

Silverton Thought Exchange.

TIMOTHY W. DAVENPORT, ESQ., AND
MRS. ADDA D. MARTIN ON SPIRIT
LIFE AND SCIENCE.

The old topic of spirit continuance seemed to bring the tears of the sky to mourn our earthly fate at the Thought Exchange Sunday evening, March 25. But the full and hearty choir and the well-prepared and beautiful address, gracefully delivered, by Mrs. Adda Davenport Martin, made the large audience soon forget all tears above or below. The address had been, as she said, dictated by her venerable father, Timothy W. Davenport, Esq., whose health did not permit his attendance, and was a result, more or less, of the previous discussion of similar subjects before the Exchange by Mr. Swank and others. It was exceedingly well written and well delivered, so that not a word of it was lost. It sought to show, among other things:

That the belief that there is an immortal element in man has been the firmest conviction of the better and greater part of the human race from time immemorial, and the basis of the life, ambition and the hope of every people who had led in the progress of the race. For this reason the presumption was in favor of this conviction, and it could only be overthrown by the positive facts of scientific investigation, thoroughly cross-examined so as to be indisputable. If the facts were found to be thus established against this old belief, there would, of course, be no alternative but to give it up, and to make the best we could of life without it. But, the lecture argued, there was no reason to believe that such a time would ever come. The claim of Materialists and some Psychologists that modern science had explained the consciousness and the ego of man as the co-operative results of nerve action arising from contact with the world, availed naught, as long as life itself remained an acknowledged mystery, except as it may be explained by spirit action. And this was just what scientists generally acknowledged it to be. This the lecture sought to prove by quotations from Scientists who were claimed to be also Spiritualists.

Then as the bottom question the origin and nature of the life of cells and micro-organisms was taken up. It was shown that the living matter was chemically the same as dead matter used by us as food, plus the vital phenomena which came only from, and as a part of, other living matter, by division or as the germ and sperm cells of plants and animals. This vitality was an immaterial entity, and was the difference between the absolute principle of absolute authority can never be carried who could be destroyed as had now

proved. Without the entity as a cause the vital phenomena remained an unaccountable mystery. This indestructible entity being proved to exist, all the higher phases of life and mind and of the soul are the consequences of its action.

The lecture dwelt eloquently upon the general blessedness of the immortality which this indestructible entity assured to one and all, in this world and in some world to come, where friends would meet to part no more.

The lecturess made her spirit world so much of a reality by her pleasant manner and "atmosphere," that the hardy "materialists" were not in a hurry to break in upon it.

But President Hosmer finally began the process of exorcism. It was sometimes unpleasant, he said, to tell the truth, but there could be no true Thought Exchange unless this was done. Until somebody could find some life outside of protoplasm and independent of matter, the fact must continue to be that scientists must be liable to be called "materialists." As long as everything we did know was found to be matter or the properties of matter, that is, the changes, or motions, or processes of matter in mass or in its atoms or elements, there was no presumption that the phenomena of life could be exceptions. The presumption had thus been entirely changed by science in favor of the natural origin of protoplasm and of all of its actions, properties and processes, vital as well as others. This result had been proved by every test that science could bring to bear upon the subject; that he would leave Prof. Wakeman to follow up. Nor was there any propriety in saying that the old egotistic immortality was really desirable. Thinking people soon outgrow it when they try and take in its stead the human or altruistic immortality that looks towards a "heaven" on earth, instead of one now utterly inconceivable in space or time. Yet a hope of this inconceivable world, millions of dollars are worse than wasted every year in church buildings and theological efforts, and the whole life of man is misdirected. Practically, this world is left to be a hell, because everybody is here only in a selfish, individual state of probation, trying to save his soul for a world that is really inconceivable. Is not that the crowning folly of our otherwise enlightened age?

Prof. Buff was intent upon applying the lecture to the spiritual inconsistencies and impossibilities of the New Testament, and wondered how absurd they would appear now in our present practical age. He was tired of theories and wanted a live Spiritualist who could do something, and so prove something. In the absence of any other specimen, he promised a slate-writing medium. "Would such a me-

dium be heard on this platform?" he asked. And the answer was, "Try it on."

Prof. Wakeman was then backed up against the footlights. He was impressed that in this lecture Youth, Beauty and Age, and the whole past of the race, had conspired to do their best for the "old heart" of man. He then went into the science of the matter, and his speech excited much interest and is given in another column.

Most of the audience evidently wished time to master the issue between Entity and Process, and the clouds had not cleared up when they reached their homes. X. Y. Z.

50 YEARS' EXPERIENCE

PATENTS

TRADE MARKS
DESIGNS
COPYRIGHTS & C.

Anyone sending a sketch and description may quickly ascertain our opinion free whether an invention is probably patentable. Communications strictly confidential. Handbook on Patents sent free. Oldest agency for securing patents. Patents taken through Munn & Co. receive special notice, without charge, in the

Scientific American.

A handsomely illustrated weekly. Largest circulation of any scientific journal. Terms, \$3 a year; four months, \$1. Sold by all newsdealers.

MUNN & Co. 361 Broadway, New York
Branch Office 625 F St., Washington, D. C.

Spring of 1900 is Up and a Coming

Our Big Shipment of Spring Shoes has Arrived. Tan Shoes will be the Correct Style for Spring Wear. See our Assortment in



At Silverton's Largest and Busiest Store.

Dreyer & Craig.

STRICTLY ONE PRICE

PRODUCE TAKEN

TORCH OF REASON

Song Book

No. 2.

"Truth bears the Torch in the search For Truth."

SILVERTON, OREGON:
LIBERAL UNIVERSITY PRESS
1899

PRICE TEN CENTS.

Our Job Department

—ALWAYS GIVES—

. . . Satisfaction

—BECAUSE IT GIVES—

HONEST STOCK, FINEST INK AND EXCELLENT WORKMANSHIP