



No. 1.

January, 1882.

Volume 7.

Race Culture.

CONVENTION IN NEW YORK OF THE INSTITUTE OF HEREDITY.

ADVANCED THOUGHT ON A VITALLY IMPORTANT THEME.

HUMAN REFORMATION TO COMMENCE IN THE EGG.

WE will preface this report by saying that in the autumn of 1880, an organization was effected, in Boston, of a large number of those who believe in beginning at the root of the evils of human society for their removal, and the association adopted the name of "The Institute of Heredity." The Hon. Daniel Needham was elected President, and Mr. Loring Moody, whose earnest labors inaugurated the movement, was appointed Secretary. A long list of vice-presidents was chosen from among those understood to be in sympathy with the objects of the association, and a Board of Directors was selected. Among the distinguished names of those who became patrons or members of the Institute, were the Hon. Samuel E. Sewell, Henry W. Longfellow, Elizabeth Thompson, Chs. W. Gardner, John Quincy Adams, Hon. Chs. L. Flint, LL.D., James Parton, Samuel R. Payson, Maj. Henry C. Brooks and the Hon. A. W. Clarke.

On the 25th of May last, during anniversary week, the first public meeting of the Institute of Heredity was held at Wesleyan Hall, Boston. Addresses were delivered by Mr. Loring Moody, Dr. F. G. Greene, of Boston, Mrs. Ellen R. Sheldon, of Washington, Mrs. C. F. Lozier, M.D. of New York, Chs. W. Gardner, of Portsmouth, N. H., Mr. A. E. Newton, of N. J., Mrs. Caroline B. Winslow, M.D., editor of the *Alpha*, Matilda Joslin Gage, editor of the *National Citizen*, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Mary G. Stafford, M.D., Parker Pillsbury, Isabella Beecher Hooker, Mr. Bronson Alcott, of Concord, Mr. John Newell, and others.

It being anniversary week, Boston was full of representative people who are not afraid to think and act in advance of others, and the first convention of the Institute of Heredity was a great success.

The speeches were full of startling self-evident truths, and an interest was created which made itself felt throughout the country. The press, pretty generally,

made some allusion to it; a few editors gave lengthy editorials upon the importance of the movement, and the liberal press has ever since contained communications from interested people, who have had more or less to say about it. Almost if not quite every issue of this journal since May has contained something inspired by the public meeting of the Institute of Heredity.

The First Public Meeting in New York.

WEDNESDAY morning, Dec. 7th, was hardly favorable for the opening of a convention to discuss topics which have yet to make themselves popular. But notwithstanding the rainy and in every way disagreeable day, some thirty or more of "the faithful" congregated at Republican Hall, on 33d Street, at the appointed hour—11 o'clock. Mr. Loring Moody had risen from a sick bed and come from Boston to take part in the meeting. In spite of his feebleness, his voice was strong and his courage for the work unconquerable during the first day's proceedings. Indeed, the forenoon of the second day was opened by one of his persuasive and convincing addresses. At noon, however, he was prostrated by a severe chill and was removed to his room at the residence of Dr. Foote, where he remained till Friday morning, and then, in a more comfortable condition, after a refreshing night's rest, he took the eleven o'clock express for Boston.

All things considered, the convention was a success. The movement is a new one. It deals with subjects which many good people think ought never to be mentioned in public. The meetings occupied two days. Those held in the forenoons called out less than fifty people at each session. The audiences in the afternoons were much larger and those of the evening meetings numbered two or three hundred. One enthusiastic supporter of the movement—a lone lady—came all the way from Greene County, on purpose to attend. She was of course present at the opening and closing of each session. The city newspapers—some of them—seemed disposed to ridicule the meetings and to allude in no flattering terms to some of the speakers. But these playful attacks of the reporters were wholly sensational. All the speeches were really excellent; they were by representative men and women; they were listened to with marked attention; and while dealing with delicate matters they could have brought no blush to the cheek of one who has given any thought to the moral, mental and physical ills which afflict society.

One good result of the convention is an addition of 16 members and 21 patrons to the Institute, and it is the design of those of them living in and about New York