says the New York Post.

The proprietor of one of these, a bright-eyed and swarthy West Indian, said: "It will take some time for Americans to appreciate the Porto Rican chocolate, for the simple reason that it is the very best in the world. For 200 years it has been cultivated in Mayaguez and the surrounding district, where the manufacture has been developed into a fine art, as well as an industry. For more than a century the bon-bons and confections of Mayaguez have been standard luxuries among the wealthy classes of Cuba, Spain, and southern France. So large has been the demand that at times the supply of the bean ran short and the Portoriquense manufacturer has been obliged to import from Venezuela. They are so proud of their goods that when this happens they label the wares second quality or else give it no label at all. The finished chocolate differs in many respects from that in general use in the American cities. More care is bestowed in selecting the beans and in the preliminary treatment. There are no quick systems such as the Dutch method or the acid method or the treatment by alkalis. The finished chocolate is purer and contains almost no sugar. It never is diluted or blended with starch, arrowroot, tapioca, or other amylaceous materials, much less with burnt umber, burnt sienna, and other dyes, which are so common an adulterant in Europe and America.

"When made into bon-bons the practice runs more along Parisian than New York lines. Every ingredient employed is ground and boiled until it is a powder as fine as flour, while soft substances are rolled or milled until they are as smooth as cream. The manufacturers give a greater variety in combination flavors. In this city the average chocolate is flavored with vanilla bean and the cheap qualities with tonka bean. In Mayaguez there are many standard flavors, and, in addition, any patron can have confections flavored according to his own formula or taste."

## A MONTANA BLUFF.

How Four of Our Fearless Western Troopers Put 75 Filipinos to the Run.

What is regarded as one of the tallest "bluffs" on record furnished Capt. Edgar Russell, chief signal officer in the Philippines during the insurrection, with a story which he tells as an example of western nerve, says the New York Tribune.

"We were outside of Manila in some little scrap," said the captain, "and about 75 natives were lying in a trench ahead of us, shooting away merrily, but not hitting anybody.

"By and by I noticed a little disturbance in our front. Presently four Montana troopers trotted out of our lines and started straight for the Filipinos. Everybody looked at them with wonder, and waited to see them all killed. Bullets whistled all around them, but they never halted.

"Slowly, just at a trot, they jogged on toward the enemy. The natives fired and fired, but for some unknown reason did not hit. On and on went the quartet, discarding cover.

"At last there was a shout, and, to our utter astonishment we beheld the 75 Filipinos jump out of their trenches and take to their heels in mad flight. The nerve of the Montana troopers was too much for them.

"When they had all fled, throwing their rifles away as they ran, the troopers came back, their arms full of guns. That is what the army has come to call 'a Montana bluff.' It's the sort of nerve that lets a man open a jackpot on a pair of deuces."

## TO MAINTAIN PEACE.

Naval Division Established by Uncle Sam in the Caribbean Sea.

Secretary Moody lately issued an order creating the new Caribbean division to Admirals Higginson and Coghlan. Headquarters will be at Culebra, Porto Rico. The following named vessels have been detailed for duty there: Olympia, flagship; Montgomery, Detroit, Marietta, Machias and Panther, says a Washington report.

The duties of the division include, so far as pertains to the navy, the safeguarding of American interests in those countries that border on the Caribbean, the cultivating of friendly relations with their people, the protecting of American citizens resident therein, property or other sites, the carrying out of the provisions of the existing treaties and in general exercising every legitimate end to preserve peace in these regions.

The commanding officer of the naval station at Porto Rico will be kept informed of the itinerary of the division commander, in order that vessels of this force may quickly communicate with the division commander through the commandant at San Juan, who will expedite the transmission of all messages.

Admiral Coghlan has been assigned to command this division.

## The Modest Bachelor.

An old bachelor is a man who admits that he doesn't think he is smart enough to take care of any one but himself.—Chicago Daily News.

## LIFE IN BIBLE DAYS.

Argument of Scientist to Show That Men Died at the Age of One Thousand Years.

In the scientific or quasi-scientific interpretations of the Old Testament, attempts have been made to explain away the repeated and definite statements as to the longevity of the first generations of men—of Adam and his descendants. Is it possible that men actually lived a thousand years in those times—in amazing contrast with the present span of life, which, indeed, goes back to the Psalmist's era? "The days of our years are three score years and ten," said the Psalmist, "and if by reason of strength they be four score years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away." How is this to be reconciled with the chronicles of the Bible? asks the Chicago Tribune.

This and similar questions relating to the longevity, physical conditions, and environments of humanity in Biblical times are discussed in a book just published in Russia by a learned physician, A. A. Pisetski. The title of the work is "Medicine According to the Bible and the Talmud," and it is an attempt to prove the complete accuracy of the statements of fact made in the Old Testament in regard to early mankind.

A full account and review of this book appears in the Novoye Vremya, which praises the book as sound, reverent, scholarly and ingenious. The article is condensed by the Library Digest in the following free translation: "Eight of the forefathers lived nearly a thousand years each. Adam lived 930 years, Seth, 912, and so on until Enoch, who lived only 365 years, and of whom the Bible intimates that he died prematurely. Of each of the others it is said: 'And he died,' implying a perfectly natural cause, while of Enoch it is said: 'And he was not, for God took him.' Lamech's days were 777 and Noah 950. When we reach Terah, the change is striking; for his days were only 205 years, and there is no intimation of any special cause of death. Abraham, who 'died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years,' lived altogether 175 years.

"How is this decline in longevity to be explained? The skeptics hold that in the antediluvian period our month was called a year, and that, therefore, the average length of life was 80 years. But the Bible distinctly recognizes a monthly and an annual period of time, and the theory in question is purely arbitrary and fanciful.

"There is no reason for doubting the literal accuracy of the Bible's reckoning. The conditions of antediluvian humanity were such as to permit the length of individual life alleged in the Bible. There were, we know, giants in those days. The animals, too, were of stupendous and colossal proportions, as the bones discovered in the earth's strata fully attest. We must apply different measures and different criteria to the beings of that era.

"If the men were giants, their organs were naturally stronger and their health infinitely better. It could not be otherwise. The climate of Mesopotamia (the cradle of the human race), is even now mild, warm, beneficent, and favorable to longevity. Then it was much more so. And men led different lives. They lived under the smiling sky, needed no buildings to shelter them and undermine their vitality; there was food in abundance on every hand, to be had practically without exertion. The trees were laden with fruit, the rivers teemed with fish, and the meat of one animal sufficed for weeks.

"Again, the use of fermented liquors was totally unknown; the grape was not among the fruits eaten by early mankind, and consequently alcoholism with all its evils was absent. Marital life was the natural condition, and apparently offspring were equally divided between males and females, so that neither sex had a preponderance. There was no vice, no violation of natural law.

"To all this must be added the entire freedom from the diseases due to congestion and the sundry other evils of dense population. There was no rivalry, no anxiety, no 'struggle for life,' and no tax upon the nervous system. Death could come only from violence or old age.

"In short, in 3,000 years the average of human life fell from upward of 900 to 260 years, and as a result of natural causes."

## Flower Time.

A floral clock stands at the entrance to Water Works park, in Detroit, Mich. The dial is six feet in diameter, with background of dark green and figures of light green decorative plants. The hands are of metal. Water is its only motive power, no springs or weights being used in its mechanism. It was constructed six years ago by a park gardener, and some difficulty was experienced in regulating it at first. Last spring, however, a new mechanism was installed, and it now needs very little attention. Detroit, by the way, enjoys the distinction of having a time all its own, being the only place in the civilized world that clung to "sun time," when the uniform meridian standard was adopted, about 20 years ago. This local time is about 25 minutes faster than central standard. The floral clock keeps it very accurately.—Four-Track News.

## Tactless Man.

"Darling," he murmured, "I do not want to take away the slightest petal from our delicate rose of romance, but—can you cook?"  
"Do you think," she asked, drawing herself slightly away, "that if I could I would have kept it secret so long?"  
"Until that moment he had not realized how little he knew of woman.—Indianapolis News.

## AGRICULTURAL HINTS.

### COWS WEAR ARMOR.

New Jersey Dairymen Resorts to Unique Method to Fool the Ever Hungry Mosquito.

Mosquito proof is this cow. She permitted the photographer to approach within "shooting" distance on the banks of the lake that leads its name to that fashionable Jersey summer resort, Spring Lake. She was perfectly willing to have her picture taken, but refused to be interviewed.

From outside sources it was learned that she wears that burlap bagging strapped around her back, not because



A MOSQUITO-PROOF COW.

she wished to set the style among the other lady kine, but because of the swarms of mosquitoes which arrive at the same feeding grounds about the time she puts in an appearance. As long as she stays they are content to stay, too. A few handfuls of them gallantly accompany her home when she strolls that way as the sun is setting.

Before the mosquito bag was invented the cow refused to be bothered with so much gallantry because the mosquitoes were carrying it too far, or she was carrying the mosquitoes too far. Consequently as soon as she heard their gentle voices whispering in the woodlets near by she "pulled her freight" for home as fast as she could go.

Her owner could not keep her in the pasture. All the other kine in the vicinity were of the same mind, and it looked as if there would be a milk famine until one cottager thought of the bag method.

Down that way they humorously call it a "mosquito saddle."—N. Y. Herald.

### THE DAIRY PASTURE.

No Part of the Farm Will Yield Better Results for Careful Attention and Treatment.

The director of the Iowa experiment station says: "The problem as our lands become more valuable will be not how to do with less grass, but how to get more of it. Pasture lands may become worn out, or what is more properly termed, 'run out,' quite as readily and completely as tillable lands. No part of the farm will yield better returns for careful attention and good treatment than the pasture. Some simple experiments conducted in the Iowa college farm pastures have furnished striking results in favor of pasture culture. The application of ten quarts of clover seed per acre, disced and harrowed into blue grass pasture in the early spring, increased the yield 65 per cent over pastures immediately adjoining that received no treatment. Pasture lands thus treated produce a heavier, denser growth, and better variety of grasses, and stand drought better and the improvement extends over several seasons. This treatment should be alternated with topdressing, applied preferably during the fall or winter, following with the harrow in the spring. The best pastures are those that are never disturbed by the plow.

### Lime as a Preservative.

It may be just the time to remind my friends of the newer scheme of keeping fruits and vegetables in lime. Procure a quantity of air-slaked lime. Put a layer in a box; upon this place a layer of freshly picked, nearly ripe tomatoes; then another layer of lime, and another of tomatoes, and so forth until the box is full. Keep this in a cool place, such as an ordinary cellar, and the tomatoes will keep for a long time in first-class condition. Grapes, pears and possibly other fruits and vegetables may be stored in this manner with some assurance of having them keep all right for months. I hope that many of the farmer readers will try this plan this fall, and be in position to report about the outcome later on in the season.—T. Greiner, in Practical Farmer.

### Sheep for the Highway.

It would greatly improve the appearance of the country highways all over the country if a flock of sheep under the care of a herdsman and a trained dog could be kept in the community for the sole purpose of pasturing down the sides of the roads. This would be done in the countries of the old world, where so much good land would never be permitted to go to waste year after year. So used, 200 sheep would completely transform the appearance of any four square miles of territory.—Rural World.

Leaves and dry earth make an excellent combination on the floor of the poultry house. Dry earth absorbs and disinfects, while the leaves make scratching material for the fowls.

## MIXING OF VARIETIES.

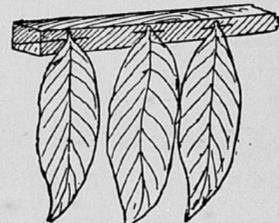
How Experienced Fruit Growers in the East Treat Trees That Are Self-Sterile.

Many varieties of orchard fruits, especially plums, pears and apples, do not bear satisfactory crops when standing by themselves. Some do not bear at all. The trees of such varieties require to be mixed with trees of other more or less closely related varieties, or they require to be grafted with a mixture of two or more varieties. This general condition is summed up by saying that such fruits are self-sterile, and the problem of self-sterility is the one with which we have chiefly to deal. As soon as this matter began to be observed the fruit growers and experimenters both found that a great many plum blossoms are imperfect. In the majority of such blossoms the pistil, or female organ from which the fruit itself directly develops, is defective; sometimes it is entirely wanting. It is evident that a blossom having no pistil cannot produce a plum, and it is at least fair to suppose that any defect in the pistil renders the chance of fruit-bearing much smaller. Considerable attention was given, therefore, eight or ten years ago, to this part of the subject. It was found that in some cases all the blossoms on a tree were so deficient as to make fruitage impossible. It has been found that plums are very largely self-sterile, cases of self-sterility being altogether rare; that a majority of pears tested show more or less self-sterility, and that the same is true of apples. Perhaps one-fourth of the apples in common cultivation are totally self-sterile, and a third fourth need cross-pollination for the best results. The remedy for all this unfruitfulness is the mixing of varieties either by planting several together or by grafting two or more into one tree.—Troy (N. Y.) Times.

### SHADE-GROWN TOBACCO.

New Way of Hanging the Leaves Which Is Far Superior to the Old Lath Method.

Last year the single leaves of the shade-grown tobacco crop were sewn on laths hanging in the curing house. The best that a man could do was to handle 200 laths. This year a plan is



HANGING TOBACCO LEAVES.

being adopted of hanging them to nails which are driven through the laths. A slim nail is used and driven diagonally, slanting upward. It extends about one inch through. The midrib of the leaf is stuck on the nail, as shown in the accompanying illustration. A good man can hang 300 laths in this way. The laths are three-fourths by one and one-fourth inches and four feet long. A machine is used to put in the nails, driving 20 at a time, then turning the lath and hanging 20 more, so that 40 leaves are hung on each lath.—Orange Judd Farmer.

### TOPS OF APPLE TREES.

Whether to Have Them High or Low Is a Subject Hotly Discussed by Fruit Growers.

For many years there has been a desire among fruit growers to lower the tops of apple trees. Attempts were made in this direction some years ago when rows were closer together than they are now placed, and difficulty was experienced in getting through between the trees with teams for gathering the fruit and also for hauling fertilizers on the orchard and for cultivating them. For some years, then, the tendency was to "higher" tops to overcome this objection. In more recent years, however, the tops have been coming down until in some localities the branches of the trees almost lie on the ground. There are some things in favor of this plan. The fruit can be gathered without the aid of large ladders. There will be no grass or weeds growing under the trees, and high winds will not have as much effect on trees of this kind as on tall ones.

We do not recommend the practice of topping the trees so low for general adoption, but there are localities where it would be a decided advantage to have the tops very low. This is a matter of fancy with orchardists who know the conditions and will be governed by them.—Rural World.

### Rules for Trimming Roses.

Pruning is an important matter in rose growing. Climbing and pillar roses need only the weak branches and the tips shortened in. Other hardy kinds will usually need cutting back about one-fourth or one-third, according to the vigor of the branches, either in the spring or fall. A slight cutting back also after their June flowering in the case of the remontants will encourage more flowers. Severe pruning, however, will only induce the growth of vigorous leafy shoots without flowers. The ever-blooming roses will need to have all dead wood removed at the time of uncovering them in spring. Some pruning during the summer is also useful in encouraging growth and flowers. The stronger branches which have flowered may be cut back one-half or more. The rule in trimming roses is to cut back weak growing kinds severely, strong growers moderately.—Rural World.