

RISK.

BY CHARLOTTE FISKE BATES.

In the quiet of the evening Two are walking in arrest; Man has touched a jealous nature-- Anger burns in woman's breast. These are neither wed nor plighted, Yet the maybe hangs as near And as fragrant as the wild-rose Which their garments hardly clear. And as briery, too, you fancy? Well, perhaps so. Some sad morn One or both may, for a moment, Wish they never had been torn. Happy quips and honest pleadings Meet with smiles or a sneer; But more keenly has she listened Since she vowed she would not hear. Now a great oak parts the pathway: "Nature gratifies your mood; To the right--let this divide you; It will all be understood." So Caprice, with childish weakness, Yet with subtlety of thought, Whispers in the ear of woman, Love, with dread, the answer sought, Was it superstitions feeling Struck at once the hearts of two? Had he seen proud eyes half-sorry For what little feet must do? For he stretched an arm toward her Folding nothing but the air, Saying nothing--just the motion Drew, without offending there. In the quiet of the evening Two are walking back again; At the oak their happy voices Whisper of a vanished pain. What if they to-night be plighted, And the maybe hangs more near And more fragrant than the wild-rose Which their garments hardly clear? And more briery, too, you fancy? Well, perhaps so. Thorns are ill, But Love draws them out so kindly. One must trust him, come what will.

CAN A FUTURE STATE OF EXISTENCE BE DEMONSTRATED?

The important question, "If man die, shall he live again?" is one that every mortal must ask when contemplating the chemical change called death, which hourly pursues him with the certainty of a final triumph that needs no demonstration. Every intelligent mind must answer the question with at least an affirmative hope; but there are yet very many good persons who devoutly believe that it is above all things desperately wicked for mortal man to seek a satisfactory reply to the involuntary query, which, nevertheless, within itself presupposes that it may be answered, since every demand naturally suggests a reply. "Man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?" is a question that has been handed down to humanity from bygone ages. Many centuries after this query first went forth, through Jewish channels, as a part of the infallible word of the Infinite God, a New Testament was left to the people by asserted authority of One before whom all Christendom claims that "every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess." And this divine and exemplary character, who did not ask new questions, but confidently replied to old ones, left on record the following testimony relative to the advent of the spirit into eternal life: The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh nor whither it goeth. So is every one that is born of the spirit.

That religious teachers, inspired by their own crude and material fancies, have construed this sublime and philosophical statement into some sort of a chemical or spiritual earthly experiment, which does not apply on philosophical principles to the great fact to which the patient scientist fearlessly applies it, is not wonderful; nor is it strange that the mass of devout believers choose rather to lazily and superstitiously rely upon the fossilized dogmas prepared for them through the creeds of their forefathers than to search the Scriptures for themselves, that they may no longer think, but know, that they have inherited eternal life through mortal existence; but there has been a class of advanced thinkers and investigators in every age who have not been content to bow the knee unquestioned before the bygone light of human ancestry, and to these the world has been indebted for all the progress of its higher thought. Honest skepticism is no longer regarded with holy horror by the reading and reasoning public. Blind bigotry is growing every day more rapidly into disrepute. Many of the most respectable scientists of the age declare openly, and bring with their conclusions character and dignity that command even the unwilling respect of the dogmatist, that there is no possible way to demonstrate a future state of sentient existence, and consequently there can be none. They have proved that every physical growth, from an atom to a solar system, has both beginning and ending, and their deduction is that what is so plainly true of matter must also be true of mind. But this deductive wisdom of the scientist does not and cannot satisfy the wailing cry of the bereaved mourner whose beloved dead have drifted away from human sight, but never can be eliminated from the fondest memories of the longing and loving survivor. The opposite extreme of a critical and scientific materialism is reached by another and much larger class of investigators, who claim to prove by demonstration that the teachings of Jesus and the Apostles are capable of verification through the reproduction of the phenomena which

first gave them prominence, and which to-day, as they assert, are lost sight of by Christians, who accept the letter but reject the spirit of super-sensuous manifestations, through which alone there is any hope of proving the fact of immortality upon a scientific basis that will appeal to the senses of the living investigator with a proof as irrefutable as the mathematical computations which determine the distances of the planets from their solar center. The writer is firmly convinced, after candid, fearless and patient investigation which no longer permits her to doubt, that the wailing cries of Job and Jeremiah, which are yet echoed by bereaved and despairing Christians the world over, are capable of as positive and affirmative answer by demonstration as any other fact in the catalogue of physical things. That there are persons who possess a psychic force that the writer cannot command, and who through that natural gift are able to become the instruments of a higher power, through which, by a super-sensuous telegraphy which the human mind is not yet able to explain, it is possible for the so-called dead to answer humanity's hitherto un-availing cry, is a fact that any person may demonstrate. The writer testifies to that which she has seen when she makes this declaration. Yet, of all the *isms* that seem above all others most absurd, the latest sectarian demonstration, which, as such, a few purblind zealots mistake for the be-all and end-all of the harmonial or natural philosophy of the spheres, and which is known as Modern Spiritualism, takes the lead. The inquiring but blindly believing soul that realizes the truths of the spiritual philosophy, and has always been accustomed to accepting theology through the medium of his imagination, as handed down to him through the creeds, sees the fact that his wailing cry, "If a man die, shall he live again?" can be tangibly and affirmatively answered through super-sensuous phenomena; and then, with the sectarian harness of his early training strong upon him, he goes forth to promulgate a new *ism*, to which he expects every other person to bow unquestioningly. Such persons are intolerably intolerant, and consequently are fanatically zealous and proscriptively superstitious. They usually live in sparsely settled country places, and, being honest themselves, fail to comprehend the wily motive that prompts the impetuous and sleek-tongued orator from abroad, who comes among them to take advantage of their credulity by the exercise of a volubility of utterance and a preponderance of persistency that they do not fathom. And when the sublimely impudent adventurer, who learned an Indian dialect in his youth which none of them can understand, shuts his eyes and gabbles it off by the half-hour, they are so overawed that they forget to test the reality of his assumed spiritual utterances by the least grain of honest skepticism, and unfortunately bring themselves into ridicule, and inspire the cool-headed looker-on, as well as the independent scientific investigator, with contempt for their wholesale gullibility. It is all in vain that you preach the fact to the unbelieving multitude that there is nothing genuine that somebody does not try to counterfeit, and that the very fact that a counterfeit is afloat suggests the existence of the genuine. And it is also all in vain that the clear-headed believer in the genuine spirit phenomena through which alone he is able to prove the reality of a future state of existence, strives to apply the tests of an honest doubt to the fanaticism of the blind believer's credulity. The same spirit of fanaticism that led their forefathers to accept unquestioned the dogma of infant damnation and burn at the stake the Ann Lee or the Michael Servetus for attempting to prove that they were being deceived by false doctrines, leads them to accept unquestioned, and without tests of its genuineness, the glib-tongued impudence of an impecunious mountebank, who comes to them demanding their money, and under the cloak of departed spirits, with whom he claims to be controlled, working upon their sympathy and their prejudices, till, for the time being, they are led to prefer the counterfeit to the genuine. Spirit communion is a fact, ministering angels are a necessity, and through them the important question of the ages as to man's destiny can be satisfactorily answered. Through the crucial tests of careful investigation, there are many honest psychics, called media, through whose magnetic aura these demonstrations come; but they do not go about the country engaged in making intelligent mortals incredulous by their mistakes, nor do they stir up strife and discord among honest bigots by misrepresentation and tyranny.

When superstition shall be shorn of its strength, and in its stead the power of knowledge shall answer back to every waiting soul the self-evident truth that the chemical change called death is but the birth of the spirit into the invisible life so beautifully described by the Savior of men, who compared it to the wind that bloweth where it listeth, which we all know exists, and can feel and hear, though we cannot solve the mystery of its abiding place or origin, then the counterfeit personator of genuine spirit phenomena will no longer be able, under cover of his pretensions of honesty, to deceive the good people into accepting his clever volubility as "Thus saith the spirit." The question of the ages will gradually answer itself, and the good Spiritualists, honestly over-zealous though some of them may be, who are leading the van in the endeavor to give utterance to the truth, will in due time reap the harvest of their sacrifice through the triumph of a philosophy that can only be seen at present as through a glass, darkly. A. S. DUNNWAY.

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It has a population of 21,000. It is to Oregon, and the Territories of Washington and Idaho, what New York City is to the State of New York, and bears the same relation to that State and those Territories that Chicago does to Illinois, St. Louis to Missouri, Philadelphia to Pennsylvania, and New Orleans to Louisiana. It has more territory tributary to it than any other city in the United States, and will soon be numbered with the foremost cities in the Union. Even this year the hammer and the saw can be heard in all parts of the city; the demand for buildings is so great that the inclement season of Winter does not check the onward march of its growth. With the vast number of ships constantly between the city and foreign ports, freighted with our constantly increasing agricultural products, and the numerous railroads now tributary to or terminating at this city, it will not require more than ten years to swell the population of our beautiful and growing city to 100,000 souls. Having a larger territory than San Francisco to support it, we may confidently assert that in less than a quarter of a century Portland will be the foremost city on the coast in point of wealth and population. We will here enumerate the many railroad enterprises already inaugurated. Some of them are constructed, and others in process of construction, all making their terminal at this city. THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC Is building rapidly west from Tuleita, on Lake Superior, and also from the Columbia River east, and will be completed at an early day, thus connecting us with all our sister States. THE OREGON AND CALIFORNIA R. R. Terminates here, and is having an immense patronage. THE WESTERN OREGON R. R. Formerly the Oregon Central, is doing a good business. This road runs through the fertile country on the west side of the Willamette River, and its southern terminus at present is at Corvallis, 37 miles from Portland. THE CLATSOP NORTHERN R. R. Will be built through hundreds of miles of fertile lands, the produce of which must be brought to this city for shipment. This road will connect with the Union Pacific R. R., thus securing two competing lines from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It is now surveyed and has a right-of-way.

PORTLAND, DALLES AND SALT LAKE R. R. Will be constructed at an early day. This will give us three trans-continental roads. SEW RAILROAD ENTERPRISES. A home company, with unlimited capital, has been organized, under the name of the Oregonian Railway Co., to construct narrow-gauge roads from this city to the interior portions of the State, ultimately connecting with the Central Pacific, with branches wherever Indian settlements may be. This enterprise is being pushed vigorously to completion, so that it may be in readiness to move this Fall's crop. ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION Have been filed to construct a road from Battle Mountain, Nevada, in the direction of Oregon, to connect with the Oregonian Railway Co.'s road, and make Portland its terminus. This will give us direct communication with the richest silver mines in the world, and will make Portland one of the greatest railroad centers in the Union. We shall soon be connected by rail with the Northern Pacific R. R., and with Chicago and the Atlantic cities. Thousands of immigrants are constantly arriving from all parts of the civilized world, and the millions of acres of agricultural lands that lie still unbroken by the plowshare, and the millions of acres of timberland, point most conclusively to the fact that an era of prosperity is already dawning upon this fair young State. When the immigration has reached its full tide, and three millions of acres are in cultivation, then will Oregon be known as the wealthiest State in the Union.

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IT IS TRUE That all real estate investments the homestead plan is the best and safest, as all who invest are interested in making the whole property more valuable. To illustrate, suppose A builds a house on his lot, and B owns a lot adjoining; B gets the benefit of A's improvement, while A is not injured thereby. This philosophy will apply to the entire property. We have donated a lot to each of the principal churches for church purposes. Also, two lots are set apart for public school purposes. RAILROAD PURCHASES. The Overland, Oregon and California and the Western Railroad Companies have purchased all the land from the east line of the Homestead (Ninth street) to the water front for their terminals, depots, machine shops, etc.; also the main line of the Oregonian Railway Co. (Limited) will have its terminus near by. Thus the greatest railroad center on the Pacific Coast lays in close proximity to these lots. The purchase has caused a rise in all surrounding property of 50 per cent, making the lots in this Homestead from 75 to 100 per cent cheaper than any other real estate in Portland. Inasmuch as this Homestead was advertised to be sold for a stipulated price before the recent advance, unpleasant as it is, we shall strive to adhere to our advertised contract with the public to sell these lots for \$100 each for the next ninety days. The two hundred lots that were reserved for actual settlers are now all sold, and the demand to select more lots on the market from which the public may select for the next ninety days. This affords an opportunity for persons so desiring to purchase the most beautiful residence property. TO PARTIES DESIRING TO PURCHASE. This property is now selling very rapidly, and those wishing to buy will do well to call or send immediately for a lot or lots. All but the first installment must be paid at the Banking House of Ladd & Tilton, in the city of Portland. PERSONS FROM A DISTANCE Desiring a lot, may forward \$5.00 to the General Manager, and a Bond will be immediately forwarded. Money may be forwarded by registered letter, money order, or Wells, Fargo & Co's Express, at my risk. For further particulars, apply to J. M. RICE, General Manager, Building, Or. HAIGHT & McLAUGHLIN, 32 Morrison street. Certificate: I certify that I am the owner of the lands in the Portland City Homestead--the title thereto is perfect, being a U. S. patent--and I authorize J. M. Rice to sell said property on the foregoing plan. P. A. MARQUAM. References: Wm. Reid, Banker; Hon. J. H. Mitchell, Ex U. S. Senator; Hon. L. P. Grover, U. S. Senator; A. A. Snowbridge, Merchant; Meier & Frank, Merchants; Geo. H. Hines, Printer.

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